Skywatchers

Newsletter of the China Lake Astronomical Society

S E P T E M B E R 1 4 T H , 2 0 2 6 C L A S M E E T I N G 7 : 3 0

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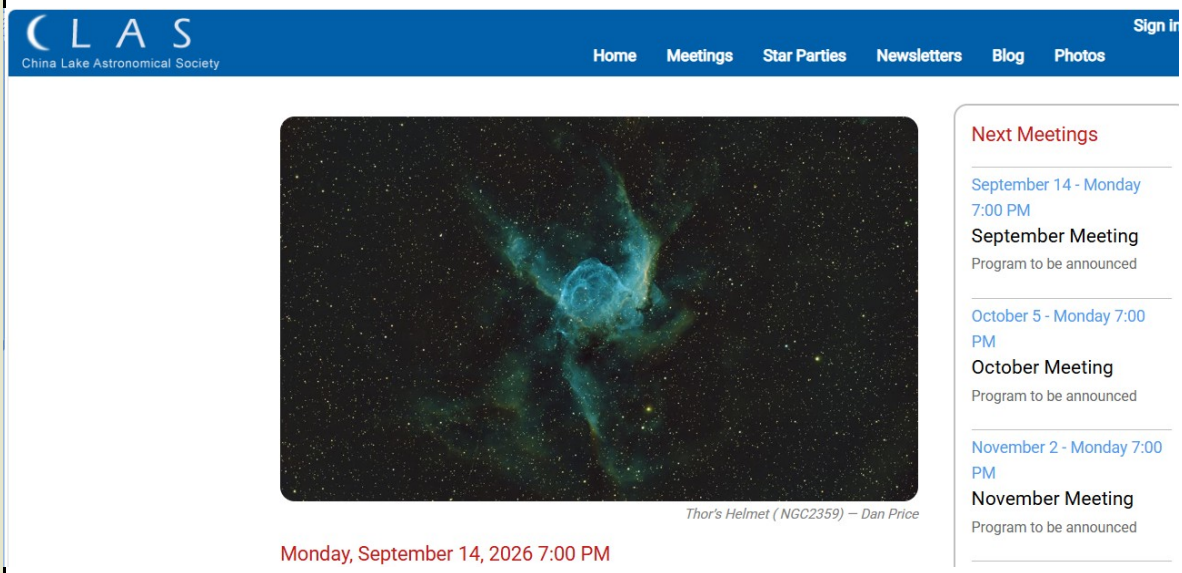
Monday, September 14, 2026 7:00 PM

Refreshments: 7:00 PM Announcements : 7:30 Program: 7:45 Program



Maturango Museum

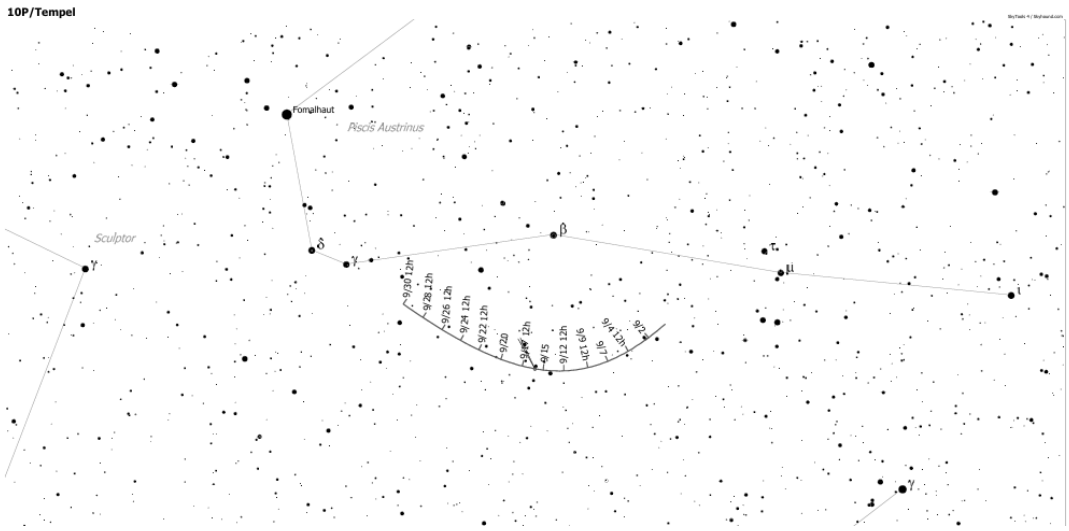
Meetings and programs are open to the public, and are held at Maturango Museum on the first Monday of every month (or the following Monday for holidays).

