



If you're interested in stargazing, come join us.
 Everyone is welcome. We have group stargazing sessions, workshops, talks, and other events
BathAstronomers.org.uk
 BathAstronomers



Daylight information for the month is:

Sunrise: 06:22 (1st) 07:08 (30th)
 Sunset: 19:55 (1st) 18:49 (30th)

Early September benefits from 5 easily visible planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn) and 2 requiring a little more experience to find (Uranus and Neptune). The Vernal Equinox on 23rd Sept means nights will be longer than days so it's a great opportunity, as the nights remain warm, to familiarise yourself with the constellations and practice with equipment you have whether it be binoculars, telescope or camera. The Milky Way remains well placed in the South-southwest after nightfall given no nearby streetlights and a few minutes for the eyes to adapt.



Last Quarter: 3rd September
 New Moon: 9th September
 First Quarter: 16th September
 Full Moon: 25th September

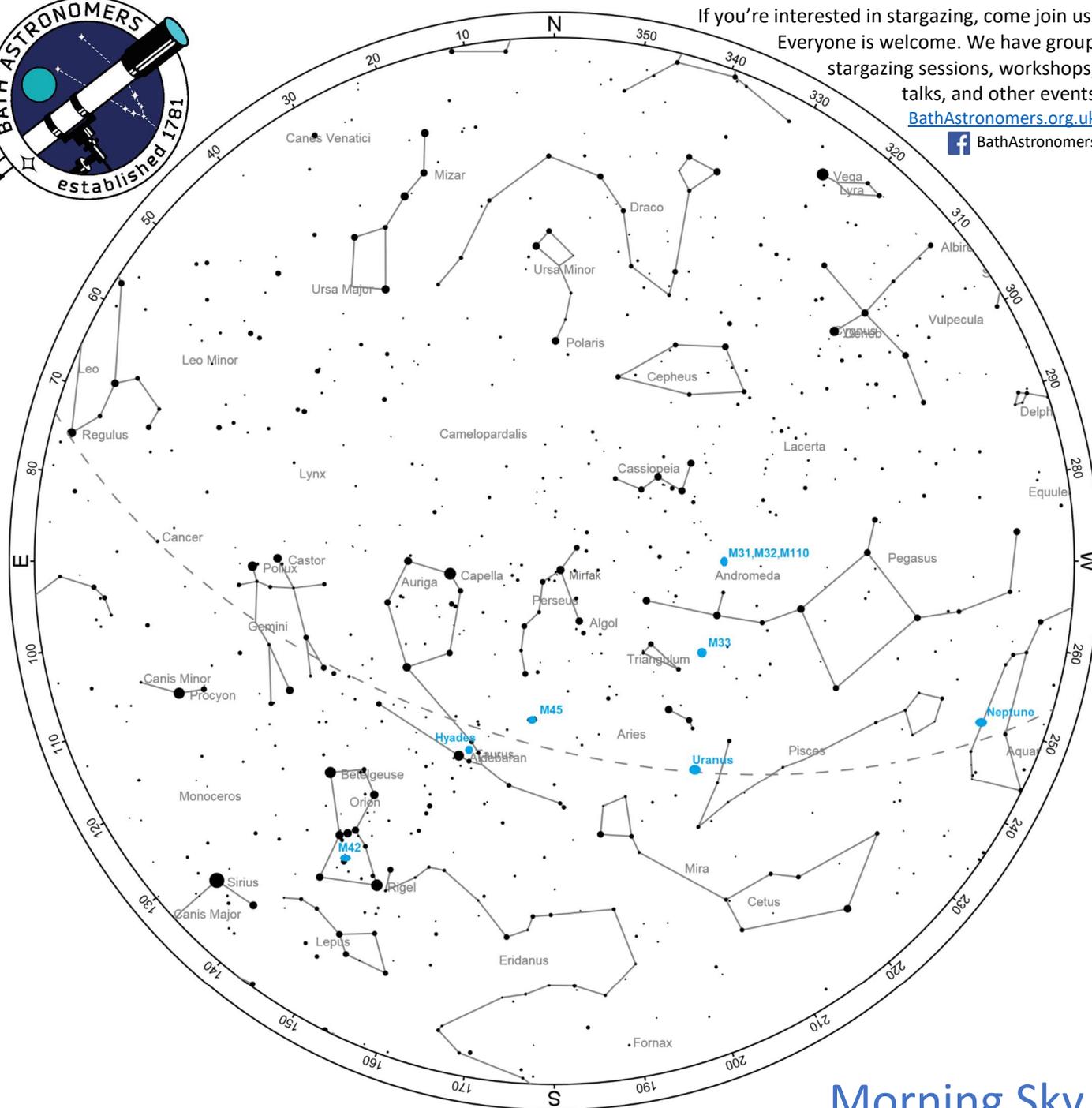


The Autumnal early morning skies give us the first hints of the forthcoming Winter skies but without the associated chilly fingers. The constellation of Perseus is overhead and its bright stars, Algol and Mirfak, separate the constellation of Auriga to the West and Andromeda to the East. If you're accustomed to these common constellations, try to make out Eridanus and Cetus to the South.

Two fuzzy patches should be faintly visible. The Andromeda Galaxy (M31) and the Orion Nebula (M42) in their parent constellations respectively. Running between them, you'll find two open star clusters, the Pleiades (M45) and the Hyades, both in Taurus. The Hyades are in/around the 'V' of the Bull's head and the Pleiades are a Question Mark group of stars below Perseus. All are visible to the naked eye and improved with binoculars.

