Qué tal? in the Current Skies

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Volume 18 -- Issue 9
September 2012

Welcome to this issue of Qué tal. Here you will find useful **observing information** about the **visible planets**, **our Moon** and **other moons**, the **Sun**, as well as various 'things' celestial.

For more information, graphics, videos, and other related materials please visit the Qué tal web site at currentsky.com Thank you for your support.

At A Glance: This month planet viewing starts to change as the angles between the Earth, the Sun, and Mars and Saturn continue to decrease meaning that from our view these two planets set earlier until by month's end the two have moved behind the Sun. Darn revolution!

Nonetheless the morning skies still feature Jupiter and Venus,as well as Dwarf Planet Ceres, and Asteroid Vesta.

Watch for the waning crescent Moon to do a repeat of its morning conjunctions withJupiter and Venus.

September is also an equinox month so get out there and cast a shadow!

Qué tal is now mobile. Go to the website with your smartphone to install the App. Preview it here

*Click here to read or download scanned copies of **Peon**, one of the original Scifi FanZines.*

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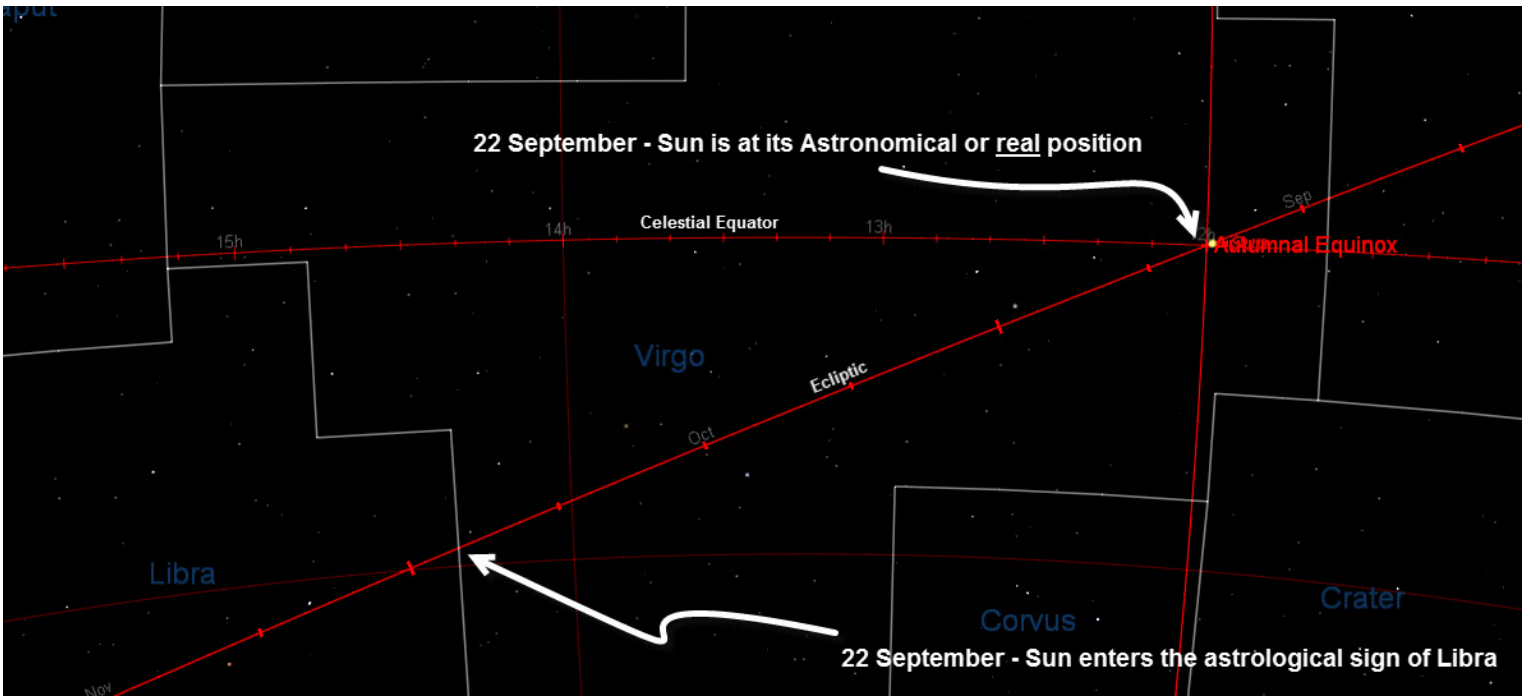
Sky Watch Calendar -- September 2012

