# PLANETARY SOCIETY

DECEMBER SOLSTICE 2025

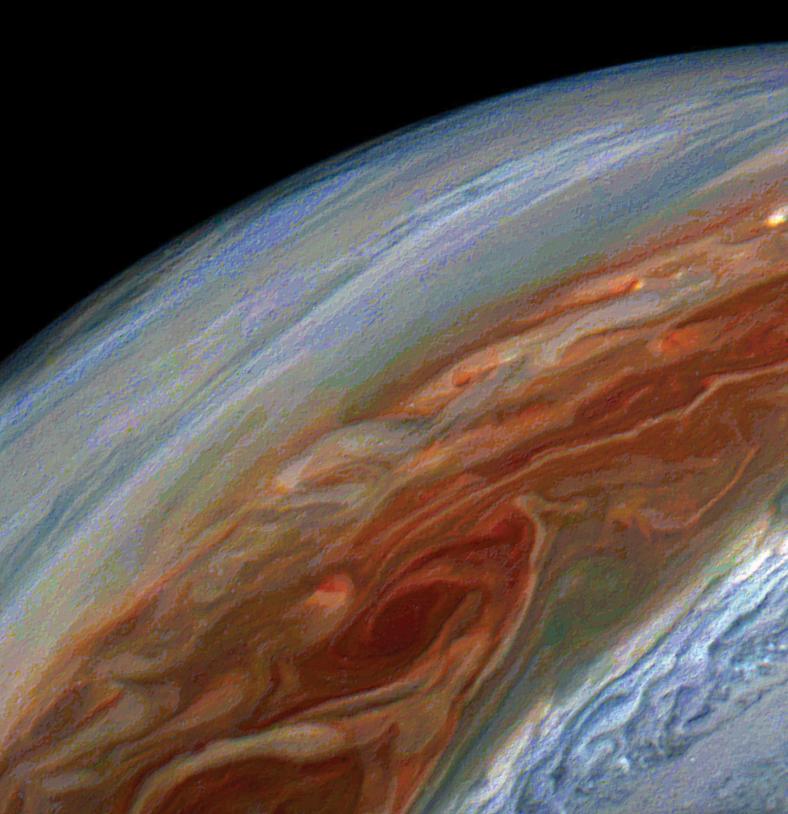
V. 45 N. 04

PLANETARY. ORG

THE YEAR IN PICTURES
CAPTURING SPACE EXPLORATION IN 2025



# Jupiter NASA's Juno spacecraft captured this image of Jupiter on Jan. 28, 2025. NASA/JPL-Caltech/SwRI/MSSS/Jackie Branc



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This image, captured by the European Space Agency's Mars Express orbiter in June 2025, shows the Arcadia Planitia region in the midnorthern latitudes of Mars.

ESA/DLR/FU Berlin

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# **NEW FINDINGS UNDERSCORE WHY WE MUST EXPLORE**



#### **Opportunity for** discovery

by Bill Nye

A year ago in our 2024 Year in Pictures issue, we wrote about an intriguing rock that NASA's Perseverance rover found in the Bright Angel formation on Mars. Its "leopard spots" — a pattern of black and tan dots observed on the surface of a particular rock - are often associated with living things on Earth. But scientists are a cautious bunch and don't like to jump to conclusions. More research had to be done to see if these features could have been produced abiotically - i.e., not by living things.

In September of this year, a group of researchers announced that this Mars rock, named Cheyava Falls, likely didn't form these spots by any of the nonliving processes we know of. With known alternative explanations eliminated,

the possibility that these spots could be signs of ancient microbial life is very strong.

So, what now? The Perseverance rover itself isn't equipped with the instruments sensitive enough to say for sure what we're seeing, but it has collected a sample from that intriguing rock and cached it away for return to Earth. If we can get that rock here, we'll be able to study it in the best laboratories using the most advanced instruments and techniques we have. Wouldn't it be something - astonishing, really - to prove that there was once life on Mars? Then, we'd all wonder: Is it life as we know it? Or are these the remains of something else entirely - a yet unknown type of living thing?

