

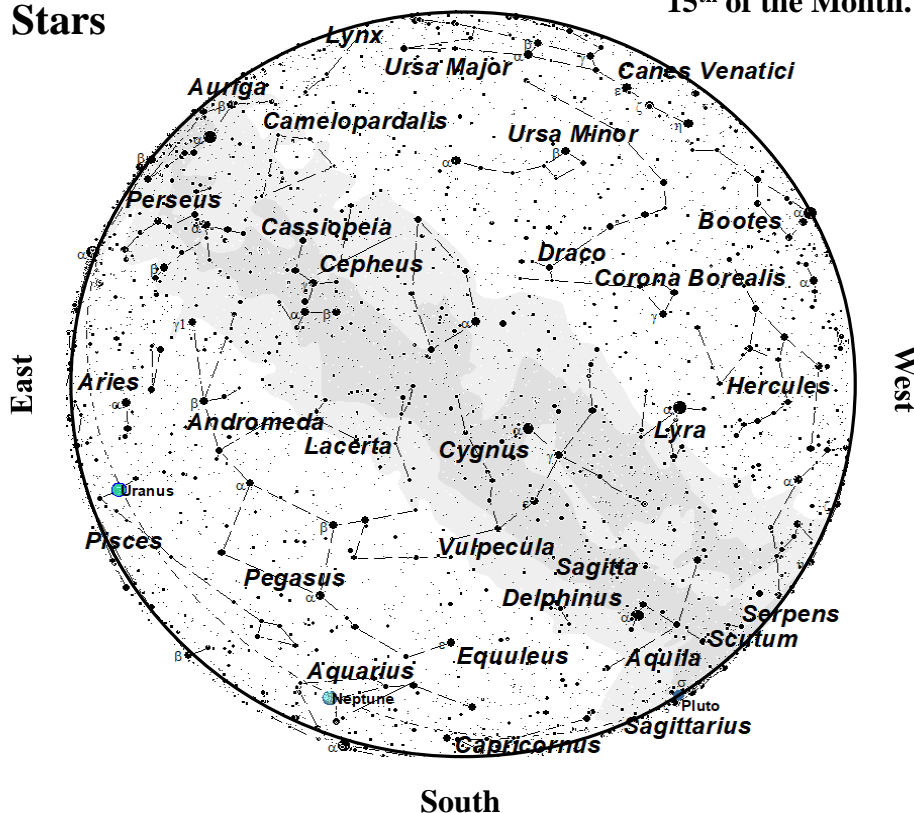
EAGLES EYE ON THE SKY – SEPTEMBER 2017

Dave Eagle's monthly sky guide.

This Months Stars

North

22:00 hrs
15th of the Month.



High overhead at this time of night, Cygnus (also called The Northern Cross) dominates. Its bright star Deneb shines brightly. Compare the colour of the brighter nearby star Vega in Lyra, with its steely white/blue luster. These two stars along with Altair in Aquila make up the famous Summer Triangle. The Milky Way stretches right across the sky at this time of night. How much more visible is it to you now some of our street lights have been turned off? Towards the south Capricornus can be seen, with its relatively faint stars. Formalhaut in The Southern Fish may also be glimpsed low in the south east. Towards the north, Ursa Major is dipping down low, its feet touching the horizon. In the eastern sky, Perseus and Pisces are rising rapidly, closely followed by The Pleiades star cluster. When you see these well up before midnight, you know winter is now well on its way. The bright Yellow star Capella in Auriga is also starting to rise. The constellations now disappearing towards the west are Boötes and Ophiuchus with Sagittarius very low towards the south west.

THE MOON

Full – 6th.
Last Qtr. – 13th.
New – 20th.
First Qtr. – 28th.

Crescent Moon visible:

18th & 19th - Eastern morning sky.
22nd & 23rd. Western evening sky.

The Moon will be close to:

Neptune on the 5th & 6th.
Uranus on the 9th & 10th.
Hyades Star Cluster on the 12th.
Ceres on the 16th.
Venus & Regulus on the 18th.
Mars & Mercury on the 19th (Difficult).
Jupiter on the 22nd (Difficult).
Saturn on the 26th.

THE SOLAR SYSTEM

MERCURY – Greatest Western Elongation of 18° on the 12th. A week or so either side of this date it should be visible as a 1st magnitude “star” very low down in the eastern sky just before dawn.

VENUS – Visible in the eastern morning sky before sunrise throughout the month. Very bright at magnitude -3.9. Now moving towards the Sun and will soon be lost.

MARS – Very low in the eastern sky just before dawn as it slowly moves away from the Sun. Venus approaches it towards the close of the month.

JUPITER – Now extremely low down in the western evening sky after dark and almost lost in the twilight. A very thin crescent Moon close by on the 22nd.

SATURN – Now past its best, but despite the low altitude, it still makes a lovely sight through even a small telescope. At magnitude +0.5 the rings are well presented towards Earth. How many of its bright moons can you spot?

URANUS – Now at a reasonable altitude in Pisces well before midnight. At magnitude +5.7 it is just about visible to the naked eye and can easily be observed now as a small blue disk through the telescope.

NEPTUNE – Reaches opposition on the 5th, close to the Star Lambda Aquilae. At magnitude +7.8 it will need binoculars or a small telescope to identify. A larger telescope is required to reveal the small pale blue disk.

ASTEROID 3122 (FLORENCE). Passes 18.4 Lunar distances from Earth on the 1st when it will be at its brightest at magnitude +8.6. It will be in the constellation of Equuleus. It will head north, being in Vulpecula the next evening, but the magnitude will have faded considerably.

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