

[Astronomy Club of Asheville](#)

**April 2020 Sky Events**

# The Moon & 3 Bright Planets Align at Dawn

This month Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are aligned along the ecliptic at dawn in the adjacent constellations Sagittarius and Capricornus. The waning crescent Moon joins this pre-sunrise, planetary party on **April 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>**.

Orange-colored Mars can easily deceive the observer. It's the closest of the three planets, yet it appears comparatively faint! Much more distant Jupiter and Saturn are about 20 times the diameter of Mars, and their cloud tops have over 3 times more *albedo* (solar reflectivity) than the Martian surface.

Later in the year 2020, as the Earth dances around to the other side of the Sun, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn may all be found in the evening skies.

