



Evening sky in OCTOBER 2015

Fomalhaut, the brightest star in the constellation Piscis Austrinus (Southern Fish), appears overhead. It is at the centre of the first stellar system with a confirmed, directly imaged extra-solar object and candidate planet, named Fomalhaut b. Lower down to the southeast are the bright stars Achernar in Eridanus (River) and, still lower down, Canopus in Carina (Keel). In the opposite direction is Altair in Aquila (Eagle) and lower down, Vega in Lyra (Lyre, a musical instrument). The Scorpion (Scorpius) is diving down headlong towards the western horizon pursued by the Archer (Sagittarius). The Southern Cross (Crux) almost upside down, low in the southwest is followed by the two pointers stars, Alpha and Beta Centauri. These two stars line up and are "pointing" to the top of the Cross.

Planet Saturn is in Libra until mid-month and thereafter moves into Scorpius.

The prospect for observing the Orionid meteor shower (left-over debris from Halley's Comet entering Earth's atmosphere) is favourable. It occurs between 2 October and 7 November with maximum expected on 21 October. It is best observed from about midnight onwards when Orion has risen to a higher angle in the eastern sky.

The Moon is in the evening sky from 14 October until 28 October.