

IAAS Monthly Astronomy Newsletter January 2026



The International Association for Astronomical Studies provides this newsletter as a service for interested persons worldwide.

This newsletter is published on the World Wide Web at [The Home of K1ØAR](#) - and is received nationally and internationally. Download the [PDF](#) formatted version of the newsletter.



An Open Invitation - For amateur radio operators and scanner enthusiasts around the world, please join the Colorado Astronomy Net on the [Rocky Mountain Radio League's K1DUN](#) repeater on **449.450 MHz** or other digital and analog repeaters, Allstar nodes, Echolinks, DMR and internet links connected to the [SKYHUBLINK](#) system. The net meets on Tuesday nights at 7 P.M. Mountain Time (US) (Wednesday at 0200 GMT). Connecting to the SkyHubLink system has expanded our coverage in the U.S., Canada and internationally. All Amateur radio operators worldwide are welcome. Anyone may listen to the net. The RMRL provides a "[Live Audio Feed](#)" using Broadcastify.

**The [Colorado Astronomy Net](#) is now on YouTube!!
All are welcome to join us Tuesday evenings!**

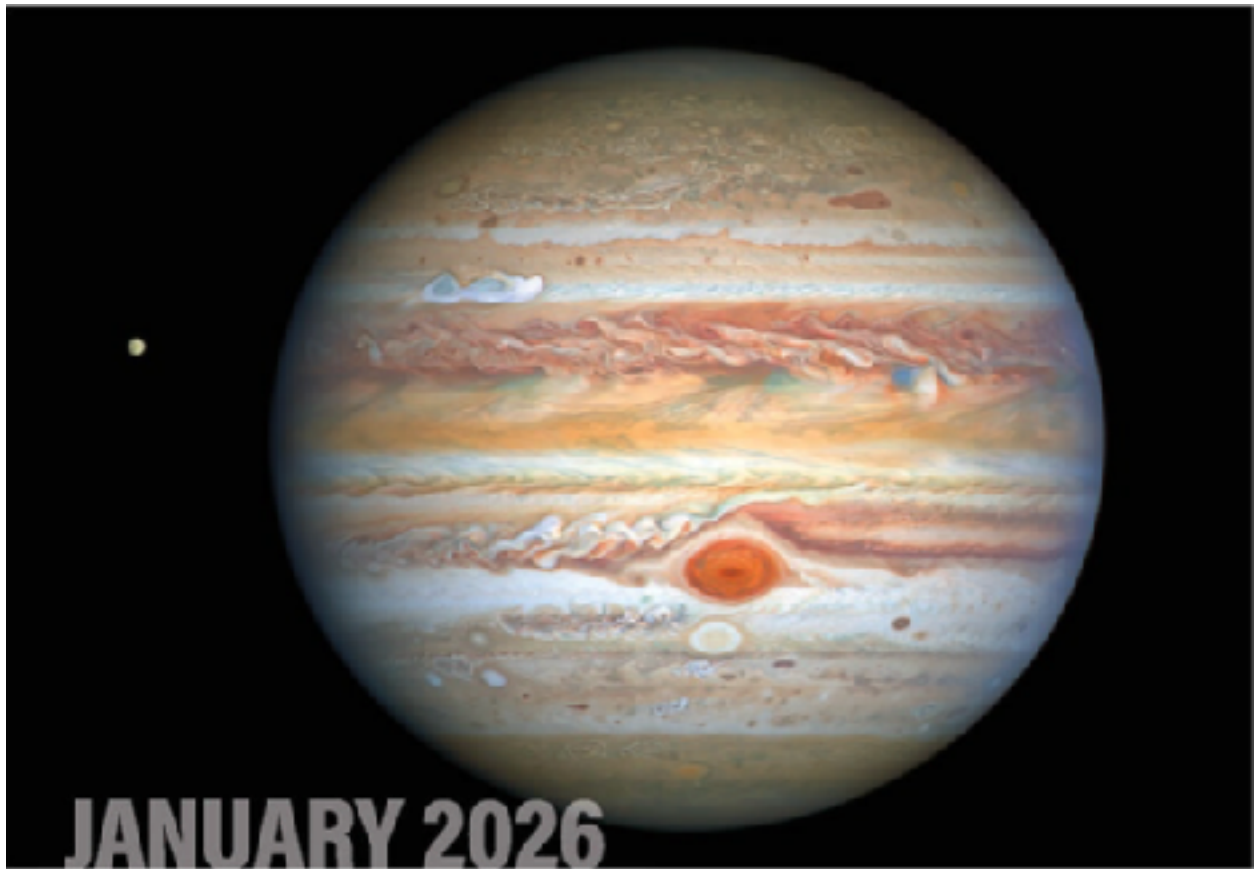
Obtain your Amateur Radio (Ham) License or your General Radio Operator's License (GROL)! Visit the [South Metro VE Team](#) website for more information. The South Metro VE Team provides test sessions by appointment only. Check the website for current information. All others interested in Amateur Radio, check out the [Amateur Radio Relay League](#) website to find out more information about becoming an Amateur Radio operator.