04. Waning Gibbous Moon Near Aries
05. Dawn Departs Vesta
07. **Moon at Apogee - 404, 294 km**
Waning Gibbous Moon Near Pleiades
Jupiter at West Quadrature
08. **Last Quarter Moon**
Last Quarter Moon Near Jupiter
09. Waning Crescent Moon Occults or is Very Close to Dwarf Planet Ceres
10. Mercury at Superior Conjunction
12. Waning Crescent Moon near Venus
14. Waning Crescent Moon near Regulus
16. **New Moon**
Sun Enters Astronomical Sign of Virgo
17. Pluto Ends Retrograde Motion
Waxing Crescent Moon near Spica
18. Waxing Crescent Moon near Saturn
19. **Moon at Perigee - 365 752 km**
Waxing Crescent Moon near Mars
20. Waxing Crescent Moon near Antares
22. **First Quarter Moon**
September Equinox (9:47am CDT)
Sun Enters Astrological Sign of Libra
24. Asteroid Pallas at Opposition
26. Casini Flyby of Titan
29. Uranus at Opposition
30. **Full Moon**



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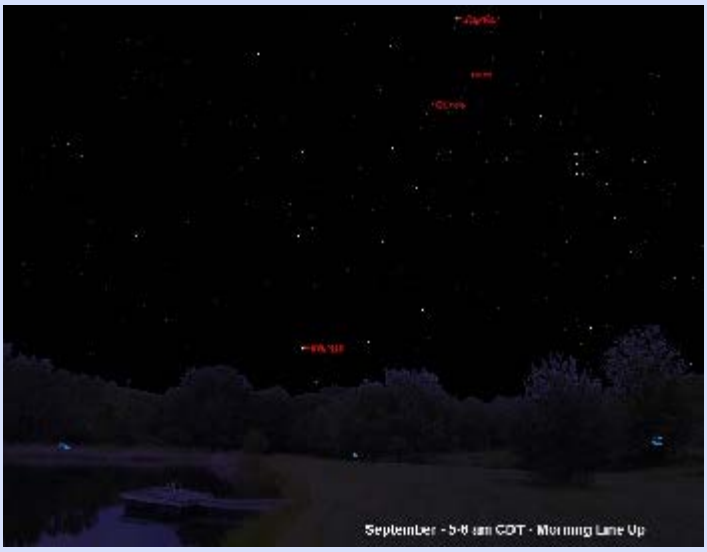
Planet Watch -- September 2012

Mercury reaches superior conjunction on the 10th and will not be visible until month when it reappears in the evening skies after sunset.

Venus rises a couple of hours before local time of sunrise and is still the brightest 'star' in the morning skies. Watch for the waning crescent Moon to repeat its conjunction with Venus this month as it has for the last several months. This month it will be th emorning of the 12th.

Mars is low over the western horizon at sunset, located a little higher and to the left from Saturn. Look left of Mars for its stellar counterpart, the 'not Mars' star, reddish Antares in Scorpius. During this month Mars, moving eastward, will close in on Antares.



Jupiter rises around midnight at the start of the month and closer to 10 pm by the end of the month. The largest planet is still within a binocular field of view from Aldebaran and the stars of the Hyades star cluster. On the morning of the 8th the waning crescent Moon will be very close to Jupiter.

Saturn is low over the western horizon at sunset and this month will be the last for viewing Saturn in the evening skies as it moves toward superior conjunction next month. Watch for saturn in the morning skies starting in November.

