

TONIGHT'S SKY



September
2017

1

00:00:06,620 --> 00:00:10,140

Your guide to constellations, deep-sky objects,

2

00:00:10,140 --> 00:00:14,320

planets, and events,

3

00:00:14,320 --> 00:00:22,320

Tonight's Sky, highlights of the September Sky

4

00:00:33,860 --> 00:00:37,960

Early in the month, Jupiter appears low in the west

5

00:00:37,960 --> 00:00:42,440

right after sunset.

6

00:00:44,400 --> 00:00:48,040

Try to catch a quick view of Jupiter through a telescope

7

00:00:48,040 --> 00:00:54,700

before it dips below the horizon.

8

00:01:00,820 --> 00:01:04,820

After the sky darkens, turn your attention to Saturn

9

00:01:04,820 --> 00:01:11,540

in the southwestern sky.

10

00:01:15,560 --> 00:01:18,900

A telescope will provide a wonderful look at the planet's

11

00:01:18,900 --> 00:01:26,840

signature feature, its rings.

12

00:01:34,340 --> 00:01:38,560

September nights feature the "wet quarter" of the sky.

13

00:01:38,560 --> 00:01:41,200

Two neighboring constellations bear

14

00:01:41,200 --> 00:01:46,120

ancient references to water.

15

00:01:46,120 --> 00:01:49,880

Aquarius is one of the oldest constellations,

16

00:01:49,880 --> 00:01:53,800

recognized even by early civilizations.

17

00:01:53,800 --> 00:01:55,620

In ancient mythologies,

18

00:01:55,620 --> 00:02:00,280

Aquarius is the god of the waters.

19

00:02:00,280 --> 00:02:08,600

Look for the Water Jar, a group of stars shaped like a Y.

20

00:02:08,600 --> 00:02:11,740

A rich, compact cluster of stars

21

00:02:11,740 --> 00:02:14,420

can be seen in Aquarius.

22

00:02:14,420 --> 00:02:20,340

Known as M2, it contains about 150,000 stars

23

00:02:20,340 --> 00:02:25,320

located about 37,500 light-years away.

24

00:02:25,320 --> 00:02:29,160

Binoculars present it well, but a small telescope

25

00:02:29,160 --> 00:02:37,100

reveals much more detail in the cluster's compact center.

26
00:02:43,260 --> 00:02:50,080
Nearby lies the great constellation Capricornus.

27
00:02:50,080 --> 00:02:52,600
Known in mythology as the Water Goat,

28
00:02:52,600 --> 00:02:57,180
it represents a creature that fed and watered the infant Zeus,

29
00:02:57,180 --> 00:03:02,740
ruler of the Greek gods.

30
00:03:02,740 --> 00:03:09,540
Algedi is the brightest star in Capricornus.

31
00:03:09,540 --> 00:03:14,500
It's visible in binoculars as an elongated star.

32
00:03:14,500 --> 00:03:18,440
This odd shape is due to a visual trick.

33
00:03:18,440 --> 00:03:22,660
From our distant vantage point, two unrelated stars

34
00:03:22,660 --> 00:03:26,660
appear to be close together.

35
00:03:26,660 --> 00:03:33,140
Capricornus also hosts a dense cluster of stars, M30.

36
00:03:33,140 --> 00:03:35,940
A small telescope easily resolves

37
00:03:35,940 --> 00:03:43,060
individual stars in the cluster.

38
00:03:56,240 --> 00:03:59,320

Venus shines brilliantly in the eastern sky

39

00:03:59,320 --> 00:04:02,080

before sunrise.

40

00:04:02,080 --> 00:04:05,600

By mid-month, Mercury and Mars appear between

41

00:04:05,600 --> 00:04:08,760

Venus and the horizon, but they could be

42

00:04:08,760 --> 00:04:12,220

difficult to spot in the morning twilight.

43

00:04:12,220 --> 00:04:15,940

Mercury disappears from view in late September,

44

00:04:15,940 --> 00:04:20,700

but Mars remains in the sky and moves closer to Venus

45

00:04:20,700 --> 00:04:24,640

as the month progresses.