

Our Night Sky for the week of October 15th

The middle of October has always been a sort of a summer to winter transition. The bright stars of the summer triangle are nearing the western horizon. By Friday and Saturday night if you look due west, you will see first Altair about 20 degrees or about 4 hand widths at arms length. Continue looking due west at about 60 degrees or 2/3 to overhead is Deneb and now down about half way and right a little is Vega, the brightest star in the sky for most of the summer. When almost overhead these are truly the summer stars, the summer triangle. Right next to Vega is a tilted box, a parallelogram. This is the constellation Lyra.

With the summer triangle leaving our skies for winter if you look straight east and find bright Jupiter then look between Jupiter and due east just arriving in our sky is the constellation Orion. Throughout those coming cold winter nights when you look south you will see Orion, the warrior with his Bow and sword and a sheepskin held high, protecting those long-ago people on cold winter nights. The left shoulder is the star Betelgeuse and near the 3 belt stars you can easily find the Orion nebula, a beautiful star nursery very clearly viewed on our telescope at the Prince George observatory and maybe even on your tripod mounted binoculars. It's well worth the effort.