Navigating the mid August 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 intersects Arcturus, the brightest star in the June evening sky.
3. To the northeast of Arcturus shines another star of the same 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.
4. High in the East lies the summer triangle stars of Vega, Altair, and Deneb.

**Binocular Highlights**

A: On the western side of the Keystone glows the Great Hercules Cluster.
B: Between the bright stars Altair and Andromeda, hides an area containing many star clusters and nebulae.
C: 40% of the way between Altair and Vega, twinkles the “Coathanger,” a group of stars outlining a coathanger.
D: Sweep along the Milky Way for an astounding number of faint glows and dark bays, including the Great Rift.
E: The three westernmost stars of Cassiopeia's "W" point south to M31, the Andromeda Galaxy, a "fuzzy" oval.