

Astronomy Club of Asheville  
**April 2026 Sky Events**

# The Moon Passes above Jupiter

On the night of **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**, the waxing, crescent Moon, moving through the zodiac constellation Gemini, will appear to pass over the gas giant planet Jupiter. On these nights, Jupiter is some 513 million miles, or 45 light minutes, behind the Moon.

Joining this conjunction are the two bright stars that represent the heads of the Gemini twins, Pollux and Castor. Although these two bright heavenly stars appear adjacent in the skies above, they are otherwise quite different.

Your unaided eyes will tell you that Pollux not only appears brighter than Castor, but also glows a different color. Can you see Pollux's cooler yellow-orange color, compared to the hot white glow of Castor? Pollux is located nearer to Earth than Castor. Castor's light comes to your eyes from 51 light years ago, while Pollux shines from a closer 34 light years – both very near to us by astronomical standards!

In mythology, these two star names derive from the immortal twin sons of Zeus and Leda.



Illustration created with SkySafari and PowerPoint software