

Winter Night Sky Viewing

The winter sky is a beautiful one, filled with some of the brightest stars to be found. The constellation of Orion rises as the sun sets, and is followed by his hunting dogs. The twins of Gemini join him shortly after, and Leo roars by midnight. All this can be enjoyed during the months of January, February and March if you can deal with the cold temperatures.

January starts with the largest Full Moon of 2009. The Moon's orbit takes it slightly closer to the Earth and slightly farther away. This Full Moon happens to be occurring when the Moon is near its closest

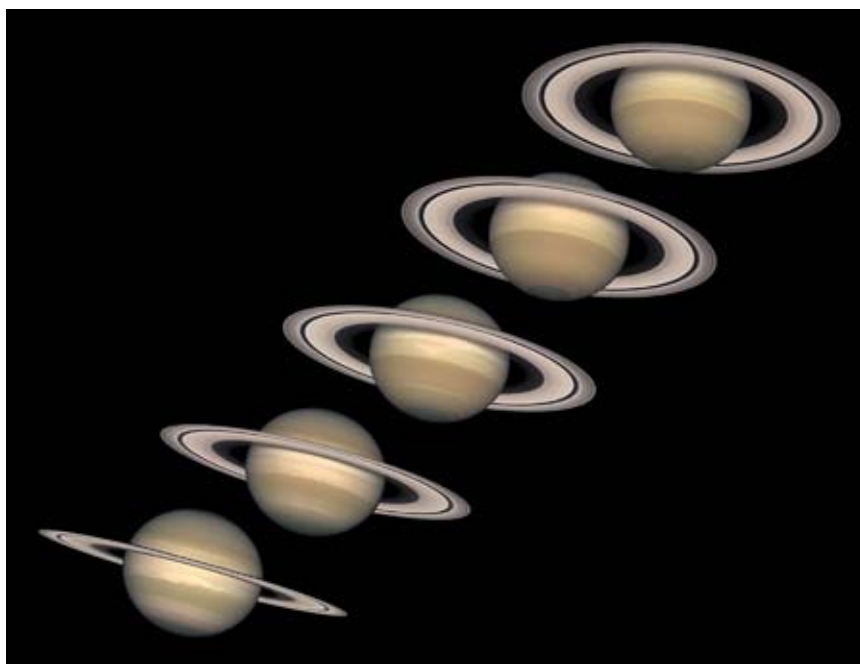
point. It will be big and bright in the sky on January 10. Something else that will be bright in the sky this month is the planet Venus. You will find it in the southwest sky in the evenings. On January 29 and 30, a crescent Moon and Venus will move together through the sky, providing a beautiful evening sight.

February brings us numerous occasions for the Moon to be seen nearby other celestial objects. It starts by passing very near the Seven Sisters in the evening of

February 3. Then, just before sunrise on February 17, you can find it visiting the bright star Antares, the heart of Scorpius. A few days later (February

means Saturn is at its brightest of the year, and nicely visible in the late evening hours. If you use binoculars or a telescope, don't expect to see the

rings real well. We are just nine months away from an event called a 'ring plane crossing,' when the Earth's orbit will position us to see the rings edge making them seem to disappear completely. As the months go by, they will get thinner and thinner. We finish out the month of March with the spring equinox on the 20th, and one more visit between the Moon and the Seven Sisters in the evenings of March 29 and 30.



Various Seasons of Saturn.
Photo courtesy of NASA and the Hubble Heritage Team.

22), the Moon lines up nicely with the planets Jupiter and Mercury, once again just before sunrise. You might also just make out Mars slightly to the east of the trio.

March brings us another visit between the Moon and the Seven Sisters on March 2. Daylight Saving Time begins in the wee hours of the morning on March 8. Later on that same day, the planet Saturn enters into opposition with the Sun, meaning they are on opposite sides of the Earth from each other. This

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Director's Corner

As I write this we're coming to the end of our fifth year of operation, and on behalf of the entire Clark Planetarium staff I sincerely thank you for being part of this remarkable adventure.

We celebrated our five-year anniversary by adding several exciting new exhibits and introducing important new programs in both the ATK IMAX Theatre and the Hansen Dome Theatre.

I'm pleased to report that Clark Planetarium's programs continue to grow in popularity with planetariums worldwide. With hits like *The Secret of the Cardboard Rocket*, *Ultimate Universe*, *Black Holes*, and *U2*, just to name a few, Clark Planetarium programs now play in more than 60 different planetariums in a dozen different countries worldwide and

are considered to be among the best in the planetarium industry. Revenues earned from the sales of these programs to other facilities (now at more than \$1,000,000 since we opened in 2003) provide invaluable support for Clark Planetarium's many education programs for our local audiences.

