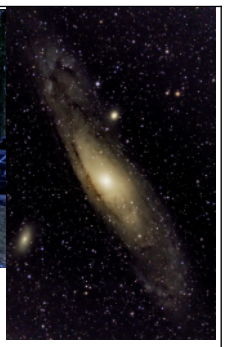






CAPE FEAR Skies

Monthly Newsletter
Cape Fear Astronomical Society
Serving Wilmington, NC and Surrounding Areas

September 2025

Cape Fear Astronomical Society is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

President's Message

by Ben Steelman

I am saddened to report the passing of Ronald B. "Ronnie Hawes," a founding member of CFAS and a longtime president. Ronnie died Aug. 22 at the age of 79. Funeral arrangements are incomplete, but Wilmington Funeral and Cremation is planning the arrangements.

For decades, Ronnie was the face and the voice -- with a deep Southern accent - of amateur astronomy in the Wilmington area. When Comets Hyukatake and Hale-Bopp swooshed by, when Shoemaker-Levy crashed into Jupiter, when the near-total solar eclipse happened in 2017, Ronnie was there to explain what was going on to anyone who would listen, often at great length. He talked to countless Scout troops, Sunday school classes and student groups. His enthusiasm was infectious.

Advancing hearing loss had prevented Ronnie from participating much in recent years, but he closely followed CFAS activities. He was one of our lifetime members.

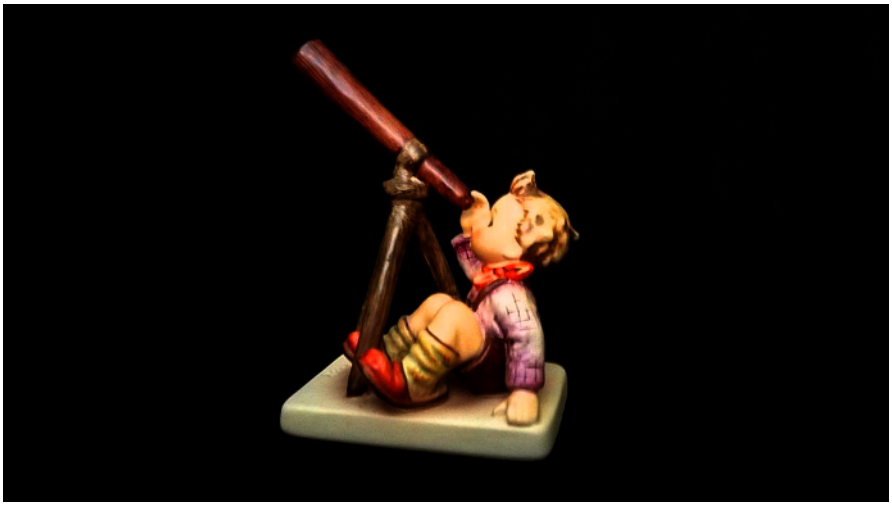
Born March 24, 1946, in Goldsboro, N.C., Ronnie caught the stargazing bug, like many of us, in the early days of the U.S. space program. In 1970, he and Alan Hilburn drove into Duplin County to catch the total solar eclipse.

Ronnie worked for WECT-TV for 45 years, as a cameraman, off-screen technician and graphic artist -- for many years, the station credited him as "Art Director." He had an artistic streak that many of his astronomy friends didn't find out about.

Another passion of Ronnie's was trains. When he played host to the Society Christmas parties, in his house on North 21st Street, one of the treats was checking out his room-sized model train layout. He was an enthusiastic train-spotter and traveled around the state to video railroads in action.

A lifelong bachelor, Ronnie was predeceased by his parents and his two brothers. Survivors include a niece.

Keep Looking Up!