NASA has spent almost 50 years and about 23 billion dollars studying the most likely places to look for life, especially where there has been water flow We've been planning to send a follow-up mission to retrieve the samples that the Perseverance team has been diligently

collecting for a long time. We've partnered with the European Space Agency on this project. They too have made significant investments toward it. However, the sweeping budget cuts proposed by the Trump administration could cancel the Mars Sample Return program altogether.

We are so close to making discoveries that could forever change the way you and I think about our place in the Universe. We have the tools, the talent, and the knowledge we need to go out there and answer the biggest questions that intrigue us all. All we need to do is commit to doing it.

The role of advocates like you and of organizations like The Planetary Society has never been more important. Together, we're working to make sure science doesn't lose its place in space exploration. And I'm hopeful that we'll get it done. We'll bring that rock home, put humanity's best minds to work figuring out what it means, and come one step closer to understanding the Cosmos and how we fit in.

Thank you for being part of this effort. We truly couldn't do it without you.

Bill Uye

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# A **SPACE** FOR ALL



Where members come together to share their passion

by Ambre Trujillo

Growing up, I had glow-in-the-dark stars on my ceiling and loved classic sci-fi. I was one of those kids who asked a lot of questions, the kind adults didn't always have answers for. When I read "The Demon-Haunted World" by Carl Sagan, I realized astronomy is where people ask some of the biggest questions. That book cracked open the Universe for me and made me want to find others who felt the same. I wanted to make space nerd friends, learn, and talk about the Cosmos with curious people. But with no connections to the space industry, I had a really hard time finding those friends and that community.

Years later, I found myself in a full-circle moment. I was hired at The Planetary Society, the very organization Sagan co-founded, as its digital community manager. Part of my role is to help build the kind of community I once searched for. When our online member community launched in 2023, our goal was to grow it to 700 members. In 2025, we're nearly 20,000 strong. That growth happened because you - our members - saw the value in a space built just for you. You brought your passions, your stories, and your curiosity.

Every week, I hear from members who've taken our free courses and come away with new knowledge about asteroids, the search for life, the night sky, or the inner workings of space policy. And this year's



Astrophysicist, engineer, and author Hakeem Oluseyi (right) joined book club host Mat Kaplan (left) for a live author event, giving members the chance to ask questions and engage directly. The Planetary Society

book club? A hit. Hundreds of you have tuned in to live discussions with book club host Mat Kaplan and guest authors, bringing thoughtful questions and reflections to every conversation.

Your engagement, generosity, and willingness to learn together make this space come alive. This is a community where people uplift each other, share resources, celebrate discoveries, fight for space science, and make even the vastness of the Universe feel personal. While the community is flourishing, there's still so much room to grow. We hope to soon build out more ways for members to connect, whether through smaller groups, local meetups, or deeper collaborations.

I spent years looking for my space community. Now, I'm honored to have helped build one - with members who've become friends. Every Planetary Society member can join the online member community. Go to community.planetary.org to log in today.

# **ENDANGERED VIEWS** OF THE COSMOS



#### The images we may never get to see

by Asa Stahl

No matter how poetically someone like Carl Sagan talked about space, the most famous representatives of astronomy are often not people. They're images.

Amazing pictures are how astronomy thrives in the public's imagination, whether they're taken from probes, like Voyager's pale blue dot, or observatories, like the Hubble Space Telescope's Pillars of Creation. These images confront us with the wonders of the Universe. They show us that while outer space can sound abstract, its beauty is very, very real.

Now, the White House's proposed NASA budget is putting the next generation of breathtaking, perspective-shifting images at risk. By threatening to slash NASA science by 47% and cancel over 40 space missions, this proposal would end spacecraft that are set to reveal the Universe in entirely new ways.

The U.S. Congress has made it clear that it intends to largely reject these proposed cuts. As of the writing of this article, though, the situation remains in flux. No matter what happens to these missions, we will need to keep fighting for them.

If these cuts were to go into effect, what awe-inspiring pictures would we never see?

