

# Thanet Astronomy Group

Astronomy for Everyone in Plain English

**What to see September 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Constellation** (Pegasus, Andromeda)

**Stars** (Alpheratz, Scheat, Markab, Algenib, Mirach,)

**Galaxy** (Andromeda M31)

## Tip for measuring degrees.

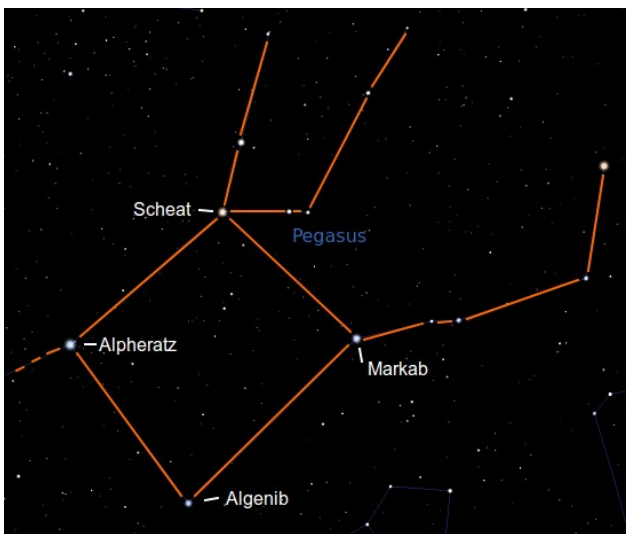
Extend your arm forward palm facing outward, the width of your hand including your thumb, represents roughly 10°.

## Great Square of Pegasus

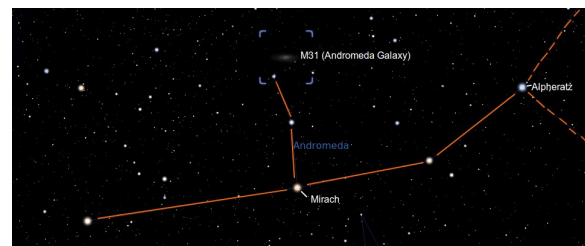
This is an asterism, (a recognisable formation of stars). It is a part of **Pegasus** the constellation.

At 8:00pm look East 90° and up 35° above the horizon, you will see the star. **Alpheratz** 97 light-years away, this forms the left corner of the square, it's one of a few stars to feature in two constellations as it's also included in **Andromeda**. **Alpheratz** shares it's orbit with another star, making it a binary system. It's name is derived from the Arabic word meaning, "The Horses Navel".

Up 10° and to the right 10° (one hand width) is **Scheat**, a red super giant, 196 light-years away. Below 10° and right another 10° is **Markab**, Arabic for "The Saddle of the Horse" 133 light-years away. Then below 10° and to the left 10° is **Algenib**, this completes **The Great Square of Pegasus** at a distance of 391 light-years.



The Great Square of Pegasus



M31 and Andromeda

## Andromeda

Go left from **Alpheratz** 15° and down 4° this leads you to the red giant **Mirach** in the constellation **Andromeda**, probably better known for it's galaxy M31.

Now up about 11° and you arrive at the galaxy of **Andromeda**. You are looking at a fuzzy blob, our nearest galactic neighbour, 2.6 million light-years away. **Andromeda is said to be the furthest object visible to the naked eye**, but in our light polluted sky, binoculars will be helpful.

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

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