

Messier 22

The Great Sagittarius Globular



Messier 22

NGC 6656

Type: Globular Cluster

Constellation: Sagittarius

RA: 18h36.4m

Dec: -23°54'

Magnitude: 5.2

Diameter: 32'

Distance: ~10,400 light-years

Discovered By: John Hevelius, prior to 1665



Photo: Bob Birket

Messier 22

A half-million stars spanning 70 light-years of space, only Omega Centauri and 47 Tucanae are brighter globular clusters in the sky.

Sitting between us and the galactic bulge, M22 is used to study microlensing effects on background stars due to its considerable gravity.



Photo: Hubble Space Telescope

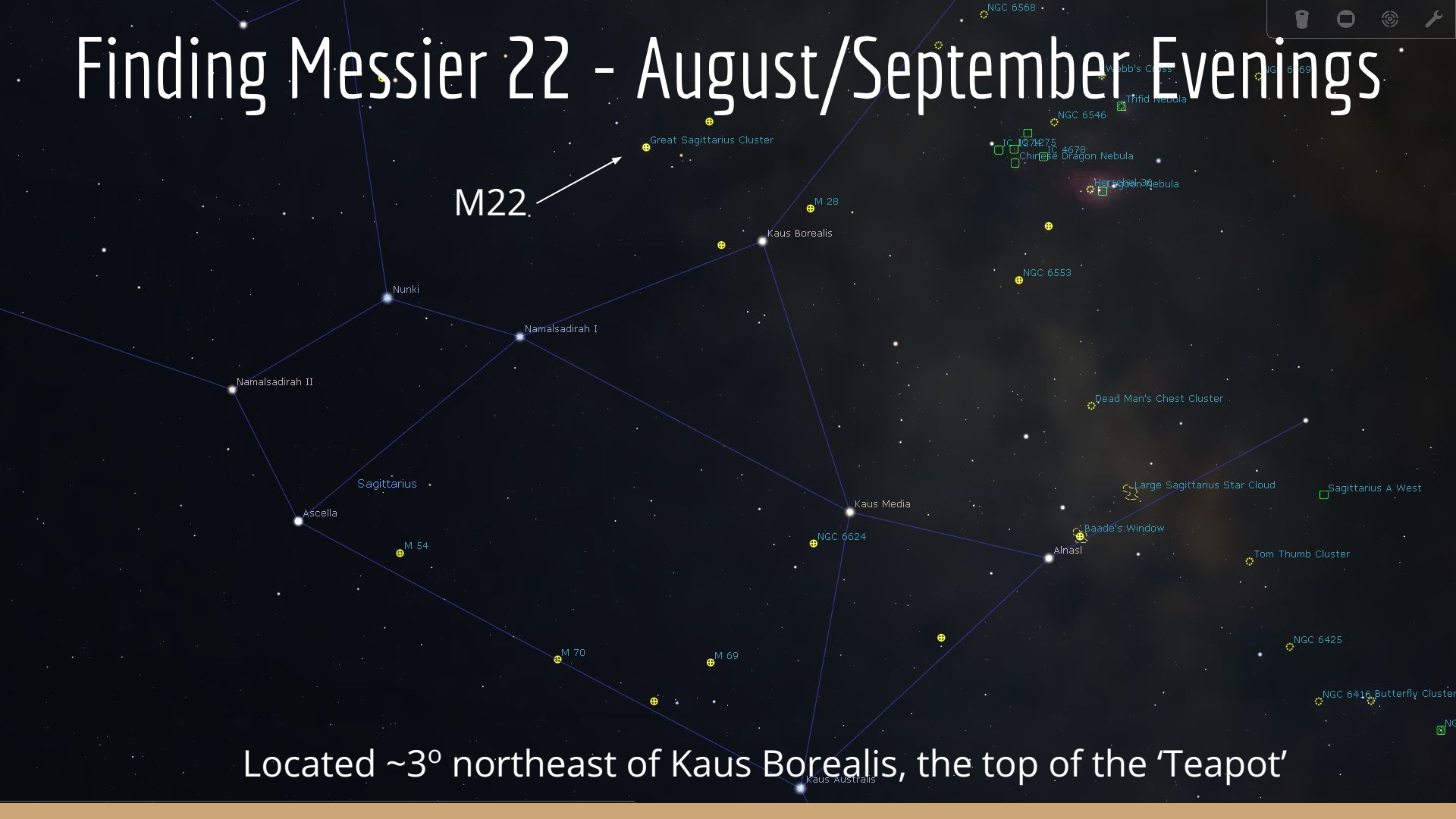
Finding Messier 22 - August/September Evenings



M22

Located $\sim 3^\circ$ northeast of Kaus Borealis, the top of the 'Teapot'

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M22

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What does Messier 22 look like?

