

CAROLINA SKIES OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 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.

Find your way around the fall sky by searching for geometric shapes: the Summer Triangle setting in the west; the Great Square of Pegasus overhead; the zigzag of Cassiopeia pointing to the North Star, Polaris; and the line of the belt in Orion the Hunter. The V-shaped “back legs” of Pegasus are really the stars of Princess Andromeda and, in a dark sky, can guide you to the Andromeda Galaxy, the Milky Way’s neighbor, which appears as a dim fuzzy oval 2.5 million light years from Earth.

Evenings currently feature the two largest planets of the Solar System, **Saturn** and **Jupiter**. Ringed Saturn shines a pale yellow and can be found in early evening's southern sky. Somewhat to Saturn's east is Jupiter, which is hard to miss due to its brightness. As evening progresses and the two gas giants trek progressively westward, they are followed rather far to their east by **Mars**. The Red Planet rises around 11:00 pm in early October, then by the end of evening twilight in late November. **Mercury** and **Venus**, the two innermost planets, cannot be easily seen now, as both appear close to the Sun's direction as seen from Earth and are largely immersed within the overpoweringly brilliant solar glare.

Watch for a total lunar eclipse in the wee hours before sunrise on November 8 (Election Day!). The visible eclipse begins with the Moon in the west at 4:09 am, with totality starting at 5:16. Totality ends at 6:41 am, ten minutes before moonset.

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.

This chart is useful within one hour of the listed time.

October midnight EDT

November 9 p.m. EST

