

Astronomy Club of Asheville  
**July 2024 Sky Events**

# An Opportunity to Spot Elusive Mercury at Dusk

Here's your chance to catch the speedy and elusive planet Mercury in our early evening skies! Because the innermost planet Mercury never ventures far from the Sun in our sky, it is only observed very near to sunrise or sunset. Most folks have never wittingly seen Mercury – one of 5 naked-eye planets observed since ancient times.

**On the nights on and around July 22, 2024**, Mercury will attain its highest altitude in our evening sky for this summer apparition. So, go out about 40 minutes after sunset and look for it below the bright star Regulus in the constellation Leo. Find an unobstructed view low to the west, and use binoculars to help you locate it. Mercury shines at a reasonably bright magnitude of +0.5 on these nights, but it may not appear particularly brilliant so low (only 6° off the horizon) in the twilight.\*\*\*

