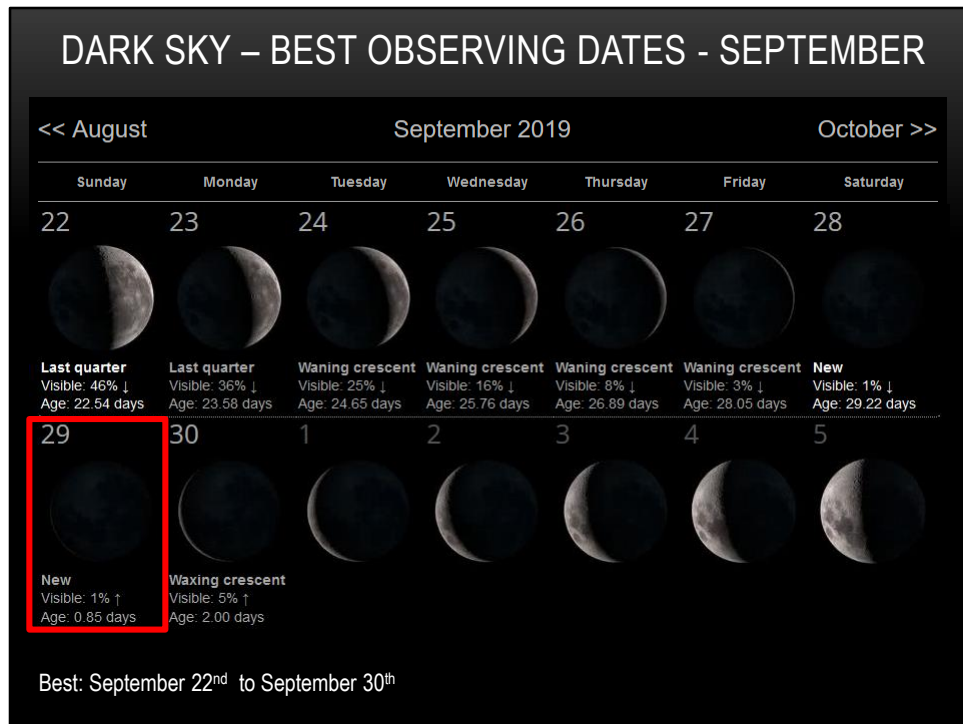


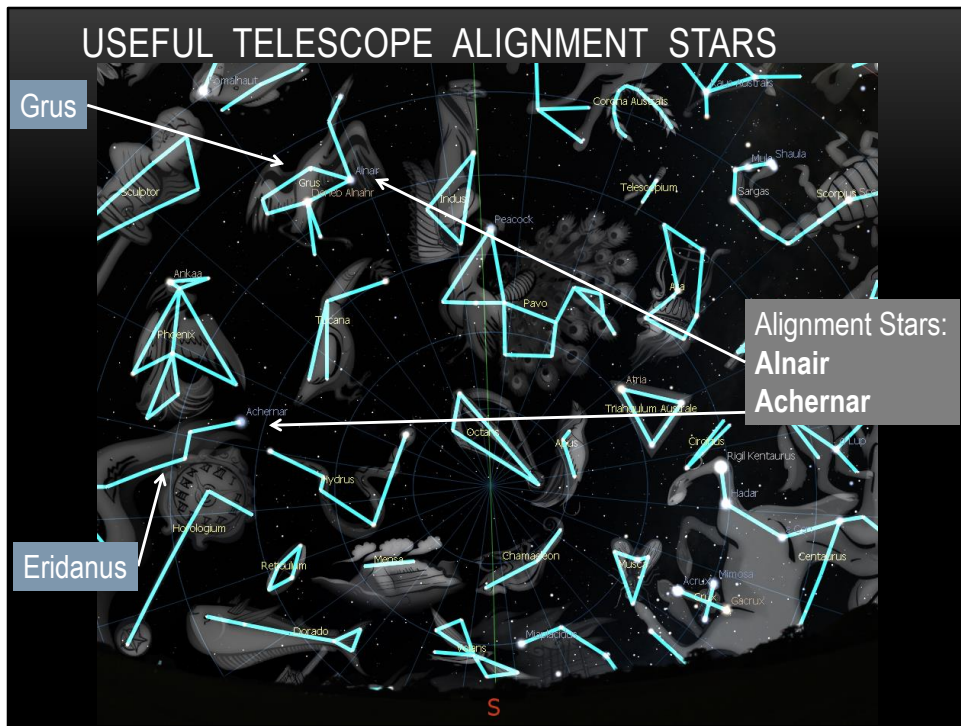
BAS - MONTHLY SKY GUIDE

September 2019

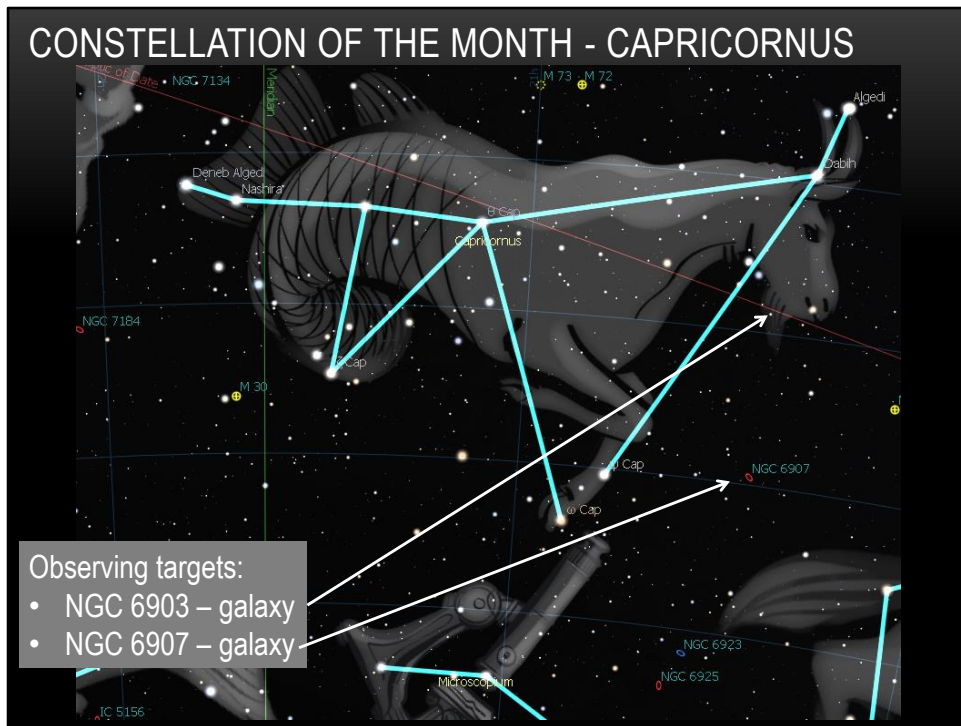
By September the nights are getting a little bit shorter and the centre of our Milky Way Galaxy is heading for the western horizon. So make the best use of the central region of our galaxy while you can. But also search new constellations such as Sculptor for some fantastic deep-space galaxy hunting.



New Moon is Sunday August 29th. A full evening of observing from sunset through to about midnight can be achieved for about a week prior to the New Moon. So plan your observing dates from about September 22nd onwards. The slim waxing crescent of the early New Moon sets around the end of astronomical twilight on September 30th so the setting Moon starts to eat into early evening observing time after that date. So make good use of the period around September 22nd to September 30th.



Two prominent stars in the southern sky that could be used for telescope alignment are Alnair in the constellation Grus, “the Crane”, and Achernar in Eridanus “the River”. Eridanus is a bit hard to recognise as it is just a string of unremarkable stars that have been mapped together as a wandering line. However Achernar is reasonably bright in a fairly sparse region of sky. Alnair is a little easier to find as the constellation Grus has a fairly distinct angular alignment that can catch the eye. Alnair forms the apex of one of the angular alignments and marks the wing of the Crane.

