

# September Evening Skies

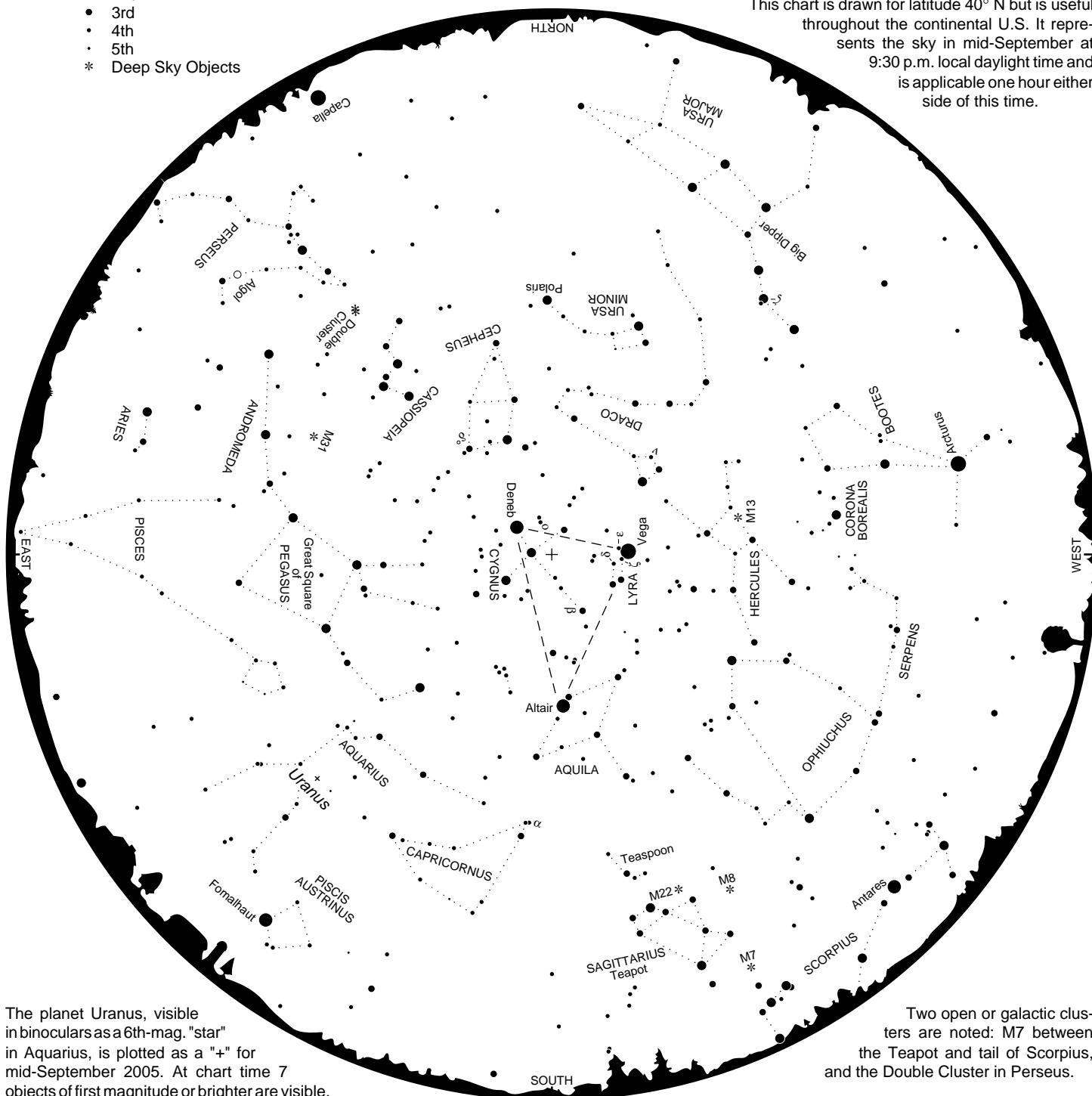
## LEGEND Star Magnitudes

- Zero or brighter
- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th
- \* Deep Sky Objects

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**Subscription:** \$11.00 per year, from *Sky Calendar*, Abrams Planetarium, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

This chart is drawn for latitude 40° N but is useful throughout the continental U.S. It represents the sky in mid-September at 9:30 p.m. local daylight time and is applicable one hour either side of this time.



The planet Uranus, visible in binoculars as a 6th-mag. "star" in Aquarius, is plotted as a "+" for mid-September 2005. At chart time 7 objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Arcturus, Vega, Capella, Altair, Antares, Fomalhaut, and Deneb.

Our usual monthly maps are designed for stargazers just beginning to find their way around the sky. This month's map is useful for serious stargazing from dark locations. It contains many more stars, inclusive to magnitude 4.5, and some fainter stars as needed to complete patterns or assist in locating special objects.

A selection of double stars (labeled with Greek letters) and "deep sky objects" is also plotted. All are visible with modest equipment; most are within the range of the unaided eye or binoculars.

The double stars, in order of decreasing angular separation, are ζ UMa, δ Lyr, α Cap, ο Cyg, ε Lyr, ν Dra, ζ Lyr, β Cyg.

Two open or galactic clusters are noted: M7 between the Teapot and tail of Scorpius, and the Double Cluster in Perseus.

Two globular clusters, more compact concentrations of hundreds of thousands of stars, can be found: M13 in Hercules and M22 in Sagittarius.

M8 in Sagittarius is the Lagoon Nebula, a gas and dust cloud from which stars are forming.

M31 is the famous Andromeda Galaxy, a collection of 300 billion stars located 2 million light years from Earth. It is barely visible to the unaided eye.