

September Evening Skies

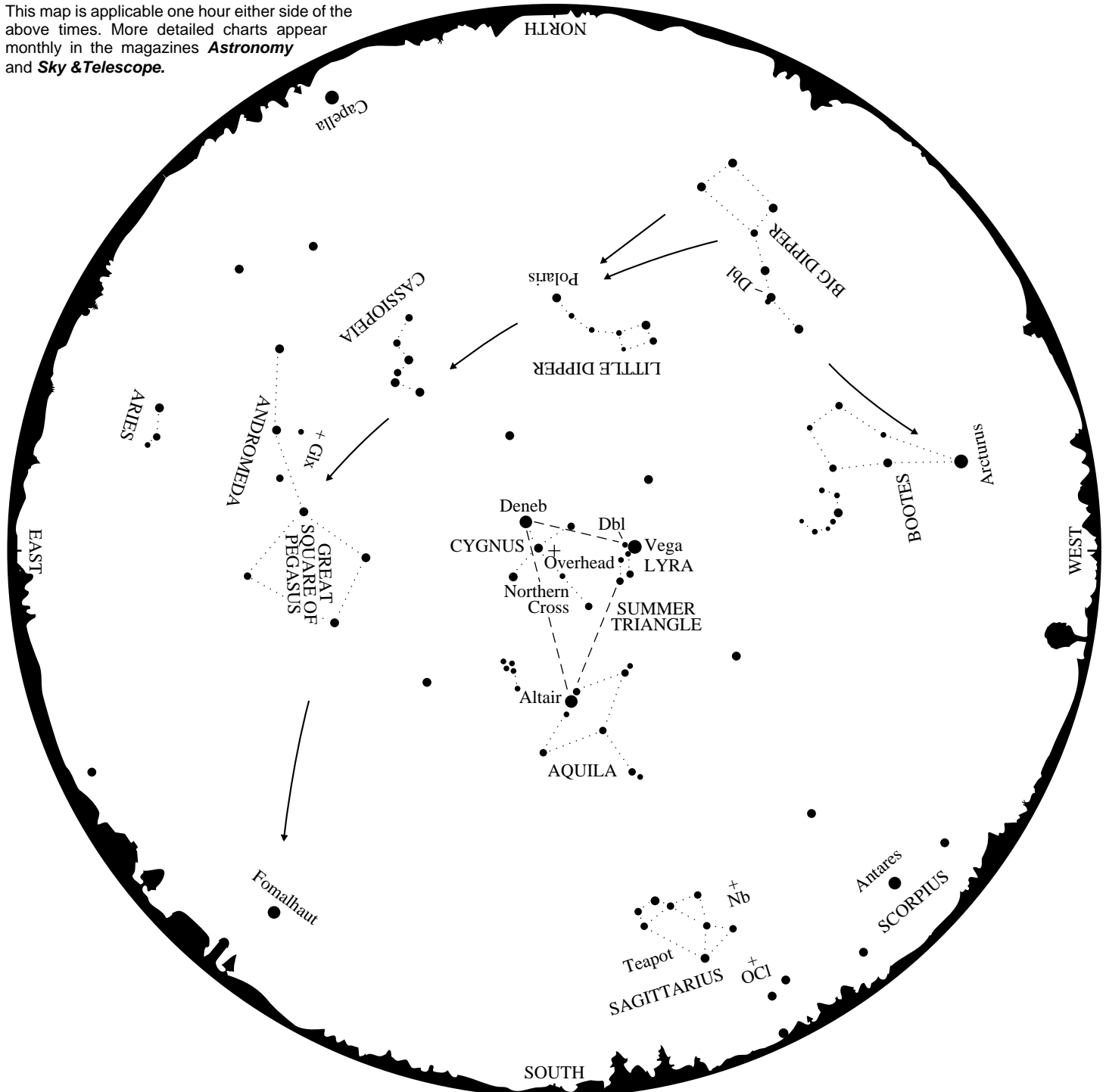
This chart is drawn for latitude 40° north, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local daylight saving times:

Late August	11 p.m.
Early September	10 p.m.
Late September	9 p.m.

This map is applicable one hour either side of the above times. More detailed charts appear monthly in the magazines *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope*.

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No planets are above the horizon at map time. Seven objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Arcturus, Vega, Capella, Altair, Antares, Fomalhaut, and Deneb. In addition to stars, other objects that should be visible to the unaided eye are labeled on the map. The double star (Dbl) at the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper is easily detected. Much more difficult is the double star near Vega in Lyra. An open

or galactic cluster (OC1) located below Sagittarius, low in the south-south-west, will challenge the unaided eye. Nearby, marked (Nb) above the "spout" of the "Teapot," is the Lagoon Nebula, a cloud of gas and dust out of which stars are forming. The position of an external star system, called the Andromeda Galaxy after the constellation in which it appears, is also indicated (Glx). Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars.

—D. David Batch