

[Astronomy Club of Asheville](#)  
**July 2021 Sky Events**

## Conjunction of Mars and Regulus

On the night of **July 29<sup>th</sup>**, fading Mars will appear to pass very near to slightly brighter Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation Leo. Because Regulus is located on the “ecliptic” (the path that the Sun, Moon, and planets follow across the sky), its conjunctions with solar system objects are common.

While ascending along the ecliptic, brilliant Venus appeared to pass close to Regulus on July 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be the last month to easily observe Mars, as it is approaching “conjunction” with the Sun on October 7<sup>th</sup>, and it will be challenging to observe low in the west at dusk in the upcoming months.

While observing this scene on these end-of-July evenings, contemplate that Regulus is some 79 light years behind Venus and Mars, which are each a mere 11 and 21 light minutes away, respectively.