10P/Tempel: An evening comet visible in binoculars at a dark site

This comet begins the month in Piscis Austrinus at magnitude 9.1. Look for a 5' coma, center much brighter than edges, though still diffuse. It should fade rapidly. The best visibility is early in the month as seen from the southern hemisphere. **FINDER CHART**

Visibility of 10P/Tempel by latitude, September 2026

Latitude	Visibility
55° N	Not perceptible.
40° N	Perceptible in a 4-inch (10 cm) telescope from a dark site near midnight from the 1st/2nd through the 14th/15th, low in the south throughout. In a 6-inch (15 cm) telescope it is perceptible from the 1st/2nd through the 19th/20th.
Equator	Perceptible in binoculars from a dark site near midnight from the 1st/2nd through the 7th/8th. In a 4-inch (10 cm) telescope it is easy from the 1st/2nd through the 3rd/4th, then perceptible through the 21st/22nd.
30° S	Perceptible in binoculars from a dark site near midnight from the 1st/2nd through the 9th/10th. In a 4-inch (10 cm) telescope it is easy from the 1st/2nd through the 5th/6th, then perceptible through the 21st/22nd, then on the 28th/29th.

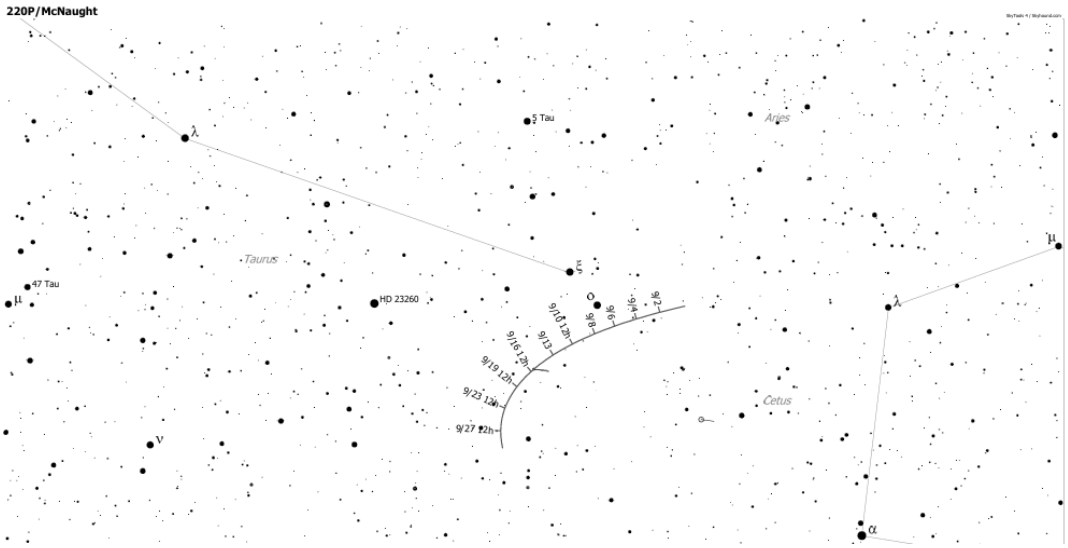


220P/McNaught: A morning comet visible in small telescopes at a dark site

This comet begins the month in Cetus at magnitude 10.4. Look for a 3.5' coma, diffuse condensation at center. It had a significant outburst on August 6 and is still fading by about one magnitude every 6 days. We expect it to settle at about 13th magnitude by mid month. Because we can't easily model it as it fades from the outburst we are only including predictions for the first half of the month. It will probably require a larger telescope by then. It will move into Taurus by month's end. The best visibility is early in the month. **FINDER CHART**

Visibility of 220P/McNaught by latitude, September 2026

Latitude	Visibility
55° N	Perceptible in a 4-inch (10 cm) telescope from a dark site from the 4th/5th.
40° N	Perceptible in a 4-inch (10 cm) telescope from a dark site in the pre-dawn sky starting on the 5th.
Equator	Perceptible in a 4-inch (10 cm) telescope from a dark site from the 4th/5th. In a 6-inch (15 cm) telescope it is perceptible from the 3rd/4th through the 6th/7th.
30° S	Perceptible in a 4-inch (10 cm) telescope from a dark site styarting on the 3rd/4th.



The Summer Triangle — 3 stars, 1 seasonal mystery

The Summer Triangle and meteors photographed on August 12, 2021,
(Image credit: davidhajnal via Getty Images)

The Summer Triangle dominates the night sky long after summer begins to fade. So what makes Vega, Altair and Deneb a distinctly summer sight? On clear September evenings, I often find myself looking up just after dusk, expecting the sky to feel a little less like summer. Yet there, still commanding the overhead darkness, are Vega, Altair, and Deneb — the three brilliant stars of the famous Summer Triangle. Their familiar pattern can make the season feel as though it is lingering above us, even as cooler nights and earlier sunsets suggest otherwise. In fact, even as late as mid-November, the Triangle is still nearly overhead soon after sunset at dusk. That contrast raises a simple but intriguing question: if this bright celestial landmark remains so prominent well into autumn, why do we still call it the Summer Triangle?

