

# Conjunction of the Harvest Moon with Antares

- a September 2023 Sky Event from the [Astronomy Club of Asheville](#)

During the early evening hours of **September 20 & 21, 2023**, the **waxing crescent Harvest Moon** will appear to pass near the brightest star in the constellation Scorpius – **Antares**. As seen from Earth, Antares

is the 15<sup>th</sup> brightest star in the night skies. It is a red supergiant star that is intrinsically 65,000 times more luminous than our Sun, and it's located some 550 light years away.



*Illustration created using SkySafari and PowerPoint software*

Because Antares is located along the ecliptic (the path across Earth's sky that the Sun, the Moon, and the planets appear to follow), it is involved with many juxtapositions with solar system objects.

In sky lore, the star Antares represents the heart of the Scorpion. The name "Antares"

comes from the Greek language, meaning "rival (ant) of Mars" (Ares is what the Greeks called the planet Mars, and Ares was their god of war). The name refers to the similar red hue displayed by both Mars and the star. They "rivaled" each other in their redness!

The Harvest Moon will be "full" on the night of September 28/29. Find an unobstructed view low to the southwest and enjoy this wonderful conjunction of the Harvest Moon with Mar's rival! \*\*\*