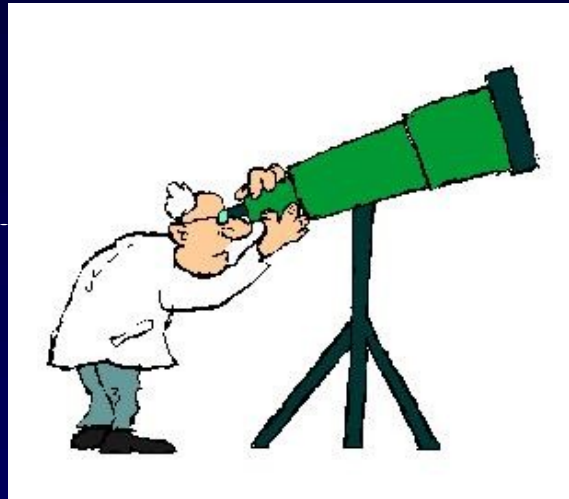


What's Up!

For August 2018



BROOKLANDSRADIO

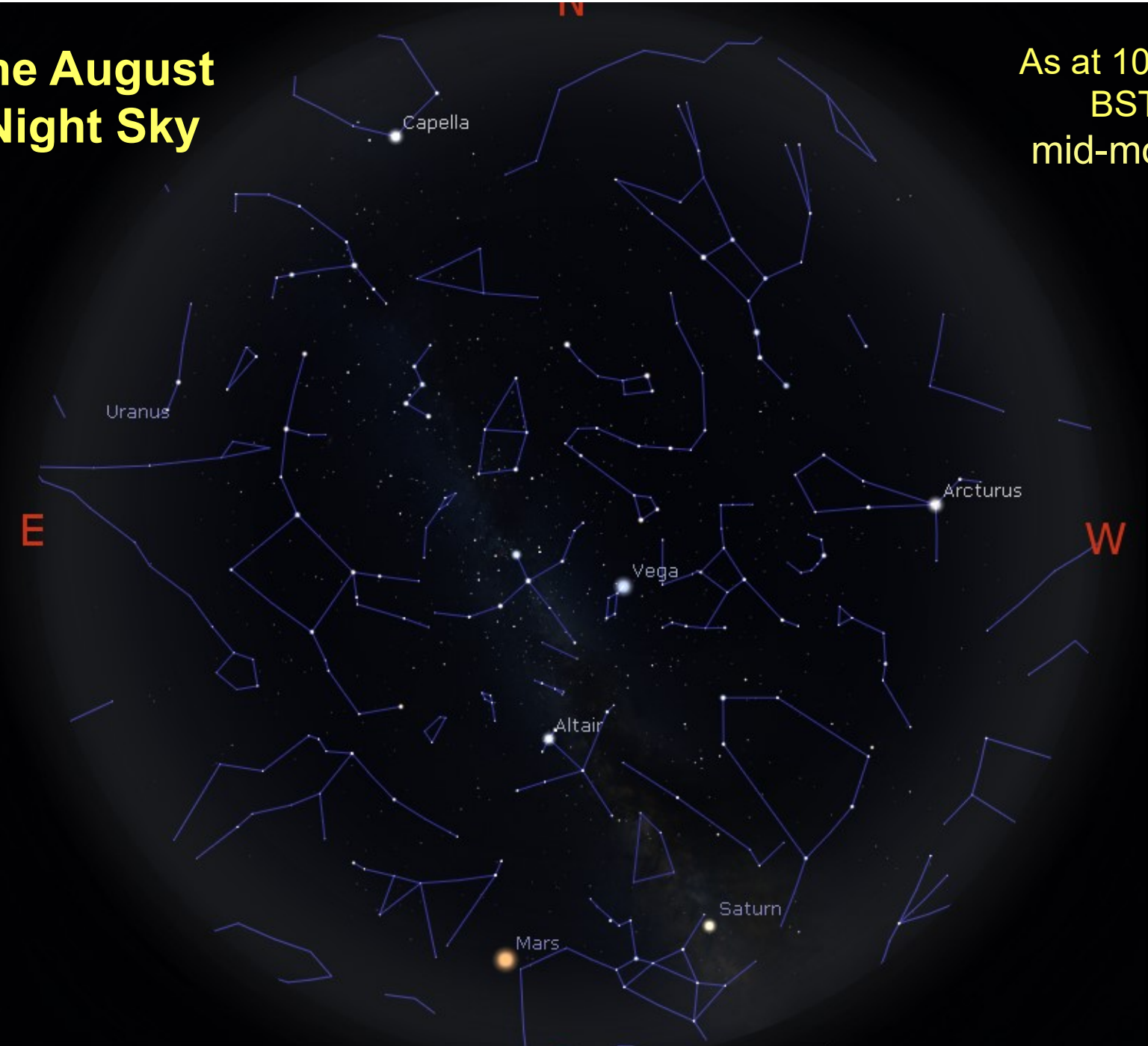
ONLINE

The Sound of Surrey



The August Night Sky

As at 10 p.m.
BST
mid-month



The Moon in August



What's Up - August's Planets

- Mercury

- Not visible until it becomes a morning object in last week of August, rising in ENE before dawn.

- Venus

- A brilliant Mag -4.0 evening object in WNW, setting 2 hours after sunset. Increasing in size while phase decreases

- Mars

- At its largest and brightest for over a decade but relatively low at 11° in South, visible either side of midnight. Mag -2.8 puts it brighter than Jupiter. Visible throughout August, rising increasingly earlier.

What's Up - August's Planets

- Jupiter

- An evening object, in SSW as night falls. Sadly relatively low at 11° but easily visible at Mag -1.9. Stays with us till late August.

- Saturn

- An evening object at Mag +0.6, very low in Southern sky but rings favourably tilted, visible throughout August.




- Uranus

- Becoming a well-placed morning telescopic object at Mag 5.8 in SE to S, best at end August.