Why not simply call it the Autumn Triangle?

The answer lies not in the calendar, but in how the Triangle moves across the sky over the course of a summer night. The chief reason is that, at this time of year, the Triangle does not remain visible all night. By dawn, it has begun to drop beyond the west-northwest horizon. During summer, by contrast, it remains with us from dusk until dawn: already evident in the east-northeast at nightfall, near overhead around the middle of the night, and descending in the west-northwest as daybreak approaches. The stars that compose the Triangle — Vega, Altair, and Deneb — lie at very unequal distances from us, so their apparent brightness can give a misleading impression of their true luminosity. The closest of the three is Altair, 16.7 light-years away, followed by Vega at 25 light-years. Deneb, however, is vastly farther off, at roughly 1,600 light-years, though various sources place it between 1,400 and 2,600 light-years. Even though we see Deneb by light that may have begun its journey during the last days of the Roman Empire, it still shines at first magnitude (+1.3, to be exact) because it is a brilliant blue supergiant, at least 55,000 times brighter than the sun. But their apparent superiority is largely a consequence of distance: Vega and Altair are only a few dozen light-years away, while Deneb lies well over a thousand light-years from Earth. Compared with the stellar lighthouse of Deneb, Vega and Altair are, comparatively speaking, penlight flashlights. Before continuing with this discussion about the Summer Triangle, it is worth pausing briefly on the pronunciation of Vega, a point that became especially noticeable after the 1997 science fiction drama *Contact*. Based on Carl Sagan's 1985 novel, the film follows astronomer Dr. Ellie Arroway, played by actress Jodie Foster, as she discovers a radio signal from Vega containing a sequence of prime numbers.

Who Named The Summer Triangle

There has long been debate over who first christened the bright stellar trio of Vega, Deneb, and Altair as the Summer Triangle. Some credit the legendary British astronomer Sir Patrick Moore (1923—2012), who wrote, "During a 1958 television broadcast on the BBC, I introduced the nickname of the Summer Triangle, and everyone now seems to use the term, even though it is completely unofficial." Yet several years earlier, in his 1952 sky guide, The Stars — A New Way to See Them, H.A. Rey (1898—1977) referred to the three stars as a "right triangle," and in his 1954 children's book, Find the Constellations

Rey used the Summer Triangle moniker. Still others believe the term was popularized through U.S. navigator training manuals during World War II. Interestingly, astronomer Oswald Thomas (1882—1963) described Vega, Altair, and Deneb as "Grosses Dreieck" ("Great Triangle") in the late 1920s and as "Sommerliches Dreieck" ("Summerly Triangle") in 1934.***Author Joe Rao serves as an instructor*** *and guest lecturer at New York's Hayden Planetarium. He writes about astronomy for Natural History magazine, Sky and Telescope, The Old Farmer's Almanac and other publications. Source:* The Summer Triangle — 3 stars, 1 seasonal mystery | Space

These strange celestial objects have been hiding in plain sight for decades

MACS J0416 galaxy cluster.

NASA/CXC/SAO/G. Ogrean et al. (*x-ray*); Hubble/NASA/ESA/STScI (*optical/infrared*); JWST/NASA/ESA/CSA/STScI/Jose M. Diego/ IFCA/Jordan C. J. D'Silva/UWA/Anton M. Koekemoer/STScI/Jake Summers/ASU/Rogier Windhorst/ASU/Haojing Yan/University of Missouri (*infrared*

It's unclear what these objects actually are, but evidence for them has been detected by NASA's Chandra space telescope for years

In a galaxy far, far away, strange objects beam radiation out into space. For years, these weird bodies have been hiding in plain sight—but now new observations reveal they may be key to understanding the lives and deaths of galaxies.

For decades, NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory has been picking up the signal of these objects, but scientists had largely ignored the data. The radiation the objects emit is relatively low-energy compared with that of most stars, making it easy to dismiss as noise. "[Scientists] didn't even know the objects were there," says Jimmy Irwin, a professor at the University of Alabama and a co-author of a new paper published in *Nature Astronomy* that describes the odd objects. "They ignored the very, very lowest-energy channels because they thought they were unimportant."

Irwin and his colleagues, Ph.D. candidate Mustafa Muhibullah and Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian lecturer Rosanne Di Stefano, didn't anticipate that they would find anything of note when they decided to go through the overlooked data just in case. Irwin compares the process to diving for treasure: you might find a long-lost gem, but you are far more likely to find a bunch of garbage.

