



nomical Society of Greenwich

Bruce Museum

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May 2014

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, May 7 – 7:30 PM

Outer Space Imagery as Fine Art

Presentation by Roman Tytla

Mr. Tytla, of Big Bang Prints, currently exhibiting his work at Zorya Fine Art in Greenwich, will share his creative process and techniques. Hope to see many of you for our last meeting before summer.



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

May 13 & 27 – 8:30 – 10:30 PM

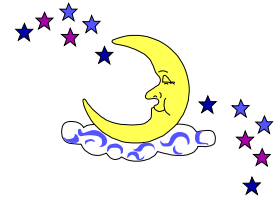
June 10 & 24 – 9-11 PM

July 8 & 22 – 9-11 PM



Lunacy

May	4	Moon passes Jupiter
	6	<i>First Quarter</i> Moon at apogee (251,232 miles from Earth)
	11	Moon passes Mars
	14	<i>Full Moon</i> – “Flower Moon” passes Saturn
	18	Moon, at perigee (228,107 miles from Earth), passes Pluto
	21	<i>Last Quarter</i> Moon passes Neptune
	24	Moon passes Uranus
	25	Moon passes Venus
	28	<i>New Moon</i>
	30	Moon in conjunction with Mercury



News of the Worlds

May Day (May 1) marks the midpoint of spring – we’re halfway to summer!

Mercury leaves the morning sky and pops up in the evening, and passes the *Pleiades* star cluster during the first week of May, reaching its greatest elongation (23° east of the Sun) May 24. Our innermost planet begins its evening apparition at mag. -1.1 and then slowly fades to mag. 0.4 as it drops back toward the Sun, meeting a very slim crescent Moon on the 30th.

Jupiter (mag. -2.0) remains spectacular in *Gemini* in the evening sky, setting after midnight. **Mars**, still bright at mag. -1.2 at the start of the month, and fading to -0.5 by the end, can be found in *Virgo*. Our red planet is up most of the night, setting around 4 AM.

One constellation over, in *Libra*, **Saturn** reaches opposition on May 10. At mag. 0.1 it’s a bit dimmer than the others, but easily outshines all the stars of its “host” constellation. This is its brightest opposition since 2005, because the ring system is very “open,” tilting 22° to our line of sight.

For night-owls and early risers, **Neptune** (mag.7.9) leads the parade, rising around 2:30 AM. You’ll need strong binoculars or a telescope for this outer gas giant, but not for **Venus**, which shines at a spectacular mag. -4.0 and rises about an hour and a half before sunrise. Finally, another binocular object, **Uranus** (mag.5.9) pops up in the morning sky, meeting Venus on May 15.

The **Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower** peaks on the morning of May 6, fortunately after the Moon sets, and may produce 40 meteors per hour. Astronomers are also keeping watch on the dust-trail of **Comet 209P/LINEAR**, which hits Earth’s atmosphere in the early morning hours of May 24 and (if we’re lucky) may produce up to 100 meteors per hour around the Big Dipper. Might be worth getting up and looking north!

Comet PANSTARRS (C/2012 K1) passes through *Canes Venatici* (a small constellation south of the Big Dipper’s handle) this month.