The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope could be the biggest leap in astronomical imaging at risk. As NASA's next flagship orbital observatory, Roman would take images just as sharp as Hubble's but capture 100 times more of the sky in a single shot. Roman also features a coronagraph - an instrument to block light from nearby stars and take pictures of planets orbiting around them - that is at least 100 times more powerful than any existing facility. Roman aims to take direct photos of thousands of exoplanets, including, perhaps, the first image of one with rings. But under the White House's proposal, Roman's budget would be slashed by 50%, endangering the telescope's 2026-2027 target launch date and future operations.

VERITAS, a Venus orbiter slated to launch around 2030, is also under threat. VERITAS would capture high-resolution views of the planet's surface unlike anything seen before. The mission would give us maps of Venus about five times sharper than our current best images, which are now over 30 years old.

The DAVINCI mission could provide even more breathtaking views. This probe would take photos as it descends toward the surface of Venus, showing us the first glimpse from within Venus' clouds in nearly 50 years. It would eventually achieve a resolution of around 1 meter or less, similar to high-resolution satellite imagery of Earth. And though DAVINCI is not designed to survive impacting the ground,

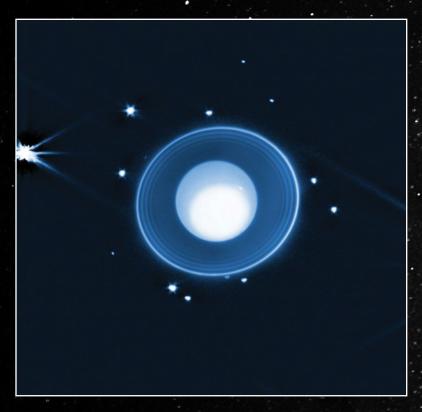
if it does, it could also send back images from Venus' surface.

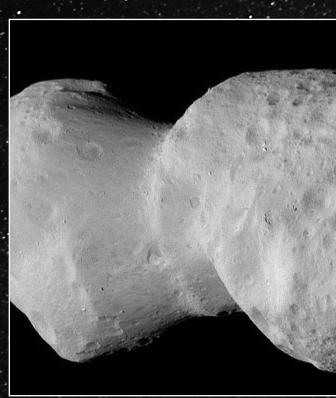
In the White House's proposed budget, both of these Venus missions would be cancelled entirely. Whatever images they would have taken would be lost forever.

Then there's the New Horizons spacecraft, an ongoing mission that could provide a fresh perspective on the Solar System much farther afield. If it is not shut down midflight as the White House has proposed, this mission could take the first images of an unexplored Kuiper Belt object. New Horizons could also turn around to take one final image of Earth - an updated version of the pale blue dot, seen from even farther away.

Carl Sagan knew the importance of images when, in the 1980s, he advocated for Voyager to take the original pale blue dot picture. Now, the movement he co-founded is again fighting for images that show us our place in the Cosmos. 🧈







# THE VEAR IN PICTURES

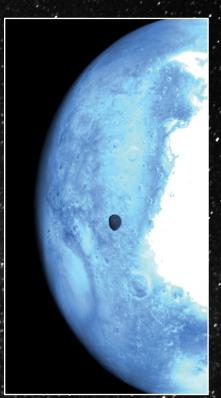


#### **Images from an orbit**

by Kate Howells

In the time it takes our planet to go around the Sun, we do a lot of exploring. This year, new missions took off, a powerful observatory began examining the sky, and seasoned spacecraft kept up their work. As a human endeavor, space exploration this year also brought on some emotional highs and lows. This collection of images, going as far back as late November 2024, captures some of the highlights of humanity's exploration of space over the past year.







#### Left to right

#### A new moon

Using the James Webb Space Telescope, researchers identified a previously unknown moon orbiting Uranus in February, expanding the planet's known satellite family to 29. The moon can be seen as a faint, smudgy spot just beyond Uranus' rings in the upper left.

NASA/ESA/CSA/STScI/M. El Moutamid (SWRI)/M. Hedman (University of Idaho)

#### **Donaldjohanson**

NASA's Lucy spacecraft captured this image of the asteroid Donaldjohanson in April from a distance of roughly 1,100 kilometers (660 miles).

