

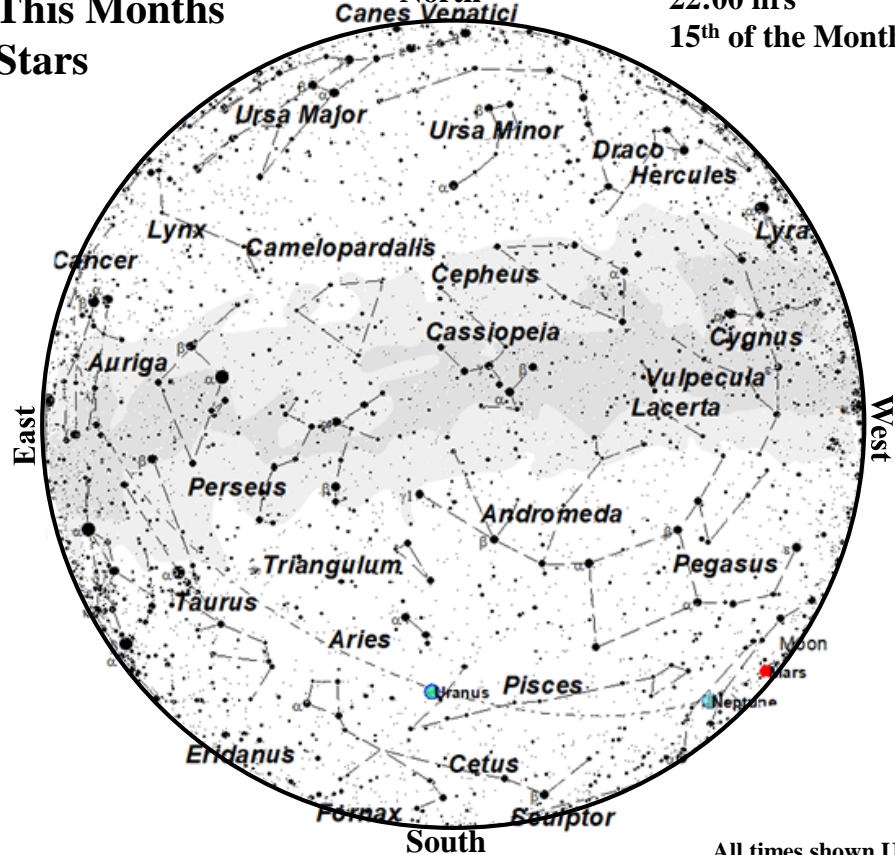
# EAGLES EYE ON THE SKY – NOVEMBER 2018

Dave Eagle's monthly sky guide.

## This Months Stars

North

22:00 hrs  
15<sup>th</sup> of the Month.



South

All times shown UT

High overhead still lies the W-shaped Cassiopeia and the eastern part of Andromeda. Triangulum lies below Andromeda, see if you can spot the galaxy M33 in binoculars or a small telescope. Its spiral arms are face-on to us, so this spreads the light out, making it look fainter than its 5.7 magnitude, which should just make it a naked eye object in dark skies. Low in the south Pisces and Cetus are still on display with Uranus at its highest. In the northern sky, Benetnash, the 1.9 magnitude star at the end of The Plough's "handle" is now at its lowest. The Great Bear is now starting to rise. Being circumpolar, of course, it never sets as viewed from our latitude. Towards the north-eastern horizon, Vega is now getting a lot lower as the summer skies and bright Milky Way start to disappear. Rising in the east are the Heavenly Twins, Gemini and Taurus the Bull. Most of Orion has now cleared the eastern horizon, so we now know winter is well and truly upon us.

## THE MOON

### Phases:

7<sup>th</sup> – New.  
15<sup>th</sup> – First Quarter.  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Full.  
30<sup>th</sup> – Last Quarter

### Crescent Moon will be visible:

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> - Eastern morning sky.  
9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> - Western evening sky.

### The Moon will be close to:

Regulus on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> (am).  
Spica on the 5<sup>th</sup> (am).  
Saturn on the 11<sup>th</sup> (pm).  
Mars on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> (pm).  
Uranus on the 20<sup>th</sup>.  
Hyades & Aldebaran on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. (pm).  
M44 (Beehive Cluster) on the 28<sup>th</sup> (am).

## THE SOLAR SYSTEM

**MERCURY** – Although reaching greatest eastern elongation of 23° on the 6<sup>th</sup>, the angle of the ecliptic means that it sets before the sky properly darkens, so is unlikely to be seen in the western evening sky.

**VENUS** – Now moving out from the Sun's glare, becoming visible in the morning eastern sky before sunrise. It approaches, but never quite reaches Spica mid-month.

**MARS** – Still visible low in the southern sky just after dark. The planet's apparent size is still shrinking so is even more of a challenge to observe the surface features.

**JUPITER** – Now lost in the western twilight after sunset. It will re-emerge in the early morning eastern sky in the New Year.

**SATURN** – Visible in Sagittarius at +0.6 magnitude object. Very low down in the southwestern sky but sets very soon after sunset.

**URANUS** – Visible as a +5.7 magnitude object on the borders of Pisces, Cetus and Aries in the southern late evening sky. It stays fairly close to the 5.4 magnitude star 54 Ceti. See if you can resolve the small blue-green disk.

**NEPTUNE** – Very faint at magnitude +7.9 in Aquarius, visible in the southern sky after dark. Visible most of the evening nestled between 82 & 83 Aquarii. Neptune's small blue disk is even more challenging to resolve. While looking at these, try and spot some elusive moons orbiting these distant ice giants.

**TAURID METEORS** – This shower reaches maximum of 10 per hour between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**LEONID METEORS** – This shower reaches a maximum of about 20 per hour in the early hours of the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Moon will be out of the way, so will not interfere with viewing.

**JUNO** – This minor solar system body is at opposition on the 17<sup>th</sup>. At magnitude 7.4, it will require binoculars or a small telescope to reveal it as a star-like object in the constellation of Eridanus.

**Comet 46P (Wirtanen)** – This comet has a 5.4 year orbit and could become a naked eye object next month. It will be fairly low in the southern sky throughout this time, so we will not see it at its best from the UK yet. Things should improve next month as it moves north. For detailed maps visit my blog. [www.star-gazing.co.uk/Blog.html](http://www.star-gazing.co.uk/Blog.html)

For a much fuller guide, maps, graphics and the latest news  
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