

# CAROLINA SKIES AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2021

Hold the star chart over your head. Find north, and align your chart accordingly. You may need a flashlight, but be sure not to ruin your night vision with a bright bulb. Use a red light, or put a brown paper bag over your flashlight for a muted glow.

High overhead the Summer Triangle crowns our evening sky. Deneb, Altair, and Vega, the three stars of the triangle, are the brightest stars in each of their respective constellations, Cygnus the Swan, Aquila the Eagle, and Lyra the Harp.

From a dark location, Cygnus seems to be “flying” along a hazy band of light. This is the plane of the Milky Way Galaxy, the “city” of stars to which all stars visible in our sky belong. The center of the Milky Way resides in the constellation of Sagittarius the Archer, which looks like a teapot.

Brilliant **Venus** shines prominently in the west after the Sun goes down. It's fairly low in the sky, and best seen before the end of evening twilight from a location with a relatively flat, unobstructed western horizon. The strikingly bright planet sets roughly two hours or less after sunset. Yellowish, ringed **Saturn** and the giant planet **Jupiter** are seen in the southeast as darkness falls. Jupiter is the brighter of the two and is a bit to Saturn's east. The duo trek westward in the sky as night advances and remain visible until well past midnight. **Mercury** and **Mars** aren't easily seen now.

For an online hub of resources for you to enjoy at home, check out **Morehead At Home** - <https://moreheadplanetarium.org/explore/morehead-at-home/>

## Skywatching Sessions:

In-person skywatching is back! Check our Skywatching webpage for upcoming events:

<http://moreheadplanetarium.org/skywatching>

