



Evening sky in SEPTEMBER 2013

The constellation of Scorpius (Scorpion), high above the western horizon is still well placed for viewing. Sagittarius (Archer), almost directly overhead, is followed by Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces as you move towards the eastern horizon. To the north three bright stars form an irregular triangle. At the top is Altair in Aquila (Eagle) and low above the horizon are Vega in Lyra (Lyre) and Deneb in Cygnus (Swan). The Great Square of Pegasus rising in the north-east, signals the arrival of Spring. Opposite Pegasus, halfway down the south-western horizon, are the Southern Cross and Pointers. Look south-east for the bright star Achernar in Eridanus (River) and high to the north for Fomalhaut in Pisces Austrinus (Southern Fish).

Just after sunset the planets Venus and Saturn can be seen low in the west and close to the bright star, Spica, the brightest star in Virgo (Maiden). Watch their movement night after night as they move into Libra (Scales) where Venus, the brighter of the two, "overtakes" Saturn on 18 September. Planet Mercury moves into Virgo and is placed very close to Spica on 24 September.

The Moon is in the evening sky from 8 September until 21 September.