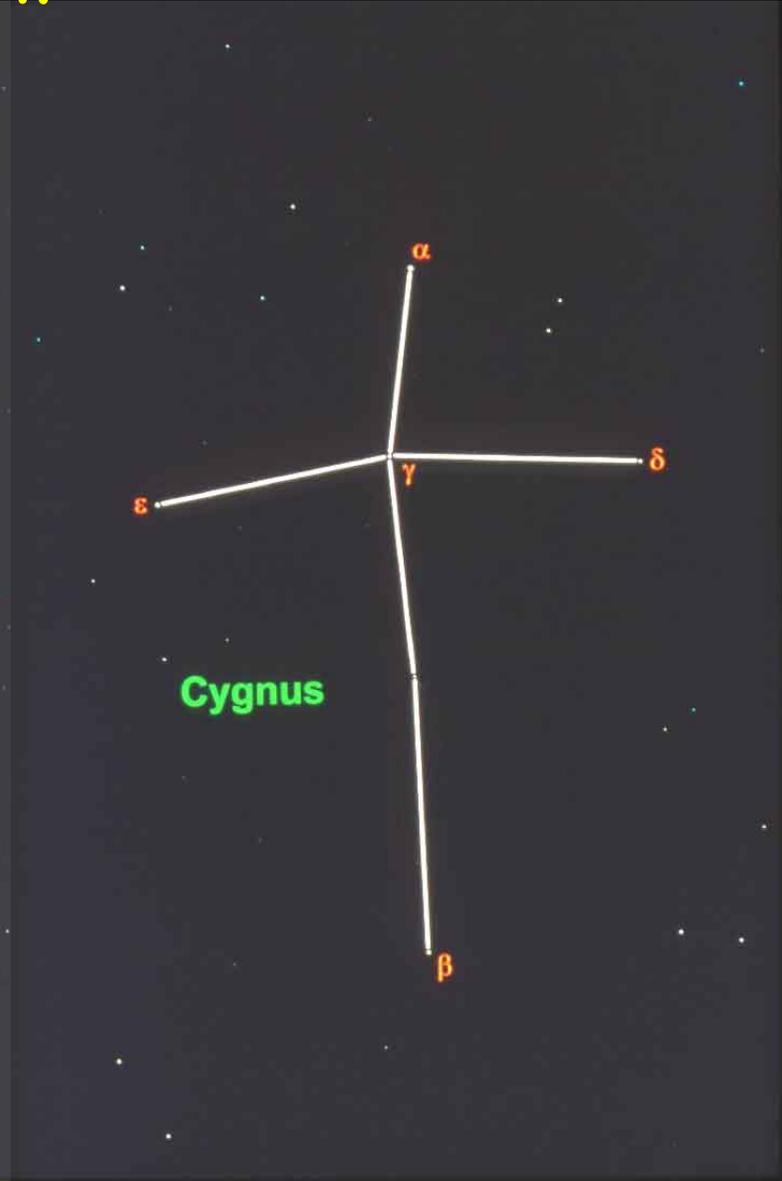


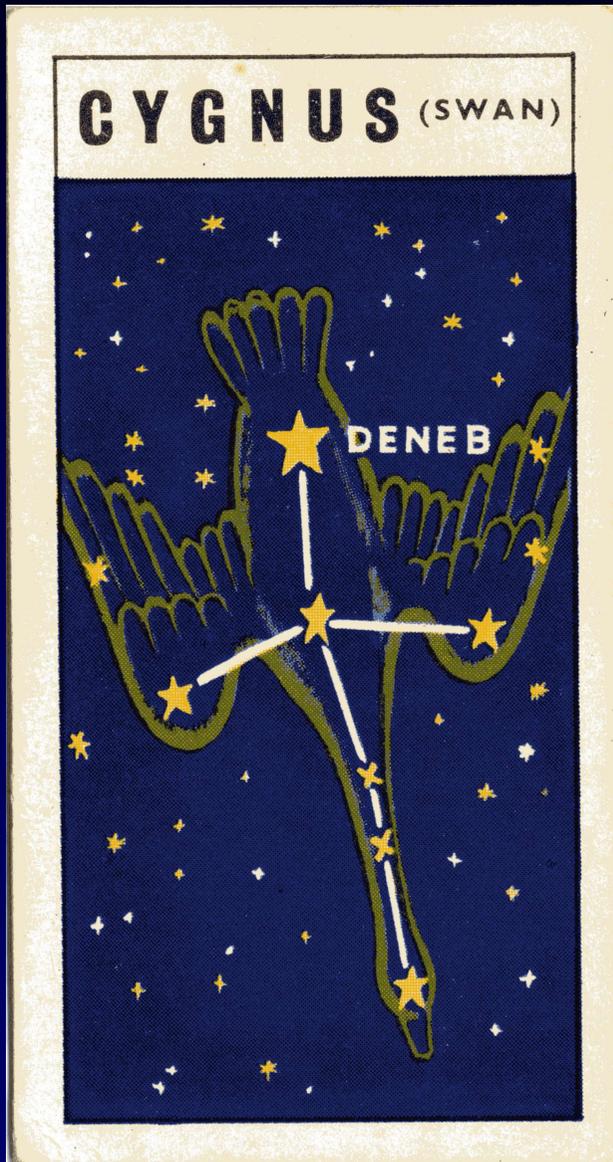
September's Suggested Constellation - but which?



