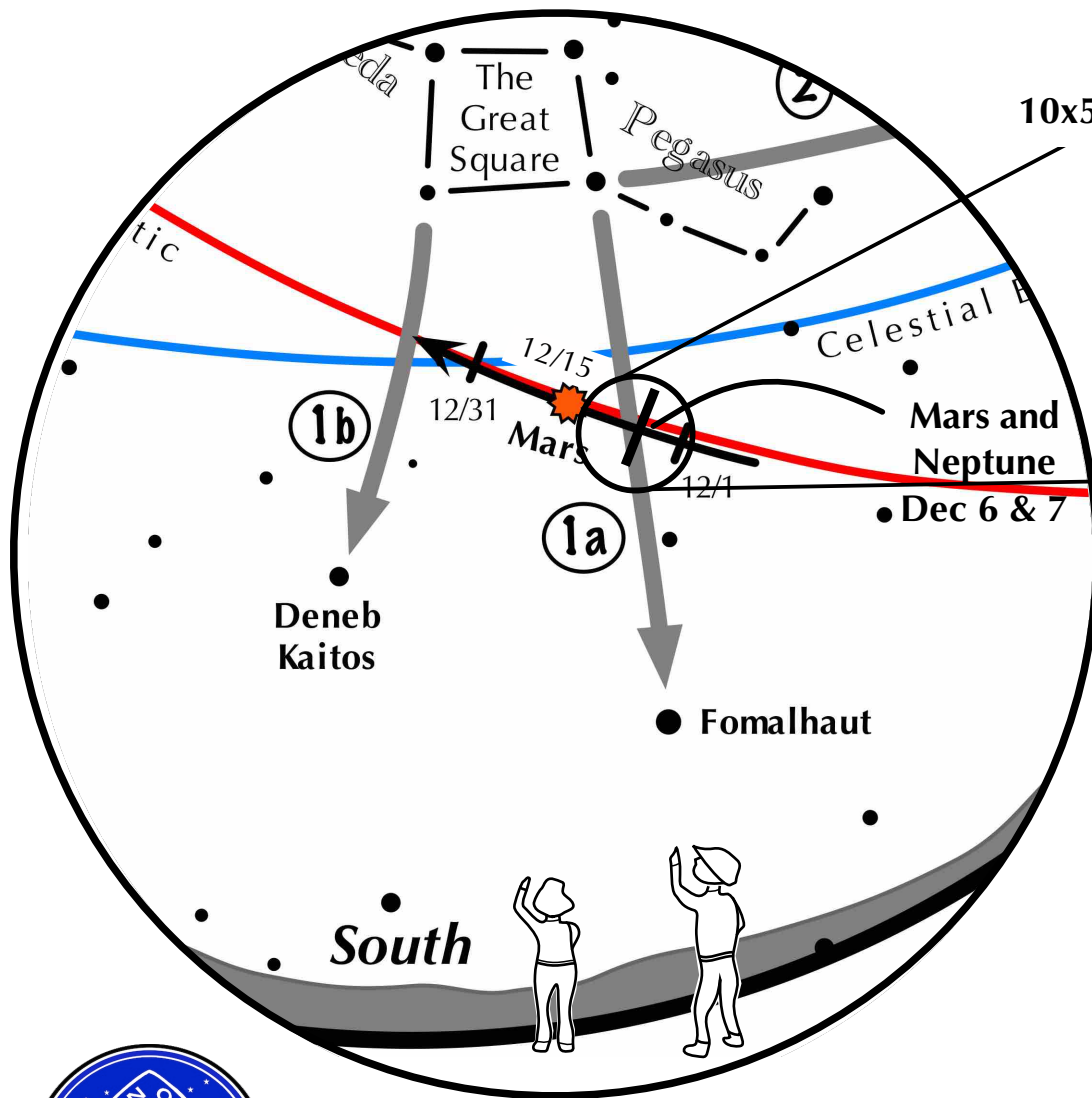
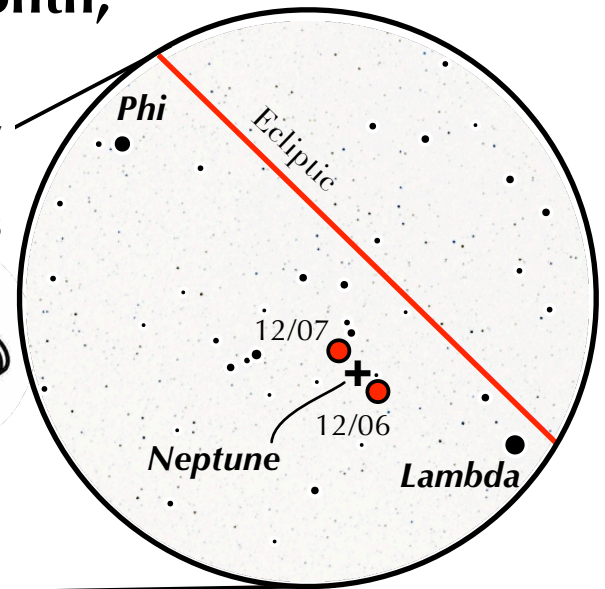


If you can observe only one celestial event this month,
consider this one:



View
through
10x50 binoculars



The Scene: Mars Passing Faint Neptune

On December 6 and 7, bright Mars passes faint Neptune, making the 8th planet relatively easy to find with steadily held binoculars if the sky is clear and dark. Look for Mars at 7:30 p.m. just below the Great Square of Pegasus in the south-southwest.

- Neptune lies immediately to the upper left of Mars on Dec. 6. It will be very faint and to the left of a star of similar brightness. Mars, Neptune and the star will form a small, fat isosceles triangle.
- Neptune lies just to the lower right of Mars on Dec. 7. As the nights proceed, Mars moves proportionally farther away from Neptune.



**South-Southwest 7:30 p.m.
on December 6 and 7**