

Astronomy Club of Asheville  
**May 2020 Sky Events**

This month Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter are aligned along the ecliptic at dawn in the adjacent constellations of Aquarius, Capricornus, and Sagittarius. A bright waning Moon joins this pre-sunrise, planetary party on **May 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<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.

# The Moon Joins 3 Bright Planets in the morning twilight

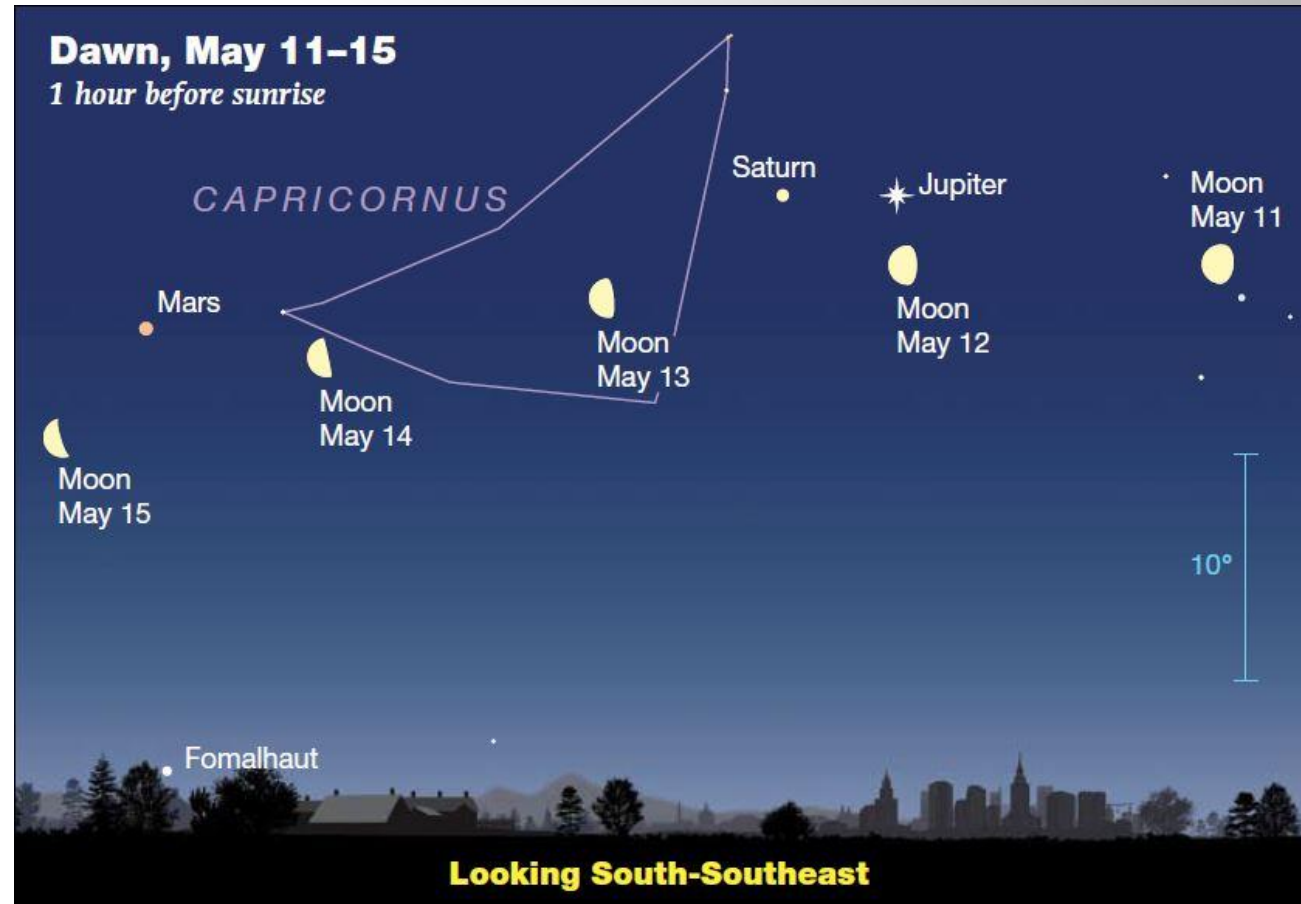


Illustration courtesy of [Sky & Telescope](#)

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.