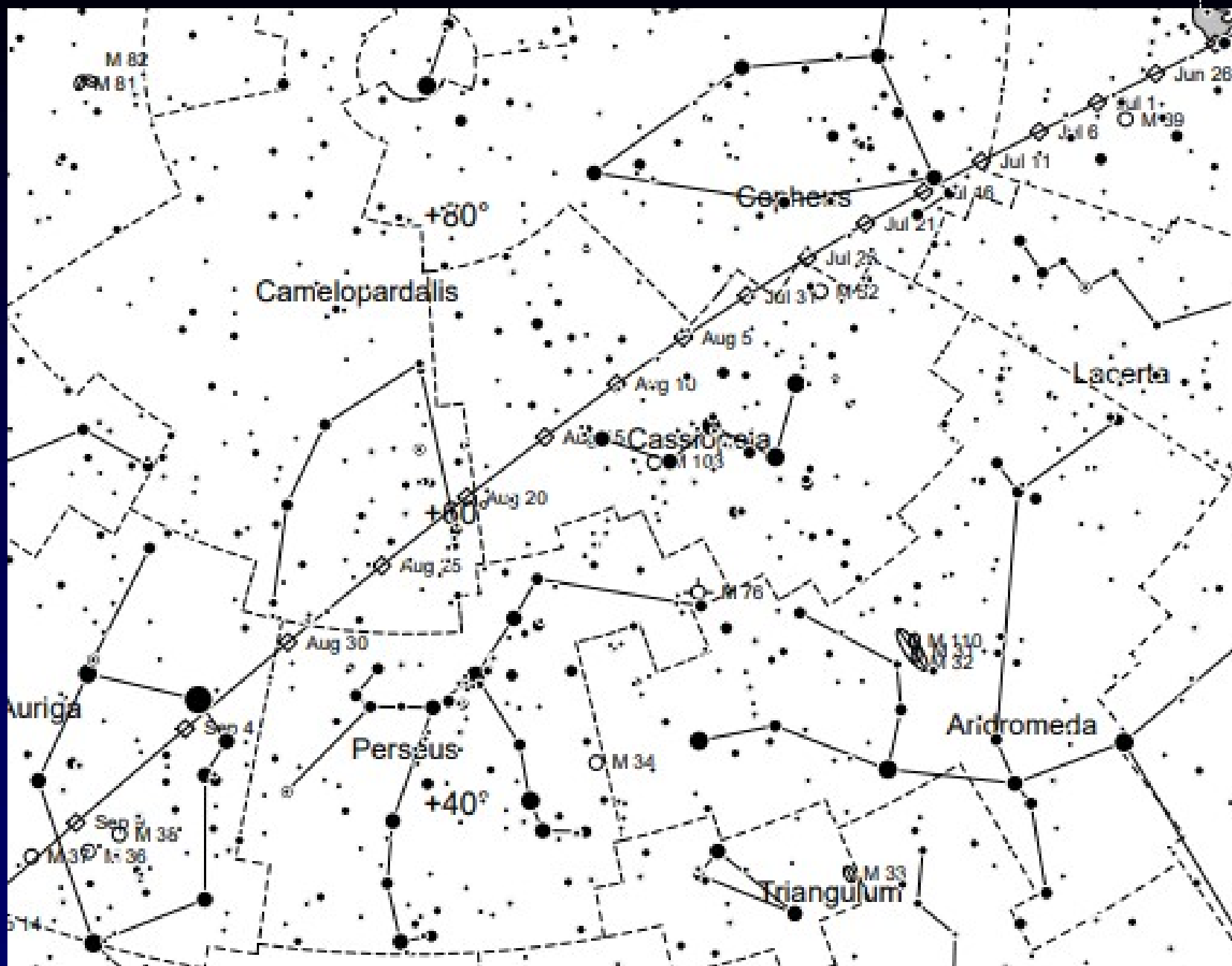
- Neptune

- Best seen as a morning telescopic object in SSE, but rising as an evening object as month draws on.

Events of Interest in August

- **12th** Peak of Perseid meteor shower from around 9pm, best seen in the early hours
- **14th** Venus and Moon 5° apart in W 
- **17th** Jupiter and Moon 5° apart in SW 
- **21st** Saturn and Moon 5° apart in South 
- **23rd** Mars and Moon 6.5° apart in SE 
- **Throughout August**
 - Noctilucent clouds still possible on Northern horizon
 - Comet 21P/Giacobini-Zinner visible as binocular object
 - (see finder chart)

