

Our Night Sky for September 22nd 2025

Last week I suggested that Saturn was well positioned high in our southeastern sky, and it will be easy to spot right through October. Early this morning Saturn crossed an imaginary line in our sky. It crossed a point in our sky called opposition. Early this morning, the sun, earth and Saturn are perfectly aligned. Saturn is fully illuminated similar to what we see when the moon is fully illuminated, we call that a full moon.

I often refer you to Saturn because it is truly an amazing sight. Our solar system has four gas giants, each one a sight to remember if you're lucky to get an opportunity to view. Jupiter and Saturn are a very long distance from us, but steady binoculars should resolve either into a disk and if the sky conditions are really good you might see a hint of the great red spot on Jupiter or maybe the rings around Saturn. But as I said last week the object you have the best chance of spotting are the larger moons circling both planets. A quick search online should show you the current positions of the large moons.

Resolving the planets in our solar system is beyond most telescopes we have access to. But technology has improved the field of astronomy. Within the next few months, one of the largest telescopes ever built will be offering public online access. The Vera Rubin observatory will photograph most of the visible night sky every three nights and put the data online, accessible to everyone. Keep an eye on rubinobservatory.org for exciting developments in Our Night Sky.