



Evening sky in AUGUST 2014

Astrophotography, the photography of celestial objects began in 1840 when the Moon was first imaged. The first star to be photographed (other than the Sun), was Vega, the brightest star in the constellation Lyra (Lyre, a musical instrument). This month Vega can be seen low above the north-eastern horizon. Scorpius, the constellation resembling a scorpion, is directly overhead. From Scorpius the constellations of Sagittarius (Archer), Capricornus (Sea Goat) and Aquarius (Water Bearer) lie in a line down to the eastern horizon. Down to the western horizon are Libra (Scales) and Virgo (Maiden). These are six of the 12 constellations of the zodiac, well-known patterns of stars that lie along the ecliptic, the path of the Sun, Moon and planets against the starry background. The ecliptic also crosses the constellation of Ophiuchus (Serpent Bearer) briefly, where it lies just north of Scorpius and Sagittarius.

Planet Mars starts the month in Virgo, but joins planet Saturn in Libra by mid-month.

The Moon is in the evening sky until 12 August and again from 28 August. The largest Full Moon of the year is on 10 August.