NASA/Goddard/SwRI/Johns Hopkins APL/NOIRLab

#### A view of Mars

This infrared image of Mars with its moon Deimos in the foreground was captured by the European Space Agency's Hera spacecraft as it flew by the planet in March on its way to the asteroids Dimorphos and Didymos.

#### **Coronal rain**

Schmidt et al./NJIT/NSO/AURA/NSF

In May, researchers using the Goode Solar Telescope in California shared the highest resolution images ever made of the boundary between the surface of the Sun and its corona. Images like this one show coronal rain, a phenomenon that occurs when hotter plasma in the corona cools down, becomes denser, and falls back to the surface along magnetic field lines.



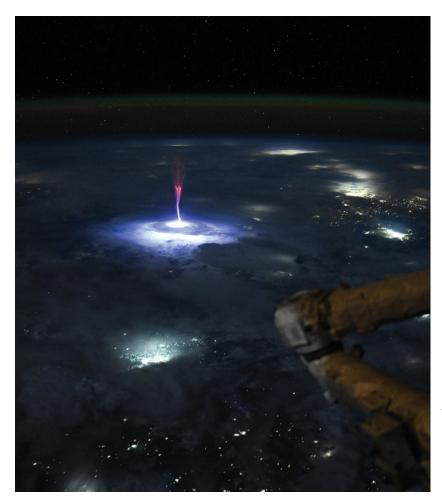
#### ▲ NASA cuts

Not everything that happened in the field of space exploration this year was positive. Mamta Patel Nagaraja shared this photo after being laid off from her position as NASA's associate chief scientist for exploration and applied research as part of sweeping budget cuts and NASA office closures. Mamta Patel Nagaraja



#### 100th woman in space

Emily Calandrelli celebrates returning to Earth after becoming the hundredth woman to go to space. She lifted off aboard a Blue Origin New Shepard rocket in November 2024. Blue Origin



#### Sprite from ISS

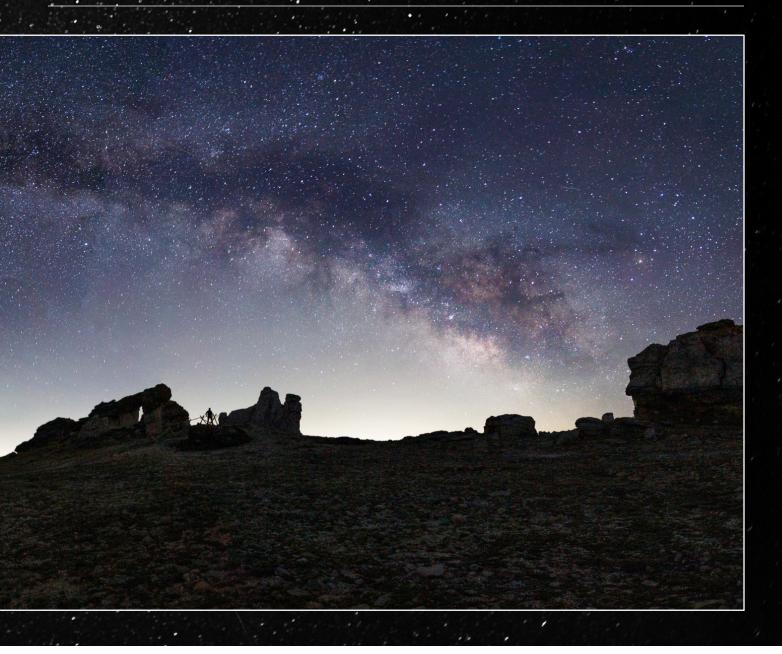
A sprite, which is a brief light event triggered by electrical activity, photographed in July by NASA astronaut Nichole Ayers aboard the International Space Station. Nichole Ayers, NASA





Milky Way on the alpine tundra Planetary Society member Zaakary Barnes photographed this panorama of the Milky Way over Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park in June.

