



nomical Society of Greenwich

Bruce Museum

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January 2014

Monthly Meeting

No Monthly Meeting in January

Our next meeting on **February 5** will be a **Telescope Workshop**. If you know anyone who got a telescope as a holiday gift, and wants to learn how to operate it, invite them to bring it along!

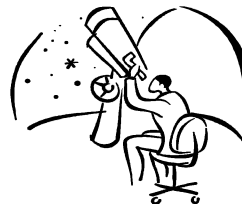
Astronomy Day: Sunday, February 9, 1-4 PM

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

January 14 & 28 - 7-9 PM

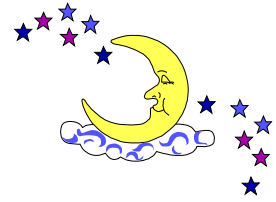
February 11 & 25 - 7-9 PM

March 11 & 25 - 8-10 PM



Lunacy

January	1	<i>New Moon</i> at perigee (221,781 miles from Earth) passes Mercury
	2	Moon passes Venus
	4	Moon passes Neptune
	7	<i>First Quarter</i> Moon passes Uranus
	15	<i>Full Moon</i> – “Wolf Moon” - at apogee (252,607 miles from Earth), passes Jupiter
	23	Moon passes Mars
	24	<i>Last Quarter</i>
	25	Moon passes Saturn
	28	Moon passes Venus and Pluto
	30	<i>New Moon</i> , at perigee (221,879 miles from Earth), signals the start of the <i>Chinese New Year</i> (Spring Festival) on January 31
	31	Moon passes Mercury



News of the Worlds

Venus (mag -4.8) drops rapidly toward the Sun this month, reaching *inferior conjunction* (passing between Sun and Earth, but no transit this time) on January 11, and popping up in the morning sky on the 17th. Our brightest planet will be a “morning star” until September, never getting higher than 15° above the horizon.

Mercury (mag.-1) has a great evening apparition, easily visible between January 21 and February 4, reaching greatest elongation (18° east of the Sun) on the 31st, when it has a conjunction with **Neptune** (mag.8) among the stars of *Aquarius*. **Uranus** (mag.5.9) can be seen in the next Zodiac constellation, *Pisces*, which sets around midnight.

Our night sky is now dominated by **Jupiter** (mag.-2.7), which reaches opposition and peak brightness on January 5 and is visible all night in *Gemini*, making this part of the winter sky – which also features *Orion*, *Taurus*, *Auriga*, *Canis Major*, and *Canis Minor* – even more spectacular than usual.

Mars (mag.0.8) rises around midnight in *Virgo*, slowly making its way to an April opposition; the red planet moves to an 11 PM rising by the end of January. **Saturn** (mag.0.6), in *Libra*, rises at around 3 AM, progressing to 1 AM by month’s end.

Pluto disappears behind the Sun, reaching conjunction on January 1, and reappearing in the morning sky later in the month. At mag. 15, the dwarf planet is challenging to find, but a conjunction with the de-crescent Moon on January 28 may help.

The **Quadrantid Meteor Shower** peaks January 3 in the predawn hours.

Earth reaches *perihelion* (91.4 million miles from the Sun) on January 4.

