

# Milky Way and stars are nature's night lights, not the moon



**NEEL ROBERTS**  
*Sky's the Limit*

Many songs and poems have been written about a moon light night, but not enough goes to the stars which are always out.

Why? Simply because the moon is very noticeable, but it is not always up as it can be sometimes a daytime object. Stars on the other hand are “always” up. Yes, even during the day you maybe able to catch the bright ones like Vega and Sirius if it is clear and oppo-

site the sun. Go out to a dark sky area where there's a lake and the darkest areas on the map – that's your best chance.

On a still night you can not only see the sky reflected in the water, but the night light casts shadows. Before compasses were invented, sailors navigated ships via the stars while farmers used the constellations to plant and harvest crops.

## **SKY WATCH**

Download this month's sky free chart at <http://whatsouttonight.com/Resources/2020SepSkyWOT.pdf>.

The Zodiacal Light is a faint, roughly triangular, whitish glow seen in the night sky extended up from the vicinity of the sun along

the ecliptic or zodiac. It's difficult to find, and the best time is from Monday, Sept. 14 for two weeks in the east morning twilight.

On Tuesday, Sept. 22 after sunset, look southwest-west at around 7:30 p.m. to catch the star Spica near Mercury before they set at 7:55 p.m.

On Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 7:30 a.m., the summer's officially over, and fall begins.

On Friday, Sept. 25, look south-east-east near the moon with good binoculars or a telescope to see Saturn and Jupiter during daylight.

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