

The Sky This Month

September 9th - October 13th

West Didsbury Astronomical Society



What's On

Autumn Equinox occurs on September 23rd at 7.50 GMT

Jupiter & Saturn are low but well placed in the southern sky after sunset.

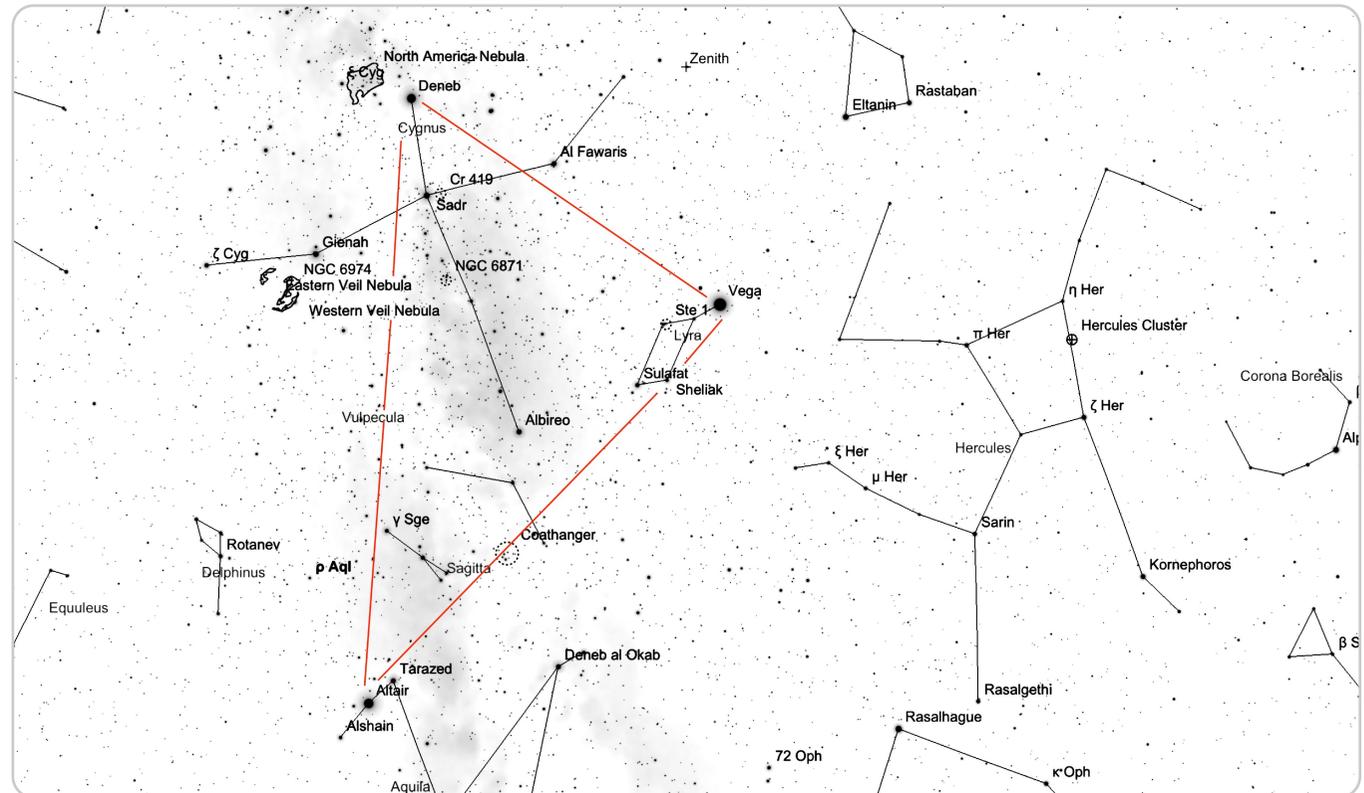
Neptune & Uranus are higher on the ecliptic and though small and faint are better placed later in the evenings. Neptune is at opposition on the 9th.

9th / 10th September - Epsilon Perseids peak at around 2am. A low ZHR of 5 but can outburst.

28th September New Moon

8th October Draconids Meteor shower a minor shower with a ZHR of about 10 meteors per hour. however it is unusual as the best time to see them is early evening.

Right: Cygnus, Lyra and Hercules



Cygnus: Is one of the most recognisable constellations in the northern sky and has a wealth of objects due to it's position along the plane of the Milky way. **Deneb** forms one corner of the Summer triangle and is the most distant of the first magnitude stars located 3200 ly away. Beta Cygni or **Alberio** at the tail end of the constellation is one of the prettiest - a beautiful blue and yellow double star. The stars **30 and 31 Cygni** are a similar colour to Alberio but divisible in binoculars. **61 Cygni** is of note as it was the first star to have it's distance determined by parallax by Fiedrich Bessel in 1838. Near Eta Cygni is **Cygnus X-1** an X ray source thought to be a black hole. **NML Cygni** is a hyper giant one of the largest stars known. There are a plethora of DSOs. Of note is the open cluster **M39**. NGC 6826, the '**Blinking planetary nebula**' has an unusually bright central star. **The North American nebula** NGC 7000 is visible to the naked eye in really dark skies and responds well to photography. The super nova remnant, **The Veil nebula** (NGC 6960, 6962, 6979, 6992, and 6995) can be surprisingly rewarding under the right conditions. Galaxies of note are **Cygnus A** - the first radio galaxy discovered and the **Fireworks Galaxy** NGC 6946 where more supernovae have been observed than any other galaxy.

Whilst you're in the area have a look for the **Dumbbell nebula** M27 a large planetary nebula in adjacent Vulpecula. The 'coat hanger' asterism, **Brocchi's cluster** is strangely satisfying in binoculars. **Vega** in the constellation of Lyra is the brightest star of the summer triangle and by contrast with Deneb lies only 25 lyr away. **Epsilon Lyra** is the famous "Double double". M57 the **Ring nebula** is a nice contrast to M27.