

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

# The Moon & 3 Bright Planets Align at Dawn

This month Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are aligned along the ecliptic in the constellation Sagittarius.

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Mars and Jupiter will appear closest, as they trade positions in the dawn skies.

The waning crescent Moon joins this pre-sunrise, planetary party on March 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.

Orange-colored Mars can easily deceive the observer. It's the closest of the three planets, yet it appears the faintest! 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.