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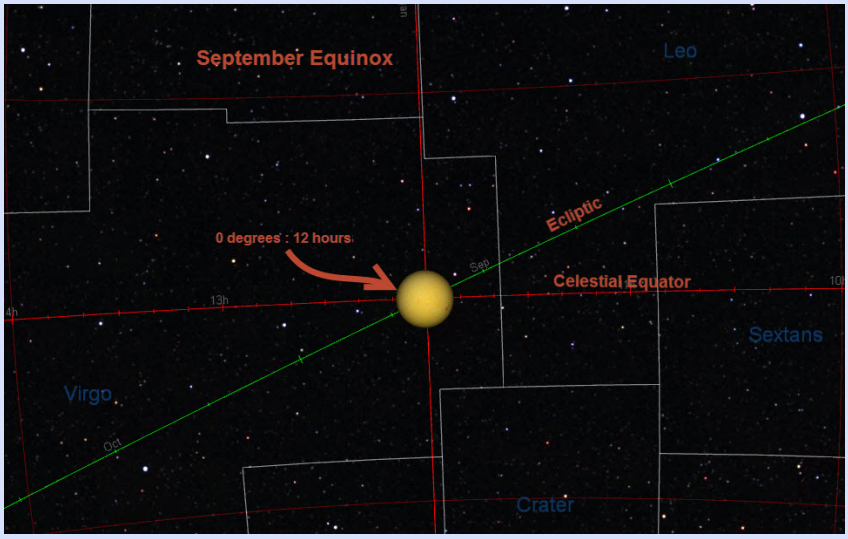
What's Up? -- September 2012

Along the Ecliptic

22 September: It's sunrise at Stonhenge on the September Equinox.Click on this small image to see a fullscreen version.

On the 22nd the Sun reaches the celestial position along the ecliptic that marks the end of northern hemisphere summer. The ecliptic is the Sun's apparent path throughout the year and is used to delineate the position for the ending and beginning of each season. The ecliptic path, relative to the equator, is a curved line that crosses the celestial equator twice—once as it moves northward toward a maximum distance from the celestial equator, and again as it moves south of the celestial equator toward its maximum distance south.



This curve is a result of the Earth's axial tilt of 23.5 degrees. Each of our seasons starts or ends when the Sun reaches a particular set of coordinates along the ecliptic. The September equinox, for example, is the day when the Sun crosses the celestial equator moving southward. The coordinates for the crossing point is 0 degrees, and 12 hours of right ascension.

Excellent, free star charts are available from the Stephen F. Austin University Observatory which may be downloaded from their web site and used to follow or perhaps plot the Sun's apparent path along the ecliptic.

