Navigating the mid July Night Sky The stars plotted represent those which For observers in the middle northern latitudes, this chart can be seen from areas suffering North is suitable for mid July from moderate light pollution. at 11 p.m. or late July In larger cities, less than near 10 p.m. 100 stars are visible, while from dark, rural areas well over ten times that amount are found. Polaris, Pointer Stars to the North Star and Hand Hand M31 Alcon/Mizar - nice binocular double star Berenices Deneb Star Cluster Denebola Cygnus Triangle Coathanger The Keystone Spring The of Hercules • Triangle Crown Altair (Aquila Spica Equator **Full Moon** Numerous July 4-5, • star cluster partial penumbral eclipse Jupiter Saturn ₹ Zubenelgenubi - nice binocular double star Moon Relative sizes night of Omega Scorpii - nice and distances July 5 binocular double star in the sky can be deceiving. For instance, 360 "full The Ecliptic represents moons" can be placed the plane of the solar side by side, extending from Comet system. The sun, the moon, horizon to horizon. and the major planets all lie on or South near this imaginary line in the sky. Relative size of the full moon.

Navigating the mid July night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

- 1 Extend a line north from the two stars at the tip of the Big Dipper's bowl. It passes by Polaris, the North Star.
- 2 Follow the arc of the Dipper's handle. It first intersects Arcturus, the brightest star in the July evening sky, then continues to Spica.
- **3** Arcturus, Spica, and Denebola form the Spring Triangle, a large equilateral triangle.
- 4 To the northeast of Arcturus shines another star of similar brightness, Vega. Draw a line from Arcturus to Vega. It first meets "The Northern Crown," then the "Keystone of Hercules." A dark sky is needed to see these two dim stellar configurations.
- **5** High in the East lies the Summer Triangle stars of Vega, Altair, and Deneb.

Binocular Highlights

- A: Between Denebola and the tip of the Big Dipper's handle, lie the stars of the Coma Berenices Star Cluster.
- **B:** Between the bright stars Antares and Altair, hides an area containing many star clusters and nebulae.
- **C:** On the western side of the Keystone glows the Great Hercules Cluster, containing nearly 1 million stars.
- **D:** 40% of the way between Altair and Vega, twinkles the "Coathanger," a group of stars outlining a coathanger. **E:** Sweep along the Milky Way for an astounding number of faint glows and dark bays, including the Great Rift.
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