September's Suggested Constellation - but which?



September's Suggested Constellation



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OUT INTO SPACE

*Approved by A. Hunter, Ph.D.,
Sec. Royal Astronomical Society*

CYGNUS (The Swan)

A Northern Hemisphere constellation (known also as the Northern Cross) in the Milky Way, directly east of the Lyre, and nearly on the same meridian as the Dolphin. Seen from May to December. Its brightest star, Deneb, is in the tail of the Swan, and always above the horizon in England. One named 61 Cygni (a small variable star in this constellation and almost invisible to the naked eye), was the first to have its distance from the Earth determined—50 billion miles.

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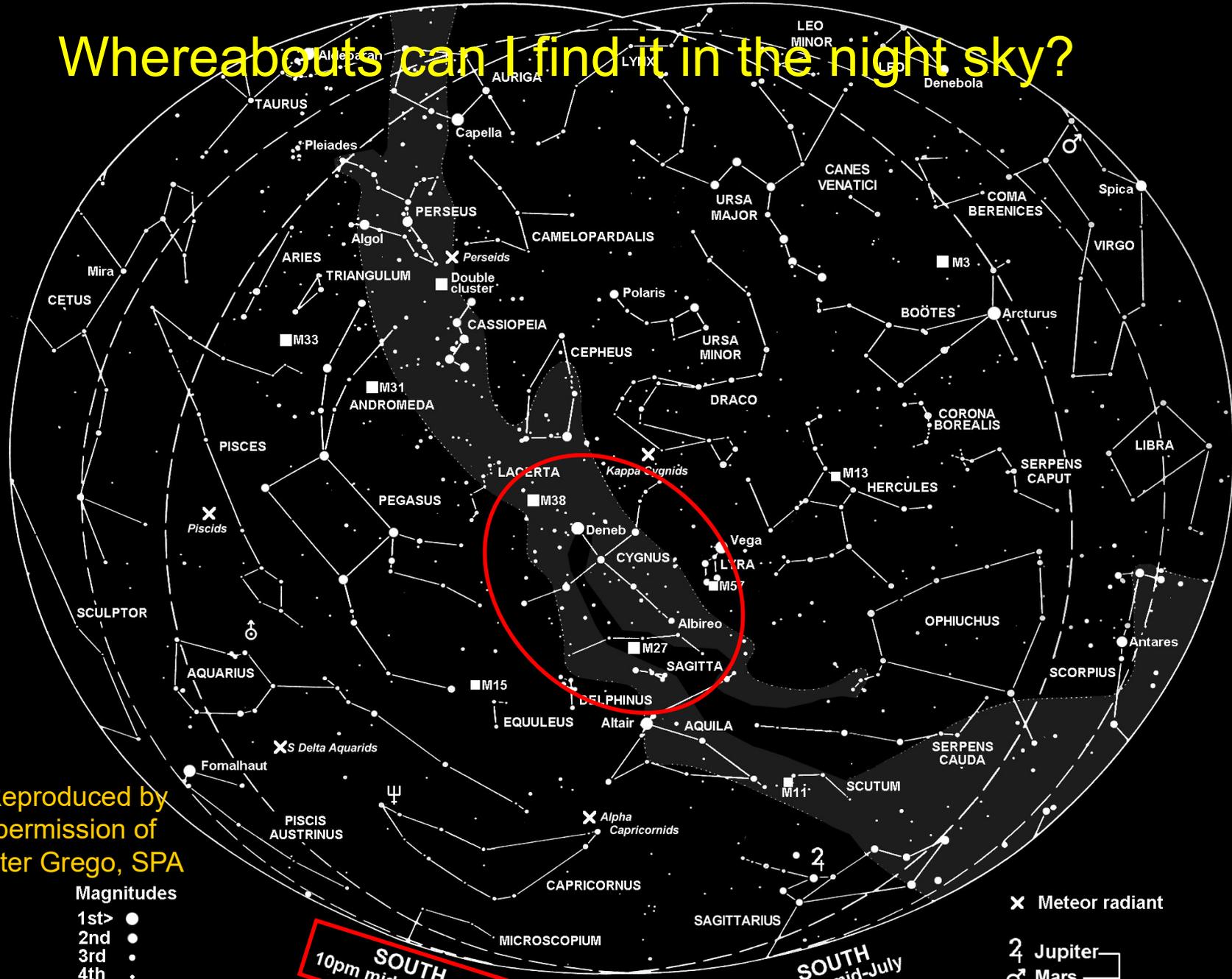
Cygnus - The Mythology

