

Astronomy Club of Asheville

August 2022 Sky Events

The Planet Venus Visits the Beehive Star Cluster

During the dawn hours of **August 17 & 18**, the planet Venus will appear to join the stars of the Beehive open star cluster in the constellation Cancer - the Crab. Use binoculars to better spy the numerous members of the star cluster.

Venus is descending farther toward the horizon each day, as it is journeying in its orbit toward the far side of the Sun, as seen from Earth. Venus is the most reflective planet in our solar system, blazing at a very bright magnitude of -3.9, with only the Sun and Moon appearing brighter in our sky.

While gazing at brilliant Venus, ponder that its reflected sunlight left it some 15 minutes earlier, while the light from the stars in the Beehive cluster has been traveling your way for 610 years!

