

Astronomy Club of Asheville
May 2020 Sky Events

A young waxing crescent Moon joins Venus and Mercury at dusk

The two innermost planets will entertain a lunar visitor and form a wonderful juxtaposition in the early evenings of **May 23rd & 24th**. You will need a clear view low to the W-NW horizon to observe Venus, our bright “evening star”, along with Mercury and a very young, waxing crescent Moon in the constellation Taurus.

You may need binoculars to locate the very young and faint (1 day old!) crescent Moon on May 23rd. Observing **Venus** in a small telescope on these nights will disclose that it’s only 3% illuminated – a very narrow crescent phase, similar in appearance to the 5% illuminated crescent Moon on May 24th! Venus disappears into the sunset in the first week of June, on its way to an appearance as our “morning star”.

On these May evenings, Venus is located some 29 million miles behind the Moon, while Mercury is around 93 million miles away – about the same distance as the Sun.