Zaakary Barnes



#### **WANT MORE PHOTOS?**

These are just a few of our favorite images from the past year. See the digital version of this issue at planetary.org/planetary-report for more of the best images and videos from 2025.



# Virgo cluster from Rubin The Virgo galaxy cluster, shown here in a tiny fraction of a much larger composite image taken by the NSF-DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory in June. NSF-DOE Vera C. Rubin Observatory

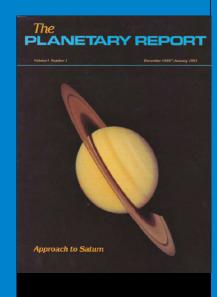
# HIGHLIGHTS



Looking back on 45 years of advancing exploration

by Jennifer Vaughn

In 1980, The Planetary Society began our mission. Carl Sagan, Bruce Murray, and Louis Friedman founded the organization to prove that the public is interested in and supportive of space science and exploration. Today, that public support is just as powerful and just as important. Over the past 45 years, we have achieved some amazing things by uniting space enthusiasts around the world. Here are a few of the highlights, with a focus on some of our most recent accomplishments. To see our complete timeline, go to planetary.org/about/our-story.



The first issue of The Planetary Report magazine is published. Planetary Society members begin funding SETI and exoplanet research.

The Planetary Society sponsors some of the earliest Mars rover tests in California's Death Valley.

# 1997

Shoemaker NEO Grants debut to fund astronomers seeking asteroids that threaten Earth. To date, Society members have funded 88 grants over 28 years, totaling approximately \$673,000.



Mars Exploration Rovers Spirit and Opportunity - named through a Planetary Society contest in partnership with the LEGO Group and NASA - land on Mars. Sixteen students from our Red Rover Goes to Mars program go to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and work in mission operations. One of these students, Abigail Fraeman, grew up to become deputy project scientist for the rovers.

A big year for The Planetary Society: After decades of Planetary Society advocacy, NASA officially commits to a dedicated Europa mission, New Horizons encounters Pluto after years of advocacy efforts, and The Planetary Society's solar sail test spacecraft LightSail 1 completes its successful test flight.

The Society helps form the influential Planetary Science Caucus with members of the 115th Congress of the U.S.



LightSail 2, funded entirely by Planetary Society members and supporters, becomes the first small spacecraft to demonstrate solar sailing. The Planetary Society also organizes our first annual Day of Action, in which 100 members from 25 U.S. states meet with congressional officials to show their support for space exploration.

Our STEP (Science and **Technology Empowered** by the Public) Grant program launches to fund innovative science projects supporting advancements in planetary exploration, the search for life, and planetary defense.

After decades of Planetary Society advocacy, NASA's Europa Clipper mission launches to study Jupiter's moon Europa and whether it could potentially host life.



Lunar PlanetVac, a Planetary Societysponsored surface collection method, is successfully deployed on the Moon as part of Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost mission. In response to unprecedented threats to NASA's budget, Planetary Society members take a record-breaking number of advocacy actions.

Our next five-year strategic framework begins. With the support of our members, the future of The Planetary Society is bright.

# **SAVING NASA SCIENCE**



Reflections on a historic year for space advocacy

by Jack Kiraly

Near the start of this year, a mere month after Inauguration Day, the future of U.S. space exploration was thrown into question. Rumors circulated in D.C., then around the world, about a plan to slash NASA's budget, abandon the Artemis and Lunar Gateway programs, and halve the budget for science. It was clear from then on that NASA would be facing an existential threat. In response, The Planetary Society launched a campaign to save NASA science. What came after has been a banner year for space advocacy that has resulted in some tangible wins thanks to you.

I reported in the June edition of The Planetary Report that more than 20,000 letters opposing these cuts had been sent to Congress and the administration. As of this writing, that number has nearly quadrupled, with over 75,000 actions taken by advocates representing every state and congressional district in the country. We also engaged people from more than 100 countries to amplify the value of NASA as the preeminent leader in the global effort to explore space.