- There are several differing accounts about Cygnus, however here's one popular one
- Zeus, the king of the gods, desired Leda who was the very beautiful wife of the King of Sparta
- He realised she wouldn't love him for what he really was, and so disguised himself as a swan and was successful. (Strange lady!)
- Their offspring included
 - Castor (twin of Pollux who's father was the Spartan King)
 - Helen of Troy
 - Clytemnestra (wife of Agammemnon)

Cygnus - The Constellation

- Its main star is Deneb, a 1st magnitude star and one of the corners of the Summer Triangle
 - the constellation's other main stars are 2nd/3rd magnitude.
- Two Messier objects lie within Cygnus
 - M29 & M39, both open clusters
 - M27, “The Dumbbell” planetary nebula lies close to Cygnus, but is actually just over the border in Vulpecula
- Its 2nd star, β Cygni aka Albireo, is one of the best known double stars
 - and there are several more that can be found with binoculars

Whereabouts can I find it in the night sky?



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- Magnitudes
- 1st > ●
 - 2nd ●
 - 3rd ●
 - 4th ●
 - 5th ●
 - Deep sky object ■

SOUTH
10pm mid-September

SOUTH
10.30pm mid-August

SOUTH
11pm mid-July

- ✕ Meteor radiant
 - ♃ Jupiter
 - ♂ Mars
 - ♅ Uranus
 - ♆ Neptune
- Mid-August

Double Star
'Albireo'

Messier M27
(planetary nebula
'The Dumbbell')