The [Colorado Astronomy Net](#) and the [IAAS](#) are on Facebook page. Be sure to "Like" us.



Donate to the [IAAS](#)!
Your contributions are tax deductible.
Thank you for your support!

Excerpts from JPL mission updates are provided as a public service as part of the [JPL Solar System Ambassador / NASA Outreach](#) program.



"Jupiter reaches opposition this month, looking its best, while the motions of its moons are fascinating to watch. This 2020 Hubble image shows Jupiter and its icy moon Europa." Astronomy Magazine, January 2026, p.28.

NASA, ESA, A. SIMON (GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER), AND M. H. WONG (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY) AND THE OPAL TEAM

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The [Month At-A-Glance](#)

The current month's calendar displaying the daily astronomical events.

The Moon

Phases:

- Full Moon occurs on the 3rd. Super Moon
- Last Quarter Moon occurs on the 10th.
- New Moon occurs on the 18th.
- First Quarter Moon occurs on the 25th.

- The Moon is at [perigee](#) (223,910 miles from Earth) on the 1st.
- The Moon is at [apogee](#) (251,928 miles from Earth) on the 13th.
- The Moon is at [perigee](#) (227,341 miles from Earth) on the 29th.



Moon/Planet Pairs:

- The Moon passes 4° north of Jupiter on the 3rd.
- The Moon passes 0.5° north of Regulus on the 6th.
- The Moon passes 0.6° south of Antares on the 14th.
- The Moon passes 4° north of Saturn on the 23rd.
- The Moon passes 4° north of Neptune on the 23rd.
- The Moon passes 5° north of Uranus on the 27th.
- The Moon passes 4° north of Jupiter on the 30th.

For reference: The Full Moon subtends an angle of ~0.5°

[Astronomy Calendar 2026: All Major Celestial Events of the Year](#)

[Weekly Rocket Report](#)

Courtesy of "The Rocketman" Ed W6RDZ

Updated Weekly on Tuesday evenings
prior to the Colorado Astronomy Net

The Planets & Dwarf Planets

[Planetary Reports](#) are generated by "[TheSkyX](#)" software. These reports provide predicted data for the planets on the first of each month for the current year. The rise and set times for the Sun and the Moon for each day of the month as well as meteor shower radiants are also included in the reports. These reports have been optimized for the Denver, Colorado location, however, the times will be approximate for other locations on Earth.

(Times are Mountain Time (MST/MDT) unless otherwise noted. Times will vary slightly depending on your location.)

Planetary Highlights for January

"Saturn is on display in the early-evening sky this month along with Uranus and Neptune, both within reach of binoculars. Jupiter dominates the night, reaching opposition on the 10th. The gas giant is the prime target for the month; the long winter nights offer lots of time to enjoy the view. Mercury continues its year-end showing through the New Year, visible in the morning sky for a brief time." Astronomy Magazine, January 2026, p.28.



Mercury

Is in [superior conjunction](#) on the 21st. Mercury rises at 6:36 a.m. on the 1st. After conjunction, Mercury returns to the evening sky, setting about 5:56 p.m. by month's end. Mercury is visible about 30 minutes before sunrise, low to the east during the first two weeks of the month. Mercury moves from the [constellation](#) of [Sagittarius](#) into [Capricornus](#) shining at [magnitude](#) -0.6 on the 1st.



