

# Thanet Astronomy Group

Astronomy for Everyone in Plain English

What to see August 30<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>th</sup>

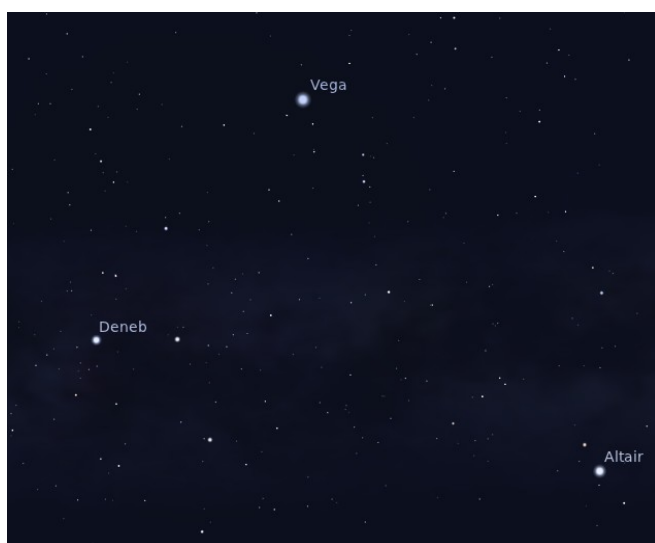
**Constellation** (Lyra, Aquila, Cygnus)

**Stars** (Vega, Altair, Deneb, Sadr, Gienah, Rukh, Albireo)

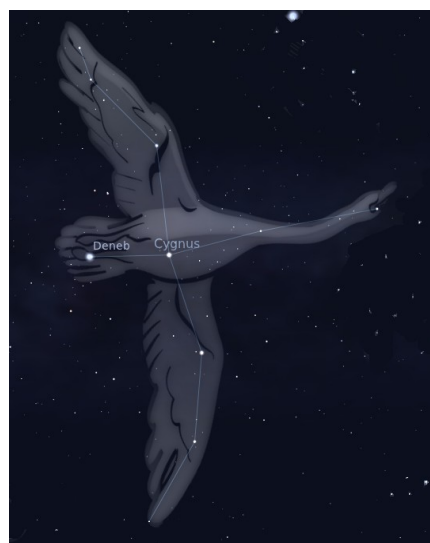
**Asterism** (The summer Triangle)

## The Summer Triangle

Looking East and high in the sky you will see three bright stars. **Vega** the brightest, the main star in the constellation **Lyra**. Lower and to the right the star **Altair** next brightest and the main star in the constellation **Aquila**. Mid way between **Vega** and **Altair** but to the left **Deneb** the dimmest of the three, and the main star in the constellation **Cygnus**. These three stars **Vega**, **Altair** and **Deneb** form the summer triangle.



The Summer Triangle



Cygnus the Swan

## Cygnus the Swan

**Cygnus** the Swan, also called the Northern Cross, is directly above in the summer months.

About 9:00pm look East and up to about 70deg you will see the star **Deneb**. This is the brightest star in the constellation of **Cygnus** the Swan, it's a blue/white super giant about 3229 light years away, **Deneb** forms the tail of **Cygnus** the swan.

Look a little to the right of **Deneb** and you will see the next star **Sadr** about 1524 light years away. Looking above and below **Sadr** there are three more stars that form the zigzag wings of the swan. The outer two are very dim and not easy to see, but you will see the inner pair, the star above **Sadr** is called **Rukh**. The star below **Sadr** is called **Gienah**.

Now look further to the right of **Sadr**, about three times the distance between **Deneb** and **Sadr**, you will see the star **Albireo**, 385 light years away. You have now reached the head of **Cygnus** the swan.

**Contact us if you need help or more information.**

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See us at, West Bay Cafe, Saturdays 1-4pm.