

# Astronomy Club of Asheville

## July 2025 Highlight

## Elusive Mercury Cruises by the Beehive Star Cluster

**During the first 4 evenings of July**, the speedy and elusive, innermost planet Mercury will be visible low in W-NW in evening twilight. With a pair of binoculars or a small telescope at low power, you should be able to observe Mercury as it glides below and past the Beehive star cluster in the zodiac constellation Cancer – the Crab.

The Beehive star cluster is one of the closer open star clusters to Earth, at a distance of 610 light years.

Mercury reaches its greatest elongation east of the Sun for this dusk appearance on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you are using a telescope, you should be able to observe Mercury's 43% illuminated crescent shape.

