

## **Mike Hotka's Great Conjunction of 2020 Outreach Activities**

A week before December 21, 2020, I was informing everyone I worked with about the upcoming event, a little background about it and that binoculars were an excellent way to see the planets when they are closest on Monday night.

At this time I also forwarded some nice Facebook posts from friends onto all of my Facebook friends and inviting them to get out and view this event.

On the Saturday and Sunday before, I invited my neighbors, friends and family to come over to my home and view the Conjunction.

The planets were nicely positioned between two of my neighbor's house all evening.



My wife, daughter, granddaughter, two neighbors and two friends came over to share views through my telescope of the conjunction. We also looked at the Moon and Mars.

Everyone enjoyed the evening and for my neighbors and friends, they had never seen the rings of Saturn through a telescope before. The ooohs and aaahs made the evening worthwhile for me. And the Conjunction was awesome also.



I cropped and enlarged the picture of the planets and caught this picture from my cell phone. Incredible.



I even heard from my family back in Iowa that they went out and observed the Conjunction. They had heard about it on the local news and I filled in some details for them so they could enjoy it.

The following picture was taken by my niece, Libby Lundgren from Winterset, Iowa. Libby took this picture with her cell phone.

