

3 Bright Planets Align at Dawn

This month, Venus, Mars, and Saturn are aligned along the ecliptic at dawn in the zodiac constellation of Capricornus, the Sea Goat. Look for this conjunction on the mornings of April 3-7.

Orange-colored Mars will appear close to Saturn – with their nearest juxtaposition occurring on April 5th, when the two planets are separated by mere 24 arc minutes. Much brighter and closer, “waxing” Venus is now 57% illuminated as seen in a telescope eyepiece.

Using a small telescope at low power on April 5th, you should be able to place both Mars and Saturn in the same field of view. Look for the rusty color of Mars juxtaposed alongside the ring system of Saturn. Despite appearances, Saturn is actually over 800 million miles behind Mars!

