



nomical Society of Greenwich

Bruce Museum

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April 2014

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 2 – 7:30 PM

Astronomy Online

Rick Bria has found some interesting web sites – Kahn Academy and World Science U - that give lessons in astronomy and physics. Come and see our demo – it's sure to be enlightening!

We'll also make plans to view the lunar eclipse, if enough people are interested.



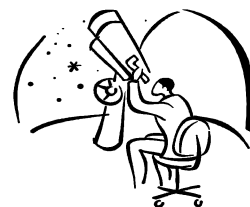
Photo: Rick Bria

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

April 8 & 22 – 8:30-10:30

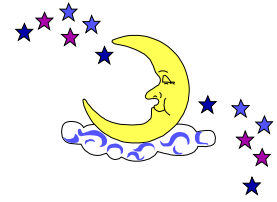
May 13 & 27 – 8:30 – 10:30 PM

June 10 & 24 – 9-11 PM



Lunacy

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|-------|----|---|
| April | 6 | Moon passes Jupiter |
| | 7 | <i>First Quarter</i> |
| | 8 | Moon at apogee (251,344 miles from Earth) |
| | 14 | Moon passes Mars |
| | 15 | <i>Full Moon</i> – “Pink Moon” – undergoes a total eclipse, 1:58-5:33 AM. This full moon determines the dates of Passover (April 15), and Easter (April 20). For once, all Christian churches - Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox – celebrate on the same day. |
| | 17 | Moon passes Saturn |
| | 22 | <i>Last Quarter</i> Moon is at perigee (229,761 miles from Earth) |
| | 20 | Moon passes Pluto |
| | 24 | Moon passes Neptune |
| | 25 | Moon passes Venus |
| | 27 | Moon passes Uranus |
| | 29 | <i>New Moon</i> , in conjunction with Mercury , causes an annular solar eclipse visible from Antarctica. A partial eclipse is visible from southern Australia. |



News of the Worlds

Jupiter (mag.-2.1) is still great viewing in the evening sky, setting after midnight in *Gemini*. But this month really belongs to **Mars**, which reaches opposition and peak brightness (mag.-1.5) in *Virgo* on April 8, and has its closest approach to Earth (57.4 million miles) on April 14. (That night it also passes by the full Moon, which should lay to rest all those stories about its equaling the Moon in size and brightness!)

Next comes **Saturn**, heading for its own opposition next month. Making its way through *Libra*, the ringed planet brightens from mag. 0.3 to 0.1, and rises at about 10:30 at the beginning of April, progressing to an 8:30 rising by the end. This year its rings are “open,” tilted 22° to our line of sight, and will be spectacular for several months.

All the other planets are in the morning sky this month. **Venus** (mag.-4.3) rises around 4:45 AM on April 1 and meets **Neptune** (mag.7.9) on April 12. **Uranus** passes behind the Sun, reaching conjunction on April 2, and reappears in the morning sky in time to meet the waning Moon on the 27th.

Meanwhile, **Mercury** leaves the dawn sky and zips behind the sun, reaching superior conjunction on the 25th and passing the new Moon on the 29th. We’ll see it next month in the evening sky.

The **Lyrid Meteor Shower** peaks on the morning of April 22. Unfortunately, it will be competing with the last-quarter Moon, which rises at 2 AM, just in time for the peak – but about 18 meteors per hour will be visible starting around 1 AM.

