

[Astronomy Club of Asheville](#)
March 2020 Sky Events

Conjunction of Venus and the Moon

The two brightest objects, as seen from Earth, in the night sky will form a wonderful juxtaposition in the early evenings of **March 26th - 28th**. On the night of March 28th, they will appear closest, with Venus, our bright “evening star”, in the constellation Aries and the waxing crescent Moon in neighboring Taurus. Looking closely, you should also spot the “Pleiades” - a bright open star cluster in the constellation Taurus.

Observing **Venus** in a small telescope on these nights will disclose that it’s only 50% illuminated – a crescent phase, like the Moon! Venus reached **greatest elongation east** of the Sun (46°) on March 24, 2020. In April and May, Venus’s crescent phase will continue to narrow, and it will also appear lower and lower in the early evening sky, until it reaches **inferior conjunction** with the Sun (passing between the Earth and the Sun) on June 3, 2020. Venus disappears into the sunset in early June, on its way to an appearance as our “morning star”.

On these March evenings, Venus is located some 64 million miles behind the Moon, but it’s about 30 million miles closer to us than our Sun.

