

August Evening Skies

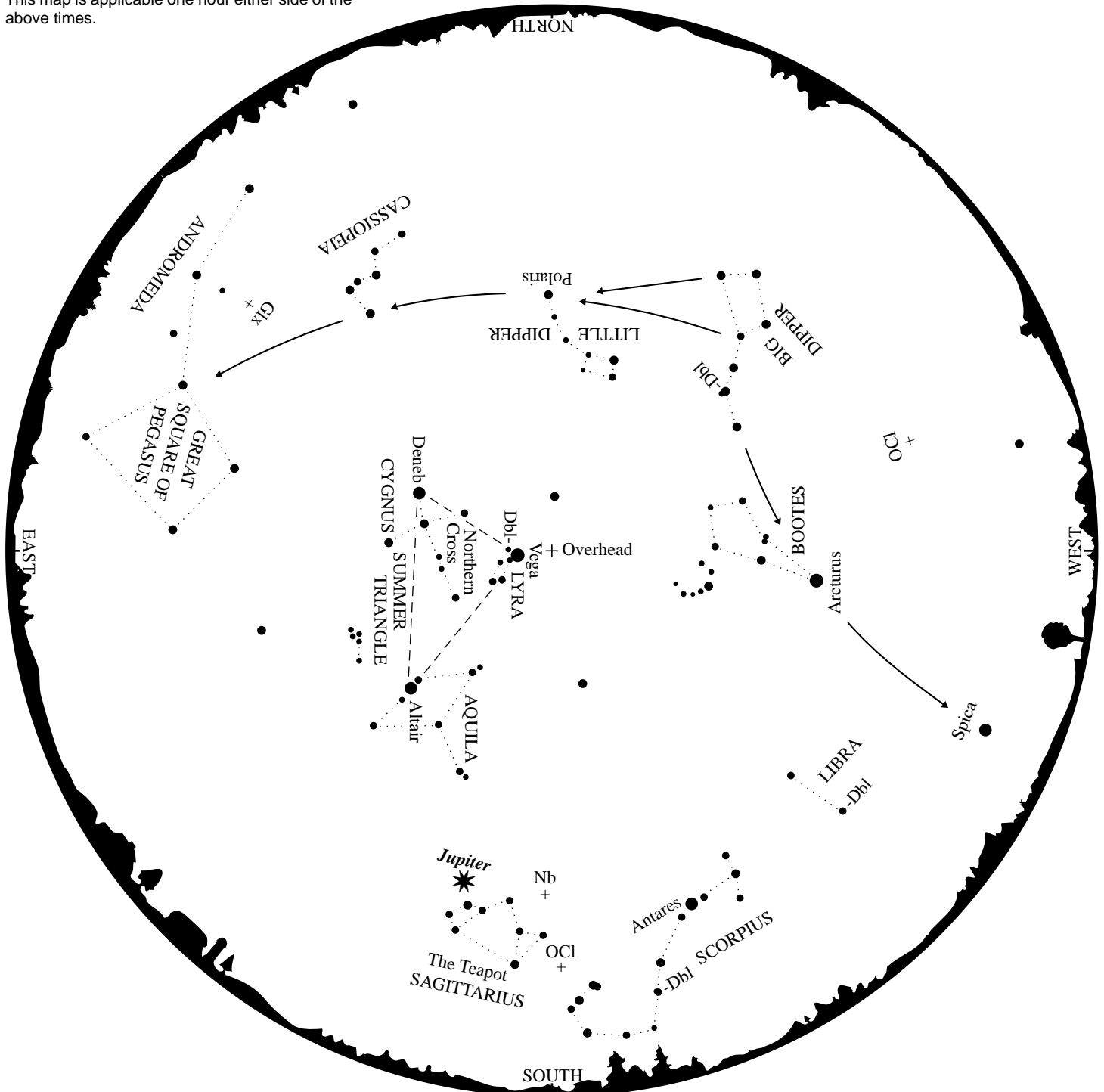
This chart is drawn for latitude 40° north, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local daylight times:

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

This map is applicable one hour either side of the above times.

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The planet Jupiter is plotted at map time, mid-August 2008. Seven objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Jupiter, Arcturus, Vega, Altair, Antares, Spica, 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. The double star in Scorpius is somewhat harder. Much more difficult is the double star near Vega in Lyra. The open or galactic star cluster (OCI) known

as Coma Berenices, "The Hair of Berenice," is located between the horizon and Bootes. A more compact open cluster is located between Sagittarius and the "tail" of Scorpius. 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, is also indicated (Glx). Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars.

—D. David Batch