

Astronomy Club of Asheville
June 2023 Sky Events

Venus Visits the Beehive Star Cluster

On the night of **June 13**, the planet Venus appears to pass among the stars of the Beehive open star cluster in the constellation Cancer. This conjunction occurs because the Beehive is located along the ecliptic – the approximate path the Sun, the Moon, and the planets follow across the sky.

Joining the scene are the planet Mars and the two bright stars that represent the heads of the Gemini twins, Pollux and Castor.

Although Venus and the Beehive star cluster appear close, those young stars are some 570 light years behind Venus! Use binoculars or a small telescope to help you enjoy the beauty of both Venus' crescent phase and the stars in the cluster.***