Finder Chart for Comet C21P/Giacobini-Zinner

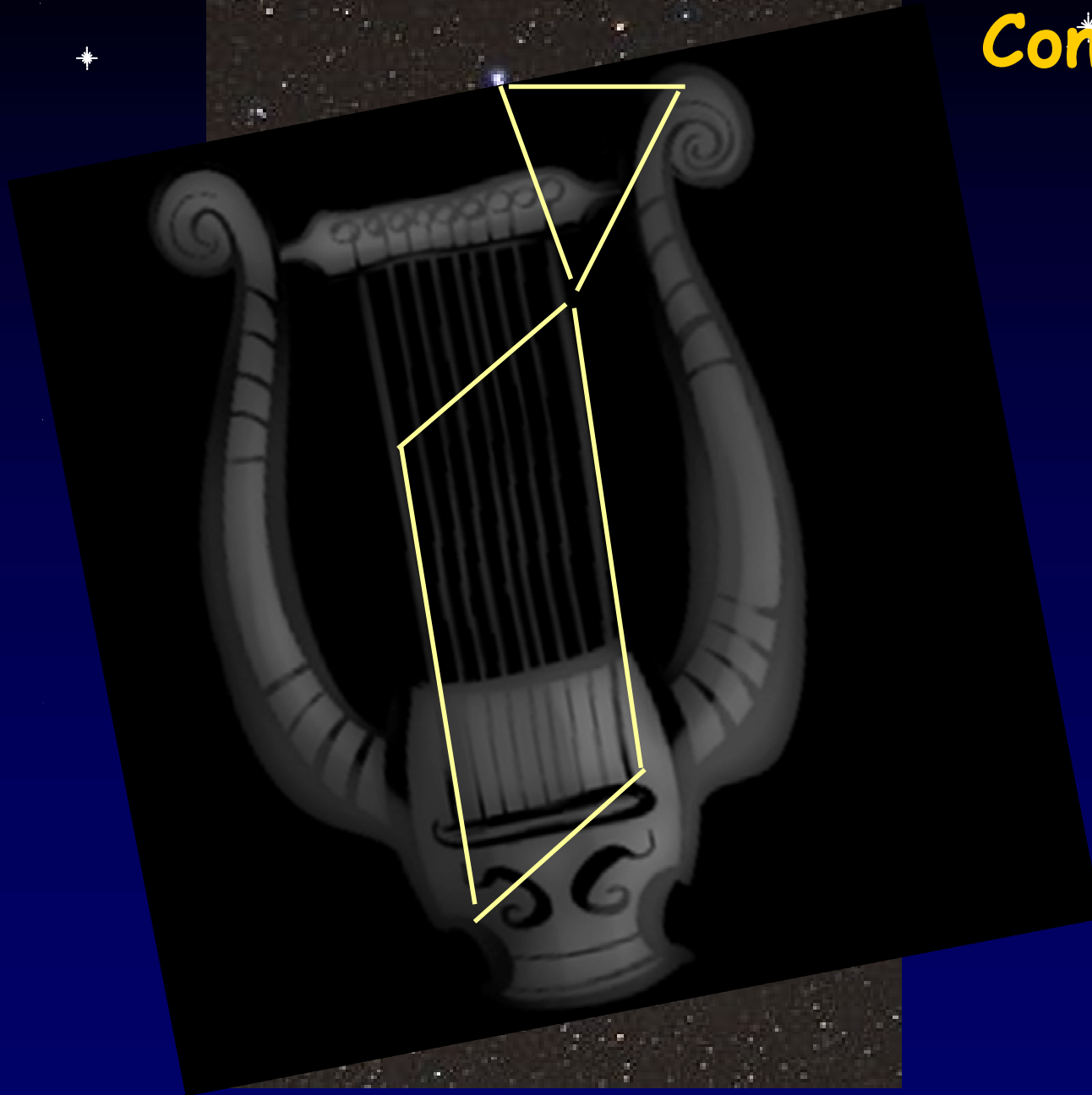


August's Suggested Constellation



*Any idea
what it is?*

August's Suggested Constellation



That's right -
Lyra

Lyra in Mythology

- Lyra was the first ever lyre, made by Hermes from a tortoise shell and was given to Orpheus
- Orpheus joined Jason and his Argonauts and used his lyre to subdue the voices of the Sirens
- He later married Eurydice, a nymph, but she was killed by a bite from a snake. Orpheus entered the Underworld to reclaim her and used his lyre to charm Hades, the King. Hades agreed to release Eurydice as long as Orpheus never looked back to check. He failed and Eurydice was consigned to the Underworld forever.
- Orpheus roamed the world, playing his lyre and rejecting all advances from other women.
- On his death the lyre was placed in the sky by the Muses.

Lyra - The Constellation

- Vega is a brilliant white star, easily found in the summer months and is one of the corners of the Summer Triangle
 - it's the 3rd brightest star in the northern hemisphere, after Sirius and Arcturus
 - it will be the Pole Star in 12,000 years time
 - the constellation's other main stars are 3rd/4th magnitude.
- Lyra contains two Messier objects
 - M57, The Ring Nebula, is a Planetary nebula, i.e. the remains of a star that has exploded about 8,000 years ago and sloughed off its material, seen as a torus
 - M56 is a globular cluster
- The constellation is home to several really attractive double stars
 - including the famous Double-Double, Epsilon Lyrae