Venus

Is in [superior conjunction](#) on the 6th. Venus rises about 7:20 a.m. on the 1st. After conjunction, Venus returns to the evening sky, setting about 5:48 p.m. by month's end. Look for Venus low to the west about an 30 minutes after sunset during the last two weeks of the month. Venus moves from the [constellation](#) of [Sagittarius](#) into [Capricornus](#) shining at magnitude -3.9 on the 15th.



Earth

Is at [perihelion](#) (91.4 million miles from the Sun) on the 3rd.



Mars

Is in [conjunction](#) with the Sun on the 9th. Mars sets at 4:51 p.m. on the 1st. After conjunction, Mars returns to the morning sky, rising about 6:57 a.m. by month's end. Look for Mars low to the east in the morning about 30 minutes

before sunrise during the last two weeks of the month. Mars moves from the constellation of [Sagittarius](#) into [Capricornus](#) shining at magnitude 1.1.



Jupiter

Is at [opposition](#) on the 10th, rising as the Sun sets. Jupiter rises at 5:24 p.m. on the 1st and about 3:03 p.m. by

month's end.

Look for Jupiter to

the southeast in the evening,

then follow it through the night sky as it sets in the early morning hours before dawn. Jupiter is

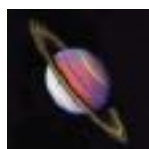
in the constellation of [Gemini](#) shining at magnitude -2.7.



The day Jupiter reaches opposition, Callisto, nearly blends with its shadow as they transit. Can you spot the shadow, just peeking out from Callisto's southern edge?



Jupiter shines brightly in Gemini as it reaches opposition this month. It's also a great time to view Uranus near the Pleiades in Taurus, though you'll need binoculars or a telescope. (A. ILLUSTRATION: ANDREW COX/ESA)



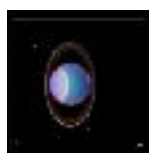
Saturn

Sets at 10:53 p.m. on the 1st and about 9:04 a.m. by month's end. Look for Saturn to the southwest in the evening sky, soon after sunset. Saturn

moves from the constellation of [Aquarius](#) into [Pisces](#) shining at magnitude 1.0.



Saturn continues to point the way to Neptune all month; note that Neptune requires optical aid to view. They are best seen in early evening.



Uranus

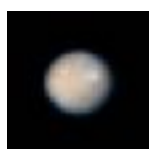
Sets about 4:10 a.m. on the 1st and about 2:05 a.m. by month's end. Look for Uranus to the south in the evening. Uranus is in the constellation [Taurus](#) shining at magnitude 5.7.



Neptune

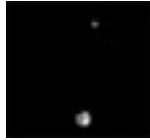
Sets at 11:11 p.m. on the 1st and about 9:12 p.m. by the month's end. Look for Neptune to the southwest in the evening following Saturn by a few minutes all month. Neptune is in the constellation of [Pisces](#) shining at magnitude 7.8.

Dwarf Planets



Ceres

Sets at 11:38 p.m. on the 1st and about 10:20 p.m. by month's end. Ceres can be spotted low to the southwest just below and east of Saturn and Neptune. Ceres is in the constellation of [Cetus](#) shining at magnitude 9.0.



Pluto

Is in [conjunction](#) with the Sun on the 23rd. Pluto sets at 8:13 p.m. on the 1st. After conjunction, Pluto returns to the morning sky, rising about 6:58 a.m. by month's end. Pluto is lost in the Sun's twilight glow all month and is not visible. Pluto is in the constellation of [Capricornus](#) shining at magnitude 15.2.

As always, good luck at spotting Neptune, Ceres and Pluto, a large telescope and dark skies will be needed.

Constellation information provided by [Go Astronomy](#).

Astronomical Events



Meteor Showers

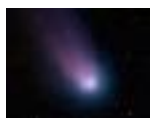
• **The Quadrantids** - This [shower](#) is generally visible between December 28 and January 7, with a very sharp maximum of 45 to 200 meteors per hour occurring during January 3 and 4. The meteors tend to be bluish and possess an average magnitude of about 2.8.

For more information about Meteor Showers, visit Gary Kronk's [Meteor Showers Online](#) web page.

