



Astronomical Society of Greenwich

Bruce Museum

One Museum Drive

Greenwich, CT 06830

(203) 413-6762

GreenwichStars@gmail.com

anneburns@brucemuseum.org

<http://www.seocom.com/asg/>

February 2014

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, February 5 – 7:30 PM

Telescope Workshop!

We'll display and demonstrate several telescopes recently donated to the ASG, and Rick Bria and other ASG members will be available to help you with any "technical difficulties" you may have with your scope. If you (or a friend) got a telescope as a holiday gift, bring it (and them) along!

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

Volunteers needed: We need our members to come and bring scopes, binoculars, star maps, books, posters, and any other astronomical goodies you want to display – and interact with the public who always have lots of questions (nothing we can't handle!). We set up at 12 noon, and there will be pizza for all helpers. Hope to see many of you there!

Photographer needed: Our usual staff photographer, Cynthia Ehlinger, will be on vacation. So we need a volunteer to take PR photos. Please let us know if you can help.

Bowman Observatory Public Nights (Weather Permitting)

February 11 & 25 -7-9 PM

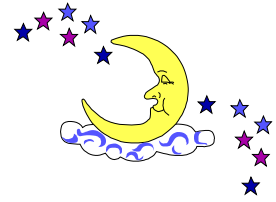
March 11 & 25 – 8-10 PM

April 8 & 22 – 8:30-10:30



Lunacy

- February 1 Moon passes **Mercury** and **Neptune**
- 3 Moon passes **Uranus**
- 6 *First Quarter*
- 11 Moon passes **Jupiter**
- 12 Moon at apogee (252,421 miles from Earth)
- 14 *Full Moon* – “Snow Moon”
- 19 Moon passes **Mars** and *Spica*
- 21 Moon passes **Saturn**
- 22 *Last Quarter*
- 25 Moon passes **Pluto**
- 26 Moon passes **Venus**
- 27 Moon at perigee (223,967 miles from Earth), passes **Mercury**



News of the Worlds

Groundhog Day (February 2) marks the midpoint between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox.

Mercury (mag. -0.6) graces our evening sky for the first week of February, about 11° from the Sun. You can find it below the crescent Moon on the 1st. Our innermost planet is stationary on February 6, then drops quickly toward the setting Sun. **Neptune** also disappears into the sunset, reaching conjunction with the Sun on February 23. It will reappear in the morning sky next month.

Jupiter (mag.-2.5) is visible most of the night in *Gemini*. **Mars** (mag.0.2) rises around 11 PM in *Virgo*. During the month it brightens to mag.-0.4 and progresses to a 9:30 PM rising. The red planet will be at opposition in April.

Saturn rises around 1:30 AM in *Libra*; at mag.0.5 it's the brightest object in that dim constellation. By the end of the month it rises at 11:30 PM, heading for a May opposition. So we'll have several evening planets to observe during the summer!

For early risers, **Venus** comes up around 5 AM at the beginning of February and slowly moves away from the Sun, rising an hour earlier by month's end. Appropriately, our “love goddess” planet reaches its greatest brilliancy (mag.-4.9) on February 14. (Historical note: in the Christian calendar St. Valentine's Day replaced a Roman festival called *Lupercalia*, which celebrated fertility and marked the beginning of spring.)

Finally, Mercury reappears in the morning sky, meeting the waning Moon on February 27.