The Veil

Messier M29
Open Cluster

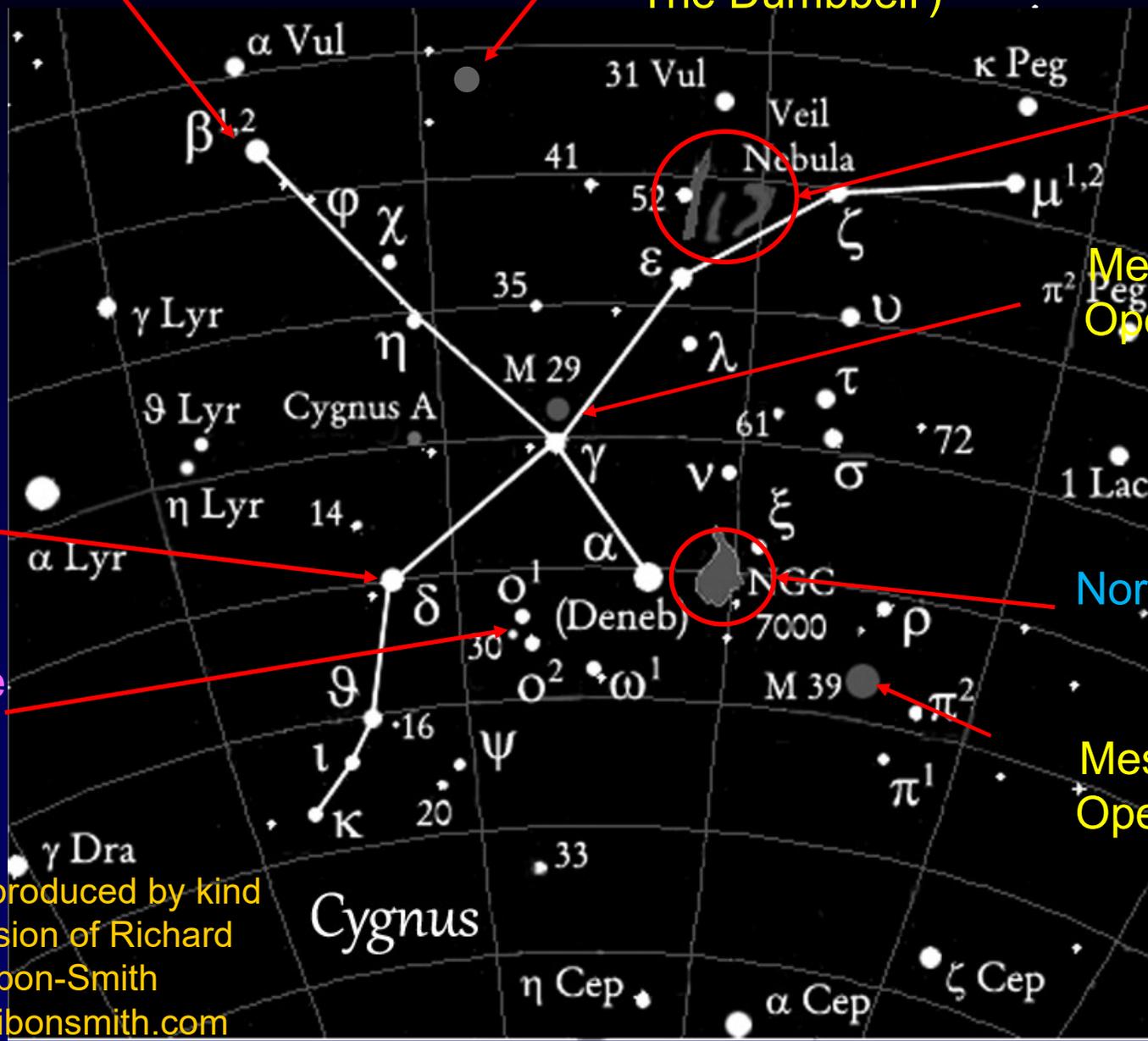
Double
Star

North American
Nebula

Triple
Star

Messier M39
Open Cluster

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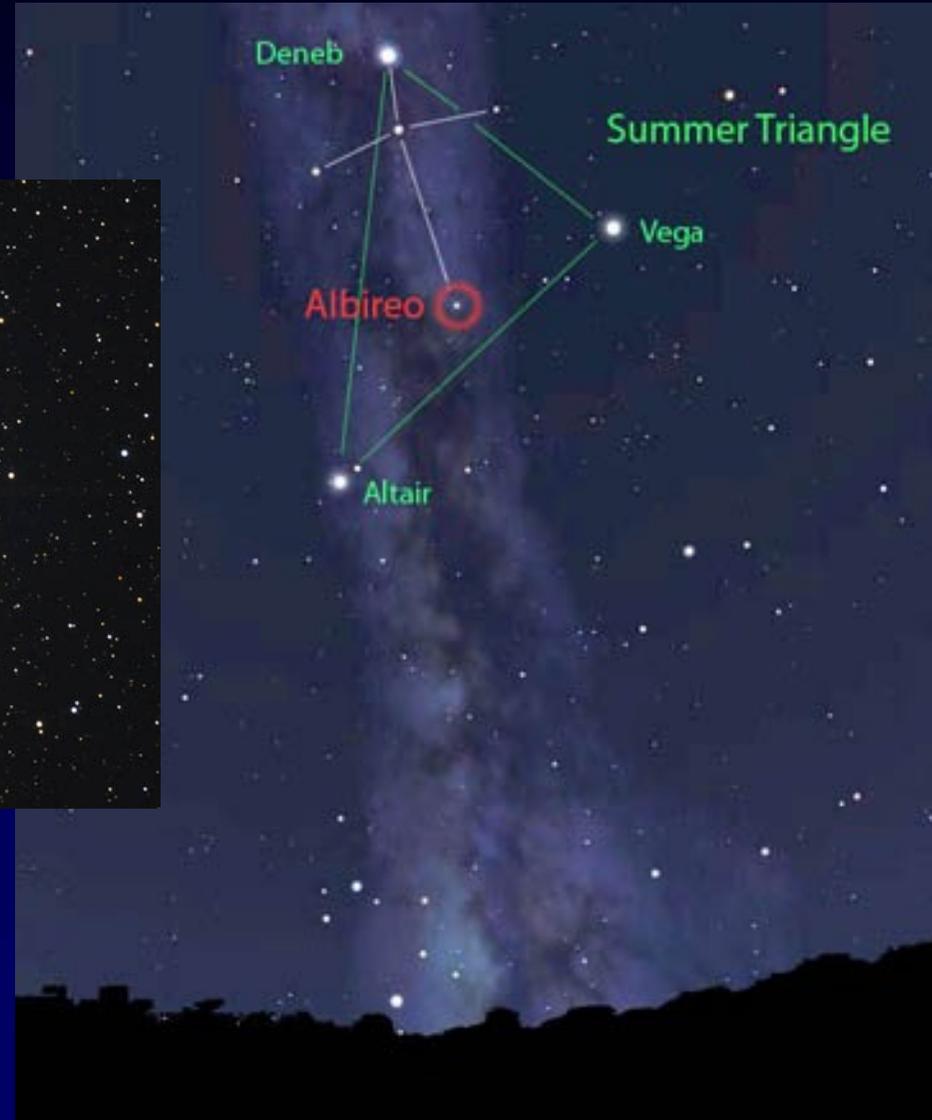
Albireo



