



SHENANDOAH ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

September 2010

Jupiter



This photo of Jupiter was taken not long ago by an Australian amateur, Anthony Wesley. The small bright spot is not completely understood but may be an impact of a comet or other body onto Jupiter. This may remind us of the impact in 1994 of Shoemaker-Levy 9, the comet discovered by Eugene Shoemaker and David Levy.

This may seem like déjà vu since I had a picture of Jupiter on the last newsletter. But I use this one for the purpose of showing what Jupiter will look like now through your telescope. Of course, you will not see the bright spot but notice that the south cloud belt is missing or at least invisible.

I stayed up late last evening and looked at Jupiter for some time and that is the picture at this point.

The great red spot should be easier to see than usual and I aim to check it out soon. To find out when to look for the red spot to transit, that is, appear in the middle of Jupiter, check out the S&T web site for an applet that will give you the times. In the September issue of S&T there is a list of the times but sometimes the list does not make it into the magazine. You can see the red spot before and after the transit for about 45 minutes or so.

At this time, Jupiter is rising before 9:00 PM so is up high enough to observe by midnight or earlier if you wish to see him lower in the sky. The transit is at 2:50 AM when you find the planet due south.

Program for September 13
LFCC 7:00 PM

I am bringing a NASA video which is a tour of the universe starting with the

solar system then stars, Quasars, pulsars, and all the stuff out there. Others are bringing some good astro videos and we will choose which we want to see for the evening. The room number will be sent to you later as soon as I get one.

WEB SITES to check out:

www.bermanheyn.com – Sidewalk guy

www.nitesky.org – Morgan

County Observatory