



nomical 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/>

March 2014

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 5 – 7:30 PM

Telescope Workshop!

(Rescheduled from February 5)

We're trying again after being snowed out last month. 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!

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



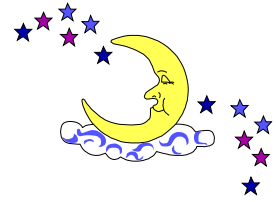
Astronomy Day

Sunday, February 9 was highly successful, with six Starlab Planetarium shows and a large group of visitors, many asking for info about telescopes. Our newest scope (which you'll see at the March meeting!) was a bit hit with the public. Many thanks to the ASG members who volunteered: Bill Bambrick, Rick Bria, Barbara Dahm, and Joe Masi. Thanks also to ASG members who came by to see us: Charlie Adams and Julie DiRaimondo.

--Anne Burns, ASG President

Lunacy

March 1	<i>New Moon</i>
3	Moon passes Uranus
8	<i>First Quarter</i>
10	Moon passes Jupiter
11	Moon at apogee (251,881 miles from Earth)
16	<i>Full Moon</i> – “Worm Moon”
18	Moon passes Mars and <i>Spica</i>
20	Moon passes Saturn
23	<i>Last Quarter</i>
24	Moon passes Pluto
27	Moon, at perigee (227,238 miles from Earth), passes Venus
28	Moon passes Neptune
29	Moon passes Mercury
30	<i>New Moon</i>



News of the Worlds

Late March is a good time to find a dark-sky location and observe the **Zodiacal Light**, a cone-shaped glow caused by the Sun shining on dust particles in the ecliptic. It's visible right after twilight.

Uranus (mag.5.9), in *Pisces*, can still be spotted with binoculars in the western sky during the first half of March. It then disappears behind the Sun, reaching conjunction April 2, and popping up in the morning sky several weeks later.

But **Jupiter** (mag.-2.3) still dominates the evening in *Gemini*. It's followed by **Mars**, in *Virgo*, which, in the words of that old Internet report, is about to be spectacular (no, it won't be as big as the Moon!). The red planet, getting ready for its April 5 opposition, brightens from mag. -0.5 to -1.3; on March 1 it rises around 9:30 PM, and by month's end it's up by 8:00 PM. Watch it move westward toward a conjunction with the constellation's brightest star, *Spica*, in late March.

Next comes **Saturn**, rising a little after 11:30 at the beginning of March and an hour earlier by the end. At mag. 0.4, it's dimmer than Jupiter and Mars, but easily outshines all the stars of its host constellation, *Libra*.

In the morning sky, **Venus** (mag.-4.5) reaches its greatest elongation (47° west of the Sun) on March 22. **Mercury**, though much dimmer at mag. 0.1, can also be seen in the morning twilight, though it never gets more than 5° above the horizon. Our innermost planet reaches its own greatest elongation (28° west) March 14, and has a conjunction with telescope object **Neptune** (mag.8) on the 22nd. So you can have a look at them after admiring Venus.

The **Vernal Equinox** arrives – not a moment too soon! – March 20, 12:57 PM EDT. Here's to spring!

