Navigating the mid August Night Sky The stars plotted represent those which For observers in the middle northern latitudes, this chart can be seen from areas suffering North is suitable for early August from moderate light pollution. at 11 p.m. or late August In larger cities, less than near 10 p.m. 100 stars are visible, while from dark, perseid Meteor Shower Radiant of the rural areas well 11:30 p.m. Aug. 13 over ten times Polaris, pointer Stars to the North Star that amount are found. the North Star Mizar/Alcor - nice binocular double star Deneb Great Square The Arcturus Northern •The Keystone of Hercules• Crown Coathanger Cluster (C Moon Aug 15 Altair • Zubenelgenubi - nice binocular double star Equator Aquila Numerous star clusters and nebulae Omega Scorpii – nice Saturn binocular double st Relative sizes and distances in the sky can be deceiving. For Sagittarius instance, 360 "full The Ecliptic represents the plane of the solar moons" can be placed side by side, extending from system. The sun, the moon, horizon to horizon. and the major planets all lie on or South near this imaginary line in the sky. Relative size of the full moon.

Navigating the mid August night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

- 1 Extend a line north from the two stars at the tip of the Big Dipper's bowl. It passes by Polaris, the North Star.
- **2** Follow the arc of the Dipper's handle. It intersects Arcturus, the brightest star in the June evening sky.
- **3** To the northeast of Arcturus shines another star of the same brightness, Vega. Draw a line from Arcturus to Vega. It first meets "The Northern Crown," then the "Keystone of Hercules." A dark sky is needed to see these two dim stellar configurations.
- 4 High in the East lies the summer triangle stars of Vega, Altair, and Deneb.

Binocular Highlights

- **A:** On the western side of the Keystone glows the Great Hercules Cluster.
- B: Between the bright stars Antares and Altair, hides an area containing many star clusters and nebulae.
- C: 40% of the way between Altair and Vega, twinkles the "Coathanger," a group of stars outlining a coathanger.
- D: Sweep along the Milky Way for an astounding number of faint glows and dark bays, including the Great Rift.
- E: The three westernmost stars of Cassiopeia's "W" point south to M31, the Andromeda Galaxy, a "fuzzy" oval.

