



**Astronomical Society of Greenwich**  
Bruce Museum of Arts & Science  
One Museum Drive  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
(203) 413-6744  
[anneburns@brucemuseum.org](mailto:anneburns@brucemuseum.org)  
<http://www.seocom.com/asg/>

**July 2010**

**Monthly meetings resume in October!**

**Mark your calendar:**

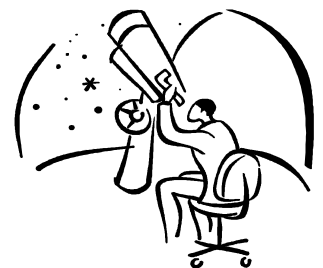
**Wednesday, October 6**  
**Wednesday, November 3**  
**Wednesday, December 1**

**Bowman Observatory Public Nights**  
**(Weather Permitting)**

July 13 & 27 – 9-11 PM

August 10 & 24 – 8:30-10:30 PM

September 14 & 28 – 7:30-9:30 PM



## Lunacy



July	1	Moon at apogee (251,678 miles from Earth)
	3	Moon passes <b>Uranus</b> , 4 PM, and <b>Jupiter</b> , 9 PM
	4	<i>Last Quarter</i>
	11	<i>New Moon</i> causes a total solar eclipse visible from the South Pacific and South America
	12	Moon passes <b>Mercury</b> , 9 PM
	13	Moon at perigee (224,386 miles from Earth)
	14	Moon passes <b>Venus</b> , 9 PM
	16	Moon passes <b>Mars</b> , 1 AM, and <b>Saturn</b> , 3 PM
	18	<i>First Quarter</i>
	23	Moon passes <b>Pluto</b>
	25	<i>Full Moon</i> – “Buck Moon”
	28	Moon passes <b>Neptune</b> , 3 AM
	30	Moon passes <b>Uranus</b> , 11 PM
	31	Moon passes <b>Jupiter</b> , 5 AM

## News of the Worlds

Earth reaches *aphelion*, its farthest point from the Sun (94.5 million miles), on July 6 at 7 AM EDT.

Our evening sky is a busy place this month. Once again, **Venus** dominates, shining at mag. -4.1 and brightening to -4.3 by the end of the month as it moves eastward through the constellation *Leo*. **Mars**, much dimmer at mag.1.4, moves westward through the same area while **Saturn** (mag.1.1) creeps eastward. The two have a conjunction on July 31.

The three planets, nicely lined up, are joined by a crescent Moon at midmonth, when **Mercury** appears near the western horizon. Try to spot it near the very young Moon on July 12, when our innermost planet shines at mag.-0.5; it dims to mag.0.1 by the end of July.

Later in the evening, **Pluto** may be found (with difficulty!) in *Sagittarius*. Next comes **Neptune** on the western edge of *Aquarius*. Finally, around 12:30 AM, **Jupiter** (mag. -2.6) and **Uranus** (mag.5.8) rise, only 1° apart, in *Pisces*. They gradually separate as Jupiter rises earlier; by month's end it's up at about 10:20 PM.

And when you've finished looking at Jupiter and Uranus, turn your binoculars a little further south, to find **Comet 10P/Tempel** (mag.8) moving westward through the stars of *Cetus*.

The **Delta Aquarid Meteor Shower** peaks on the morning of July 28. Unfortunately, the full Moon washes out all but the brightest meteors.

The **Dog Days** begin July 3 when *Sirius*, the Dog Star, disappears behind the Sun. (They end August 11 when it emerges and can be seen in the pre-dawn sky.) The ancient Romans believed that Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, caused hot summer weather by adding to the sun's heat.

So stay cool, and keep looking up!