

## A Better Galaxy Guide: Early Spring

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**NGC 2419:** 3.25° SE of mag 6.2 66 Aurigae. Hard to find and see; at E end of short row of two mag 7.5 stars. Highly significant and worth the effort – may be approximately 300,000 light years distant and qualify as an extragalactic cluster. Named the **Intergalactic Wanderer**.

**NGC 2683:** Marks NW “crook” of coathanger-type triangle with easy double star mag 4.2 Iota Cancri (which is SSW by 4.8°) and mag 3.1 Alpha Lyncis (at 6° to the ENE).

Object	Type	R.A.	Dec.	Mag.	Size
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### Lynx

NGC 2419	GC	07h 38.1m	+38° 53'	10.3	4.2'
NGC 2683	Sp Gx	08h 52.7m	+33° 25'	9.8	9x2.5'

### Cancer

M67	OC	08h 50.4m	+11° 49'	6.9	30'
NGC 2775	Sp Gx	09h 10.3m	+07° 02'	10.2	4.5x3.5'

### Leo

NGC 2903	Sp Gx	09h 32.2m	+21° 30'	9.0	12.6x6'
*M95	Sp Gx	10h 44.0m	+11° 42'	9.7	7.4x5'
*M96	Sp Gx	10h 46.8m	+11° 49'	9.2	7x5'
*M105	El Gx	10h 47.8m	+12° 35'	9.3	4.3x4'
NGC 3521	Sp Gx	11h 05.8m	-00° 02'	9.0	10.5x5.5'
*M65	Sp Gx	11h 18.9m	+13° 05'	9.3	9.5x3'
*M66	Sp Gx	11h 20.2m	+12° 59'	9.0	8.5x4.2'

### Leo Minor

NGC 3344	Sp Gx	10h 43.5m	+24° 55'	10.0	7x6.5'
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### Sextans

NGC 3115	S0?	10h 05.2m	-07° 43'	9.0	8.3x3'
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### Hydra

M48	OC	08h 13.8m	-05° 48'	5.8	53'
NGC 3242	PN	10h 24.8m	-18° 38'	7.8	25"
U Hydrae	Var	10h 37.6m	-13° 23'	4.7-6.5	red star

### Ursa Major

NGC 2841	Sp Gx	09h 22.0m	+50° 58'	9.2	7.5x3.5'
*M81	Sp Gx	09h 55.6m	+69° 04'	6.8	25x14'
*M82	Irr Gx	09h 55.8m	+69° 41'	8.4	11.5x5'
*NGC 3077	El/Irr?	10h 03.3m	+68° 44'	9.8	5x3.8'
NGC 3184	Sp Gx	10h 18.3m	+41° 25'	9.8	7.3x7'
M108	Sp Gx	11h 11.5m	+55° 40'	10.0	8.3x2.5'

### Draco

NGC 4125	El Gx	12h 08.1m	+65° 11'	9.7	5.5x3.7'
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### Camelopardalis

NGC 2655	Sp Gx	08h 55.6m	+78° 13'	10.1	5.5x4.5'
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**Types:** Sp Gx = Spiral Galaxy, El Gx = Elliptical Galaxy, Irr Gx = Irregular Galaxy, S0 = Lenticular Galaxy (see notes), OC = Open Cluster, GC = Globular Cluster, PN = Planetary Nebula, Var = Variable Star

**M67:** One of the most ancient open clusters known and is a great novelty in this regard. Located 1.7° due W of mag 4.3 Alpha Cancri.

**NGC 2775:** Located 3.7° ENE of mag 3.1 Zeta Hydrae. (Look for “Head of Hydra” first.)

**NGC 2903:** Easily found at 1.5° due S of mag 4.3 Lambda Leonis.

**M95:** One of three bright galaxies forming a compact triangle, along with **M96** and **M105**. All three can be seen together in a low power, wide field view. M105 is at the NE tip of triangle, midway between stars 52 and 53 Leonis, mag 5.5 and 5.3 respectively – M95 is at W tip.

**NGC 3521:** Located 0.5° due E of mag 6.0 62 Leonis.

**M65:** One of a pair of bright galaxies that can be seen in a wide field view along with **M66**, which lies just E. M65 is midway between stars Theta and Iota Leonis, mag 3.5 and 4.0 respectively.

**NGC 3344:** Located 2.75° due W of the fine mag 4.3 double star 54 Leonis (separation of components about 7”) and midway between stars 40 and 41 Leo Minoris, mags 5.5 and 5.1.

**NGC 3115:** Find mag 3.6 Lambda Hydrae and go due N by 4° to the 0.2° wide pair of stars 17 and 18 Sextantis, each about mag 5.75, oriented W to E. NGC 3115 will be found 1.5° WNW of this pair’s center. This is the **Spindle Galaxy** and has an uncertain classification, thus my “?” after the S0. The shape suggests it may be a transitional type between a highly flattened elliptical and a lenticular S0 type of disc galaxy.

**M48:** Located by imagining it to be the southern tip of an equilateral triangle with mag 4.3 Zeta Monocerotis (about 3° to the NNW) and mag 3.9 C Hydrae (3.5° to the NE). C is the brightest of a compact little row of three stars close together.

**NGC 3242:** This is the famous **Ghost of Jupiter**, one of the most striking and brighter planetary nebulae in the entire sky. Located 1.8° S of mag 3.8 Mu Hydrae, it’s a splendid object even at the relatively low declination of -18° 38’. The greenish-blue color is a dead giveaway—hope you enjoy!

**U Hydrae:** A fine red carbon star located in the general vicinity of NGC 3242, to the NE by several degrees. U forms the northern tip of a triangle with Mu (about 4.5° to the SW) and mag 3.1 Nu Hydrae (4° to the SE). The period of this variable is about 450 days but the star stays sufficiently bright so as to be easily seen throughout its range in magnitude.

**NGC 2841:** Located about 1.8° WSW of mag 3.2 Theta Ursae Majoris.

**M81:** Also known as **Bode’s Nebula**. M81 is the brightest of a group of galaxies along with the strange **Exploding Galaxy M82** (just due N of M81 and visible in the same very low power, wide field view) and **NGC 3077**, the faintest of these three, found 0.75° to the ESE of M81.

**NGC 3184:** Located 0.75° due W of mag 3.0 Mu Ursae Majoris.

**M108:** Located 1.5° SE of mag 2.4 Beta Ursae Majoris, Merak – the southern of the two Big Dipper “pointer” stars.

**NGC 4125:** Check star atlas; note how NGC 4125 forms an almost perfect triangle with mag 1.8 Alpha Ursae Majoris, Dubhe (lead “pointer”) and mag 3.3 Delta, Megrez. Should be a workable star hop.