



Evening sky in OCTOBER 2014

The bright star Fomalhaut in the constellation of Piscis Austrinus (Southern Fish) is almost directly overhead. The star's name is derived from the Arabic, *fum al-hawt*, meaning "the mouth of the Fish". Towards the south-western horizon are two bright stars known as the Pointers, "pointing" almost vertically down to the Southern Cross (Crux). Extend the long axis of the Cross to reach Achernar, the bright star high above the south-eastern horizon that marks the mouth of the River, Eridanus. Achernar's name is also from Arabic, *Al Ahir al Nahr*, meaning "the End of the River". To the north is the bright star Altair in Aquila (Eagle). The name Altair is derived from an Arabic term meaning "the Flying Eagle".

Planet Saturn is in the constellation of Libra (Scales). On 19 October comet Spring Siding passes extremely close to planet Mars (around 130 000 km). To avoid possible damage caused by high velocity dust particles from the comet's tail, NASA has adjusted the path of its spacecraft currently orbiting Mars. Later in the month, Mars moves from Ophiuchus (Serpent Bearer) into Sagittarius.

The Moon is in the evening sky until 9 October and again after 26 October.