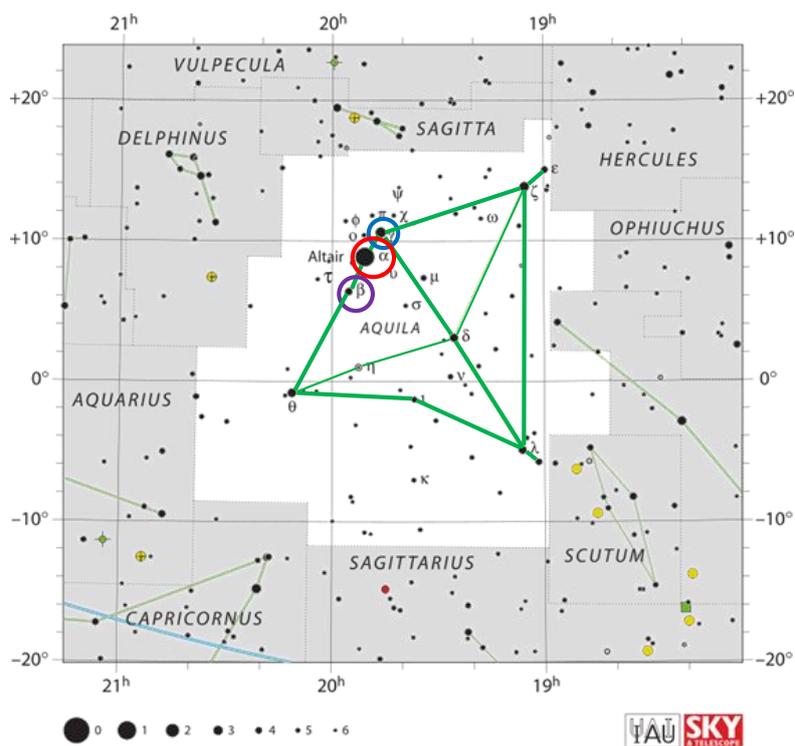


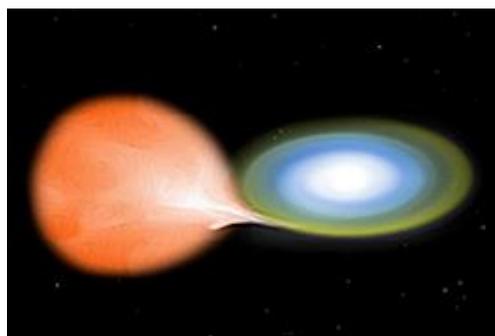
AUGUST Night Sky - AQUILA – *The Eagle*



ALTAIR α Aql – An oblate bodied white star which, due to a rapid axial rotation (70x faster than Sun) has a 20% larger equatorial diameter than at its poles. Spec.type A7 V (RA 19h 50m Dec +08° 50').

ALSHAIN β Aql – Is a multiple star system. βa is a yellow subgiant Spec.type G8I V, 45 light-years away, having a mass 1.26x that of the Sun and luminosity 6x. βb is a red dwarf with a mass just 0.3x that of the Sun.

TARAZED γ Aql – An enormous orange star Spec.type K3 II (RA 19h 46m Dec +10° 36') with a radius 95x greater than our Sun and a mass 6x. It is also 2,500x more luminous.



V603 (artists impression)

V603 Aql – A binary system comprising a white dwarf 1.2x Sun's mass with a red dwarf, orbital period 3h 20m. Gravitational material from the red dwarf is being pulled off to form an accretion disk around the primary. Distance away is 800 ly. In 1918 a nova was observed, which was almost as bright as the star *Sirius*, meaning that the event actually occurred in around the 11 ~ 12 century.

PERSEIDS METEOR SHOWER

In the middle of this month the Earth's orbit will intersect with that of the comet **109P/ Swift-Tuttle**. The comet's 133 yr. circuit of the Sun is littered with particles of ice, gas and rock thrown off through heat and gravitational forces as it passed by the Sun. These particles interact with our atmosphere and can provide a spectacular display of shooting stars even if the crescent Moon is nearby. Look east-south-east late evening /early morning before sunrise.

MARS note - The current increase in spacecraft missions to Mars (USA, UAR and China) is in part, due to an Earth/Mars orbital conjunction which will occur in October.