The three scoured data collected by the Chandra space telescope between 1999 and 2017 and painstakingly filtered out any random artifacts and other junk. They were left with the signatures of emissions of low-energy x-rays coming from what they call "hypersoft x-ray sources," a new type of celestial object.

But what exactly these objects are is a bit of a mystery because all that's known about them is roughly how bright and hot they are.

"They must be compact objects that are the remnants of stars," Di Stefano says, "either black holes, neutron stars or white dwarfs, that are ripping material from the companion. And as the material falls, it emits at x-ray wavelengths."

They could also be a mixture of all of the above, Irwin says.

"They're probably a heterogeneous mix of different types of objects," he says. "A hypersoft source isn't necessarily a type of object but a representation of what kind of energy is coming out."Source: Astronomers reveal a new type of celestial object that has been hiding in plain sight for decades | Scientific American

MACS J0416.1−2403 or MACS0416 abbreviated, is a cluster of galaxies at a redshift of z=0.397 with a mass 160 trillion times the mass of the Sun inside 200 kpc (650 kly). Its mass extends out to a radius of 950 kpc (3,100 kly) and was measured as 1.15×10^{15} solar masses.[2] The system was discovered[3] in images taken by the Hubble Space Telescope during the Massive Cluster Survey, MACS.[4] This cluster causes gravitational lensing of distant galaxies producing multiple images.[5][6] Based on the distribution of the multiple image copies, scientists have been able to deduce and map the distribution of dark matter.[7][8] The images, released in 2014,[9] were used in the Cluster Lensing And Supernova survey with Hubble (CLASH) to help scientists peer back in time at the early Universe and to discover the distribution of dark matter.[10]

> MACS J0416.1−2403 contains a significant amount of dark matter, which leaves a detectable imprint in visible light by distorting the images of background galaxies.[11]
>
> > Galaxy cluster MACS J0416.1−2403 is one of six being studied by the Hubble Frontier Fields programme.[13]

China Lake Astronomical Society
Membership or Renewal 2025

Name:_____

Address:_____

City, State, Zip:_____

Phone:_____Email:_____

Yearly Membership $ 25 (*due in January*) Family $ 40 Youth 18 & under $ 10.
Checks or Money Orders accepted _____

Contact Roger Brower 760-446-0454 (email brower@iwvisp.com)
Make Checks or Money Orders Payable to China Lake Astronomical Society.(CLAS)

Roger Brower, Treasurer
China Lake Astronomical Society
P.O. Box 1783

Brown Road Star Party Location

Dark Sky star parties are held on BLM land off Brown Road (Old Hwy 395) south of Ridgecrest.

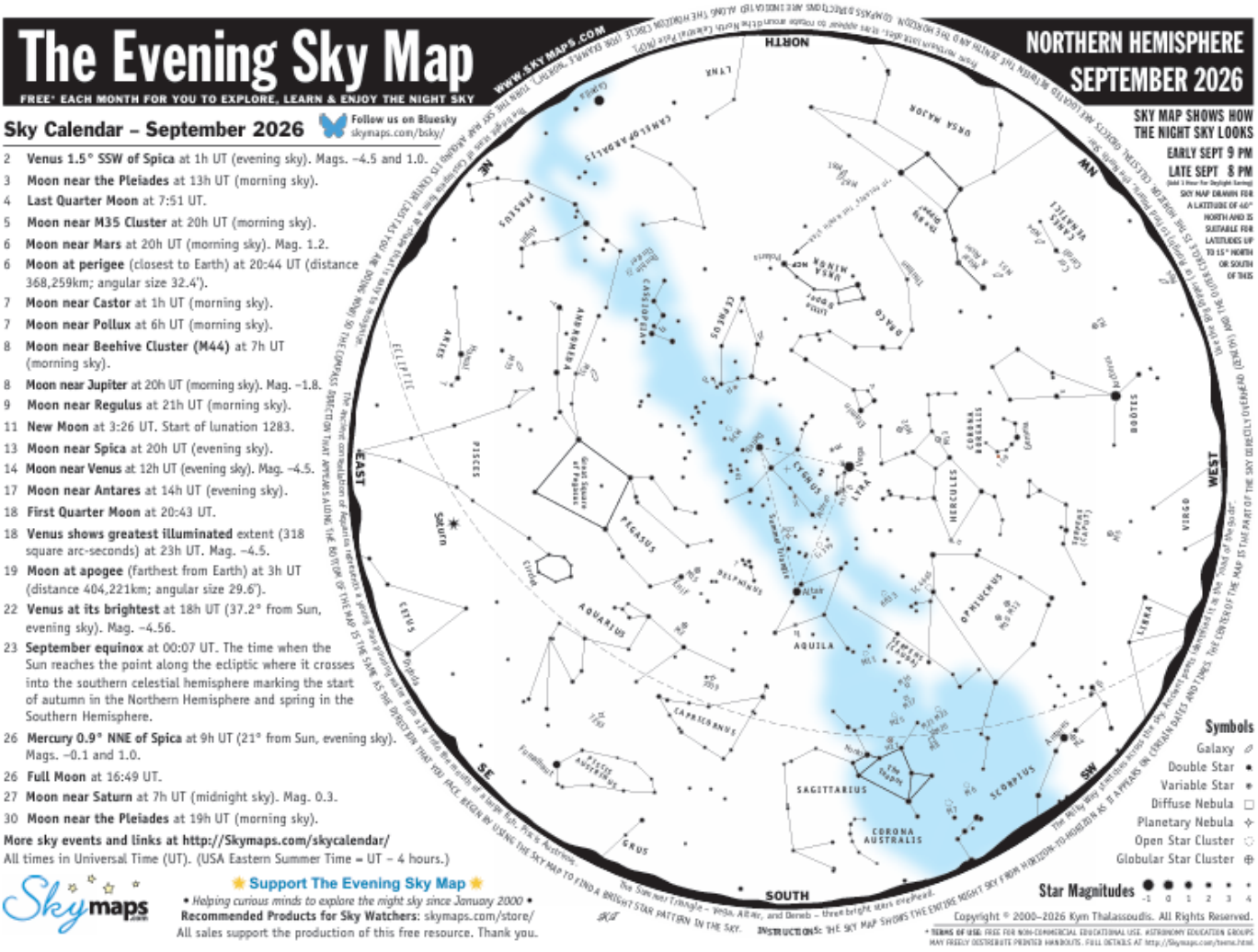
The dirt road should not be a problem for cars.