[Meteor Shower Radiant Report](#)

[Meteor Scatter](#) (or Meteor burst communications) -- "is a radio [propagation mode](#) that exploits the [ionized](#) trails of [meteors](#) during [atmospheric entry](#) to establish brief communications paths between [radio stations](#) up to 2,250 kilometres (1,400 mi) apart." Tune your shortwave or your HF amateur radio to 54.310 MHz USB CW and see if you can hear any pings. Try other frequencies as well... 6m FT8 digital - 50.313 Mhz & 50.276 Mhz, JP-65 digital mode and the carrier frequencies of the lower VHF bands for TV channels 2, 3 & 4.

[Meteor Rx How-To](#) by Terry Bullett (WØASP).



Comets

• [Comet](#) 24P/Schaumasse rises just before midnight, passing through the constellations of Coma Berenices, Virgo and Boötes in the early morning hours before dawn. Comet Schaumasse shines around 8th magnitude but may dim to about 12th magnitude by month's end, making it more



difficult to spot.

- Comet C/2004 E1 (Wierzchoś) is visible for observers south of the equator this month, rising in the evening twilight after midmonth. Comet Wierzchoś reaches [perihelion](#) on the 20th and may brighten to greater than 5th magnitude.

For information, orbital elements and ephemerides on observable comets visit [Observable Comets](#).

For more information about Comets, check out Gary Kronk's 6-volume series of books on [Cometography](#).



Eclipses

- No [solar eclipse](#) activity this month.
- No [lunar eclipse](#) activity this month.

Observational Opportunities

(from evening to morning)

- Look for Saturn, Neptune, Ceres and Uranus to the southwest.
- Look for Jupiter in the evening and early morning to the south.

Asteroids

(From west to east)

- **Hebe** is in the constellation of [Cetus](#).
- **Papagena** is in the constellation of [Cetus](#).
- **Psyche** is in the constellation of [Taurus](#).
- **Harmonia** is at [opposition](#) on the 2nd in the constellation of [Gemini](#).
- **Nysa** is at [opposition](#) on the 23rd in the constellation of [Cancer](#).
- **Iris** is in the constellation of [Sextans](#).



The strange metallic asteroid Psyche arcs above the Bull's eye, Aldebaran, this month.

Information about the Minor Planets can be found at the [MinorPlanet.info](#) web site.

Occultations



Information on various [occultations](#) can be found at the [International Occultation Timing Association's \(IOTA\)](#) web site.

Member Meteor Sightings

In this section I will post meteor, fireball, etc sightings that have been published on the [American Meteor Society](#)'s web site. I want to make this an active section of the web pages and newsletter and would like to publish the links to member sightings. If you have any published sightings, please provide me with the links and I will post them here for all to enjoy.

<u>Event ID</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>	<u>Link</u>
3871-2015	2015-11-13 01:55 MST	CO	Charles N	3871a
3587-2015	2015-11-22 17:38 MST	CO	Kevin S	3587aw
3829-2015	2015-12-05 18:06 MST	CO	Burness A	3829a
986-2020	2020-02-21 22:20 MST	CO	Lukas S	986
3716-2020	2020-07-24 23:22 MDT	CO	Lukas S	3716
4774-2021	2021-08-13 21:57 MDT	UT	Lukas S	4774
7044-2021	2021-10-28 20:37 MDT	CO	Burness A	249058
6763-2022	2022-10-06 05:56 CDT	OK	Mike C	6763
5300-2023	2023-09-11 22:04 MDT	CO	Lukas S	5300
578-2024	2024-01-28 23:05 MST	CO	Lukas S	578
2864-2025	2025-05-19 20:29 PDT	NV	Kenneth T	375753

[Subscriber Gallery](#)

I have created a web page containing images taken and submitted by subscribers (or special images) to the email newsletter, check-ins to the Colorado Astronomy Net and readers of the online newsletter and some of my own images. Anyone wishing to submit their images to the gallery, please send me an email. The images must be taken by the submitter and be astronomy related. Please include a description and your information so that I can give proper credit to your work. I will post the most recent submissions here.

