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## SKY CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2012

A major change occurs with the publication of this issue of the Abrams Planetarium Sky Calendar. September 2012 is the first edition in the calendar's decades-long run without Robert C. Victor at the helm. We certainly will miss Bob's skillful approach to skywatching, but after 45 years it is hard to begrudge him a well-

deserved rest from the

monthly grind.

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The unique publication Bob leaves us began humbly in October 1967 as occasional mimeographed sheets listing noteworthy sky events directed at teachers and their students. A year later the information was put together in a calendar block format for the first time. The following year the first subscription fee was established: \$1 for the school year. The December 1972 calendar introduced diagrams in place of text descriptions. Over the years the look and presentation have continued to evolve. Others have helped with layout, typesetting, etc., but the content has remained exclusively Bob's.

We will endeavor to carry on Bob's fine work. although we don't expect to duplicate it. The term "irreplaceable" leaps to mind.

The person leading the formidable task is John French, an experienced member of the planetarium staff who, like Bob, is an avid observer and talented educator.

We ask your forbearance as we find our way over the next several issues. As always, we welcome any comments you wish to provide. And, of course, we are most grateful for the subscription support. Here's to many more years of engaging skywatching.

Night Sky Notes on World Wide Web:

An aid to enjoying the changing sky http://www.pa.msu.edu/abrams/nightskynotes/ **MONDAY** WEDNESDAY **THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY TUESDAY** Sat, Sept 1, 45 min Sat-Tues, Sept 1-4, Wed, Sept 5. Thursday, Sept 6, Sat, Sept 1 (see right) . Hyades two hours after sunset Saturn and Mars after sunset 3-1/2 hrs one hour before sunrise will not appear this after sunset Jupiter and Venus BetaTauri Aldebaran ····\* Saturn Jupiter close again until early 45° apart, eastern ARIES August 2014. The two sky. Spica Andromeda Galaxy planets and Spica are now similar in bright-GREAT SQUARE Zeta Tauri ness. From observa-WSW of Moon tion, try ranking them. **PEGASUS** 0 **PISCES** ORION Pleiades Fri-Sun, Sept 7-9, two hours before sunrise East-southeastern sky Pleiades CIRCLET Castor Rigel **ANDROMEDA** ENE **GEMINI** Betelaeuse  $\bigcirc$ Omega -Fri 7 Orion's The Harvest Moon occurs helt Pollux Sat 1 Sunday 2 on Sept 29. Commonly de-. .. Hyades Jupiter fined as the Full Moon that BetaTauri appears closest to the Au-Venus ARIES Mon 3 Uranus Aldebaran tumnal Equinox, it marks a Delta Sat 8 period when the Moon rises Epsilon CANIS Last Qtr Moon Zeta Tauri slightly later on several MINOR • Procyon 9:15 a.m. EDT ENE Tues 4 consecutive evenings - an Sunday 9 aid to late harvesting. Mon, Sept 10, Wed, Sept 12, two hours Thurs, Sept 13, two hours Sept 23: Uranus passes Fri, Sept Sat, Sept 15, 40 min Look for the Zodiacal Light 45 min after sunset before sunrise after sunset within 41 arcseconds of the before sunrise 14. one in dark skies before dawn hour before star 44 in Pisces, similar beginning Sept 14 and con-Beehive ::: Beehive Moon to the separation of the sunrise tinuing for two weeks. The Mars SICKLE Cluster Saturn famous telescopic double Mars phenomenon appears as a Alpha Librae Venus Venus star Albireo. The diagram faint pyramidal glow rising (Zubenelgenubi) Moon-Venus Saturn for Sept 1-4 (above) plots from the eastern horizon. Regulus Spica 4° apart Moon LEO Mars-Saturn WSW Uranus and 44 Psc sepa-It is produced by sunlight 15° apart rated by 50 arcminutes (one reflecting off minute dust Spica Old Moon C degree = 60 arcmin = 3600 particles in the plane of our WSW ENE Sat, Sept 22, arcsec). The diagram for solar system. two hours First Qtr Sept 28-30 (bottom row, after sunset Mon, Sept 17, 20 min after sunset: Moon () Tues-Thurs, Sept 18-20, Alpha Peg - ● second from right), and Gamma Peg Antares Moon 45+ hrs old on East Coast. 35 min after sunset the detailed chart above it. 3:41 Thurs 20 show only Uranus since the p.m. Epsilon Delta Omega EDT star is hidden by the planet Alpha Lib Mars symbol at that scale on Equinox Saturn those dates. 10:49 a.m. Wed 19 **SCORPIUS** Saturn Both planet and star are EDT Young Moon **SAGITTARIUS** Uranus, mag. 5.7, so early in the Spica Sept 23 month they may be detect-Tues 18 Detailed Spica **PISCES** able with naked eve, and SSW finder chart WSW WSW certainly with binoculars. A for Uranus small telescope will be help-Mon, Sept 24, two hours Mon-Thurs, Sept 24-27, one hour after sunset Fri-Sun, Sept 28-30, Sat, Alpha · Cap ful at closest approach. PISCES before sunrise Southeastern sky 45 min after sunset Sept For guide stars, use Omega 0 Beta • Beta Agr 29, (mag. 4.0), Delta (4.4), and LEO Venus Alpha Agr Mon 24 Fri 28 two Epsilon (4.3) in Pisces. 44 Tues 25 Sat 29 hours SICKLE Psc makes a nearly isosce-Omega Wed 26 Venus Harvest Moon before les triangle with Omega and  $\bigcirc$ CAPRICORNUS sunrise Delta. The "Circlet" of Pisces - Uranus Regulus Thurs 27 Sunday 30

Delta Cap

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is also a common marker

for this faint constellation.

climb higher in the sky.

For a better view, let Uranus

LEO

Regulus

\$11.00 per year, starting anytime, from Sky Calendar, Abrams Planetarium, Michigan State University, Subscription: 755 Science Rd, East Lansing, MI 48824 or online at www.pa.msu.edu/abrams/SkyCalendar/

opposition

**ESE** 

Epsilon

Use this scale to measure angular distances between

Venus-Rea

**ENE** 

~4° apart

objects on diagrams below.