



PISGAH  
ASTRONOMICAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

## Astro Advisory

*Notice of an upcoming  
astronomical event.*

Contact: Bob Hayward, Astronomer/Educator  
828-862-5554 ([rbhayward@pari.edu](mailto:rbhayward@pari.edu))  
John Avant 919-848-1153 ([javant@pari.edu](mailto:javant@pari.edu))

### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

**Rosman, NC (February 27, 2017)** – Astronomers at the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI) in Rosman remind the public that at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 12 Daylight Saving Time (DST) in the United States begins and we set our clocks forward one hour.

Some people get a bit confused by these changes between Standard and Daylight times thinking that somehow we really “save” time. But realize that this is NOT an astronomical phenomenon! The “lucky ‘ol Sun just keeps rollin’ along” no matter what the US Congress declares. All we are doing is shifting our clocks within the solar day to suit our own convenience.

By the way, when you get up at 2 a.m. on March 12 to change your clocks, walk outside. Besides a nearly full moon, the most obvious thing you will notice, directly in the south, is the bright planet Jupiter. Just below Jupiter is Spica, the brightest star in the constellation of Virgo. Since Virgo is one of the zodiac constellations, Jupiter will pass by it every twelve years. But, this time around Jupiter lay just above Spica as it began its *retrograde* or backwards motion in front of the fixed stars. So, watch it over the next few weeks as it moves westward, away from Spica. On June 10 Jupiter will stop and then start back to the east in a so-called *prograde* motion. By the time it passes by Spica once again, Jupiter and Spica will no longer be visible in our nighttime sky.

Now, those ARE astronomical phenomena!

#### **About PARI**

PARI is a public not-for-profit public organization established in 1998. Located in the Pisgah National Forest southwest of Asheville, NC, PARI offers STEM educational programs at all levels, from K-12 through post-graduate research. For more information about PARI and its programs, visit [www.pari.edu](http://www.pari.edu).

#####