In March, we set a record for in-person participation in the annual Day of Action, with more than 100 people coming to Washington, D.C., to advocate for protecting the NASA science budget. The response was so significant that we joined together with more

than a dozen other organizations including professional societies, trade associations, and advocacy groups - to host an unprecedented second Day of Action on Oct. 5-6. The turnout for this event was truly astonishing, blowing all previous records out of the water with around 250 attendees.

We launched data dashboards that tracked, in near-real time, NASA grant terminations and science spending. This helped generate compelling visualizations about the immense economic benefit that every state receives as a result of this investment in space science. These data and more are available at dashboards.planetary.org.

We also held regular briefings and engaged with thousands of scientists, congressional staff, and members of the public about the importance of NASA science. We facilitated more than 60 face-to-face meetings for prominent space leaders to advocate directly with legislators. We submitted testimony to congressional hearings.

We relaunched the Congressional Planetary Science Caucus and grew the membership in the House and Senate.

As a result of these actions, Congress listened. In July, both the House and Senate proposed protecting NASA's budget. In a normal year, that would have been the end of the story. But we face a real, credible threat to space exploration, as the White House is threatening to ignore Congress and enact their proposed cuts anyway.

The agency is battered and bruised. About 4,000 space explorers have left the agency, and many thousands more have left the industry altogether. I can't predict what will happen before the end of the year, but what I do know is that your advocacy has made a real difference. In NASA's darkest days, you ignited a candle of hope. And for that, I am eternally grateful.

Please check out

#### planetary.org/save-nasa-science

for the latest information about our current advocacy campaign and how you can stay involved.

#### The White House's NASA budget from 1959-2026

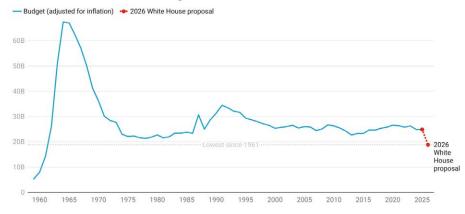


Chart: Casey Dreier/The Planetary Society • Source: NASA Budget Justifications, FYs 1961-2026 • Created with Datawrapper

The White House's proposed fiscal year 2026 NASA budget, adjusted for inflation, is the lowest since the start of human spaceflight. Source: NASA budget justifications, FYs 1961-2026. The Planetary Society

# FROM THE **CHIEF SCIENTIST**

### IN THE SKY

Very bright Jupiter is low in the evening east, getting higher as the weeks pass. Yellowish Saturn is up in the evening western sky, getting lower week after week. Super-bright Venus starts to appear very low to the western horizon soon after sunset in March. On Feb. 17, 2026, there is an annular solar eclipse visible in the southerly portions of Africa and South America as well as Antarctica. On March 2-3, 2026, there is a total lunar eclipse visible in North America, South America, and portions of Europe, Asia, and Australia. The Quadrantids meteor shower will peak on the night of Jan. 2-3, but this usually above-average shower is likely to be less spectacular this year because the peak coincides with a full Moon that will wash out all but the brightest meteors. For more night sky tips, you can always check out planetary.org/night-sky.

During a total lunar eclipse, some sunlight still reaches the Moon's surface after bouncing through the edges of Earth's atmosphere. Because our atmosphere scatters blue light, the light that reaches the Moon takes on a reddish hue.

NASA





A cosmic roundup from The Planetary Society's chief scientist

by Dr. Bruce Betts

### TRIVIA CONTEST

Our June Solstice contest winner is Jimmie Stutts of Cocoa, Florida, USA. Congratulations!

The question was: Which of the 88 standard (IAU) constellations are named after marine mammals?

The answer: Cetus the whale and Delphinus the dolphin. As a half-mammal fictional animal, Capricornus the "sea goat" was not counted as right or wrong.

Try to win a copy of the new book "Jupiter: The Largest Planet" by Bruce Betts and a Planetary Radio T-shirt by answering this question:

Three astronauts traveled to the Moon twice. One of those did not land on the Moon either time. Who was it?