From the intersection of China Lake Blvd and Hwy 395, cross 395 to Brown Rd and continue 2.3 mi.

Look for an orange cone and turn here to the left.

Follow this dirt road 0.4 mi. to the star party location.

NOTE: After dark, please **avoid using car bright headlights.** At the location, use a red flashlight or other dim light pointed down.


The Evening Sky Map
FREE* EACH MONTH FOR YOU TO EXPLORE, LEARN & ENJOY THE NIGHT SKY
WWW.SKYMAPS.COM
NORTHERN HEMISPHERE
SEPTEMBER 2026
Sky Calendar – September 2026
Follow us on Bluesky
skymaps.com/bsky/
2 Venus 1.5° SSW of Spica at 1h UT (evening sky). Mags. –4.5 and 1.0.
3 Moon near the Pleiades at 13h UT (morning sky).
4 Last Quarter Moon at 7:51 UT.
5 Moon near M35 Cluster at 20h UT (morning sky).
6 Moon near Mars at 20h UT (morning sky). Mag. 1.2.
6 Moon at perigee (closest to Earth) at 20:44 UT (distance 368,259km; angular size 32.4').
7 Moon near Castor at 1h UT (morning sky).
7 Moon near Pollux at 6h UT (morning sky).
8 Moon near Beehive Cluster (M44) at 7h UT (morning sky).
8 Moon near Jupiter at 20h UT (morning sky). Mag. –1.8.
9 Moon near Regulus at 21h UT (morning sky).
11 New Moon at 3:26 UT. Start of lunation 1283.
13 Moon near Spica at 20h UT (evening sky).
14 Moon near Venus at 12h UT (evening sky). Mag. –4.5.
17 Moon near Antares at 14h UT (evening sky).
18 First Quarter Moon at 20:43 UT.
18 Venus shows greatest illuminated extent (318 square arc-seconds) at 23h UT. Mag. –4.5.
19 Moon at apogee (farthest from Earth) at 3h UT (distance 404,221km; angular size 29.6').
22 Venus at its brightest at 18h UT (37.2° from Sun, evening sky). Mag. –4.56.
23 September equinox at 00:07 UT. The time when the Sun reaches the point along the ecliptic where it crosses into the southern celestial hemisphere marking the start of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere and spring in the Southern Hemisphere.
26 Mercury 0.9° NNE of Spica at 9h UT (21° from Sun, evening sky). Mags. –0.1 and 1.0.
26 Full Moon at 16:49 UT.
27 Moon near Saturn at 7h UT (midnight sky). Mag. 0.3.
30 Moon near the Pleiades at 19h UT (morning sky).
More sky events and links at http://Skymaps.com/skycalendar/
All times in Universal Time (UT). (USA Eastern Summer Time = UT – 4 hours.)
SKY MAP SHOWS HOW THE NIGHT SKY LOOKS
EARLY SEPT 9 PM
LATE SEPT 8 PM
NORTH
EAST
SOUTH
WEST
Saturn
Symbols
Galaxy
Double Star
Variable Star
Diffuse Nebula
Planetary Nebula
Open Star Cluster
Globular Star Cluster
Star Magnitudes
Support The Evening Sky Map
• Helping curious minds to explore the night sky since January 2000 •
Recommended Products for Sky Watchers: skymaps.com/store/
All sales support the production of this free resource. Thank you.
Skymaps
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Neptune
Type: planet
Magnitude: 7.81 (after extinction: 8.23)
Absolute Magnitude: 32.08
RA/Dec (J2000.0): 0h11m51.50s/-0°15'47.5"
RA/Dec (on date): 0h13m13.19s/-0°06'55.4"
Hour angle/DE: 19h28m24.35s/-0°05'02.7" (apparent)
Az/Alt: +103°22'37.3"/+17°45'26.4" (apparent)
Ecliptic longitude/latitude (J2000.0): +2°36'56.5"/-1°25'13.1"
Ecliptic longitude/latitude (on date): +2°59'13.2"/-1°25'11.0"
Ecliptic obliquity (on date): +23°26'09"
Galactic longitude/latitude: +101°49'19.7"/-61°30'07.5"
Mean Sidereal Time: 19h41m27.3s
Apparent Sidereal Time:. 19h41m27.8s
Distance from Sun: 29.878AU (4469.702 Mio km)
Distance: 28.876AU (4319.744 Mio km)
Apparent diameter: +0°00'02.4", with rings: +0°00'06.0"
Sidereal period: 60189.00 days (164.789 a)
Sidereal day: 16h6m36.0s
Mean solar day: 16h6m36.6s
Phase Angle: +0°02'52"
Elongation: +178°34'34"
Phase: 1.00
Illuminated: 100.0%
Andromedids
Moon
Northern Taurids
Saturn
Neptune is at Opposition on September 25th
Southern Taurids
Autumn Arietids
E
S
Earth, Ridgecrest, 702m
FOV 98.9°
11 FPS
2026-09-25 20:12:21 UTC-07:00

