October 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 September: 11 p.m.
- Early October: 10 p.m.
- Late October: 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-October 2009. Seven objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Jupiter, Vega, Capella, Altair, Aldebaran, 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. Low in the east-northeast, the Pleiades is a very attractive open or galactic star cluster. 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

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