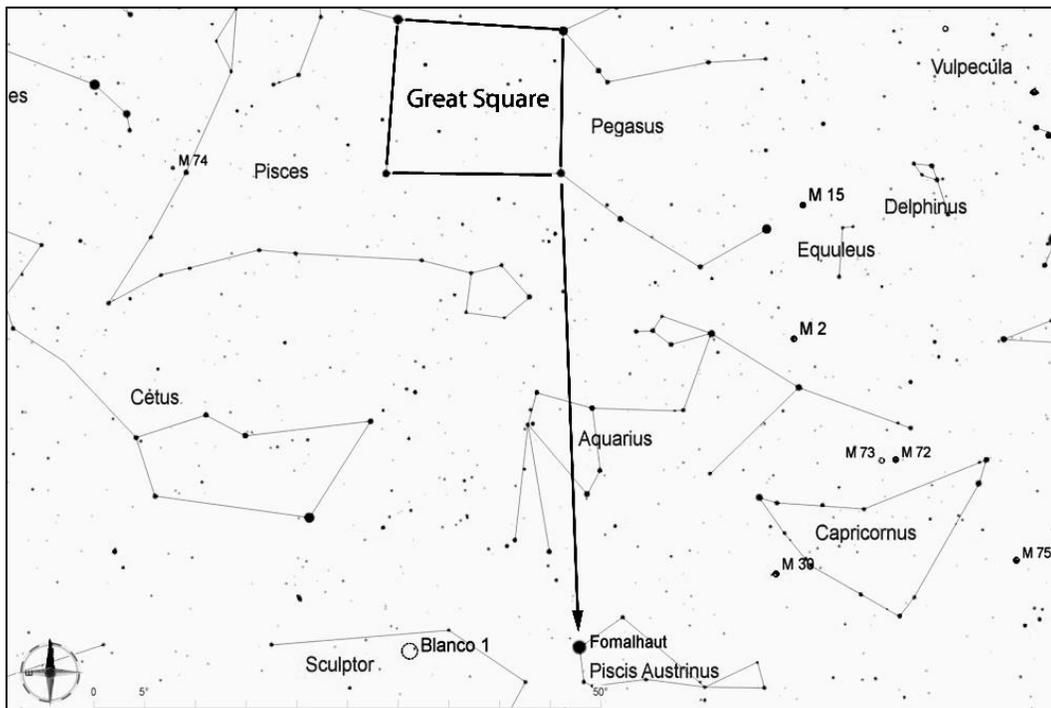


NGC 253 (Caldwell 65, the Silver Coin Galaxy) and NGC 288 in Sculptor

The Silver Coin Galaxy, also known as the Sculptor Galaxy, is one of the closest spiral galaxies, about 11 million light years away. It stretches across almost 1/2 degree of sky, and in large telescopes it reveals a wealth of mottling and detail. It is well worth a look with any telescope. Just to the southeast is a nice globular cluster, NGC 288, whose individual stars can be resolved with telescopes of medium or large aperture.



Start by finding the Great Square of Pegasus, which rises in the eastern sky during the early fall evenings, is high overhead later in the fall, and sinks in the western sky during early winter.

Using the western edge of the Great Square as a pointer, extend a line to the south about 3 times the size of the Square, and you will arrive at bright Fomalhaut, the only first magnitude star in that region of the sky.

There are no bright stars near Fomalhaut, so we need to navigate with dim ones. Look to the east for two 4th magnitude stars about 15 degrees apart, δ and α Sculptoris. From α Sculptoris, move about 3 degrees to the northwest to arrive at the globular cluster NGC 288. It is bright enough to see in even a small telescope. From NGC 288 go about another 2 degrees to the northwest and start with a low-power eyepiece to find the long but dim Silver Coin Galaxy.

