

## **Our Night Sky for January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Set an alarm, next check and make sure you can see the eastern horizon.**

**Set up a tripod and your binoculars. Or call your friend that owns a telescope and get invited over to his backyard today at five pm.**

**If you've never yet been able to follow through on any of my viewing suggestions this one is not to miss.**

**Starting at about 5:45 pm tonight (January 13<sup>th</sup>) Mars will be occulted by our moon. A planetary occultation is your best opportunity to see our solar system in motion. See a planet and our moon actually moving in the sky is not normally something you can see because there is no reference to see its movement but tonight as you watch you will for the first time understand the size and precision of our solar system.**

**Occultations occur often between more distant objects like an asteroid will occult a star. By timing occultations from multiple locations scientists have produced accurate pictures of distant asteroids even helped mapping the course and orbit of spacecraft exploring the distant areas of the solar system. To do this many telescopes are set up perpendicular to the path moon takes overhead. Mostly these viewing sites are operated by amateur observers. Precise times are recorded for when Mars first touches the edge of the moon, when it disappears behind and again when it reappears. These are submitted and eventually a more detailed map of the moon is produced helping us enjoy Our Night Sky**