Email your answer to planetaryreport@planetary.org or mail your answer to The Planetary Report, 60 S. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101. Make sure you include the answer and your name, mailing address, and email address (if you have one). By entering this contest, you are authorizing The Planetary Report to publish your name and hometown. Submissions must be received by Feb. 15, 2026. One entry per person. The winner will be chosen in a random drawing from among all the correct entries received.

# RANDOM SPACE FACT

Uranus and Neptune are rather similar in size and mass. Neptune is smaller but has more mass. About 63 Earths could fit inside Uranus, and 58 could fit inside Neptune. Neptune is about 17.2 Earth masses, while Uranus is approximately 14.5 Earth masses.

# **PAST THE FIRST QUARTER MOON**

Cameras aren't the only way to capture space imagery. Planetary Society member Thomas Bucci of Maine, USA, takes a more artistic approach. Looking through his homemade 8-inch f/6 Newtonian reflector telescope, he paints what he sees. "I am happiest when painting on location and directly from life," says Bucci. "Although I like to work 'en plein air,' I blend direct observation and imagination to create my own interpretation. Painting the Moon through my telescope was a unique experience in painting from life, as I'm relying on the optical assistance of the telescope. It was a perfect marriage of my lifelong passions of painting and amateur astronomy." Learn more about this artwork and Bucci's homemade telescope in the digital edition of this issue at



planetary.org/planetary-report. 🧈

Thomas Bucci



Thomas Bucci

#### **РО УОЦ ШАПТ** TO SEE VOUR **ARTWORK HERE?**

We love to feature our members throughout this magazine.

Send your original, space-related artwork to connectaplanetary.org.

# **MEET THE ASTEROID HUNTERS**

In August, The Planetary Society announced the recipients of a new round of our Shoemaker NEO (near-Earth object) Grant program. Named after pioneering planetary geologist Gene Shoemaker, this program supports very advanced amateur astronomers - aka asteroid hunters around the world in their efforts to find, track, and characterize near-Earth asteroids.

Thanks to the support of our members, we were able to award \$87,562 this



year, our largest amount ever for one round of Shoemaker Grants. The observatories of the 10 winners (another record) are in eight countries

More on the winning projects can be found at planetary.org/neogrants.

on four continents.

Shoemaker Grant winner Teddy 🔺 Oakey (center) and his team with their telescopes.

Teddy Oakey

# **JOIN THE 2026** DAY OF ACTION

Speaking up for space has never been more crucial. During this time of extreme budget uncertainty, it's more important than ever that our members in the United States convey their support for space to Congress. The best way to do that is through in-person meetings during our next annual Day of Action, taking place in April 2026. We'll train you to advocate effectively, organize your meetings with your representatives, and connect you with a nationwide community of advocates. Early bird registration is now open. Sign up at planetary.org/dayofaction.



## **CELEBRATE** YOUR IMPACT

This year, as ever, The Planetary Society championed the importance of space science and exploration through our advocacy and policy work, education and outreach, science and technology, and global collaboration. You can see some of the key moments and achievements your membership has made possible in our year-end impact report, now available on our website at planetary.org/impact-2025.

### **YOUR YEAR-END GIFT**

Your year-end contribution to The Planetary Society fuels our shared mission to advance space science and exploration, making a real and lasting impact. Donate today at planetary.org/planetaryfund.

There are important tax law changes that may affect the deductibility of your gifts to charity. For more information, go to planetary.org/taxwise.

For U.S. tax purposes, gifts must be received by Dec. 31, 2025. Here are some common methods of making a gift and their associated deadlines:

- Online credit card gifts: transactions completed by 11:59 p.m. EST (8:59 p.m. PST), Dec. 31, 2025.
- Credit card gifts via U.S. mail: received and processed on or before Dec. 31, 2025.
- Check sent via U.S. mail: postmarked on or before Dec. 31, 2025.
- Check sent via third-party shipping (such as FedEx or UPS): delivered on or before Dec. 31, 2025.
- Stock transfer: broker-to-broker instructions issued in time for completed transfer on or before Dec. 31, 2025.

