



Looking southwest before sunrise Dec. 12

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,000

Music.

2
00:00:03,000 --> 00:00:05,000

Jane Houston Jones: What's Up for December.

3
00:00:05,000 --> 00:00:08,000

More meteor showers and plenty of planets.

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 --> 00:00:19,000

If the weather marred your meteor watching in November, don't worry.

6
00:00:19,000 --> 00:00:25,000

The December Geminids and Ursids offer up two more chances to see meteor showers this year.

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00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:30,000

The constellation Gemini, namesake of the Geminids and location of the meteor shower radiant,

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00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:34,000

is easy to spot above Orion, high in the southern sky.

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00:00:34,000 --> 00:00:42,000

Look for the most Geminids--even before midnight--on the peak nights of December 13-14th and 14th-15th.

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00:00:42,000 --> 00:00:47,000

A week later, under darker new moon conditions, look for the Ursids

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00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:51,000

radiating from the bowl of Ursa Minor, or the Little Dipper.

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00:00:51,000 --> 00:00:57,000

The best time to view this shower is from after midnight until dawn on December 22nd and 23rd.

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00:00:57,000 --> 00:00:58,000

Sound: Whoosh.

14

00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:03,000

Jones: Start the month with a pretty view of the moon near the Pleiades star cluster on December 4th and 5th.

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00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:08,000

Look east a few hours after sunset. You can't miss the two objects.

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00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:13,000

Then, set your alarm clock for an hour before sunrise and catch Jupiter above the moon

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00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:17,000

on December 11th through the 13th in the southwest sky.

18

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:23,000

Jupiter rises in the Eastern sky by about 10 p.m. and it's visible until dawn.

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00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:27,000

From the 18th to the 20th, look southeast a little closer to sunrise

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00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:31,000

to catch the slender crescent moon near Saturn.

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:39,000

Three more planets grace the evening sky. Venus is below the moon, near the horizon, on the 23rd.

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00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:41,000

Mars is below the moon on the 25th.

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00:01:41,000 --> 00:01:45,000

And Mercury peeks over the horizon on New Year's Eve.

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00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:52,000

Uranus and Neptune are among the stars of the constellations Aquarius and Pisces in the southern sky.

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00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:54,000

You'll need a telescope to spot Neptune,

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00:01:54,000 --> 00:02:00,000

but you just might find blue-green Uranus through binoculars as soon as it's dark after sunset.

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00:02:00,000 --> 00:02:05,000

Finally, there are two comets to try for through telescopes.

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00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:08,000

Comet Siding Spring in Ophiucus

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00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:11,000

and Comet PanSTARRS in Sculptor.

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00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:15,000

Try looking in the early evening. Both are low on the western horizon.

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00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:20,000

You can learn more about all the solar system bodies at [solarsystem dot nasa dot gov](http://solarsystem.nasa.gov).

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00:02:20,000 --> 00:02:26,000

And you can learn about all of NASA's missions at [w w w dot nasa dot gov](http://www.nasa.gov).