



What's Up

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,000
Music.

2
00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:06,000
Jane Houston Jones: What's Up for December. Bright planets, a Comet ISON status report

3
00:00:06,000 --> 00:00:08,000
plus wintery starry sights.

4
00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:14,000
Hello and welcome. I'm Jane Houston Jones from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

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00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:17,999
Observers definitely saw Comet ISON brighten and change in November.

6
00:00:18,000 --> 00:00:20,999
And you can see space images and learn about all of NASA's missions at www.nasa.gov.

7
00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:26,000
If the comet survived perihelion, its closest approach to the sun,

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00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:30,000
it will be visible both before dawn and after sunset this month.

9
00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:36,000
It will appear higher in the sky at dawn than at sunset, providing a better chance to see it.

10
00:00:36,000 --> 00:00:42,000
During the second half of December, Comet ISON should fade rapidly as it moves north.

11
00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:47,000
It will be closest to Earth in its orbit on December 26.

12
00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:48,000
Sound effect.

13
00:00:48,000 --> 00:00:53,000

Jones: You may have noticed a very bright 'star' in the western sky. That's Venus!

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00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:59,000

Venus shines at its very brightest, magnitude -4.9 this month.

15

00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:03,000

It sets about 3 hours after sunset at the beginning of the month

16

00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:06,000

and one and a half hours after sunset at the end of the month.

17

00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:11,000

This is a great month to view the dramatic changes in the apparent diameter and phases of Venus

18

00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:15,000

as it races towards its conjunction with the sun.

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:20,000

The first observations of the phases of Venus were made by Galileo in 1610!

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00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:21,000

Sound effect.

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00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:26,000

Jones: Mars continues to grow brighter and rises near midnight,

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00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:31,000

and Jupiter rises earlier in the evening, heralding the best viewing season for Jupiter watchers.

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:32,000

Sound effect.

24

00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:37,000

Jones: The beautiful Geminid meteor shower will only slightly be marred by moonlight

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00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:40,000

on the night of December 13 and 14.

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00:01:40,000 --> 00:01:47,000

The radiant lies near Gemini with brilliant Jupiter above and the constellation Orion below.

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00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:54,000

From a dark sky, but even from the city, the mighty hunter Orion is easily visible in the southeast sky.

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:58,000

Take a look at Orion's shoulder star, red Betelgeuse

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00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:01,000

and its knee star, blue Rigel

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00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:04,000

and the Orion Nebula.

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00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:10,000

You can see the latest images of Comet ISON from space telescopes and worldwide amateurs at

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00:02:10,000 --> 00:02:14,000

w w w dot isoncampaign dot org

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00:02:14,000 --> 00:02:16,933

and solarsystem dot nasa dot gov slash ISON.