Beta (β) Cygni

Distance: 400 LY

Magnitude: 3rd & 5th



M29



M39



Distance 4,400 light years

Visual Brightness Magnitude 6.6

Apparent Dimension 10 arc minutes

Discovered 1764, Charles Messier

Distance 950 light years

Visual Brightness Magnitude 4.6

Apparent Dimension 30 arc minutes

Discovered 1750, Guillame Le Gentil

M27 (NGC 6853)

Planetary Nebula



Distance 815 light years
Visual Brightness Magnitude 7.3

Apparent Dimension 8 arc minutes
Discovered 1764 Charles Messier



NGC 7000 : North American Nebula

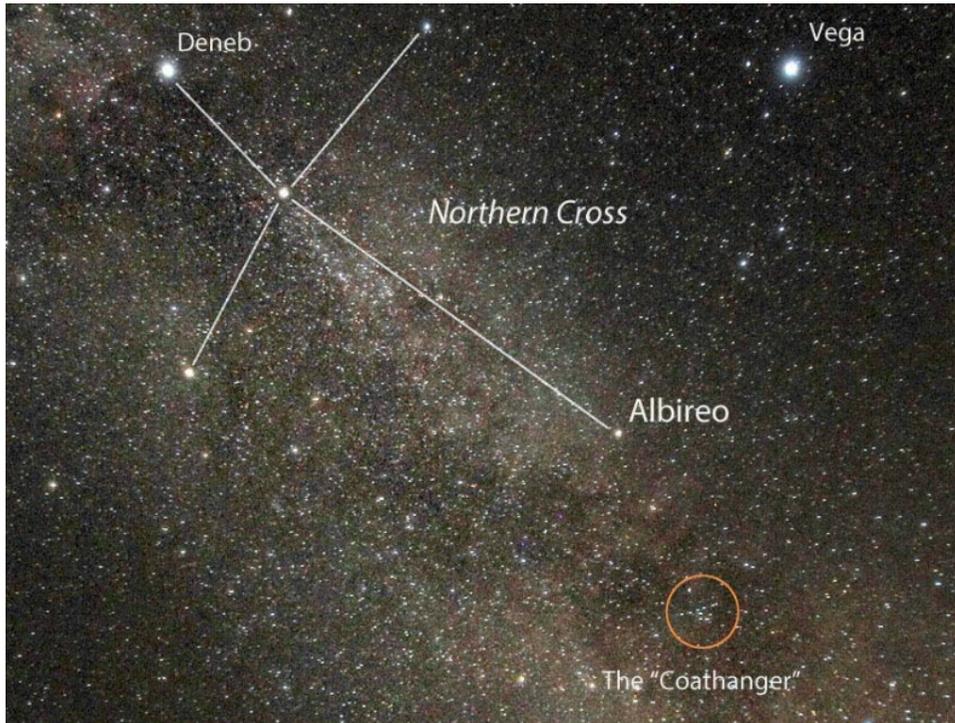


NGC 7000 : North American Nebula

plus IC 5070 : Pelican Nebula



The Veil Nebula



**"The Coathanger"
asterism**

aka
**"The Ski Lift"
"Brocchi's Cluster"
Collinder 399**

