

# South Shore Astronomical Society

Since 1958

## Observing Objectives – December '20



*A sampling of some rewarding night-sky treats for this month:*

**Open Cluster** – Caldwell 1, NGC 188 in Ursa Minor.

**Globular Cluster** – NGC 288 in Sculptor...going low for a glob!

**Carbon Star** – Z Piscium...see red in a good way.

**Planetary Nebula** – M76 in Cassiopeia, the Obs. Challenge object for December.

**Galaxy** – NGC 891 in Andromeda...I double dare you to visually observe this!

**Comet** – Got nuthin' for ya.

**Mercury** – Reaches superior conjunction on the 19th.

**Venus** – Shrinks to 10.7" and gets within 21\* of the Sun by the 31st.

**Mars** – Dims to near 0 magnitude and shrinks to 10.4" by month's end.

Jupiter –  
Saturn –

Witness the best Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn since 1623, when on December 21 <sup>st</sup> the two most beautiful gas giants in our Solar System will appear separated by just .1*!
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**By Day: The Sun** – rising from its slumber of minima lately, without doubt now.

**Notable Dates:**    **New Moon** – 12/14    **Solstice** – 12/21    **Full Moon** – 12/29