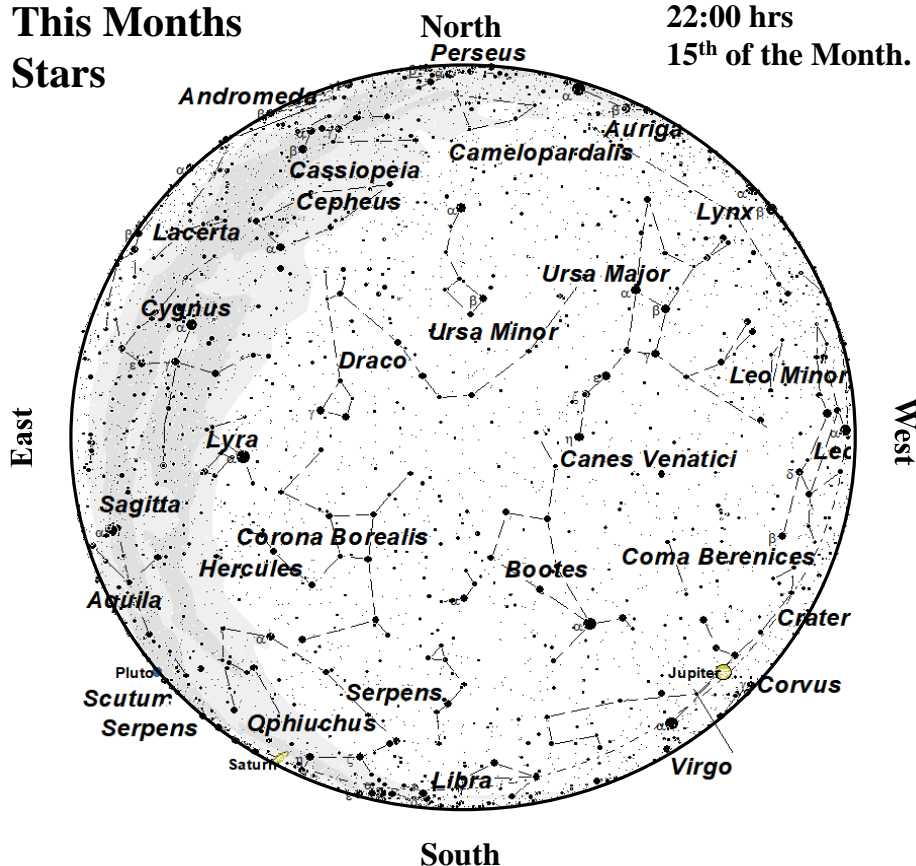


EAGLES EYE ON THE SKY – JUNE 2017

Dave Eagle's monthly sky guide.

This Months Stars



High overhead at this time of night the meandering body of Draco winds its way between the two heavenly bears. High in the southern sky is the bright yellow star Arcturus, in the constellation of Boötes. Below lies Virgo and Libra, with the claws of Scorpius, just showing above the southern horizon. The fainter pattern of Ophiuchus, in turn holding the heavenly serpent, is also prominent, although harder to identify. In the western sky, Gemini and Cancer have almost set, closely followed by Leo. Look towards the north and you should be able to spot the bright yellow star Capella in Auriga is just skimming the horizon. In the eastern sky, the Summer Triangle of Deneb, Vega and Altair, in the constellations of Cygnus, Lyra and Aquila respectively, are rising, bringing with them the Summer Milky Way and all its wondrous glories. It's a pity the skies are so light as it will probably be a while before we can enjoy it properly.

THE MOON

First Qtr. – 1st.
Full – 9th.
Last Qtr. – 17th.
New – 24th.

Crescent Moon visible:

21st & 22nd. - Eastern morning sky.
26th & 27th - Western evening sky.

The Moon will be close to:

Jupiter on the 3rd.
Spica on the 4th.
Antares on the 8th.
Saturn on the 9th.
Neptune on the 16th.
Venus on the 20th & 21st.

THE SOLAR SYSTEM

MERCURY – Reaches superior conjunction on the 21st of the month. It will therefore be out of view for the whole of the month.

VENUS – Reaches greatest Western Elongation of 46° in the eastern morning sky on the 3rd. But it will be very low to the horizon at magnitude -4 as the sky brightens and despite being so bright and relatively easy to find it will be difficult to observe.

JUPITER – Still big, bright and almost stationary in Virgo. Watch for the constant jostling of the four Galilean Moons, Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto and great red spot transits.

SATURN – Now up the whole night and at its highest just before midnight. It will stay low in the sky for the next few years. With the rings almost at their widest, they still make for a beautiful sight through even a small telescope. How many of its moons can you spot?

URANUS – Rising just before dawn in Pisces. At magnitude 6.2 it is very faint and still too far into the morning twilight to be observed properly.

NEPTUNE – Visible in the eastern morning sky in Aquarius. At magnitude 7.7 it will be difficult to make out in the brightening dawn, so save this one for later.

OCCULTATION OF GAMMA VIRGINIS – This bright double star will be occulted by the Moon on the evening of the 3rd. Event starts at 18:46h and the stars reappear at 20:06h. This event will be well worth watching as the two stars will disappear and reappear at slightly different times.

NOCTILUCENT CLOUDS – The next couple of months is the season for spotting these pearly-white clouds. They can be visible in the northwest just after it gets dark, towards the north around midnight, or in the northeast just before dawn breaks. So get out and have a look for them.

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