Upcoming Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

07 Full Moon

12 Club Observing @ Club Observatory - 07:00 PM

13 Club Observing @ Club Observatory - 07:00 PM

14 Last Quarter Moon

Sunday, September 14

★ Gastronomy ★ - 5 PM - Watch your email for Location

★ Cape Fear Astro Monthly Meeting ★ 7:00pm – 9:00pm - 212 DeLoach Hall; UNCW

Program: Karl Adlon: Planetary Imaging (Part 2) – plus something else

Also simulcast via Zoom

19 Club Observing @ Club Observatory - 07:00 PM

20 Club Observing @ Club Observatory - 07:00 PM

21 New Moon

22 September (northern autumn) equinox - 18:19 UTC

27 Public Observing at Carolina Beach State Park – starts at sunset

29 First Quarter Moon at First Quarter

Events in the Future

10/4 – **International Observe the Moon Night** at Cape Fear Museum

10/12 - CFAS **Monthly Meeting** - Presentation: Ingram Planetarium Visit

11/1 - **Public Observing** at Carolina Beach State Park

11/8 - CFAS **Monthly Meeting** - Presentation: Frank Rich: “Using Setting Circles”

12/14 - CFAS **Holiday Celebration**

Presentation Coordinator's Report

by Jon Stewart-Taylor

For September: we have “The Software Side of Karl's Planetary Imaging - Part 2”. in which he'll continue what he started two months ago.

The presentations for the rest of the year are:

October: Ingram Planetarium

November: Frank Rich: “Using Setting Circles”

December: Holiday celebration

September Presentation

by Karl Adlon

As Jon said above, I’ll be presenting Part 2. When I told Jon I could do this Topic as a Presentation, I correctly suspected that I could not do it in one session. But, I did cover more than I thought I would in Part 1.

So, Part 2 is just the “leftovers” from Part 1. And then, since I’ll have time, I’ll wander a little bit astray. I think it’ll be OK.

Aquila

by Jon Stewart-Taylor

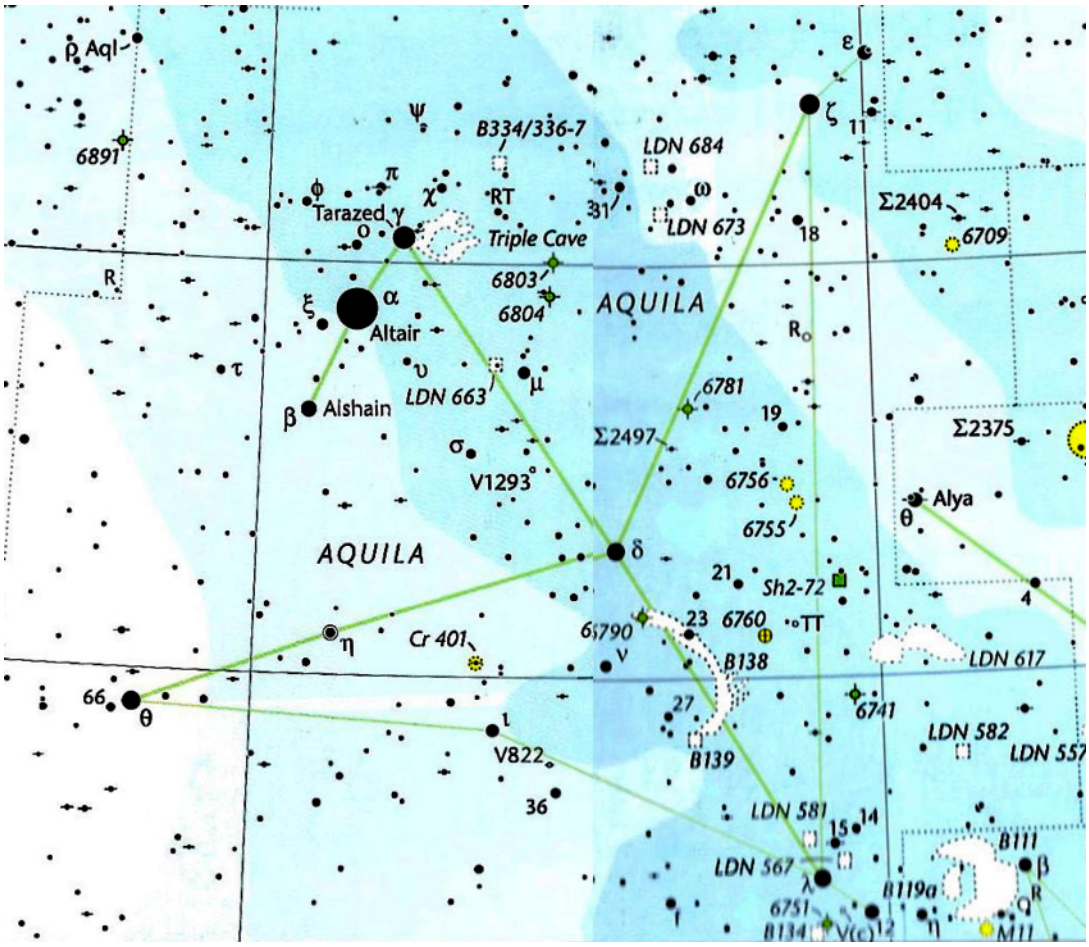
The constellation Aquila (the Eagle) appears in summer, and rises high in August and September. It is one of Ptolomy's 48, and may have represented the eagle which carried the thunderbolts of Zeus (Jupiter, in Roman mythology). The pattern of the stars makes a pretty good bird:

Or, maybe it's a better Pteranodon. In any case, Aquila is probably best known for its brightest star, Altair. Altair is one of three stars which make up the Summer Triangle. The other two are Deneb in Cygnus, and Vega in Lyra.

There are quite a few deep-sky objects in Aquila, in part because it is near the same part of the galaxy which spans from Cygnus down to Sagittarius. However, none of them are really tourist traps, as indicated by the fact there are no Messier objects in Aquila. Lots of NGCs, but even these aren't the most interesting for amateurs with modest scopes. None of them are listed on the Herschel 400 observing program.

That said, there are quite a few planetary nebulae (6741, 6751, 6772, 6778, 6781, 6804), two open Clusters (6709, 6749) and one globular cluster (6760).

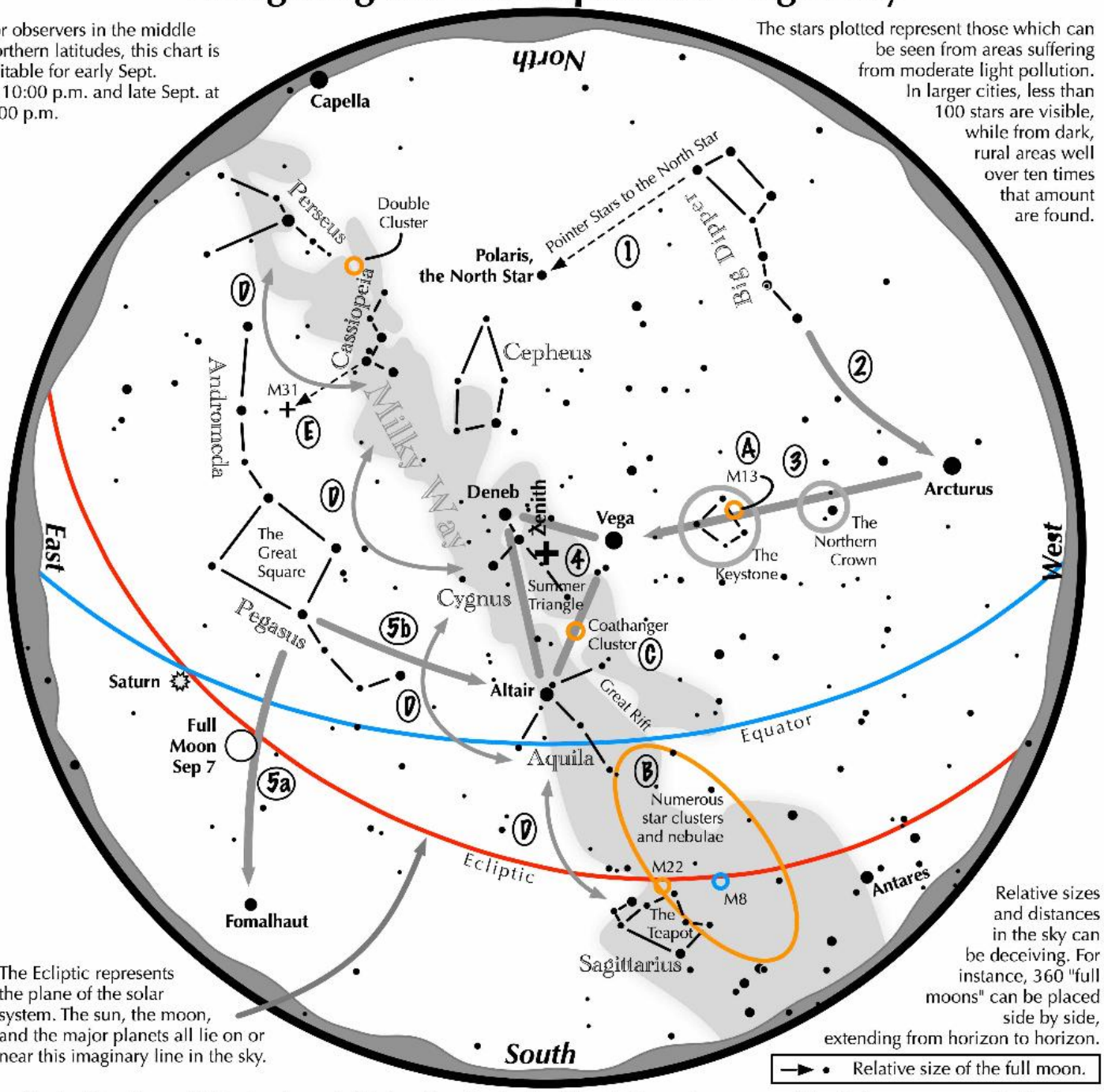
Here's 2 pages merged from S&T's Pocket Sky Atlas – Karl did this:



Navigating the mid September Night Sky

For observers in the middle northern latitudes, this chart is suitable for early Sept. at 10:00 p.m. and late Sept. at 9:00 p.m.

The stars plotted represent those which can be seen from areas suffering from moderate light pollution. In larger cities, less than 100 stars are visible, while from dark, rural areas well over ten times that amount are found.



The Ecliptic represents the plane of the solar system. The sun, the moon, and the major planets all lie on or near this imaginary line in the sky.

Relative sizes and distances in the sky can be deceiving. For instance, 360 "full moons" can be placed side by side, extending from horizon to horizon.

→ • Relative size of the full moon.

Navigating the mid September night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

1. Extend a line north from the two stars at the tip of the Big Dipper's bowl. It passes by Polaris, the North Star.
2. Follow the arc of the Dipper's handle. It intersects Arcturus, the brightest star in the September evening sky.
3. Nearly overhead shines a star of similar brightness as Arcturus, Vega. Draw a line from Arcturus to Vega. It first meets "The Northern Crown," then the "Keystone of Hercules." A dark sky is needed to see these two dim stellar configurations.
4. The stars of the summer triangle, Vega, Altair, and Deneb, shine overhead.
5. The westernmost two stars of the Great Square, which lies high in the east, point south to Fomalhaut. The southernmost two stars point west to Altair.

