

# CAROLINA SKIES AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2022

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.

If you have a flat, unobstructed horizon to your west, you might glimpse the elusive planet **Mercury** very low in the early evening twilight for several days in mid-August, after which it disappears into the solar glare. Otherwise, the featured evening planets are the two largest – **Jupiter** and **Saturn**. Yellowish, ringed Saturn appears first – in the southeast shortly after sunset. Bright Jupiter then rises soon after midnight in early August, and by early evening in mid-September. Reddish **Mars** can be spotted well to the east of Jupiter. It's primarily visible after midnight. Brilliant **Venus** peeks up over the eastern horizon shortly before sunrise.

## Skywatching Sessions:

Join us in viewing the sky! For information on Morehead's free public skywatching sessions, please check our web page, <http://moreheadplanetarium.org/skywatching> or call 919-962-1236.