About the Celestial Objects

Listed on this page are several of the brighter, more interesting celestial objects visible in the evening sky this month (refer to the monthly sky map). The objects are grouped into three categories. Those that can be easily seen with the naked eye (that is, without optical aid), those easily seen with binoculars, and those requiring a telescope to be appreciated. **Note, all of the objects (except single stars) will appear more impressive when viewed through a telescope or very large binoculars.** They are grouped in this way to highlight objects that can be seen using the optical equipment that may be available to the star gazer.

Tips for Observing the Night Sky

When observing the night sky, and in particular deep-sky objects such as star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies, it's always best to observe from a dark location. Avoid direct light from street lights and other sources. If possible observe from a dark location away from the light pollution that surrounds many of today's large cities.

You will see more stars after your eyes adapt to the darkness—usually about 10 to 20 minutes after you go outside. Also, if you need to use a torch to view the sky map, cover the light bulb with red cellophane. This will preserve your dark vision.

Finally, even though the Moon is one of the most stunning objects to view through a telescope, its light is so bright that it brightens the sky and makes many of the fainter objects very difficult to see. So try to observe the evening sky on moonless nights around either New Moon or Last Quarter.

Astronomical Glossary

Conjunction – An alignment of two celestial bodies such that they present the least angular separation as viewed from Earth.

Constellation – A defined area of the sky containing a star pattern.

Diffuse Nebula – A cloud of gas illuminated by nearby stars.

Double Star – Two stars that appear close to each other in the sky; either linked by gravity so that they orbit each other (binary star) or lying at different distances from Earth (optical double). Apparent separation of stars is given in seconds of arc (").

Ecliptic – The path of the Sun's center on the celestial sphere as seen from Earth.

Elongation – The angular separation of two celestial bodies. For Mercury and Venus the greatest elongation occurs when they are at their most angular distance from the Sun as viewed from Earth.

Galaxy – A mass of up to several billion stars held together by gravity.

Globular Star Cluster – A ball-shaped group of several thousand old stars.

Light Year (ly) – The distance a beam of light travels at 300,000 km/sec in one year.

Magnitude – The brightness of a celestial object as it appears in the sky.

Open Star Cluster – A group of tens or hundreds of relatively young stars.

Opposition – When a celestial body is opposite the Sun in the sky.

Planetary Nebula – The remnants of a shell of gas blown off by a star.

Universal Time (UT) – A time system used by astronomers. Also known as Greenwich Mean Time. USA Eastern Standard Time (for example, New York) is 5 hours behind UT.

Variable Star – A star that changes brightness over a period of time.

