

The giant planets Jupiter and Saturn dominate the evening sky with their brilliance.

Solar System: Bobby Marinov imaged Jupiter and *Saturn* from Houston where they appear higher in the sky than they do here in New Jersey. Clif Ashcraft has located *Saturn's elusive polar hexagon* in Bobby's image.



Clif has continued to image Saturn and Jupiter. He has spotted two small bluish clouds hanging around Jupiter's Great Red Spot and shown that the South edge of the wide cummerbund belt is quite a bit bluer than the other wider edge. On July 25 he captured a transit of Ganymede.

Clif also took an image of extremely faint Pluto and plans to take another image to be blinked to show Pluto's motion.



Stars: Dennis Conti has observed another exoplanet transit.

Isbel Gonzalez imaged *Scorpius with Jupiter and the Milky Way* from Guayos, Cuba, about 20 N latitude. He also imaged Alpha and Beta Centaurus.

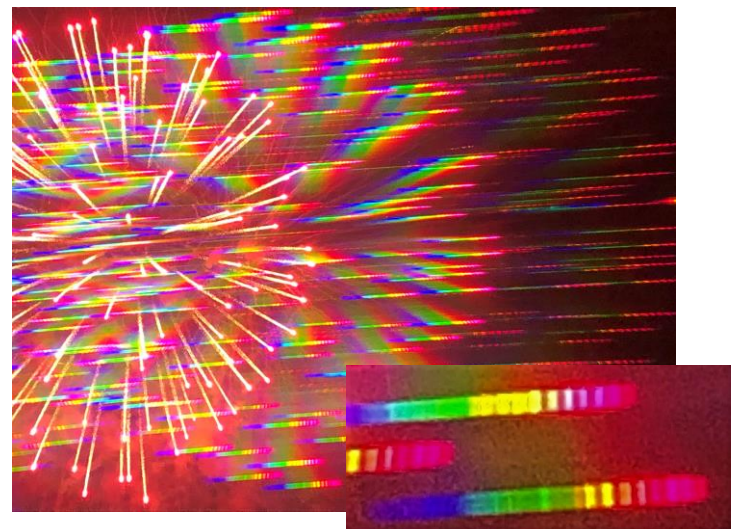


Igor Bluestein showed his image of the Southern Cross and Omega Centauri taken from Chile in March 2018.

Other: Clif learned how to make animated gifs using PIPP instead of GIMP, so at much higher resolution.

John Kozimbo announced that the 50th Anniversary of the First Moon Landing postage stamps went on sale.

John found a reference to help me interpret the *spectra of fireworks* I took on Independence Day holding a small diffraction grating in front of my smartphone. Line spectra indicate vaporizing metals. Red fireworks contain strontium salts or lithium salts.



*Respectfully submitted, Mary Lou West,
Research Chair*