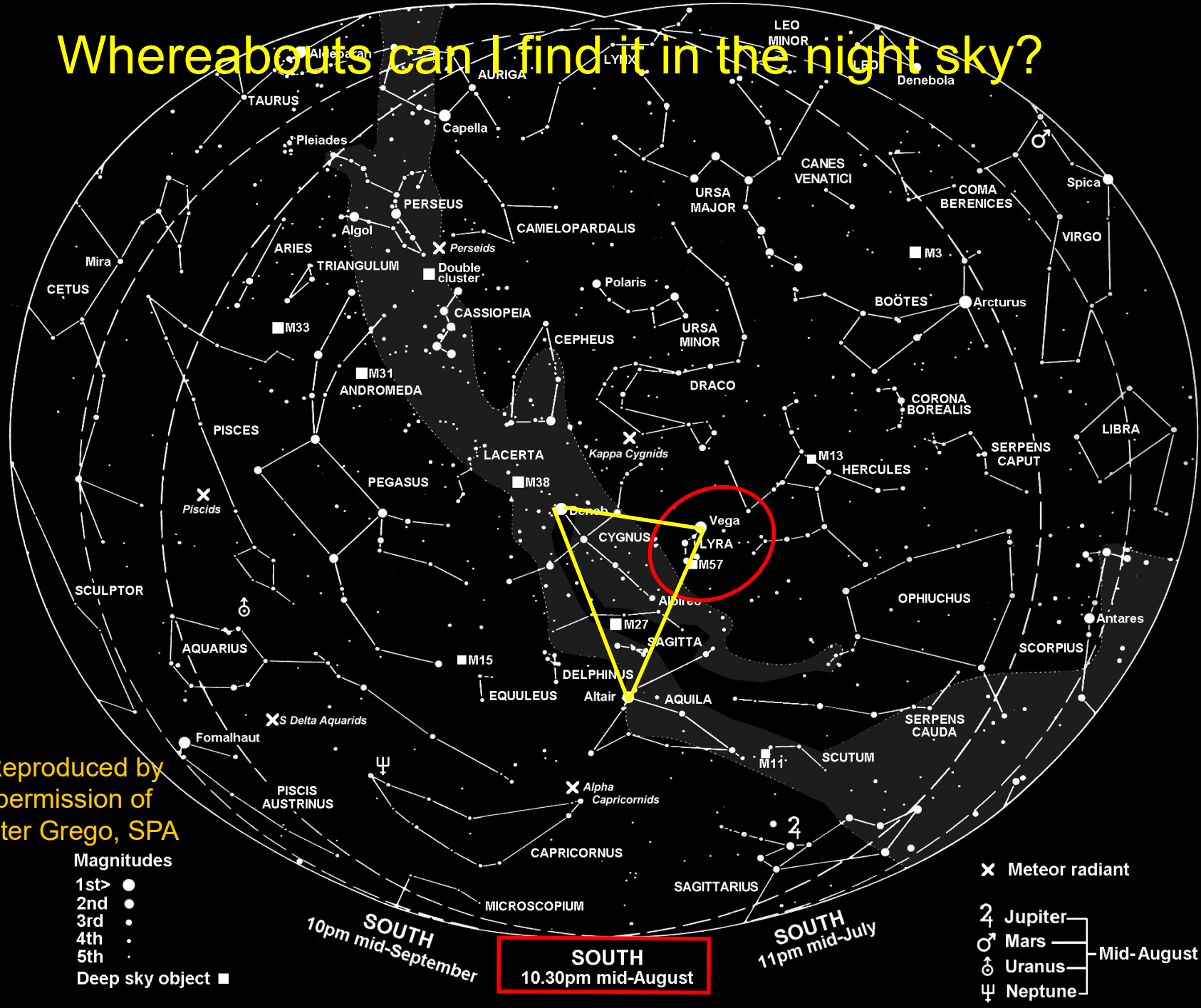
Whereabouts can I find it in the night sky?