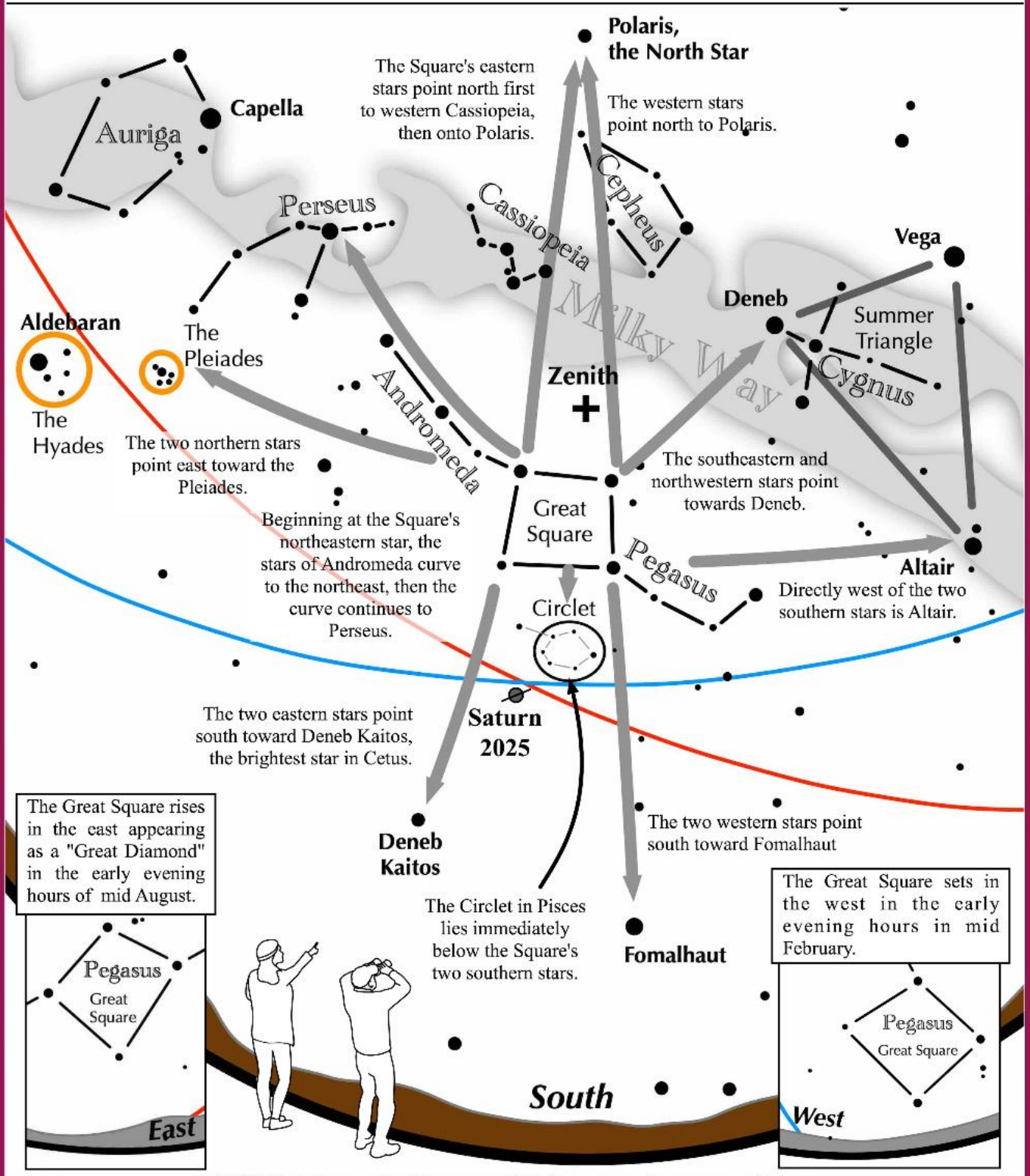
Binocular Highlights

A: On the western side of the Keystone glows the Great Hercules Cluster.
B: Between the bright stars Antares and Altair, hides an area containing many star clusters and nebulae.
C: 40% of the way between Altair and Vega, twinkles the "Coathanger," a group of stars outlining a coathanger.
D: Sweep along the Milky Way for an astounding number of faint glows and dark bays, including the Great Rift.
E: The three westernmost stars of Cassiopeia's "W" point south to M31, the Andromeda Galaxy, a "fuzzy" oval.

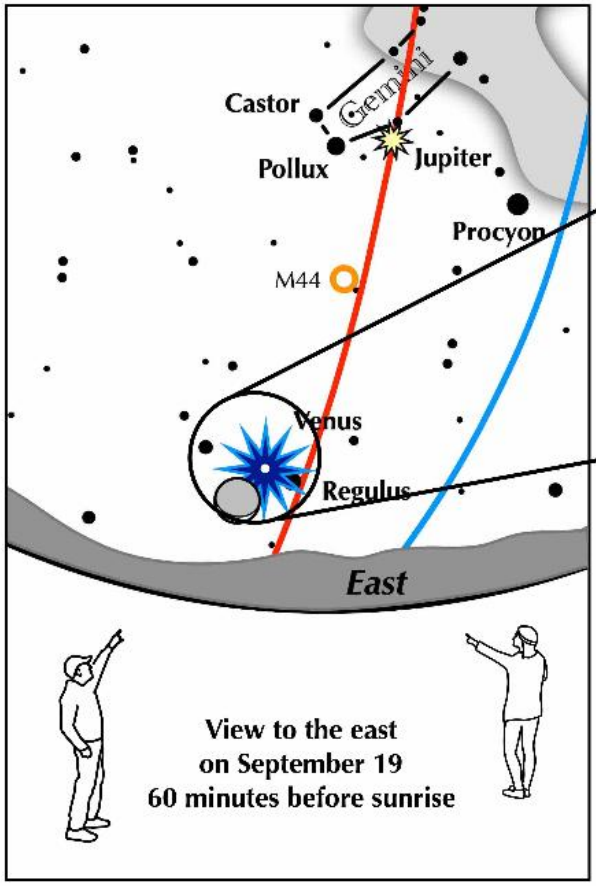
Astronomical League *www.astroleague.org/outreach; duplication is allowed and encouraged for all free distribution.*

