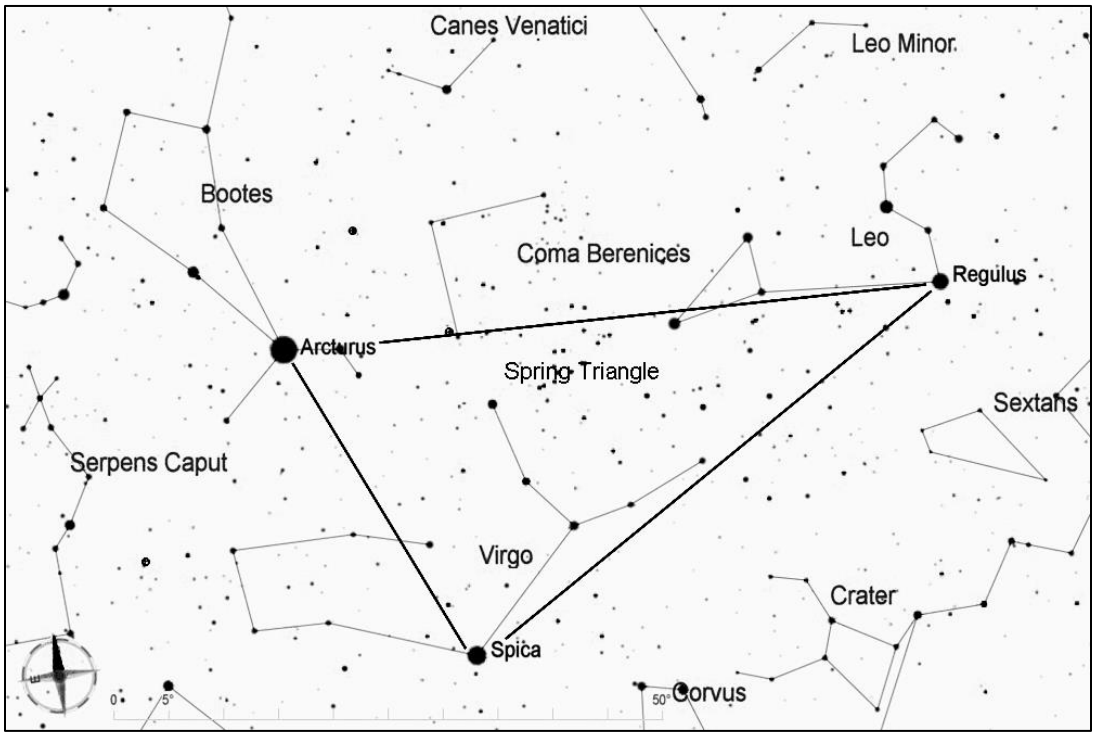


NGC 2775 (Caldwell 48), Galaxy in Cancer

NGC 2775 is a 10th magnitude spiral galaxy with a bright central bulge surrounded by a dimmer oval glow. High resolution images of this galaxy show that its spiral arms have a mottled texture--a very complex structure of alternating bright and dark patches--but it takes a large telescope to get glimpses of this mottling. The galaxy is estimated to be about 67 million light years away.



Start by finding the Spring Triangle, which consists of three widely-separated first magnitude stars--Arcturus, Spica, and Regulus. The Spring Triangle is high in the southeast sky in early spring, and in the southwest sky by mid-Summer. (To get oriented, you can use the handle of the Big Dipper and "follow the arc to Arcturus").

For this star hop, begin at Regulus in the constellation Leo, the lion.

From Regulus, look about 20 degrees to the west-southwest to find an irregular oval of dim stars that form the head of Hydra, the water snake. As shown in the chart below, find the crooked line of 3 stars at the top of Hydra's head and then look back an equivalent distance (about 4 degrees) in the direction of Regulus to reach NGC 2775.

