

M6 & M7

When these two big, bright, and beautiful open star clusters appear in the early evening in early July, summer is upon us.



If you have recently begun your journey under the stars, why not whet your appetite by exploring southeastern Scorpius and its two wonderful open star clusters, M6 & M7. You will return to them year after year!

While they are visible to the unaided eye from a dark location, binoculars help greatly.

1. Identify Scorpius standing low in the south-southeast on an early summer evening. As summer progresses, it ascends low in the south, then swings low in the southwest in the early fall.
2. From red Antares, direct your gaze southward down the scorpion's back, then turn eastward.
3. When its tail hooks northward, continue the length of that hook.
4. M6 and M7 should be plainly visible in the binocular field.

M6:

A faint hazy glow is seen by the unaided eye from a dark, clear site. Two dozen stellar lights can be discerned with 10x50 binoculars.

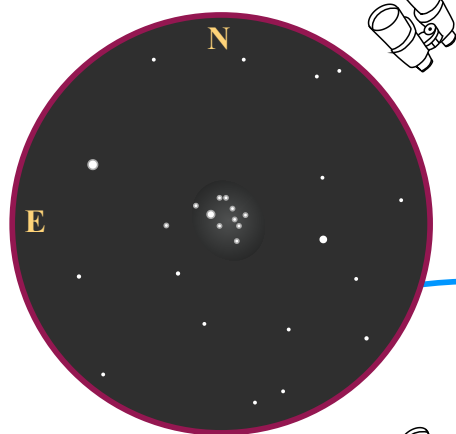
- Integrated Magnitude: 4.2
- Size: 33 minutes

M7:

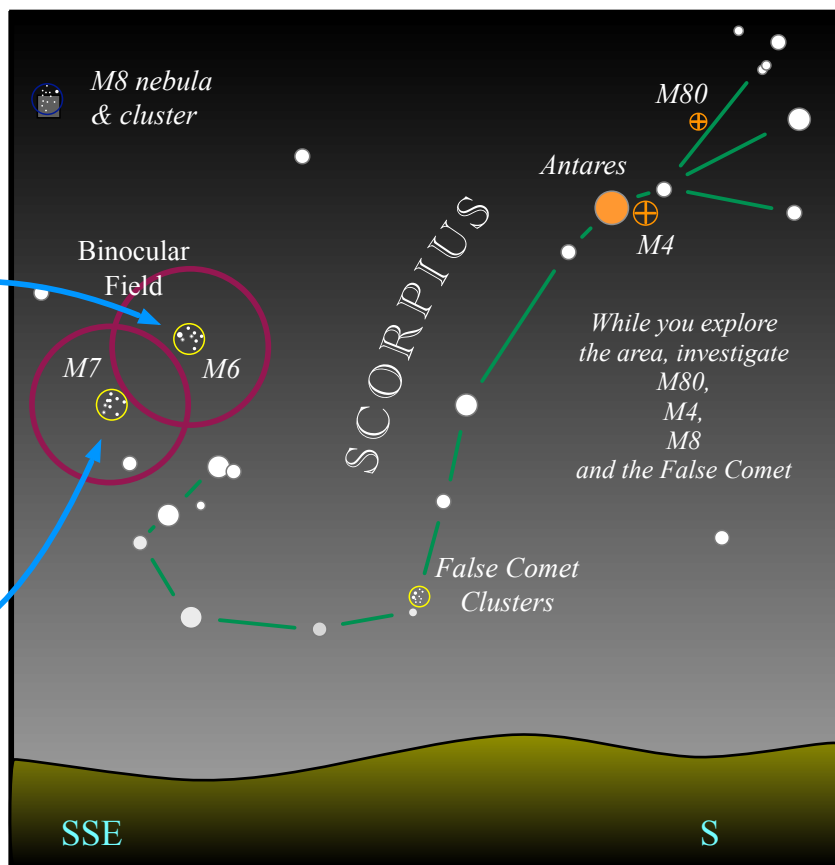
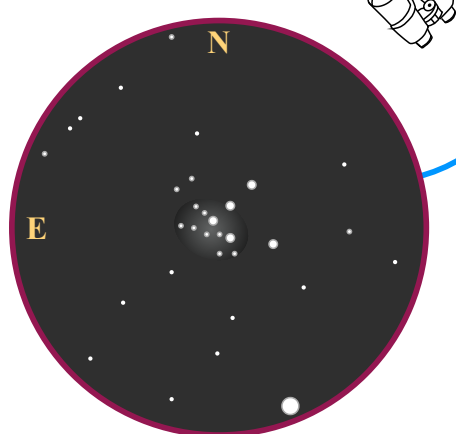
A glittery glow is easily spotted off the scorpion's tail by the unaided eye. Binoculars reveal many faint stars.

- Integrated Magnitude: 3.3
- Size: 80 minutes

M6 Binocular View



M7 Binocular View



While you explore the area, investigate M80, M4, M8 and the False Comet