Reproduced by permission of Peter Grego, SPA

- Magnitudes
- 1st > ●
 - 2nd ●
 - 3rd ●
 - 4th ●
 - 5th ●
 - Deep sky object ■

✕ Meteor radiant

- ♃ Jupiter
 - ♂ Mars
 - ♅ Uranus
 - ♆ Neptune
- Mid-August



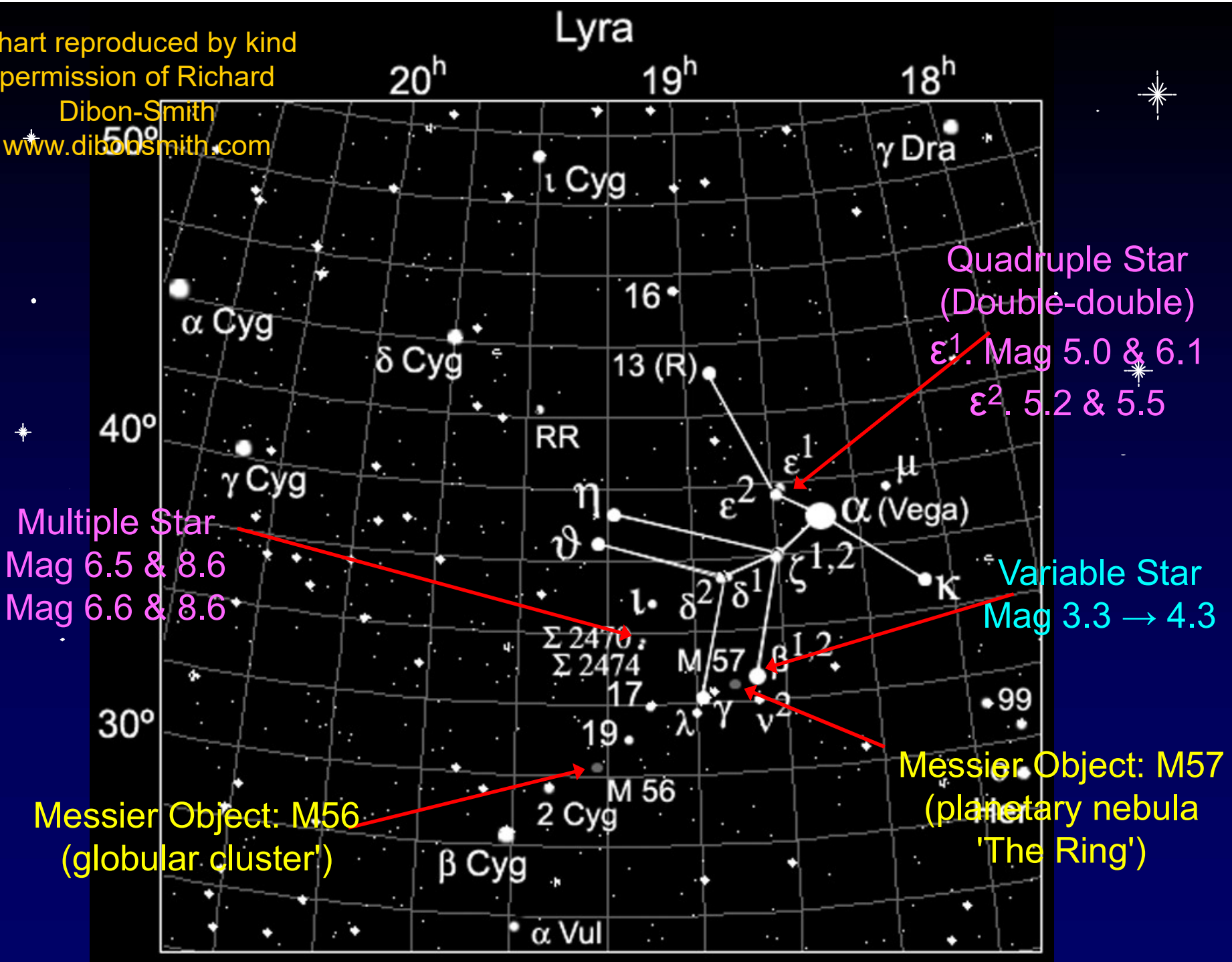
SOUTH
10pm mid-September

SOUTH
10.30pm mid-August

SOUTH
11pm mid-July

Chart reproduced by kind permission of Richard

Dibon-Smith
www.dibonsmith.com



Quadruple Star
(Double-double)
ε¹. Mag 5.0 & 6.1
ε². 5.2 & 5.5

Multiple Star
Mag 6.5 & 8.6
Mag 6.6 & 8.6

Variable Star
Mag 3.3 → 4.3

Messier Object: M56
(globular cluster')

Messier Object: M57
(planetary nebula
'The Ring')

M57 (NGC 5272)

Planetary Nebula



Distance 1,140 light years
Visual Brightness Magnitude 8.8

Apparent Dimensions 76 arc seconds
Discovered 1779, Antoine Darquier

M56 (NGC 6779)

Globular Cluster



Distance 31,000 light years
Visual Brightness Magnitude 8.4

Apparent Dimensions 7 arc minutes
Discovered 1779 Charles Messier

Meetings at Local Societies

- **Guildford AS** *Lecture Theatre L, Uni of Surrey*
 - No meeting in August.
- **Croydon AS** *Royal Russell School, Coombe Lane, Croydon*
 - No meeting in August.
- **Ewell AS** *Nonsuch High School for Girls, Cheam*
 - No meeting in August.

Meetings at Local Societies

- **Farnham AS Aldershot Cricket Club**

- Tuesday 14th August, 7.45 p.m

- **How To Weigh A Universe**

- **Colin Stuart, Farnham AS**

Astronomy on TV

BBC - The Sky at Night

The Death Star

This month the team asks how much of a threat our Sun poses to life on Earth. Maggie and Chris explore Coronal Mass Ejections and why 'space weather' has never been much of a threat to our planet. Lucie Green finds out how ESA's Solar Orbiter will withstand the Sun's fierce glare and what the mission may discover.

Sunday 12th August BBC 4, 10.00 pm

Thursday 16th August BBC 4, 7.30 pm

(please check www.radiotimes.com www.bbc.co.uk/skyatnight)



"That's all Folks!"