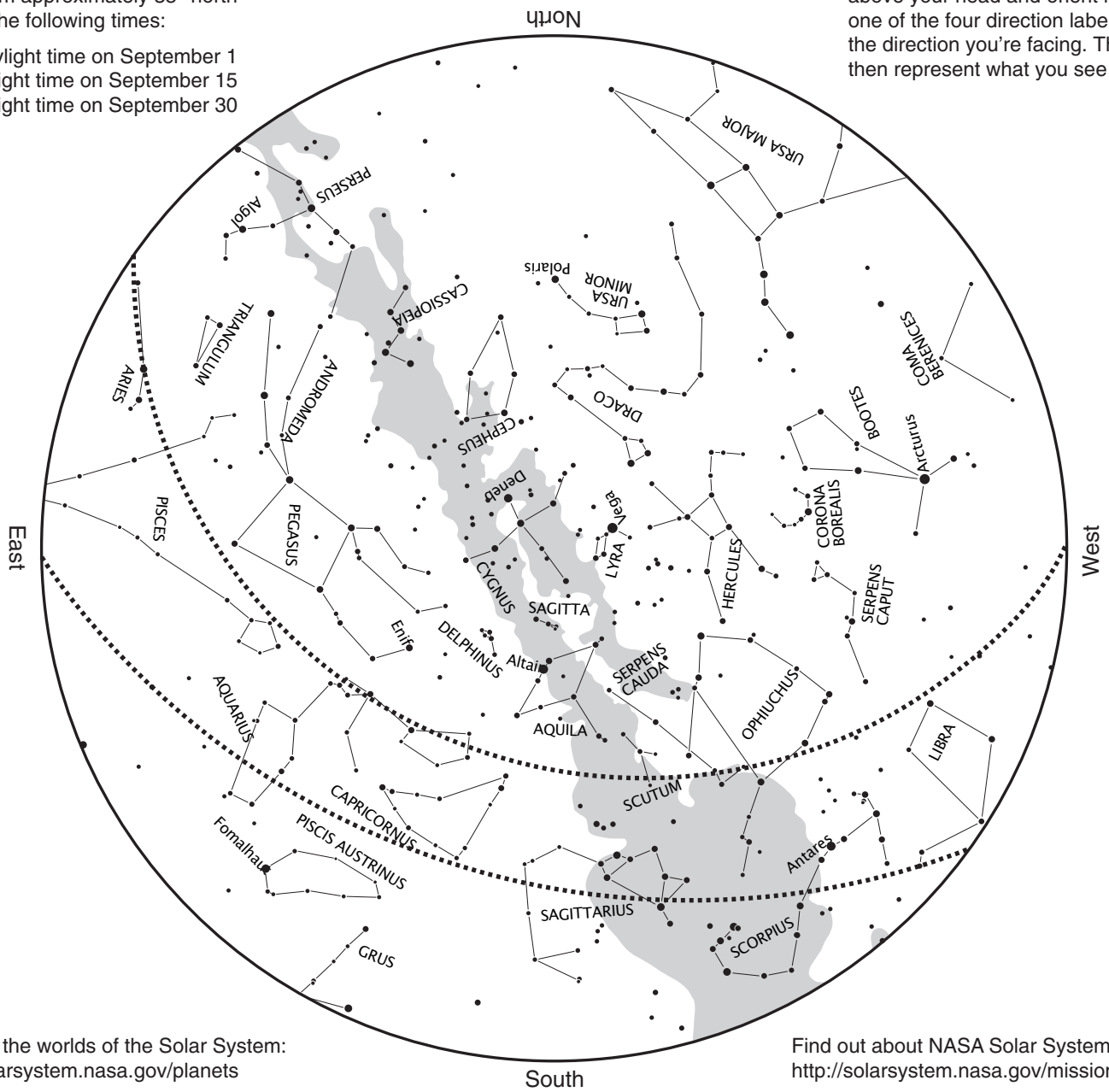
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Where are the Planets?
September

The all-sky map represents the night sky as seen from approximately 35° north latitude at the following times:

10 p.m. daylight time on September 1
9 p.m. daylight time on September 15
8 p.m. daylight time on September 30

To locate stars in the sky, hold the map above your head and orient it so that one of the four direction labels matches the direction you're facing. The map will then represent what you see in the sky.



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http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets

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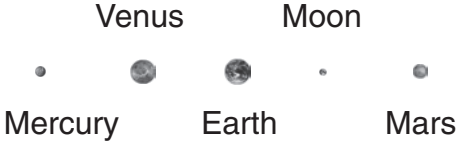
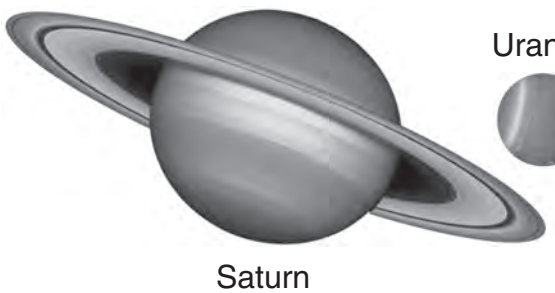
You will find the planets and the Moon in the area of the sky called the "ecliptic," marked on the map between the dotted lines.




Jupiter


Saturn

www.nasa.gov