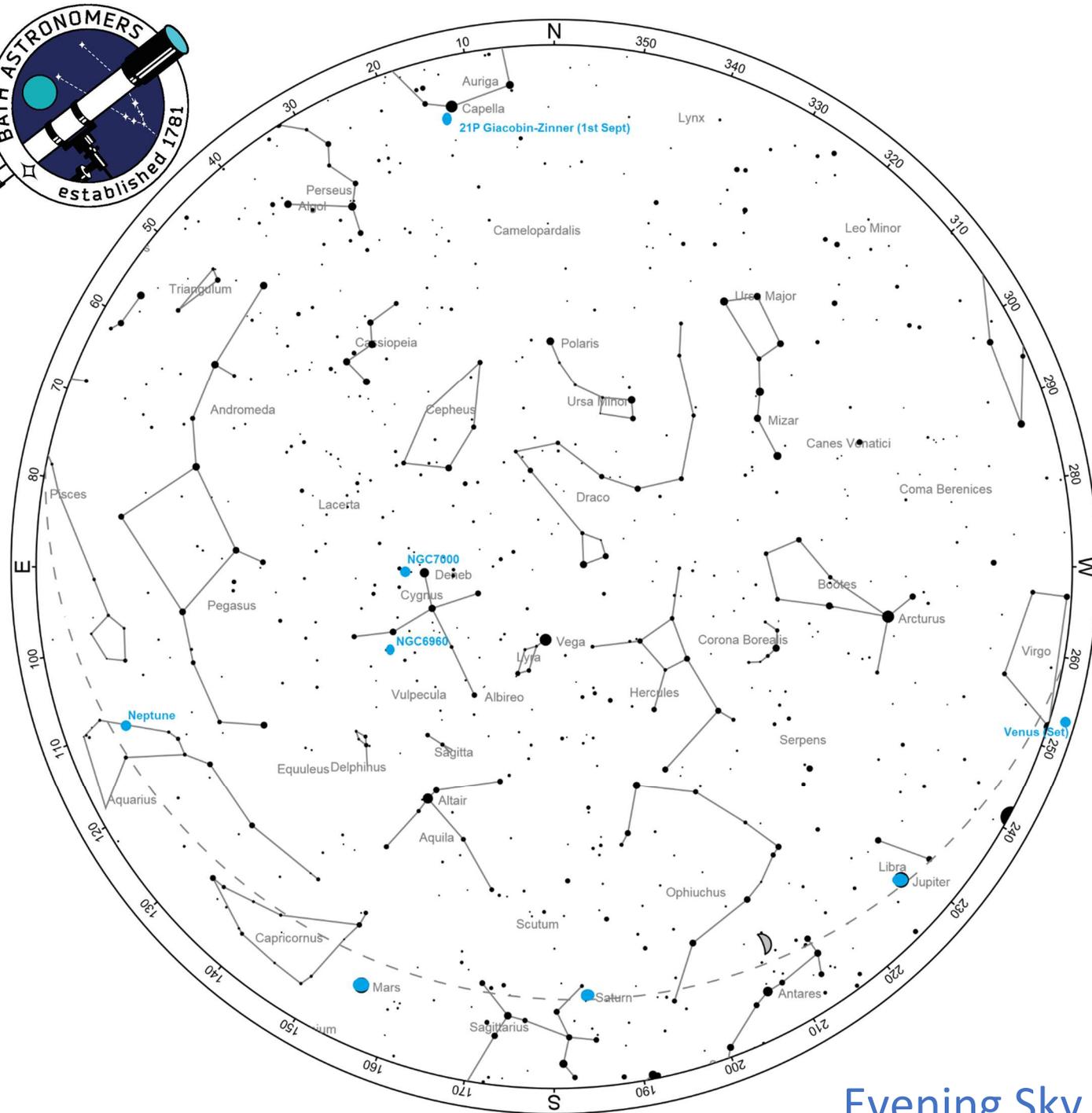


The Triangulum Galaxy (M33) is a nice alternative to the trio of the Andromeda Galaxy, M32 and M110 visible in a low power eyepiece and in the same local group.



Morning Sky in September 2018

Location: Bath, UK, 51.3758°N, 2.3599°W
 Time: 16 September 2018 05:00 (UTC +01:00)



To navigate the skies this time of year, find the Plough high in the Northwest and follow the last two stars in the handle to Arcturus in Boötes and then up the left line of Boötes all the way over to Deneb in Cygnus and then onto Alpheratz in Andromeda. Alternatively, look high in the South for Vega in Lyra, Altair in Aquila and Deneb in Cygnus; named 'The Summer Triangle'. Venus sets in the West around 8:30pm and Jupiter follows an hour later. Saturn stays with us longer and is due South at 8pm. Saturn sits to the West of the Teapot, a fun asterism in Sagittarius and in the Milky Way. By 10pm, Mars has taken this southerly position.



The bright 4 planets all appear as blobs rather than pinpoint stars with any detail depending on magnification. Venus appears as a chubby crescent. Mars a reddy brown colour. Jupiter with its moons. Saturn as a squashed disk. Uranus is visible as a star in the East-northeast towards midnight in the constellation of Pisces.



Neptune, in Aquarius, rises from the East as the night proceeds. The Earth moves between it and the Sun on 7th Sept meaning it is at its closest and therefore the largest and brightest it's going to be in telescopes this year (although its distance means it doesn't change much).

Above your head, the Eastern and Western Veil Nebula (NGC 6960) make a striking sight even though they are 2600 light years away. An OIII filter on the telescope will increase contrast making it easier to see. East of Deneb, the North American Nebula (NGC 7000) is part of the same structure and can be a little more challenging to see.

Comet 21P Giacobini-Zinner is brightening and a tail is visible photographically. It will be wandering through Auriga, Gemini and then Monoceros this month. It reaches it's closest to Earth and its brightest this month.

Evening Sky in September 2018

Location: Bath, UK, 51.3758°N, 2.3599°W
Time: 15 September 2018 20:00 (UTC +01:00)



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