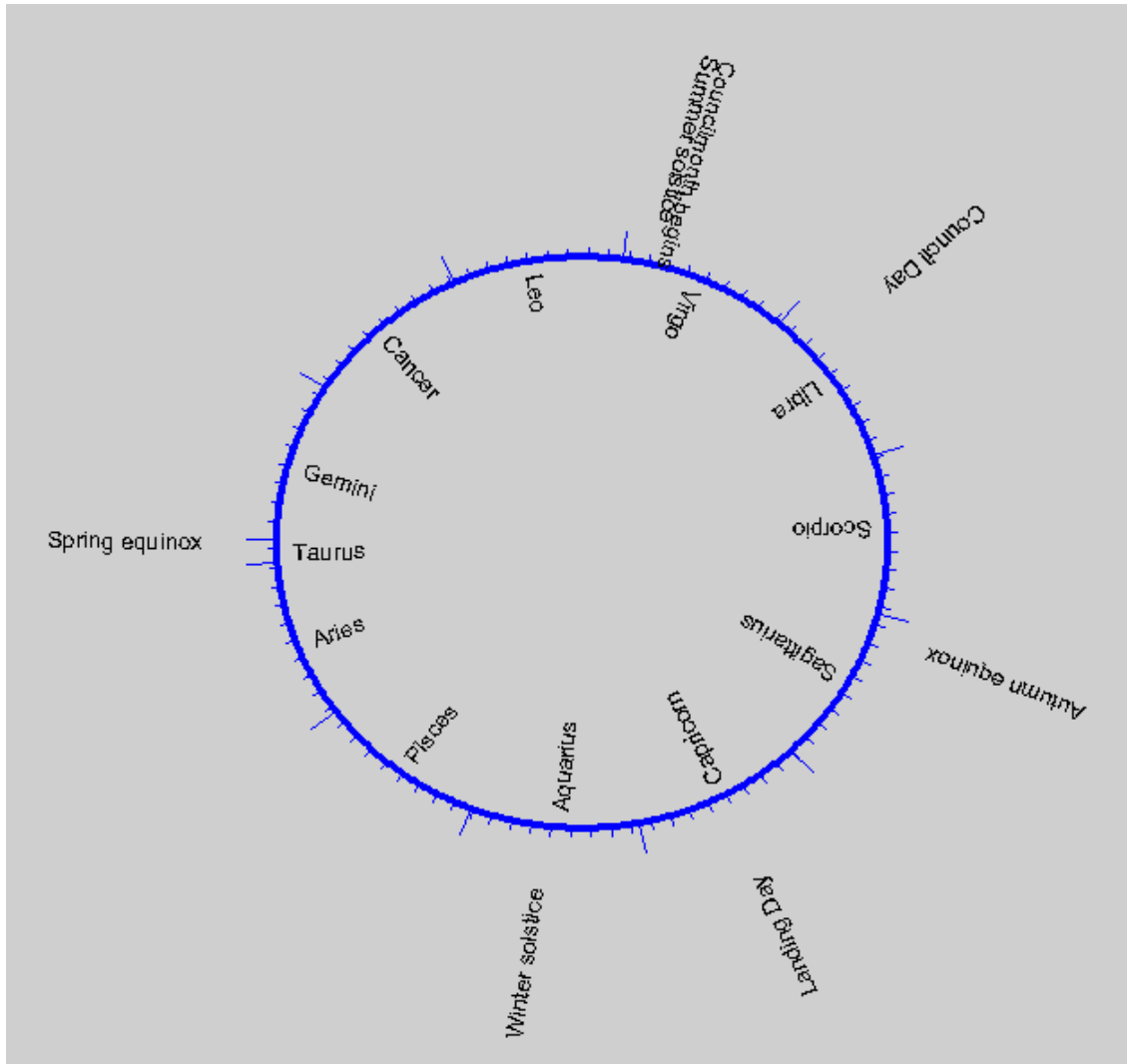


## Calendar and Holidays



[ See <http://pweb.jps.net/~tgangale/mars/index.htm> for more details about Martian time]

The MTN used a modified form of the old Zubrin calendar. The Martian day (the sol) was divided into 24 hours consisting of 60 minutes, in turn consisting of 60 ticks (1 tick = 1.02749125). Traditional 7 sol weeks were used. The year was divided into 12 months named after the zodiac: Gemini (61 sols), Cancer (65), Leo (66), Virgo (65), Libra (60), Scorpio (54), Sagittarius (50), Capricorn (47), Aquarius (46), Pisces (48), Aries (51), Taurus (55-56). The year begins at the vernal equinox, Gemini 1. The calendar started with the first manned Mars landing (35 Capricorn in Earth-year 2034) as year zero.

