



**nomical Society of Greenwich**

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**October 2013**

**Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 2, 7:30 PM**

**“Keck Observatory, Part II”**

After an update on the Bowman Observatory and Comet ISON, we'll present some more videos of lectures from the Keck Observatory in Waimea, Hawaii. Hope to see many of you there!

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

October 8 & 22 – 7-9 PM

November 12 & 26 – 7-9 PM

December 10 – 7-9



**Many thanks...**

...to our volunteers - Bill Bambrick, Rick Bria, Barbara and Frank Dahm, and Joe Masi – who made the Wee Burn Country Club star party a success. Although hazy conditions limited our observations to the Moon, everyone had a great time!

---Anne Burns, ASG President

## Lunacy

October	1	Moon passes <b>Mars</b>
	4	<i>New Moon</i>
	6	Moon passes <b>Mercury</b>
	7	Moon passes <b>Saturn</b>
	8	Moon passes <b>Venus</b>
	10	Moon at perigee (229,792 miles from Earth)
	11	<i>First Quarter</i> Moon passes <b>Pluto</b>
	15	Moon passes <b>Neptune</b>
	17	Moon passes <b>Uranus</b>
	18	<i>Full Moon</i> – “Hunter’s Moon” – undergoes a penumbral eclipse, 5:48-9:52 PM
	25	Moon, at apogee (251,380 miles from Earth), passes <b>Jupiter</b>
	26	<i>Last Quarter</i>
	29	Moon passes <b>Mars</b>



## News of the Worlds

**Mercury** makes its way through the early-evening sky, reaching greatest elongation ( $25^\circ$  east of the Sun) on October 9, passing **Saturn** the following night, and meeting the ringed planet again on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, due to the shallow angle of the ecliptic, our innermost planet never gets more than  $3^\circ$  above the horizon. You’ll have to get out early to see it. Saturn itself disappears into the sunset by the end of the month, popping up in the pre-dawn sky in November.

**Venus**, though still low, shines brightly at mag. -4.4 after sunset. It will climb higher in December.

**Neptune** (mag. 7.8) lies among the stars of *Aquarius*. On October 3, fellow gas giant **Uranus** reaches opposition and peak brightness of mag. 5.7. Lying along the border between *Pisces* and *Cetus*, it can easily be spotted through binoculars or a telescope.

**Jupiter** (mag. -2.3) is now rising before midnight and makes a great sight in the late-night sky among the stars of *Gemini*. Finally, **Mars** (much fainter at mag. 1.6) appears around 3 AM in *Leo*. The red planet has a conjunction with the constellation’s brightest star, blue-white *Regulus* (mag. 1.3) on October 14. As an added reward for getting up early, **Comet ISON** passes close by Mars this month, coming within 6.7 million miles of the planet on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and **Comet Encke** is also in the neighborhood.

Two meteor showers this month: first the **Southern Taurids** peak October 10 with about 5 meteors per hour. Then the **Orionids** peak on the 21<sup>st</sup>. This is usually a major shower, but the waning Moon will wash some of it out. Still if you get up around 1 AM and look above Orion’s large bright rectangle of stars, you may see a few – and the constellation itself is always worth viewing!

Finally, **Halloween**, **All Saints**, and **All Souls Day** (October 31, November 1, and November 2) mark the midpoint of autumn.

