

Sky Notes : September 2011

The late summer period is one of the best times for viewing the magnificent Milky Way, with the naked eye or low powered binoculars.

➤ **Moon** : First Quarter – 4th Full Moon – 12th Last Quarter – 20th New Moon – 27th

➤ **Sun** : The Autumn Equinox occurs on 23rd September.

➤ **Planets**

- **Mercury** : Creeps above the horizon in the morning before sunrise in the east-north-east. Best seen from 2nd – 9th being at greater than 8 deg. altitude, before lost in the dawn.
- **Mars** : Lying in Gemini & best seen in the pre-dawn sky, it will not achieve any great altitude.
- **Jupiter** : By the end of September it will be rising early evening in the east and will be the stand-out planet for the rest of the year.
- **Uranus** : is at opposition on 26th September.

➤ **Comets** : Comet C/2009 P1 (Garradd) is making its lazy journey across the night sky from the constellation of Sagittaria heading towards Hercules and at about mag.8, should be an easy object in 10x50 binoculars.