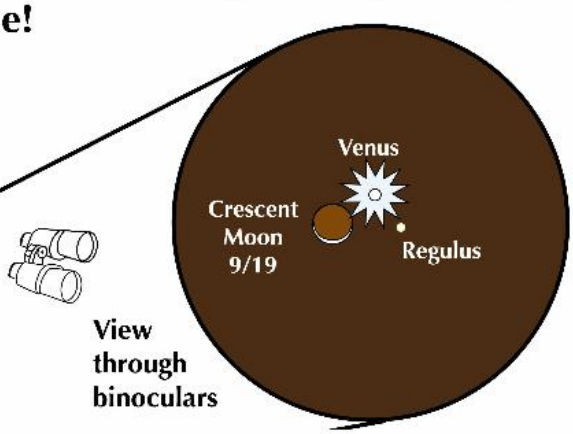
Navigating the mid Autumn Night Sky: Great Square Guide

Befriend these four stars, slightly dimmer than those of the more famous Big Dipper, and they'll guide you on a tour of the Autumn sky.



If you can see only one celestial event in the morning this September, see this one!





Crescent moon meets brilliant Venus and the star Regulus

On the morning of September 19, the crescent moon, full with earthshine, joins brilliant Venus and the brightest star in Leo, Regulus, for a dramatic sight. Look low in the east-northeast 60 minutes before sunrise.

Be sure to use binoculars to cleanly separate this celestial trio!

Above them all shines bright Jupiter, itself forming an attractive isosceles triangle with the twin stars of Gemini, Castor and Pollux. To their lower right shines the bright star Procyon.

Here's the Stellarium view for Sept. 19 at 5:45 AM for our location. -Karl

Get to Know
YOUR Astronomical League

The Astronomical League (Astroleague or AL) is one of the largest amateur astronomical organizations in the world. The organization serves to encourage an interest in astronomy (especially amateur astronomy) and promote the science of astronomy by:

- ✓ *fostering astronomical education;*
- ✓ *providing incentives for astronomical observation and research;*
- ✓ *assisting communication among amateur astronomical societies.*

CFAS is one of over 300 member societies affiliated with the Astroleague. Your membership in CFAS allows you take full advantage of this relationship so periodically review the AL links below to see how the Astroleague can support your astronomical interests and endeavors.

Astroleague Home Page	www.astroleague.org
Astroleague YouTube Channel	https://www.youtube.com/channel/...
AL Observing Programs *(Alphabetical Listing)*	https://www.astroleague.org/alphabeticobserving/
Night Sky Tools	https://www.astroleague.org/navigating-the-night-sky-guides/
Astroleague Store	https://store.astroleague.org/
Current and Past Issues of *Reflector Magazine*	https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/
AL Related News, Information and Reminders	Information: Click HERE for the Astroleague News Page and be sure to check the Astroleague Home Page weekly for new and important posts. Contact Hank Lyon, hlyon8448@gmail.com, for any changes to your Reflector delivery preferences (US Mail, Email or Both).

CFAS Correspondence:
Please contact the society at: CFAS, P.O. Box 7685, Wilmington, NC 28406

Cape Fear Astronomical Society is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

CFAS Officers:

President:	Ben Steelman
Vice-Pres:	Jon Stewart-Taylor
Associate VP	Karl Adlon
Secretary:	George Pappayliou
Treasurer:	Bill Cooper
ALCor	Hank Lyon

Dues: Dues for 2025 are $25 for Individual and $32 for Family Membership. Students dues are $5 per year.
Mail to: CFAS, P.O. Box 7685, Wilmington, NC 28406
Or you can pay electronically by following this link: https://www.capefearastro.org/payment.htm

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