

Astronomical Society of Greenwich
Bruce Museum of Arts & Science
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August 2008

The Bowman Observatory exterior is completed, and work continues on the interior. Public nights continue on the lawn out front!

Bowman Observatory Public Nights (Weather Permitting)

Tuesday, August 12 & 26 – 8:30-10:30 PM

September 9 & 23 – 8-10 PM

October 14 & 28 – 7-9 PM

Welcome to our new members:

Bert Eichler
Salli Garrick


Diana Leal
J. Conrad Tatge

Hope to see you at the Observatory one of these public nights!

Save the Date...

Our first monthly meeting of the 2008/09 season will be **Wednesday, October 1** at 7:30 PM at the Bruce Museum. After a report on the Bowman Observatory renovation, ASGM member Robert Christiansen will give a presentation on "Telescopes and Their Accessories." Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Lunacy

August 1	<i>New Moon</i> causes a total solar eclipse visible from Greenland, Russia, Mongolia, and China. (If you aren't in any of those exotic locations, a partial can be seen from eastern Canada and Maine.)	eclipse	
2	Moon passes Venus , 11AM		
3	Moon passes Saturn , 10AM		
4	Moon passes Mars , 8AM		
8	<i>First Quarter Moon</i>		
10	Moon at apogee (251,380 miles from Earth) passes Antares , 3PM		
13	Moon passes Jupiter , 10AM		
16	<i>Full Moon</i> – “Sturgeon Moon” – undergoes a partial eclipse (unfortunately not visible from North America), and passes Neptune at 3PM		
18	Moon passes Uranus , 10PM		
23	<i>Last Quarter Moon</i>		
25	Moon at perigee (229,097 miles from Earth)		
30	<i>New Moon</i>		

News of the Worlds

If you look carefully in the early evening, you may be able to spot **Mercury**, which makes a brief evening appearance beginning on August 8. It only gets 2° above the horizon, so you'll need a flat western horizon less than half an hour after sunset. Our elusive innermost planet has a conjunction with the star *Regulus* the following two nights, so you may be able to spot it by finding the constellation **Leo** in the western sky.

In fact, **Leo** hosts three more planets – **Venus**, **Saturn**, and **Mars** – in the evening sky this month. **Venus**, shining brightly at mag. -3.8 , sets earliest, around 9PM. **Saturn** follows at 9:30, while **Mars** stays up until 10.

Jupiter, located in the constellation **Sagittarius**, continues to dominate the southern sky for most of the night. (It shares the constellation with 14th-mag. **Pluto**.) **Neptune**, in **Capricornus**, which reaches opposition August 15, and **Uranus**, in **Aquarius**, follow it across the summer sky.

The **Perseid Meteor Shower** peaks during the early morning hours of August 12. Best viewing time is between 1:30 and 4AM (between moon set and dawn). Look northeast to see up to 90 meteors per hour.

Correction: Attentive readers will have noticed that in our July issue, Mercury was said to be east of the Sun during its morning apparition. It was, of course, WEST of the Sun! Apologies for the confusion.