2009 promises to be another important year for us. We will introduce a new Dome Theatre program in January, *SATURN: Jewel of the Heavens*, featuring incredible images and discoveries from the Cassini Mission now in orbit around Saturn. Clark Planetarium is also developing another new program, created in partnership with NASA that debuts this summer, which celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing on the Moon and explores

future manned and robotic missions to the Moon and the planets of our solar system.

Our next major IMAX film opens in February. Just as our previous under water adventure film, *Deep Sea 3D*, was a huge hit with the public, our newest film, *Under the Sea 3D*, narrated by Jim Carrey, promises to be another blockbuster.

As in the past, you will find many opportunities for astronomy education in 2009 at Clark Planetarium, including Boy and Girl Scout badge workshops, telescope building summer camps, outreach visits to schools across Utah, and public star parties. We hope that you, as well as your family and friends, will join us for some great times learning about the wonders of our universe.

The entire staff of Clark Planetarium and I wish you a Happy New Year!

Seth Jarvis

Under the Sea 3D

UNDER THE SEA 3D transports moviegoers to some of the most exotic and isolated undersea locations on Earth, including Southern Australia, New Guinea and others in the Indo-Pacific region, allowing them to experience

face-to-face encounters with some of the most mysterious and stunning creatures of the sea. This film offers a uniquely inspirational and entertaining way to explore the impact that global climate change has had on ocean wilderness. The film will premiere on Friday, February 13, 2009 in the Clark Planetarium ATK IMAX Theatre.

The film was made by the same team behind the highly successful production of *Deep Sea 3D*, including award-winning Director/Cinematographer Howard Hall, Producer Toni Myers, Executive producer Graeme Ferguson, and Producer for Howard Hall Productions, Michele Hall.



***Under the Sea* Member Event**

Join us for a special Clark Planetarium members sneak preview of *Under the Sea 3D* on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the ATK IMAX Theatre. This event is free for members, with tickets available on a first come first serve basis the day of the event. Light refreshments will be provided. There will be games and contests before the show. More information on this event will be emailed to members towards the end of January.

Visit www.clarkplanetarium.org to order show tickets.

Clark Planetarium is deeply grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their generous financial support in 2008:

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Upcoming Scout Workshops

Boy Scout Merit Badge

January 24, February 21, March 21 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Jr Girl Scout Sky Search Badge

April 12, 10 a.m. - Noon.

The cost for workshops is \$8 per scout, \$4 per adult. Scouts must be accompanied by a parent or scout leader. You can purchase tickets online at www.clarkplanetarium.org or at Clark Planetarium's ticket counter. For additional information, contact Rob Morris at 801-707-9593 or email rmorris@slco.org.

Want up to date information on astronomy news or more frequent updates on what Clark Planetarium is up to? Follow us on Facebook.

It's a great way to connect with other astronomy buffs and receive information on planetarium events.

Clark Planetarium memberships make great gifts for any occasion.

Saturn: Jewel of the Heavens

It's one of the most beautiful and magnificent planets in the solar system - a symbol of all that is exotic and wonderful about the universe.

Once, it was the most distant planet we knew of, a mysterious world seemingly beyond our reach. But now, using sophisticated robotic pioneers, we have finally been able to reach out to this great ringed giant. We've sailed by trillions of chunks of ice that make up its glorious rings. We've uncovered the bizarre faces of its unique moons, and we've peered down into its turbulent atmosphere through massive and violent hurricanes.

Clark Planetarium Productions will soon premiere an all new feature show on Saturn. Thanks to

new scientific information, we can present this planet, its moons and its



rings in a 3-dimensional environment encompassing the entire dome.

By incorporating intricate details from high resolution photographs and data from other sophisticated

instruments, we can now apply elevation maps and sculpt 3D spheres with such accuracy that you'll feel like you're actually piggybacking the Cassini spacecraft on a personal tour!

We'll peer through the clouds of Titan, Saturn's largest moon, and observe its never-before-seen surface features. We'll fly over the face of Enceladus, an icy moon with thousand-foot-deep cracks that spew geysers of ice out into space.

This show is an unparalleled and fully immersive exploration of one of the most amazing and dynamic planetary systems in our solar system. *Saturn: Jewel of the Heavens* opens January 30, 2009.