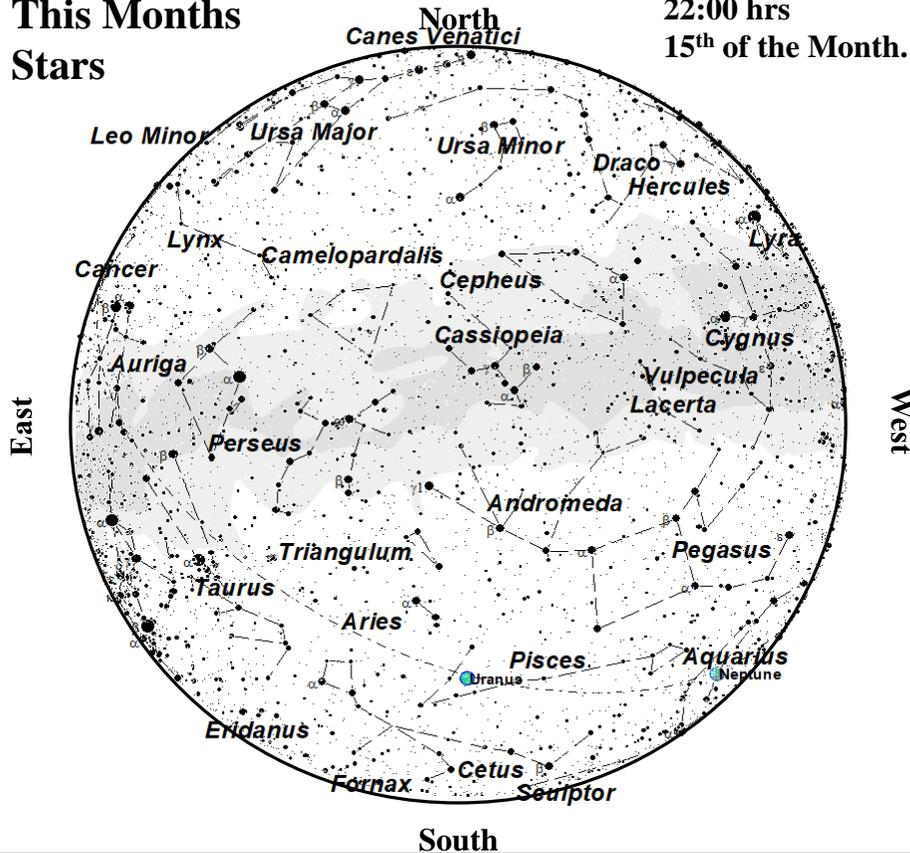


EAGLES EYE ON THE SKY – NOVEMBER 2017

Dave Eagle's monthly sky guide.

This Months Stars

22:00 hrs
15th of the Month.



High above your head at this time of night are Perseus, Cassiopeia and Andromeda. The bright galaxy M31 should be easily visible to the naked eye as an extended fuzzy blob in good skies. Can you spot its two fainter companions with a small telescope? The double cluster should also be easily visible midway between Cassiopeia and Perseus. A small telescope shows these clusters very well. Can you spot the old red stars nestled in the clusters? Below Andromeda is Aries and Pisces, with Cetus, The Sea Monster, a bit further towards the south. Towards the north, Ursa Major and The Plough are starting to rise, with the little bear, Ursa Minor, hanging straight down from its tail. In the western sky Aquila has now virtually set, and Hercules is almost lost. Cygnus is now standing straight up with the bright contrasting double star Albireo at the base of the Cross. In the eastern sky the bright constellations of winter are now becoming much more prominent. **Algol** - Fades from its usual magnitude of 2.1 to 3.4 at the following times: 11th 01h and 13th 22h.

THE MOON

Full – 4th.
Last Qtr. – 10th.
New – 18th.
First Qtr. – 26th.

Crescent Moon visible:

15th, 16th & 17th. Eastern morning sky.
20th & 22nd. South-western evening sky.

The Moon will be close to:

Uranus on the 2nd.
Occults Hyades and Aldebaran on the 5th & 6th.
Occultation starts 19:47 (5th).
Occultation ends 03:24 (6th).
Praesepe (M44) on the 10th.
Regulus on the 11th.
Mars on the 15th.

THE SOLAR SYSTEM

MERCURY – Reaches greatest eastern elongation of 22° on the 24th. But due to the shallow angle of the ecliptic it stays very low down in the south-western evening twilight, so is unlikely to be seen this month.

VENUS – Now getting very low in the south eastern morning sky and is almost lost in the twilight. Jupiter is very close on the morning of the 13th, but will be a real challenge to observe.

MARS – Stays low in the south-eastern sky, now getting further from the Sun in the constellation of Virgo at 2nd magnitude, just north of the 1st magnitude star Spica. The planets disk is extremely small and challenging observing.

JUPITER – Now creeping into the early morning twilight. Close to Venus on the 13th.

SATURN – May just be spotted after dark in the south-western sky after sunset. Soon lost from view as it approaches conjunction with the Sun.

URANUS – Visible for most of the night in Pisces. At magnitude +5.9 it is just about visible to the naked eye and can easily be observed as a small blue disk through the telescope.

NEPTUNE – Fairly high up in the evening sky just south of the 4th magnitude star Lambda Aquilae. At magnitude +8.1 it will need binoculars or a small telescope to identify. A larger telescope and high magnification is required to reveal its small pale blue disk.

LEONID METEORS – This fairly reliable shower is visible between the 15th & 20th of the month. With a maximum predicted rate of 20 per hour, in the early hours of the 17th, and the Moon well out of the way, conditions for viewing these fast moving meteors is very favourable.

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