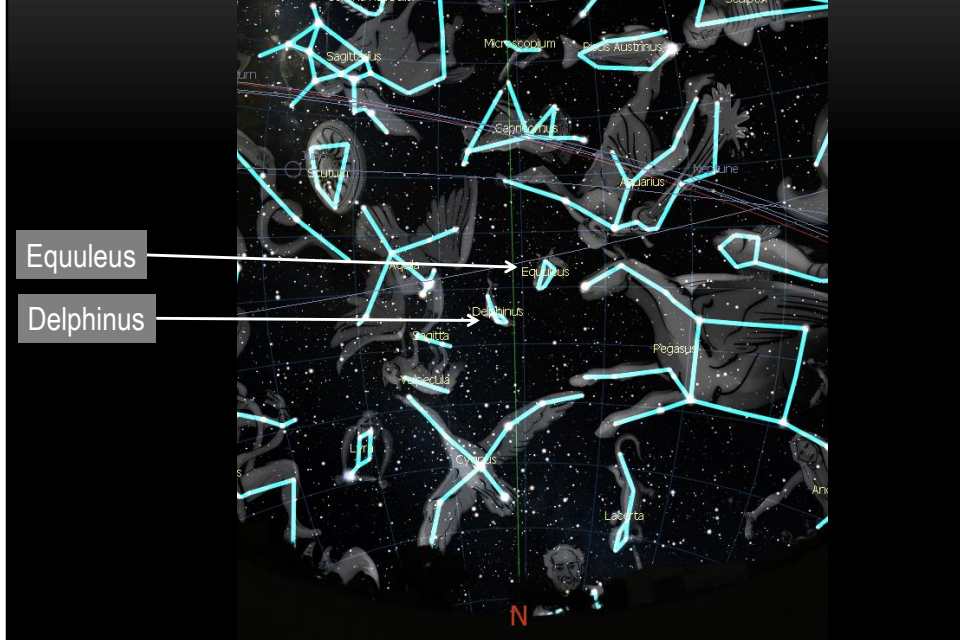


The constellation Capricornus has the strange common name of “The Sea Goat”. It is derived from another bazar myth that extends back through Greek times to even more ancient Sumerian and Babylonian times. Legend has it that the deity Pan, a goat, was placed in the sky by Zeus for his efforts fighting the Titans. However Pan was attacked by a monster and so he jumped into the water to escape and there adopted a fish tail to avoid capture. However the astronomical objects on display in Capricornus are perhaps less interesting than the legend. The constellation itself is often hard to locate as it is the second faintest constellation in the sky, after Cancer, and looks like a rather empty and uninteresting bent triangle hidden amongst many other unremarkable stars. Two faint galaxies worth attempting in a dark sky are NGC 6907 located 140 million light years away and NGC 6903 150 million light year afar.



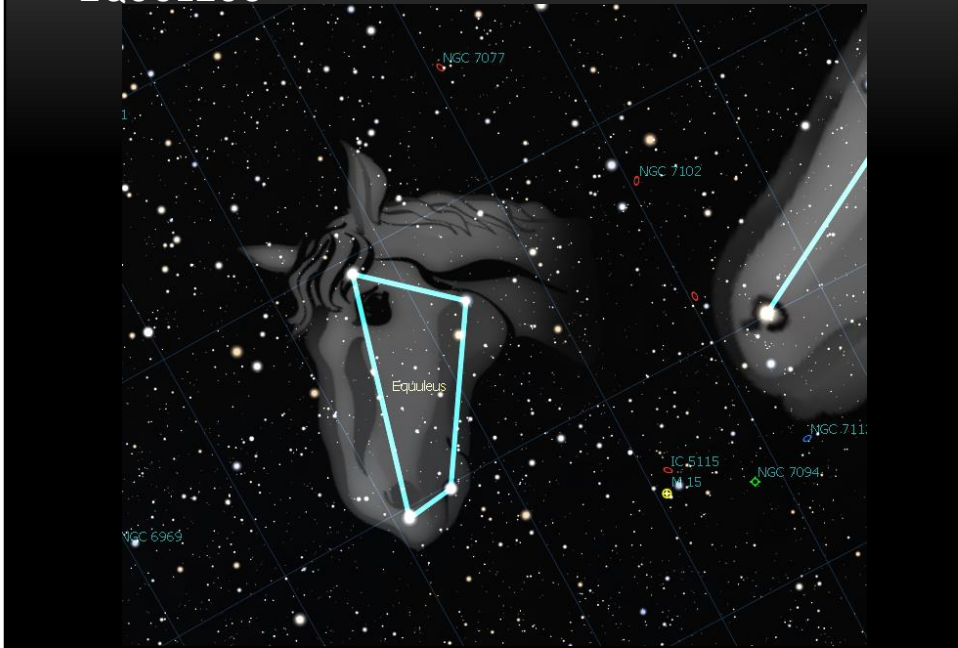
Jupiter is now heading for the western horizon and is becoming increasingly distant as Earth's orbit takes us to the opposite side of the Sun. We are also increasingly separating from Saturn, however it remains high in the sky. Neptune continues to rise in the east and Uranus now also starts to peek over the evening western horizon.

