Sky Highlights for August

August 7	Mercury in inferior conjunction
August 8	First quarter moon
August 11-12	Peak of the Perseid meteor shower. This year's Perseids will be washed out by a nearly full moon *(see below)*
August 15	Neptune at opposition
August 16	Full Moon. Grain or Green Corn Moon
August 23	Last quarter moon
August 30	New moon

Venus— Becomes barely visible after sunset on the 3rd, then rises higher in the evening sky throughout the month.

Mars & Saturn— Both planets are sinking low into the west, with Saturn the first to disappear into the sun's glare at the end of the month.

Jupiter— Dominating the southern sky, it's up all night, although not very high; it's in Sagittarius. Magnitude -2.6

Uranus—On the edge of brightness to be seen visually at magnitude +5.7, with a good star chart, you can find it with binoculars in Aquarius.

Neptune— Although at its brightest at opposition, Uranus is still only magnitude +7.8. It will take a good star chart and a telescope to find it in Capricornus.

Notes:

** *Did you know* that Jupiter's Red Spot Jr. has disappeared? It appears to have been absorbed into the Great Red Spot in early July. Goodbye, Junior!

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Sky Highlights for September

September 3	Saturn at conjunction
September 7	First quarter moon Jupiter ends retrograde motion
September 9	Jupiter at opposition
September 10	Mercury at greatest eastern elongation
September 12	Uranus at opposition
September 15	Full Moon. Called the Fruit or Harvest Moon
September 22	Last quarter moon Autumnal equinox
September 29	New moon

Mercury— Visible early in the month, but not an easy target, Very low in the west at magnitude 0.

Venus— Rising higher into the evening sky at magnitude -3.9

Mars— Magnitude +1.7 in Leo, gone by the end of the month..

Jupiter— Magnitude -2.4 in Sagittarius; you can't miss it in the southern sky.

Uranus and Neptune—Because of their great distance from us, they are in pretty much the same places as last month.

Close approach—On September 11, Venus will be only 1.3° apart; Unfortunately, they'll only be 6° above the western horizon. Mercury is to their lower left, but just barely above the horizon. An interesting challenge if you have an unobstructed view to the west.