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE SEPTEMBER 2026 CELESTIAL OBJECTS

Skymaps.com

Easily Seen with the Naked Eye

Altair	Aql	★	Brightest star in Aquila. Name means "the flying eagle". Dist=16.7 ly.
Capella	Aur	★	The 6th brightest star. Appears yellowish in color. Spectroscopic binary. Dist=42 ly.
Arcturus	Boo	★	Orange, giant K star. Name means "bear watcher". Dist=36.7 ly.
δ Cephei	Cep	◔	Cepheid prototype. Mag varies between 3.5 & 4.4 over 5.366 days. Mag 6 companion.
Deneb	Cyg	★	Brightest star in Cygnus. One of the greatest known supergiants. Dist=1,400±200 ly.
α Herculis	Her	◔	Semi-regular variable. Magnitude varies between 3.1 & 3.9 over 90 days. Mag 5.4 companion.
Vega	Lyr	★	The 5th brightest star in the sky. A blue-white star. Dist=25.0 ly.
Algol	Per	◔	Famous eclipsing binary star. Magnitude varies between 2.1 & 3.4 over 2.867 days.
Fomalhaut	PsA	★	Brightest star in Piscis Austrinus. In Arabic the "fish's mouth". Dist=25 ly.
Antares	Sco	★	Red, supergiant star. Name means "rival of Mars". Dist=135.9 ly.
Polaris	UMi	★	The North Pole Star. A telescope reveals an unrelated mag 8 companion star. Dist=433 ly.

Easily Seen with Binoculars

M31	And	⌀	The Andromeda Galaxy. Most distant object visible to naked eye. Dist=2.93 million ly.
M2	Aqr	⊕	Resembles a fuzzy star in binoculars.
η Aquilae	Aql	◔	Bright Cepheid variable. Mag varies between 3.6 & 4.5 over 7.166 days. Dist=1,200 ly.
M3	CVn	⊕	Easy to find in binoculars. Might be glimpsed with the naked eye.
μ Cephei	Cep	★	Herschel's Garnet Star. One of the reddest stars. Mag 3.4 to 5.1 over 730 days.
χ Cygni	Cyg	◔	Long period pulsating red giant. Magnitude varies between 3.3 & 14.2 over 407 days.
M39	Cyg	○	May be visible to the naked eye under good conditions. Dist=900 ly.
ν Draconis	Dra	★	Wide pair of white stars. One of the finest binocular pairs in the sky. Dist=100 ly.
M13	Her	⊕	Best globular in northern skies. Discovered by Halley in 1714. Dist=23,000 ly.
M92	Her	⊕	Fainter and smaller than M13. Use a telescope to resolve its stars.
ε Lyrae	Lyr	★	Famous Double Double. Binoculars show a double star. High power reveals each a double.
R Lyrae	Lyr	◔	Semi-regular variable. Magnitude varies between 3.9 & 5.0 over 46.0 days.
M10	Oph	⊕	3 degrees from the fainter M12. Both may be glimpsed in binoculars. Dist=14,000 ly.
IC 4665	Oph	○	Large, scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.
6633	Oph	○	Scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.
M15	Peg	⊕	Only globular known to contain a planetary nebula (Mag 14, d=1"). Dist=30,000 ly.
Double Cluster	Per	○	Double Cluster in Perseus. NGC 869 & 884. Excellent in binoculars. Dist=7,300 ly.
M8	Sgr	□	Lagoon Nebula. Bright nebula bisected by a dark lane. Dist=5,200 ly.
M25	Sgr	○	Bright cluster located about 6 deg N of "teapot's" lid. Dist=1,900 ly.
M22	Sgr	⊕	A spectacular globular star cluster. Telescope will show stars. Dist=10,000 ly.
M6	Sco	○	Butterfly Cluster. 30+ stars in 7x binoculars. Dist=1,960 ly.
M7	Sco	○	Superb open cluster. Visible to the naked eye. Age=260 million years. Dist=780 ly.
Mizar & Alcor	UMa	★	Good eyesight or binoculars reveals 2 stars. Not a binary. Mizar has a mag 4 companion.
Cr 399	Vul	○	Coathanger asterism or "Brocchi's Cluster". Not a true star cluster. Dist=218 to 1,140 ly.