Another Aurora Image - November 11, 2025

Courtesy of Patrick McCauley (NT9A)

Madison, Wisconsin

Image taken November 11, 2025



The Sun was quite active on the evening of November 11, 2025 (November 12 UTC). This image was taken much further north than Colorado, showing more of the green auroral tendrils as opposed to the images taken further south that are mostly red. Check out the linked slideshow for comparison.

Here is the link from SpaceWeather.com for November 11, [Severe Geomagnetic Storm Watch](#), explaining what was occurring with our dynamic Sun.

(Click on the following link(s) to start the slideshow.)
[Aurora Activity 11/11/25 - MPEG-4](#) (.m4v) format
[Aurora Activity 11/11/25 - QuickTime](#) (.mov) format

Planetary/Lunar Exploration Missions

(Excerpts from recent mission updates)



JPL Latest News

The Latest from Space

[The Origin of JPL](#) (a Youtube video-1 Hour 29 minutes).



James Webb Space Telescope

Information on the James Webb Space Telescope mission is available at [The James Webb Space Telescope](#) website.

The public can follow the mission on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).



Juno

Information on the Juno mission is available at [Juno](#) and [Mission Juno](#). Images from NASA's [JunoCam](#).

The public can follow the mission on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



TESS

Information on the TESS mission can be found on the [Latest Tess News](#) page.

[Past, Present, Future and Proposed JPL Missions](#)

For special JPL programs and presentations in your area visit the [JPL Solar System Ambassador](#) web site.

Mars Missions

[Be A Martian](#)



Mars website mobile version is here!
Simply type
<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov>
into your mobile browser.

Mars on the Go! NASA Be A Martian Mobile App

If you want the latest news as it happens, try out the "Be A Martian" app.

Download on Mobile Devices

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JMARS

[JMARS](#) is an acronym that stands for Java Mission-planning and Analysis for Remote Sensing. It is a geospatial information system (GIS) developed by ASU's Mars Space Flight Facility to provide mission planning and data-analysis tools to NASA's orbiters, instrument team members, students of all ages, and the general public.



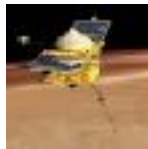
Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics

"The Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) at the University of Colorado Boulder (CU) began in 1948, a decade before NASA. We are the world's only research institute to have sent instruments to all eight planets and Pluto.



LASP

Visit the [LASP](#) website for latest news and information.



MAVEN

Visit the [MAVEN](#) website for latest news and information.



Mars 2020 - Perseverance

Visit the [Mars 2020 \(Perseverance\)](#) mission website for mission information and news updates.



Mars Science Laboratory - Curiosity

Visit the [Mars Science Laboratory](#) website for mission information and news updates.

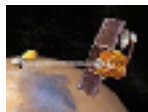


Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter Mission

Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter HIRISE Images

View all of the archived [HiRISE](#) images.

More information about the [MRO](#) mission is available online.



Mars Odyssey Orbiter

Daily Mars Odyssey THEMIS Images

Thermal Emission Imaging System ([THEMIS](#)) web site.

Visit the [Mars Odyssey Mission](#) website for mission information and news updates.

Mars Missions Status

New Mars missions are being planned to include several new rover and sample collection missions. Check out the [NASA Mars Exploration](#) web page.

[Astronomy Links and Other Space News](#)

(If you have a link you would like to recommend to our readers, please feel free to submit it.)

[Colorado Astronomy Links](#)

[Radio Astronomy Links](#)

[More Astronomy Links](#)

Acknowledgments and References

Much of the information in this newsletter is from "Astronomy Magazine" (Kalmbach Publishing), JPL mission status reports, "Meteor Showers - A Descriptive Catalog" by Gary W. Kronk and other astronomical sources that I have stashed on my book shelves.

The author will accept any suggestions, constructive criticisms, and corrections. Please feel free to send me any new links or articles to share as well. I will try to accommodate any reasonable requests. Please feel free to send questions, comments, criticisms, or donations to the email address listed below. Enjoy!

Subscription Information

- Email Newsletter [archives](#).
- [Full documentation](#) of the online administration system.
- The latest version of the [newsletter](#).

Keep looking UP!

73 from KIØAR

Created by Burness F. Ansell, III

[Email](#)

COO, Director of Aerospace Technologies, IAAS

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