The Stargazers and later the Informerchants used the metric calendar, proposed by Axtl Lilienkrantz. The sol was divided into ten hours, consisting of 100 minutes of 100 ticks (1 tick = 0.887752 seconds). The week had ten sols, named Sunday, Merccday, Venusday, Earthday, Marsday, Joviday, Saturday, Uraniday, Neptunday and Plutoday. Sunday, Marsday and Plutoday were holidays. The year was divided into eleven months consisting of 6 weeks each, and a twelfth intercalary "pseudomonth" Taurus consisting of a single week truncated to keep the calendar stable (the new year always started on a Sunday, regardless of the previous day). The month names of the MTN calendar were kept, as was the year zero.

The Xanthe Imperial Calendar kept the tick, but divided the day into 20 half-hours. The week was shortened to seven days: Sunday, Earthday, Marsday, Joviday, Saturday, Uraniday and Neptunday, with Sunday and Earthday as holidays (in Xanthian, they are pronounced Sunedai, Earthedai, Maresedai, Dovidai, Saturedai, Uranidai and Nektundai). The Stargazer months were kept, and the year zero was set to the Council of Myriostos.

“Day” means a specific date in most Martian languages, unlike “sol” which refers to days in general, that it is daylight outside etc.

## Xanthian Calendar of Year 153 a.c.M

Name	Sols	Holidays
Gemini	60	Sunday 1 (vernal equinox)
Cancer	60	
Leo	60	
Virgo	60	13 summer solstice, Councilmonth starts 17 <sup>th</sup>
Libra	60	Councilmonth ends 16 <sup>th</sup> with Constitution Day.
Scorpio	60	1 First Chrimas
Sagittarius	60	12 autumn equinox, 43 Exner Day
Capricorn	60	35 Landing Day
Aquarius	60	
Pisces	60	35 winter solstice
Aries	60	
Taurus	8.59	5 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chrimas

### *Holidays*

The equinoxes and solstices are widely celebrated. Often they are mere excuses for celebration, although they have greater significance in Aresianism and regions with agriculture-based religions. The Vernal equinox is the start of the year and associated with new year festivities including making penance for past sins, promises for the next year and augural games.

The summer and winter solstices are especially celebrated among northerly and southerly people, e.g. Argyre, Hellas and Arabia. Summer ceremonies often revolve around fertility and growth while the winter festivals celebrate that the darkness and cold will start to recede.

Landing day (35 Capricorn in the old calendar) is recognized everywhere. In Xanthe it is a official celebration of progress, with exhibitions of technology and history.

Arabians everywhere commemorate The Night of Thunder on Leo 55. They gather for a wake and listen to the Legators or family elders tell the story of the disaster. In larger gatherings representatives of different lineages recount the hardships and adventures that followed for their forefathers (sometimes this causes old clan frictions to reignite, sometimes the lineages poke fun at each other or acknowledge their debt to other families who supported them). At dawn the leaders hold a traditional speech, promising that one day Felix Arabia will be rebuilt.

In Xanthe each province celebrates the encaenia, the day it was made part of the empire, and all of the empire celebrates Council Month. Council Month (Virgo 17 to Libra 16) represents the founding Council of Myriostos. Each Sunday and Earthday is celebrated with special focus of certain of the Founders. Libra 16 is Constitution Day, which represents the greatest public holiday of Xanthe. During Council Month each of the noble families hosts celebrations, speeches, gives food and clothing to the poor and generally shows their good citizenship.

The MTN and CSRE both celebrated Christmas (also known as Holiday Season), a feast of consumption and family merriment. The practice remained, occurring according to the terrestrial calendar once every Earth year. This has proven somewhat cumbersome; Chrimas as it is known in Xanthe is still celebrated ever 365<sup>th</sup> day, but in most nations around the Elysian sea the Holiday Season occurs twice yearly, at the summer and winter solstices. The Argyrians celebrate Christmas according to the old Earth calendar.