Telescopic Objects

γ Andromedae	And	★	Attractive double star. Bright orange star with mag 5 blue companion. Sep=9.8".
7009	Aqr	✧	Saturn Nebula. Requires 8-inch telescope to see Saturn-like appendages.
7293	Aqr	✧	Helix Nebula. Spans nearly 1/4 deg. Requires dark sky. Dist=300 ly.
γ Arietis	Ari	★	Impressive looking double blue-white star. Visible in a small telescope. Sep=7.8".
ε Boötis	Boo	★	Red giant star (mag 2.5) with a blue-green mag 4.9 companion. Sep=2.8". Difficult to split.
M51	CVn	⌀	Whirlpool Galaxy. First recognised to have spiral structure. Dist=25 million ly.
η Cassiopeiae	Cas	★	Yellow star mag 3.4 & orange star mag 7.5. Dist=19 ly. Orbit=480 years. Sep=12".
Albireo	Cyg	★	Beautiful double star. Contrasting colours of orange and blue-green. Sep=34.4".
61 Cygni	Cyg	★	Attractive double star. Mags 5.2 & 6.1 orange dwarfs. Dist=11.4 ly. Sep=28.4".
γ Delphini	Del	★	Appear yellow & white. Mags 4.3 & 5.2. Dist=100 ly. Struve 2725 double in same field.
β Lyrae	Lyr	◔	Eclipsing binary. Mag varies between 3.3 & 4.3 over 12.940 days. Fainter mag 7.2 blue star.
M57	Lyr	✧	Ring Nebula. Magnificent object. Smoke-ring shape. Dist=4,100 ly.
M20	Sgr	□	Trifid Nebula. A telescope shows 3 dust lanes trisecting nebula. Dist=5,200 ly.
M17	Sgr	□	Omega Nebula. Contains the star cluster NGC 6618. Dist=4,900 ly.
M11	Sct	○	Wild Duck Cluster. Resembles a globular through binoculars. V-shaped. Dist=5,600 ly.
M16	Ser	□	Eagle Nebula. Requires a telescope of large aperture. Dist=8,150 ly.
M33	Tri	⌀	Fine face-on spiral galaxy. Requires a large aperture telescope. Dist=2.3 million ly.
M27	Vul	✧	Dumbbell Nebula. Large, twin-lobed shape. Most spectacular planetary. Dist=975 ly.

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SEPTEMBER CELESTIAL CALENDAR

2 Venus passes 1.7 deg south of Spica, 8 P.M. PST

3 The Moon passes 5 deg north of Uranus, 4 P.M. PST

4 Last Quarter Moon occurs at 12:51 A.M. PST

6 The Moon passes 3 deg north of Mars, 11:00 A.M. PST

6 The Moon is at perigee (228,825 miles from Earth) 1:43 P.M. PST

8 The Moon passes 0.8 deg north of Jupiter 11 A.M. PST

9 The Moon passes 0.6 deg south of Regulus 1:00 P.M. PST

10 Uranus is stationary 11:00 A.M. PST

10 New Moon occurs at 11:27 A.M. PST

14 The Moon passes 0.5 deg north of Venus, 3:00 A.M. PST

17 The Moon passes 0.6 deg south of Antares, 6 A.M. PST

18 First Quarter Moon occurs at 1:44 P.M. PST

18 Venus is at greatest brilliancy (magnitude –4.8) 6 P.M. PST

18 The Moon is at apogee (251,171 miles from Earth), 8:00 P.M. PST

17 Mars passes 6 deg south of Pollux, 9 P.M. PST

22 Autumnal equinox occurs at 5:05 P.M. PST

25 Mercury passes 1.0 north of Spica, 6:00 P.M. PST

25 Neptune is at opposition, 7 P.M. PST

26 Full Moon occurs at 9:49 P.M. PST

26 The Moon passes 5 deg north of Neptune, 12:00 P.M. PST

27 The Moon passes 7 deg north of Saturn 5:00 A.M. PST

29 The Moon passes 5 deg north of Uranus 9:00 P.M. PST

2026 New Moons

- September 10th, 2026
- October 10th, 2026
- Nov 08th, 2026
- Dec 08th, 2026

Star Parties for Red Rock Ricardo Station

Sept 12th, 2026 (Tentative)

Oct 10th, 2026 (Tentative)

Nov 12th, 2026 (Tentative)

Brown Road Star Party

Sept 11 th

Oct 09th

Nov 11th

Quarter Moon Star Party

September 19th 8:00 P.M.

Maturango Museum

October 2 - Friday 6:00 PM
Cerro Coso College Astronomical Star Party
and Barbeque

Club Information

Monthly Skywatchers Newsletter.

Our newsletter is sent by email once a month to those who have subscribed. You do not have to be a member. Subscribe at a meeting or online at ChinaLakeAstro.org/subscribe

Annual Membership Dues

- Individual $25.00 per year.
- Family $ 40
- Youth 18 & under $10

Officers

PRESIDENT – Ralph Paonessa

VICE-PRESIDENT – Keith Weisz

SECRETARY – Debra Pio

TREASURER – Roger Brower

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Ted Hodgkinson ghodkinson@sbcglobal.net

Club Information

Meetings of the China Lake Astronomical Society are held at the Maturango Museum 7:00 P.M. on the first Monday evening of each month, except when the first Monday is a holiday.

WESTERN AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS WEB SITE http://www.waastro.org/