



Evening sky in JUNE 2014

The winter solstice is on 21 June. As winter progresses, the Scorpion (Scorpius) followed by the Archer (Sagittarius) rises higher. The Southern Cross (Crux) appears in an upright position above the southern horizon. The two bright stars "pointing" to the top of the Cross are Alpha and Beta Centauri. Alpha Centauri, furthest from the Cross, is the star closest to our Solar System at a distance of 4.37 light years away (approx. 40 million million kilometres). Above the south-western horizon are three constellations - the Sails (Vela), the Keel (Carina) and the Rear Deck (Puppis) - all part of Argo, the mythological ship. Four bright stars straddling Carina and Puppis form the False Cross. The bright star in the north, Arcturus, can be used to find the Herdsman (Boötes), while Altair indicates the position of the Eagle (Aquila) to the east. Regulus is the bright "heart" star of the Lion (Leo) in the northwest.

The crescent Moon appears close to planet Jupiter (in Gemini) early in the evening on 1 June. Watch as Saturn (in Libra) is occulted (obscured) by the Moon, early evening on 10 June.

The Moon is in the evening sky until 15 June.