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**August 2014**

**Monthly Meeting**

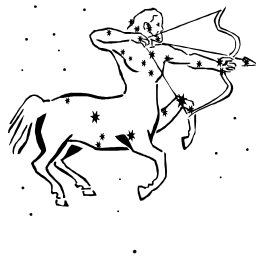
**Monthly meetings resume in fall:**

**September 3**

**October 1**

**November 12**

*(Please note change from November 5)*



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

**Latest update on the renovation: work has begun! The old pier has been demolished and a form built to pour the concrete for the new one – which we hope will happen this week. We'll keep you posted!**

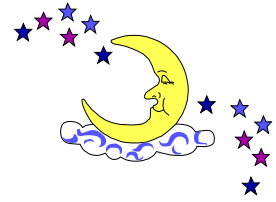
**In the meantime, consider a visit to the Stamford Observatory, which is open every Friday, 8-10 PM, and operated by ASG members Bill Bambrick and Rick Bria.**

<http://www.stamford-observatory.com/>



## Lunacy

August	3	<i>First Quarter</i> Moon passes <b>Mars</b> and <i>Spica</i>
	4	Moon passes <b>Saturn</b>
	8	Moon passes <b>Pluto</b>
	10	<i>Full Moon</i> – “Sturgeon Moon” at perigee (221,765 miles from Earth). This is the closest perigee of this calendar year, and the second “super moon” of the summer, bringing extra-high and low tides.
	11	Moon passes <b>Neptune</b>
	14	Moon passes <b>Uranus</b>
	17	<i>Last Quarter</i>
	23	Moon passes <b>Jupiter</b>
	24	Moon passes <b>Venus</b>
	25	<i>New Moon</i> at apogee (252,602 miles from Earth)
	27	Moon passes <b>Mercury</b>



## News of the Worlds

**Lammas Day** (August 1) marks the midpoint between the Summer Solstice and Autumnal Equinox. (Around here, of course, it also marks the midpoint of the beach and boating season, and school vacation.)

**Mercury** meets **Jupiter** in the dawn sky on August 2, then passes behind the Sun, reaching superior conjunction on August 8, and reappears in the evening sky by month’s end. Our innermost planet (mag. -0.4) hugs the horizon during this evening apparition, so you’ll need a good Western horizon to spot it. Its conjunction with the crescent Moon on the 27<sup>th</sup> will help.

**Saturn** (mag. 0.6) moves from *Virgo* to *Libra*, visible in the southwestern sky at sunset and setting between 10 and 11 PM. **Mars** (mag. 0.6) gradually moves closer to the ringed planet and both pass the crescent Moon on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Neptune** (mag. 7.8) reaches opposition on August 29 among the stars of *Aquarius*. **Uranus** (mag.5.8) rises about 90 minutes later in *Pisces*.

You must rise before dawn to see **Jupiter** (mag.-1.8) and **Venus** (mag.-3.8). The two start coming together August 12 – Venus rises around 4:30 and Jupiter about a half-hour later - and slowly close the gap, culminating in a close conjunction on the 18<sup>th</sup>, only 0.2° apart with M44 (the Beehive Cluster in *Cancer*) in the background. Venus then moves eastward (toward the rising Sun) into *Leo*, while Jupiter moves west. The waning moon passes them on the mornings of August 23 and 24.

The **Perseid Meteor Shower** peaks August 12. Unfortunately, the just-past-full Moon will wash out a lot of the meteors; however, as SpaceWeather points out, Perseid meteors can be seen throughout August.

