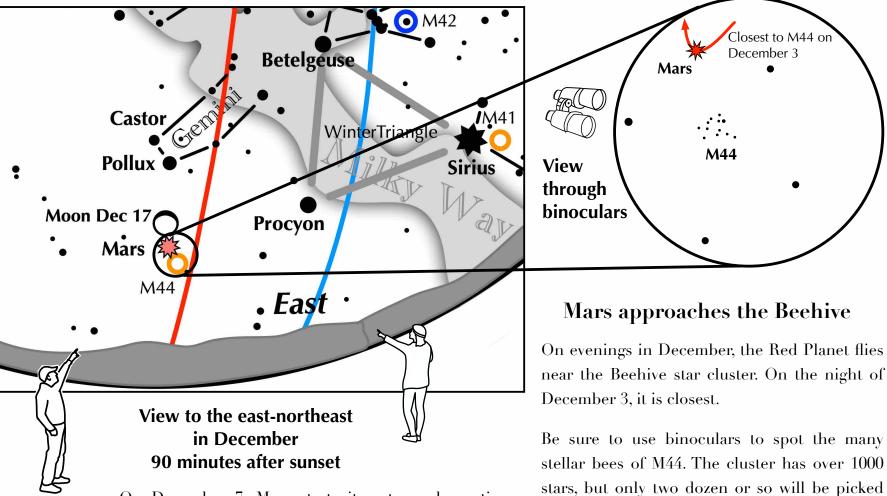
On a moonless evening in December, try this challenge:



On December 7, Mars starts its retrograde motion, moving slightly each evening westward until February.

Even though Mars and M44 lie near each other in binoculars, they are nowhere near

each other in three-dimensional space. M44 is 50 million times farther than the Mars!

out with binoculars.

It has taken the light from M44's stars over 575 years to reach your eyes!