

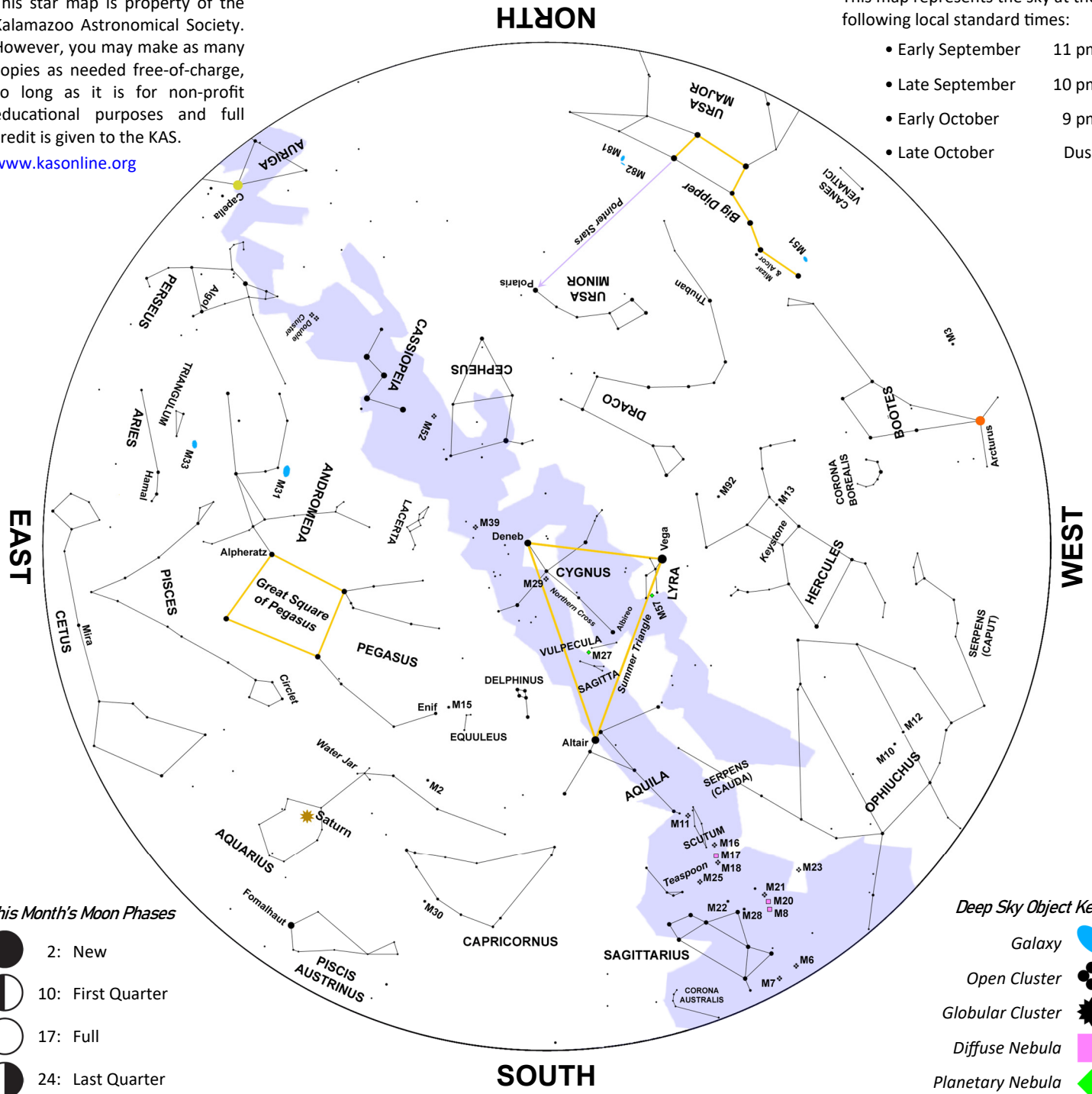
October Night Sky

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This map represents the sky at the following local standard times:

- Early September 11 pm
- Late September 10 pm
- Early October 9 pm
- Late October Dusk



This Month's Moon Phases

-  2: New
-  10: First Quarter
-  17: Full
-  24: Last Quarter

Grab your binoculars shortly after dusk on October 5th, and look low in the west-southwest. A waxing crescent Moon will be 4° to the lower left of Venus. Conjunctions like this are always spectacular, so hope for clear skies!

Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS (C/2023 A3), discovered in early 2023, may be one of the highlights of the year (or even decade). The

comet will be hidden in the Sun's glare until October 11th. Find yourself a spot with an unobstructed view of the western horizon (the lakeshore would be ideal). The comet will be ~5° above the horizon about 20 to 30 minutes after sunset. Hopefully it will be visible with the unaided eye, but be sure to bring binoculars in either case.

Comet A3 makes its closest approach to

Earth (43.9 million miles) on October 12th and will be 13° above the western horizon 30 minutes after sunset. The comet's dust tail should extend over 10° to the northeast.

The comet climbs more than 5° per day but gradually fades as it recedes from the Sun. Light from the Moon will make it difficult to see with the unaided eye until the 20th, but it should be easy to see in binoculars.