Naked Eye:

Tight bead of light on the eastern edge of the Milky Way northeast of Lambda Sagittarii.

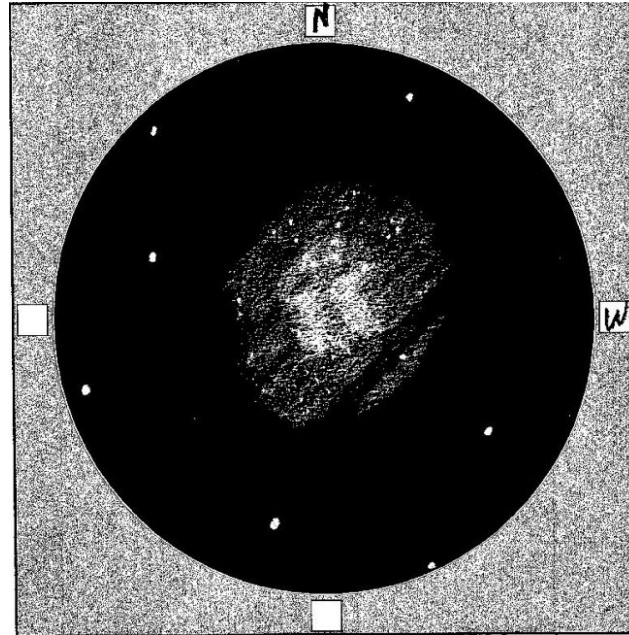
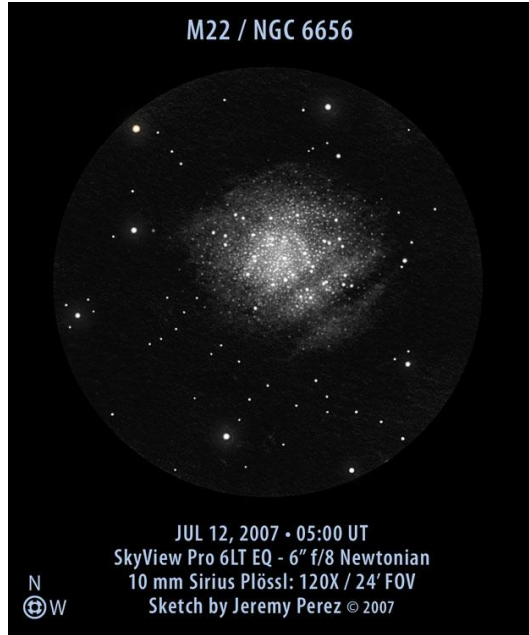
Binoculars:

A diffuse, cometary glow with a bright core and fluffy halo.

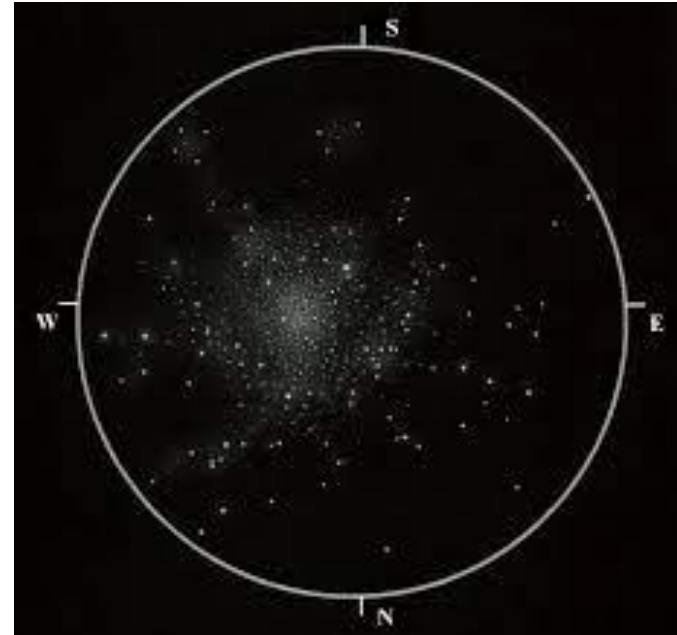
Small Telescope:

At low power, appears more oval than round with major axis running slightly east of north. Prominent extensions to north and south. Dark gash running southwest to northeast across the core.

Sketches of Messier 22



Michael Wright
114mm Newtonian EQ @120x
June 23, 2015



Janos Gabor Kernya
305mm Dobsonian @218x
August 22, 2012

References

Alan Dyer. 2022. "The Messier Catalogue" in J.S. Edgar, ed, Observer's Handbook 2022. The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

Stephen James O'Meara. 2014. The Messier Objects. 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press.

Messier 22. Wikipedia.org. Accessed June 10, 2022.