TONIGHT'S SKY

September 2018

1
00:00:07,160 --> 00:00:09,540
Your guide to constellations,

2
00:00:09,540 --> 00:00:14,760
deep-sky objects, planets, and events:

3
00:00:14,760 --> 00:00:22,040
Tonight’s Sky. Highlights of the September sky:

4
00:00:40,020 --> 00:00:43,960
Venus, blazing in the western sky around sunset

5
00:00:43,960 --> 00:00:48,780
for much of the year, bows out by months’ end.

6
00:00:48,780 --> 00:00:52,660
Jupiter, not far from Venus in the southwestern sky,

7
00:00:52,660 --> 00:00:59,340
moves lower as the month progresses.

8
00:00:59,340 --> 00:01:02,880
A small telescope reveals large-scale atmospheric

9
00:01:02,880 --> 00:01:11,960
features of Jupiter and the sunlit clouds of Venus.

10
00:01:18,540 --> 00:01:22,220
Saturn and Mars shine in the southern sky against

11
00:01:22,220 --> 00:01:26,260
the stars of Sagittarius.

12
00:01:26,260 --> 00:01:30,100
The waxing moon passes each in turn on the 17th

13
00:01:30,100 --> 00:01:34,960

and 19th of the month.

14
00:01:37,820 --> 00:01:41,920
The rusty surface of Mars and iconic rings of Saturn

15
00:01:41,920 --> 00:01:49,000
are easily visible, even in small telescopes.

16
00:02:01,060 --> 00:02:05,980
September nights feature the “wet quarter” of the sky.

17
00:02:05,980 --> 00:02:08,400
Two neighboring constellations bear

18
00:02:08,400 --> 00:02:12,600
ancient references to water.

19
00:02:12,600 --> 00:02:16,180
Aquarius is one of the oldest constellations,

20
00:02:16,180 --> 00:02:21,320
recognized even by early civilizations.

21
00:02:21,320 --> 00:02:24,380
In ancient mythologies, Aquarius is the

22
00:02:24,380 --> 00:02:27,220
god of the waters.

23
00:02:27,220 --> 00:02:35,340
Look for the Water Jar, a group of stars shaped like a Y.

24
00:02:35,340 --> 00:02:37,680
A rich, compact cluster of

25
00:02:37,680 --> 00:02:41,020
stars can be seen in Aquarius.

26
00:02:41,020 --> 00:02:46,340
Known as M2, it contains about 150,000 stars

27
00:02:46,340 --> 00:02:51,560
located about 37,500 light-years away.

28
00:02:51,560 --> 00:02:55,920
Binoculars present it well, but a small telescope reveals

29
00:02:55,920 --> 00:03:03,620
much more detail in the cluster’s compact center.

30
00:03:10,380 --> 00:03:16,440
Nearby lies the great constellation Capricornus.

31
00:03:16,440 --> 00:03:19,920
Known in mythology as the Water Goat, it represents a

32
00:03:19,920 --> 00:03:23,260
creature that fed and watered the infant Zeus,

33
00:03:23,260 --> 00:03:28,680
ruler of the Greek gods.

34
00:03:32,220 --> 00:03:36,660
Algedi is the brightest star in Capricornus.

35
00:03:36,660 --> 00:03:41,300
It’s visible in binoculars as an elongated star.

36
00:03:41,300 --> 00:03:45,020
This odd shape is due to a visual trick.

37
00:03:45,020 --> 00:03:49,220
From our distant vantage point, two unrelated stars

38
00:03:49,220 --> 00:03:53,100

appear to be close together.

39
00:03:53,100 --> 00:03:59,540
Capricornus also hosts a dense cluster of stars, M30.

40
00:03:59,540 --> 00:04:03,600
A small telescope easily resolves individual stars

41
00:04:03,600 --> 00:04:07,900
in the cluster.

42
00:04:24,160 --> 00:04:28,020
Comet Giacobini-Zinner, which became visible last

43
00:04:28,020 --> 00:04:31,140
month, should reach its brightest in

44
00:04:31,140 --> 00:04:33,620
September as it passes through the constellation

45
00:04:33,620 --> 00:04:38,000
of Auriga and between Gemini and Orion.

46
00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:41,100
It may be barely visible to the naked eye,

47
00:04:41,100 --> 00:04:43,980
but possible to see with binoculars.

48
00:04:43,980 --> 00:04:51,540
Look for the comet in the east after midnight.

49
00:04:51,540 --> 00:04:58,160
The night sky is always a celestial showcase.