

CAROLINA SKIES AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2020

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.

Bright **Jupiter** and yellowish **Saturn** shine somewhat close by each other and high in the southern evening sky soon after sunset, with Jupiter the more luminous and westerly of the pair. The two then trek toward the west throughout the evening, setting after midnight. Bright and reddish **Mars** rises in the east during the evening, moving towards the west and remaining visible until sunrise. Meanwhile, **Venus** is a brilliant beacon in the eastern pre-dawn sky. A crescent moon appears near the planet on August 15 and September 14. **Mercury** is largely drowned out by the glare of the Sun currently.

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:

After it's safe to gather in person again, we'll be back with our free public monthly skywatching sessions. <http://moreheadplanetarium.org/skywatching>

