I bet you have seen a star twinkling — the air surrounding Earth makes it look like the star is sparkling! Even if we went to outer space, we could see how many stars change brightness.

"Variable stars" continuously dim, brighten, and dim. Some complete this pattern in under a second, while others take years.

One variable star YOU can see this month is R Aquilae, located off the trailing edge of the western wing of Aquila the Eagle. It is about 5 degrees south of Zeta Aquilae, the wing tip.

At its brightest, R Aquilae is visible to the naked eye as a dim, red star. Dimmed, it is just visible in binoculars. Its period from one dimming to the next is about 270 days, but this has been decreasing at an average rate of 9 hours per year since first known in 1915.

To view the "Summer Triangle," which includes this star, find two more stars:

Beta Lyrae (a.k.a. Sheliak) in the constellation Lyra, the Harp. It is even visible in light-polluted urban skies! It is at the southwest corner of the parallelogram of bright stars that make up the Lyra constellation.

Chi Cygni in Cygnus the Swan nearby!

Visit www.aavso.org/featured-variables for more information.

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About the AAVSO

The American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO) is an international nonprofit organization of citizen and professional astronomers interested in stars that change in brightness—variable stars.

From its earliest days in 1911, AAVSO members have included some of the most prolific astronomers of the 20th & 21st centuries.

AAVSO Databases

**AAVSO International Database (AID):** The largest and most comprehensive digital variable star database in the world, with over 43 million variable star observations—a free resource for the entire scientific community.

**Variable Star Index (VSX):** A collection of up-to-the-minute data on over 200,000,000 specific variable stars.

**Spectroscopy Database:** Spectroscopic observations of stars.

**Solar Database:** Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance (SID) Database, and data relating to sunspot observations.

**Exoplanet Database:** Long-term follow-up information on planets orbiting other stars.

Connect with the AAVSO

**Who are AAVSO Members?**

- **A citizen scientist**—contributes to science by acquiring data on variable objects and submitting them to our databases, or other activities, such as data mining.

- **An educator or mentor**—teaches observing skills to fellow AAVSO observers, through instructing AAVSO CHOICE courses or being a mentor.

- **A student**—is learning how to find a star, set up a telescope, observe, submit data, or is increasing their astronomy knowledge.

- **A professional astronomer**—uses AAVSO data and services to advance their research.

**Discover the benefits of membership and join us!**

aavso.org/membership

Benefits include being able to participate in our mentor program: beginners are paired with an experienced observer for guidance and techniques: aavso.org/mentor-program

Interested in becoming an AAVSO ambassador?

Ambassadors are students or young professionals representing AAVSO through conducting astronomy education and outreach.

aavso.org/ambassador-program

AAVSO can help YOU become a citizen astronomer!

**AAVSO Tools for Beginner Observers:**

- **Beginner Tutorials:** aimed at those with absolutely no experience, these introduce variable star science basics and then provide “challenges” for you to apply the concepts: avso.org/tutorials

- **AAVSO Online Forum:** talk to peers for advice: aavso.org/forum

- **Observing Manuals:** each one is dedicated to a type of observing, including visual, CCD, DSLR, Spectroscopy, Solar, and more: aavso.org/observing-manuals

- **CHOICE Courses:** peer-taught informal online observing courses: aavso.org/choice-astronomy

Everyone is invited to join us for:

**AAVSO 111th Annual Meeting & Workshop**

Nov. 4 - 8, 2022 | Tucson, Arizona

aavso.org/111

**AAVSO webinars**

About three Saturdays per month

aavso.org/participate