

The Night Sky

Jupiter Dominates the Evening Sky

We are graced with two bright planets in the evening sky, brilliant Jupiter, which is currently residing in the constellation of Taurus, and Mars, which resides in Gemini, residing just to the left of Gemini's two brightest stars, Pollux and Castor.

In the morning sky, Venus and Saturn sit low above the eastern horizon 30 minutes before sunrise in the latter half of the month. On the morning of April 25th, Venus, Saturn, and the waning crescent Moon form a tight triangle about 5 degrees above the eastern horizon. Those of you with binoculars might also spot Mercury hanging just above the horizon in the bright morning twilight on this date.

The Moon will reach full phase on April 12th at 8:22 p.m. EDT. The April full Moon is often called the Full Pink Moon since herb moss pink is in full bloom during this month.

The ETSU Powell Observatory next astronomy open house will be on April 5th from 8 until 10 p.m. EDT. At these open houses, the public can view objects in the sky through telescopes and hear talks by faculty of the Physics and Astronomy Department. Note that the open houses are cancelled if the sky is cloudy. The 2024-2025 schedule for our Astronomy open houses can be found on the web at <https://www.etsu.edu/cas/physics/observatory/starparty.php>.

For those of you who would rather explore the night sky indoors, a planetarium show will be presented on April 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the ETSU Planetarium in Hutcheson Hall. Please check the Planetarium web page at <https://www.etsu.edu/cas/physics/outreach/planetarium.php> for further information

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