



**nomical Society of Greenwich
ruce Museum of Arts & Science**

**One Museum Drive
Greenwich, CT 06830
(203) 413-6762**

GreenwichStars@gmail.com
anneburns@brucemuseum.org
<http://www.seocom.com/asg/>

September 2013

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, September 4, 7:30 PM

We'll start with our Annual Meeting – the Board will report on the state of the ASG and progress on installing our new telescope at the Bowman Observatory – and then Rick Bria will present some videos of lectures from the Keck Observatory in Waimea, Hawaii. Hope to see many of you there!

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

September 10 & 24 – 8-10 PM

October 8 & 22 – 7-9 PM

November 12 & 26 – 7-9 PM



Sunday, September 15, 6-9 PM

Astronomy Night at Wee Burn Country Club, Darien CT

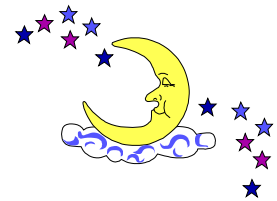
Guest speaker: Dr. Nick Morgan, astrophysicist and faculty member, Staples High School

Volunteers needed!

We need as many members as possible to come with telescopes and binoculars to help with this star party. Dinner will be provided for all helpers. Please plan to join us!

Lunacy

September	2	Moon passes Mars
	5	<i>New Moon</i> marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year, <i>Rosh Hashanah</i> , Year 5774
	6	Moon passes Mercury
	8	Moon passes Venus and <i>Spica</i>
	9	Moon passes Saturn
	12	<i>First Quarter</i>
	13	Moon passes Pluto
	15	Moon at perigee (228,286 miles from Earth)
	17	Moon passes Neptune
	19	<i>Full Moon</i> – “Harvest Moon”
	20	Moon passes Uranus
	26	<i>Last Quarter</i>
	27	Moon at apogee (251,225 miles from Earth)
	28	Moon passes Jupiter



News of the Worlds

Mercury (mag. -0.1) makes an evening visit to our sky, passing a very slender crescent Moon on September 6 (both will be gone by 7:30 PM) and passing the star *Spica* on the 24th. Because the ecliptic is at such a shallow angle at this time of year, our innermost planet stays even closer to the horizon than usual.

The same is true of **Venus**, which is still only about 10° above the western horizon. Our brightest planet (mag. -4.0) also meets up with *Spica* around September 5; both are joined by the crescent Moon and **Saturn** (mag. 0.7) on the 8th and 9th. Venus moves east as Saturn moves west; the two slowly converge until their closest approach (4° apart) on September 18 and then start moving apart.

Neptune (mag. 7.8), just past opposition, lies in *Aquarius*, while **Uranus** (mag. 5.7), approaching its early-October opposition, rises two hours later in *Pisces*. Both can be viewed through binoculars or a small telescope.

Jupiter (mag. -2.1), already the brightest object in the late-night sky, begins September rising around 1:45 AM and rises around midnight by the end. Finally, **Mars** rises around 3:15 AM, progressing slowly to a 2:45 rising by month's end. (It will take until the end of the year to rise at midnight.) The red planet passes through M44, the Beehive cluster in *Cancer*, September 8-9.

The **Aurigid Meteor Shower**, which usually only averages about 6 meteors per hours but occasionally flares up and produces as many as 130 (the last time that happened was in 2007) peaks on the morning of September 1. On that date, the waning crescent Moon lies just below Auriga, in *Gemini*, ringed by a bright assortment of stars and planets: Jupiter, Betelgeuse, Procyon, Mars, Castor, and Pollux. So there is plenty to look at and make it worthwhile getting up around 4 AM!

The **Autumnal Equinox** marks the official beginning of fall on September 22 at 4:44 PM.

