

## Are Astronomers Just Big Kids?

Sep 11, 2015 Blog Entry

### *Are Astronomers Just Big Kids?*

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Astronomers are big, scary, intimidating science nerds, right?

The truth is astronomers are really just big kids who still love a good game of peek-a-boo. This September, we'll be out to enjoy the games as several celestial bodies play peek-a-boo in the sky.

At the beginning of the month, the planet Neptune hid behind the earth, playing peek-a-boo with the Sun. Neptune was said to be at opposition, which is when the sun, the earth, and a planet are all in line. At that time, the planet at opposition (opposite the sun), is at its brightest, largest, and its closest point to the earth.

Just after midnight on Saturday, September 5 (around 12:07 a.m.), Aldebaran (a bright star in the eastern constellation Taurus) hid behind the moon for about a half hour. This is called an occultation, but it's nothing spooky. It's just a game of peek-a-boo, remember? When Aldebaran popped back out and into view, it didn't need to yell "Surprise!" It was brightly shining in the dark night sky. (read BAS President, John Hlynialuk's full report on this event here: [Aldebaran Occultation](#))

Upping the peek-a-boo ante will be this year's best lunar eclipse on Sunday, September 27. Come on out to watch the eclipse with local amateur astronomers (aka fellow big kids) at the E.S. Fox Observatory.

For more big-kid astronomy fun in September (including public viewing nights), visit our [COMING EVENTS](#) page. And don't forget to Follow us on Twitter .