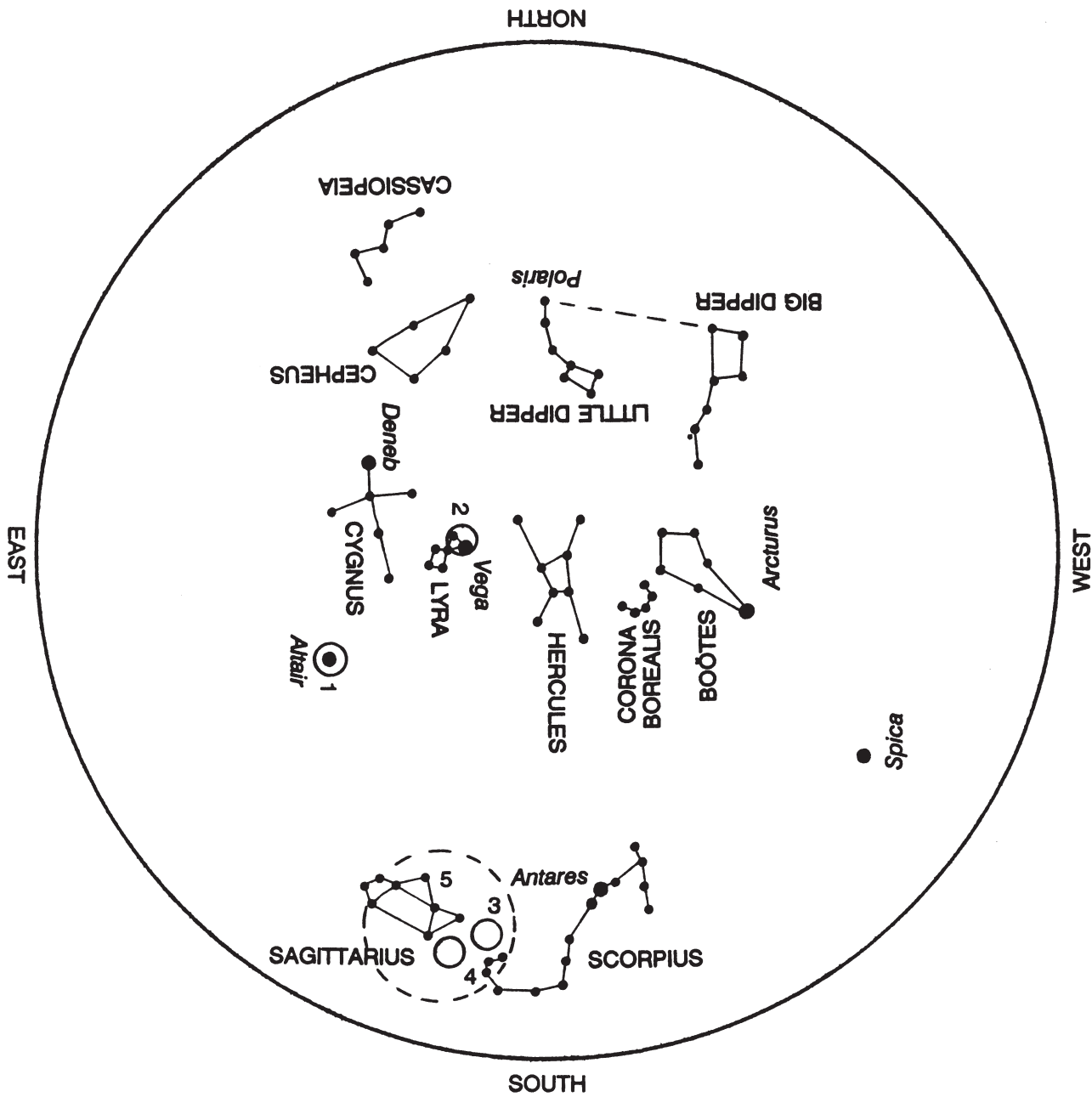
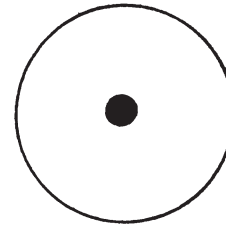


# August (Approximately 9:30 p.m.)



## 1. Altair

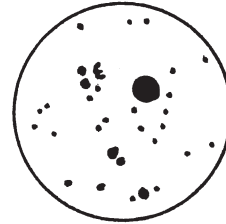


Bright Star in Aquila  
Other name:  $\alpha$  Aquila

R.A.  $19^h48.3^m$  Dec.  $08^\circ44'$

One of our nearest neighbors, Altair is only 16 ly away. It is 1 1/2 times larger than our sun and is 9 times brighter. Altair is the 12th brightest star in the sky and the 2nd brightest of three stars in the summer triangle. (see Vega and Deneb)

## 2. $\epsilon$ Lyra

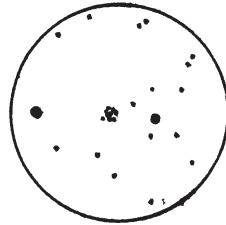


Double Double Star in Lyra

R.A.  $18^h42.7^m$  Dec.  $39^\circ37'$

With binoculars, a pair of stars can be seen. With a small telescope, each star in this pair becomes a double star, for a total of four stars. The two visible through binoculars are separated by 1.2 trillion miles, or three hundred times the distance between the Sun and Pluto. The pair lies approximately 180 ly from us.

## 3. M6

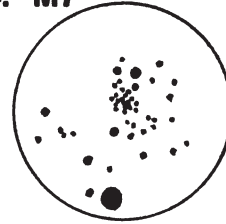


Open Cluster in Scorpius  
Other name: NGC 6405

R.A.  $17^h36.8^m$  Dec.  $-32^\circ11'$

Near the tail of the Scorpion, M6 and its close companion M7 can be seen with the naked eye on dark clear nights. Through binoculars or a telescope some people can see a butterfly shape among the 80 stars in the cluster. This cluster lies between 1400 and 1600 ly from us and is 20 ly in diameter. The central region is about 9 ly across.

## 4. M7

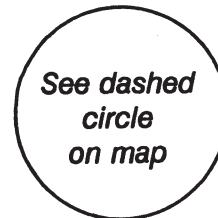


Open Cluster in Scorpius  
Other name: NGC 6475

R.A.  $17^h50.7^m$  Dec.  $-34^\circ48'$

Just south of M6 in the scorpion's tail, this cluster is visible to the naked eye on dark, clear nights. M7 contains approximately 80 stars and at 818 ly distant, is almost twice as close to us as M6.

## 5. Galactic Center



See dashed circle on map

The center of our Milky Way galaxy lies in the constellation of Sagittarius. Clouds of interstellar gas and dust lie between our solar system and the actual center and obscure it, but an increase in brightness can still be seen in the Sagittarius region. Through binoculars, what appears as a milky haze becomes thousands of stars. Our galaxy is thought to be 100,000 ly across and about 4000 ly thick with a huge ball of stars in the center. It is believed to contain 100-200 billion stars.