NEW MOON - 9 PM MERIDIAN CONSTELLATIONS



Two commonly overlooked and tiny constellations in the northern sky are Equuleus, “the Little Horse”, and Delphinus, “the Dolphin”. Equuleus is the second smallest constellation in the sky and looks nothing more than a tiny triangle of stars – certainly not a horse. Possibly the sky mappers just had horses on the mind while scouring the stars for patterns in this region – the large constellation Pegasus, the horse, is just to the east. Delphinus is also tiny and resembles a tight and flattened diamond of stars with a few small stars as a tail – nothing at all resembling a dolphin.

EQUULEUS



There are many myths relating to Equuleus. Some say the little horse was the foal of another horse called Celeris the offspring of Pegasus. Another says Equuleus is the shamed offspring of a horse called Hippe and the Centaur. But the myths are more interesting than the astronomical objects in this constellation. There are a few very dim galaxies located over 140 million light years away – but they will be hard to spot. DSO-Browser does not list a single observation object for this constellation.

DELPHINUS



Delphinus is another astro-desert. However the asterism is still worth locating in the sky. You might also like to hunt for the very small and faint globular cluster NGC 7006 which is 137,000 light years distant from our Sun. This makes it about 10 times farther away than the “show-stopper” globular cluster Omega Centauri and far across the other side of our Milky Way Galaxy.

BUILD YOUR OWN OBSERVING LIST

DSO Browser

english español

M 38

Upload your astrophotography

THIRD QUARTER
23:20 11:20

New Moon: in 9 days (Saturday 28)
Full Moon: in 23 days (Saturday 11)

Sun, Moon & Planets Information

Like this site?
 Buy me a beer? :)

Find Objects

Object Type

Select none

- ☐ Asterism
- ☒ Bright nebula
- ☒ Dark nebula
- ☒ Diffuse nebula
- ☒ Galaxy
- ☒ Galaxy cluster
- ☒ Globular cluster
- ☒ Open cluster
- ☒ Planetary nebula
- ☐ Quasar
- ☐ Supernova remnant

Minimum Elevation

Apparent Magnitude

Apparent Size

Surface Brightness

Catalogues

Coordinates

Constellation

Dorado (The Swordfish)

Local time

Reset filters Search

My Observing List (0)

306 results

Print CSV

Large Magellanic Cloud
7 8.9 + 10.8° Constellation Dorado (The Swo...

Tarantula Nebula
7 8.3 + 20° Constellation Dorado (The Swo...

Bright nebula
7 8.5 + 13° Constellation Dorado (The Swo...

Bright nebula : NGC 1966 / NGC 1962
7 8.5 + 13° Constellation Dorado (The Swo...

Click Find Objects

Select object types

Select constellation

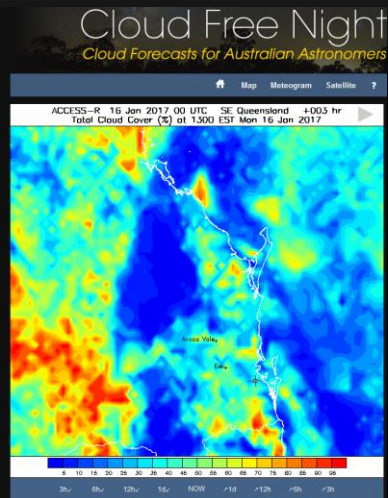
Search

<https://dso-browser.com/>

Make sure you take a look at the great observing planning tool DSO-Browser before the New Moon period. This is a fantastic tool to help you build a list of objects you can try and find each month.

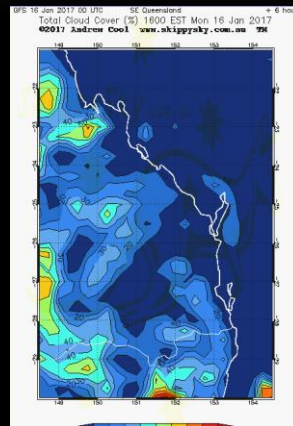
Just a few clicks on [www.dso-browser.com](https://dso-browser.com) can generate a fantastic observing list of object types you are interested in.

AVOIDING CLOUDS
www.cloudfreenight.com



More info: <http://philhart.com/content/cloud-forecasts-australian-astronomers>

www.skippysky.com



And the find the best cloud-free evenings for observing make sure you check CloudFreeNight and Skippysky as you plan your next observing evening.