

NSSEC Rice U Status Report – December 2020

Patricia H. Reiff, Rice University

- **Communication: next iClip underway**

HMNS is creating a new planetarium show on exoplanets and the possibility for life on other planets. Our programmer Colin Law got trained in the software and is now creating animations for us.

- **Education: “Physics of Ham Radio” PHYS501 Class completes**

Dr. Reiff finished teaching the Physics of Ham Radio class in December. Two Rice students and four “visiting teachers” took the class for graduate credit, three other teachers participated for Professional Development hours, and five others audited the class. All learned about waves, electronics, antennas, the ionosphere, the magnetosphere, and space weather. The tuitions for all except the Rice students were supported this grant. Nine were able get a new or upgraded ham radio license, and two with existing licenses learned a lot more about the subjects.

Name	Call Sign	Licence level	State
Feni Pandya	KI5LWL	Technician	TX
Judith Exler	KD2UZC	Technician	NY
Laura Brandt	KC3QGP	Technician	MD
Elizabeth MacDonald	KJ7RUB	Technician	WA
Noah Keogh	N5NJK	General	MN
Connie Atkisson	KE8PUG	General	NY
Carlton Colmenares	KI5LWJ	General	TX
Joshua Reichard	K8KJR	Amateur Extra	PA
David Richardson	K3KDR	Amateur Extra	OH
Seth ClaudePierre	W6SGC	(already had)	(audit)
Ken Underwood	K8ZTV	(already had)	(audit)

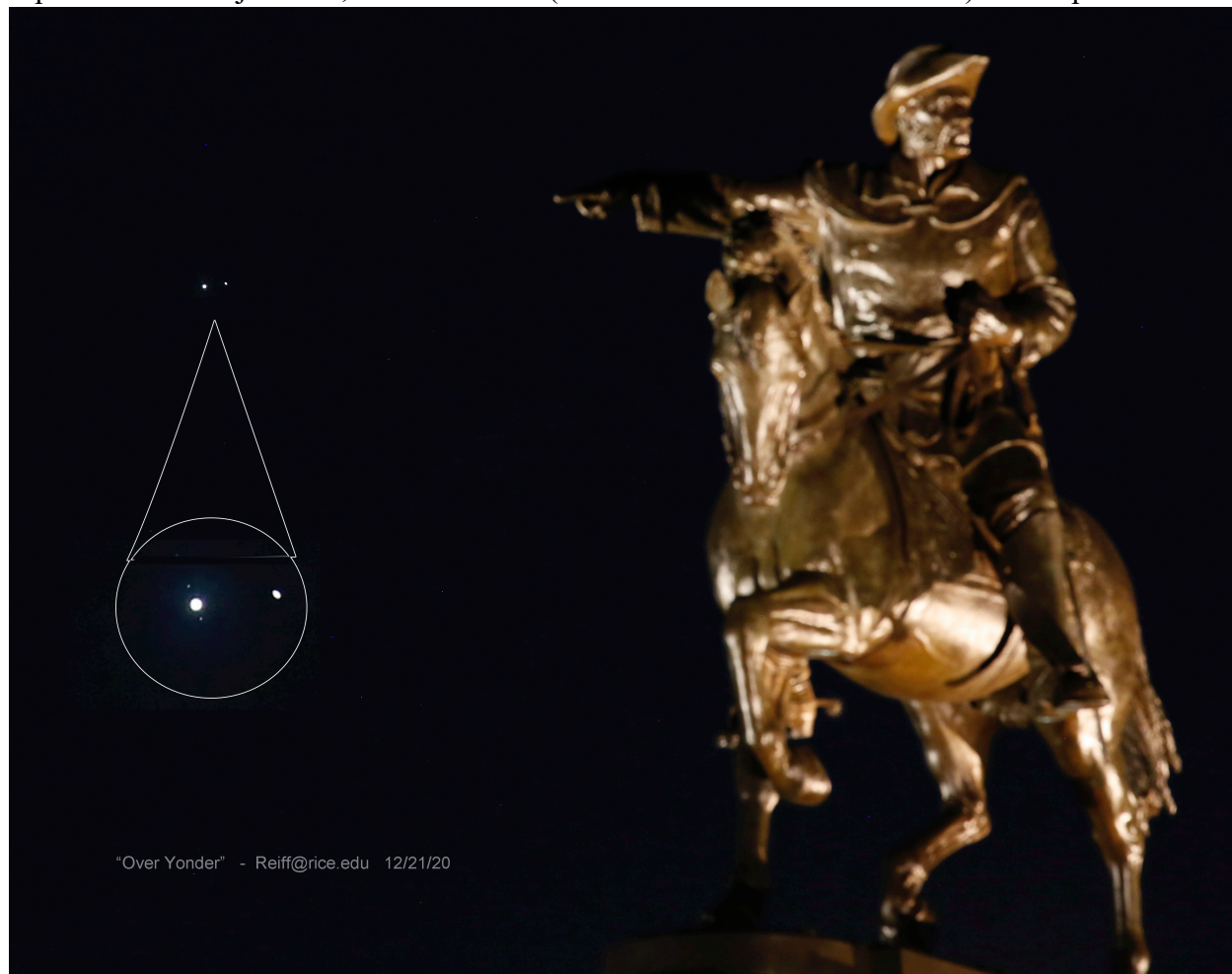
- **Education: “The Great Conjunction” public event Dec 21**

Dr. Reiff participated in a sidewalk public observing event of the great conjunction of Dec 21. This was held outside the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Approximately 35 public viewed the event through her binoculars and her camera setup. (Plus another 150 through the museum)

Visitors (and Sam Houston) pointing to Jupiter and Saturn in the sky 12/21/20



Reiff also provided information and finder charts to her teacher networks (11,000 formal and informal educators). This is a higher-resolution image of Sam Houston pointing to the Jupiter/Saturn conjunction, Hermann Park (inset is native camera resolution). Reiff photo.



Statue of Sam Houston in Herman Park (Houston, TX) pointing to the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, December 21, 2020. P. Reiff photo (Canon 5D Mk3, 200 mm lens, ISO 3000 F9)

Project Plan

Reiff also updated her NSSEC project plan for 2021 and created the 2020 annual report (attached).