

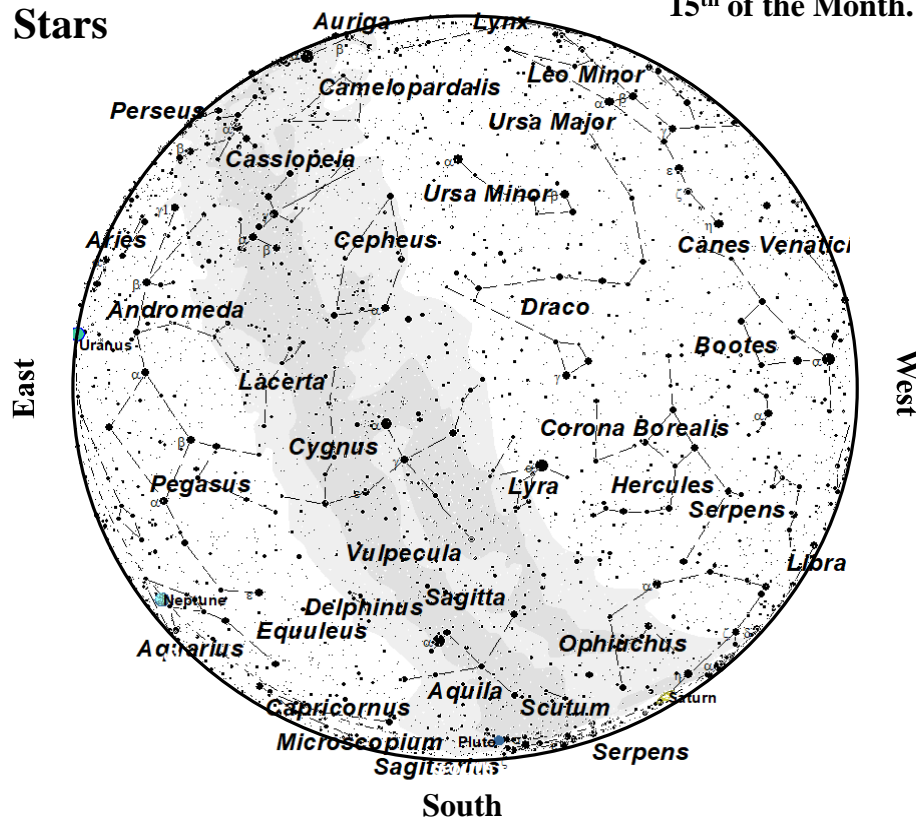
# EAGLES EYE ON THE SKY – AUGUST 2017

Dave Eagle's monthly sky guide.

## This Months Stars

North

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



South

High overhead lies the bright white star Vega in the small constellation of Lyra. Try and pick out the small frozen puff of smoke that is The Ring Nebula (M57) at the base of the parallelogram. Beside Lyra flies Cygnus, the whole region of our summers skies covered with a multitude of stars making up our own Milky Way galaxy. This sweeps across the sky from north east to south-south west. Further south, Aquila the Eagle also flies. The three brightest stars in each, Vega, Deneb and Altair, marking The Summer Triangle. There are star clusters and nebula scattered all around this wonderful area of sky, making it well worth sweeping with binoculars or a small telescope. Over in the Western sky the bright orange star Arcturus is now getting low and will soon be gone. Over towards the east, the Square of Pegasus and Andromeda are rising, heralding the coming of autumn. If you stay up a bit later you will be able to view The Pleiades star cluster in the north eastern sky. Summer will soon be over as the nights draw in.

## THE MOON

Full – 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Last Qtr. – 15<sup>th</sup>.  
New – 21<sup>st</sup>. (U.S. Eclipse).  
Very small partial eclipse visible from UK just before sunset.  
First Qtr. – 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Crescent Moon visible:

18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> - Eastern morning sky.  
24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> - Western evening sky.

## The Moon will be close to:

Antares on the 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Saturn on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Neptune on the 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Uranus on the 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Aldebaran & Hyades on the 16<sup>th</sup>. (Occ).  
Occultation starts with 71 Tau at 02:35,  
Finishing with Aldebaran re-appearing  
in daylight at 07:39.  
Venus & Ceres on the 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Spica on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

## THE SOLAR SYSTEM

**MERCURY** – Stays too close to the Sun and is hidden in the western evening twilight throughout the month. Reaches inferior conjunction on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**VENUS** – Visible in the eastern morning sky before sunrise throughout the month. Bright at magnitude -3.9, it passes below the open cluster M35 in Gemini on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, but the cluster will be difficult to spot in the brightening twilight.

**MARS** – Still extremely close to the Sun, so will not be seen this month.

**JUPITER** – Now low down in the western evening sky after dark and will soon slip away into the twilight as it approaches the Sun.

**SATURN** – Now at its highest low in the southern sky as darkness falls. With the rings almost at their widest, they still make for a beautiful sight through even a small telescope. See if you can spot some of its many moons.

**URANUS** – Now easily visible in the morning sky in Pisces. At magnitude 5.8 it is just about visible to the naked eye and can easily be observed now as a small blue disk through the telescope.

**NEPTUNE** – At its highest at 3am in Aquarius. It is an extremely small blue-green disk, but some imagers have recently shown a large storm in its atmosphere.

**PLUTO** – Visible all night, but it is very faint at magnitude 14.1, so difficult to pick out low down amongst the many stars within the Sagittarius star clouds.

**PERSEIDS**- This reliable meteor shower is at maximum of about 80 per hour on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The shower is active from July 23<sup>rd</sup> until August the 20<sup>th</sup>, so plenty of time to catch these fast bright flashes, leaving persistent trains.

**NOCTILUCENT CLOUDS** – There have been some good displays of these pearly-white clouds recently. Look in the northwest just after it gets dark, towards the north around midnight, or in the northeast just before dawn breaks. But you'll have to stay up late to get out there and have a look

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