

>On The *EVENT HORIZON* – Venus & Jupiter Dance!<

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>On The *EVENT HORIZON* – Venus & Jupiter Dance!<

Enjoy a close encounter of the planetary kind, as Jupiter and Venus are in conjunction on the mornings of November 4th & 5th. Less than one degree apart, the two brightest planets will dominate our pre–dawn sky.

The time to see this celestial wonder is in the wee hours of the morning, between 5 and 6 am. Even though Jupiter is by far the larger of the two planets, Venus will be the brighter of the pair. Venus is much closer to the Earth, and with its highly reflective clouds and orbit nearer the Sun, our "Morning Star" outshines her dance partner.

And, as a special treat, watch carefully for Mars reappearing just before the dawn's early light! The Earth has been overtaking the slower–orbiting Mars on the interplanetary racetrack. Mars will slowly rise higher and higher in our sky, until we reach opposition next summer. Do you recall when Mars was at opposition during the summer of 2003, when it was closer to us than it has been in the past 60,000 years? 2005's opposition will be nearly as good! (And, on a personal note, I will have a MUCH bigger telescope this time around! MORE POWER!!)

To see the latest steps in the Dance of the Planets, find a viewing spot that has a clear view of the eastern horizon. Dress warm, and keep your fingers crossed hoping for clear skies! NASA has skycharts to help you find our neighbor worlds:

–November 4th: http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2004/images/venusjupiter/skymap_north_04nov04.gif

–November 5th: http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2004/images/venusjupiter/skymap_north_05nov04.gif

Enjoy the show!

>On The *HORIZON* – Luna Occults Jupiter!

>On The *EVENT HORIZON* – Venus & Jupiter Dance!<

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>May you have clear skies & a star to steer by! ☾Michael☽

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>☾MICHAEL FOERSTER☽

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>☾E–Address: <Skywatch@(insert domain from next line).net>

>☾Domain: Starry–Nite.net

>☾N42°31'13.3" W83°08'43.2" ☾ 668' ☾ –5 GMT

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> FAMOUS LAST WORDS – A SERIES

> "Who the hell wants to hear actors talk?"

> >H.M. Warner, Warner Brothers, 1927

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