

Astronomy Club of Asheville
July 2021 Sky Events

The Moon Passes Venus and Mars

On the nights of **July 11-13**, the slender, waxing crescent Moon appears to pass nearby Venus and Mars. This action takes place at dusk in the zodiac constellation of Leo, with its “lucida” star Regulus – the “little king” – visible above and to the left of the two planets.

Over the past month, brilliant Venus has been ascending along the ecliptic in our skies, while much fainter Mars has been descending. This action presents a great opportunity to watch the solar system in “motion”. The apparent collision course of the two planets will culminate in a very close conjunction on the evening of July 12th. That evening Venus and Mars will be separated by about ½ degree -- similar to the diameter of a full Moon. Enjoy the performance!