Questions? Please contact Richard Chute, chief development officer, at richard.chute@planetary.org or call 626.793.5100.

## **NEW HORIZONS** IN TRAVEL

The Planetary Society is excited to relaunch and expand our travel program with new opportunities for exploration and discovery. This month, we welcome Sirius Travel, Inc. as a new partner, joining our longtime friends at Betchart Expeditions in offering members unforgettable journeys to experience the wonders of the Cosmos. From time to time, we'll also share unique trips from other trusted partners.

Whether your dream is to stand in the shadow of a total solar eclipse, watch an aurora dance across the sky, or take in the Milky Way from the serenity of a dark-sky park, Planetary Society Travel will have an adventure for you and your family to enjoy together.

We're also opening a new travel space in our online community, where members can share stories, photos, and tips from their space-themed adventures.

Read on for details about the exciting upcoming trips from our travel partners. Let's explore the universe - together.

#### SIRIUS TRAVEL

(303) 872-7313 siriustravel@siriustravel.com

#### **JUNE 2026**

EASTER ISLAND TOUR

Join fellow members of The Planetary Society on a journey to Easter Island. Uncover the secrets of Rapa Nui, a land steeped in Polynesian history and home of the enigmatic Moai. Our guided expedition brings you face to face with these monumental statues, exploring Rano Raraku, where they were carved, and the 15 sentinels at Ahu Tongariki. Immerse yourself in the island's culture with a visit to the ceremonial village of Orongo, located on the edge of a volcanic crater.

Our Easter Island tour is designed to minimize environmental impact. By participating in a half-day beach cleanup, you directly contribute to protecting this fragile ecosystem from the global plastic crisis while learning firsthand from the Rapa Nui about local conservation efforts.

Space for this expedition is limited to 20 people. Book your trip today and prepare for an unforgettable adventure.

#### BETCHART EXPEDITIONS

(800) 252-4910 / (408) 252-4910 BetchartTerri@gmail.com / betchartexpeditions.com

#### APRIL 18-25, 2026

#### ARIZONA DARK SKIES

Come explore Arizona in spring and learn about astronomical wonders and more! This eightday expedition is an excellent introduction to the ruins of the ancestral Pueblo and Navajo people as well as the natural history and dark skies of the American Southwest. A highlight will be watching the Lyrid meteor shower peak from Canyon de Chelly!

Exploring the Southwest's Native American heritage, natural habitats, breathtaking scenery, and extraordinary dark skies with excellent leadership by archaeoastronomer and naturalist Bryan Bates and astronomer Dr. Joe Llama will be an amazing experience of a lifetime!



Betchart Travel

#### AUG. 8-16, 2026

# DISCOVER WILD ICELAND AND THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Discover the land of fire and ice in all of its great beauty and experience the 2026 total solar eclipse in Iceland's remote Westfjords! You'll see the total solar eclipse from the untouched landscapes of the Westfjords full of waterfalls, labyrinthine fjords, and charming small settlements.

With long hours of daylight to explore the striking landscape, this will be a terrific adventure!



Sirius Travel

#### JULY 2028

#### TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Witness a once-in-a-lifetime celestial event in Sydney, Australia. On July 22, the path of totality will pass directly over the city, transforming the day into an ethereal twilight and revealing the shimmering Moon above the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Our exclusive tour package is crafted to provide the ultimate experience.

Beyond the main event, you'll have ample time to explore Sydney's iconic sights, including the Opera House, Harbour Bridge, and Bondi Beach.

Space is limited for this highly anticipated event, so secure your spot today.

# Members like you help us stay strong.

Your support of The Planetary Society this year has allowed us to continue our essential work to advance advocacy, education outreach, scientific innovation, and global collaboration.

As we look ahead, remember: We are a community of explorers working for a better future for humankind. Your continued support is vital as we head into 2026 and beyond. Please show your commitment to the future of independently funded space exploration and research with your donation.

Give today at planetary.org/planetaryfund.

Orion Nebula seen by JWST NIRCam.

NASA, ESA, CSA/Science leads and image processing: M. McCaughrean, S. Pearson

