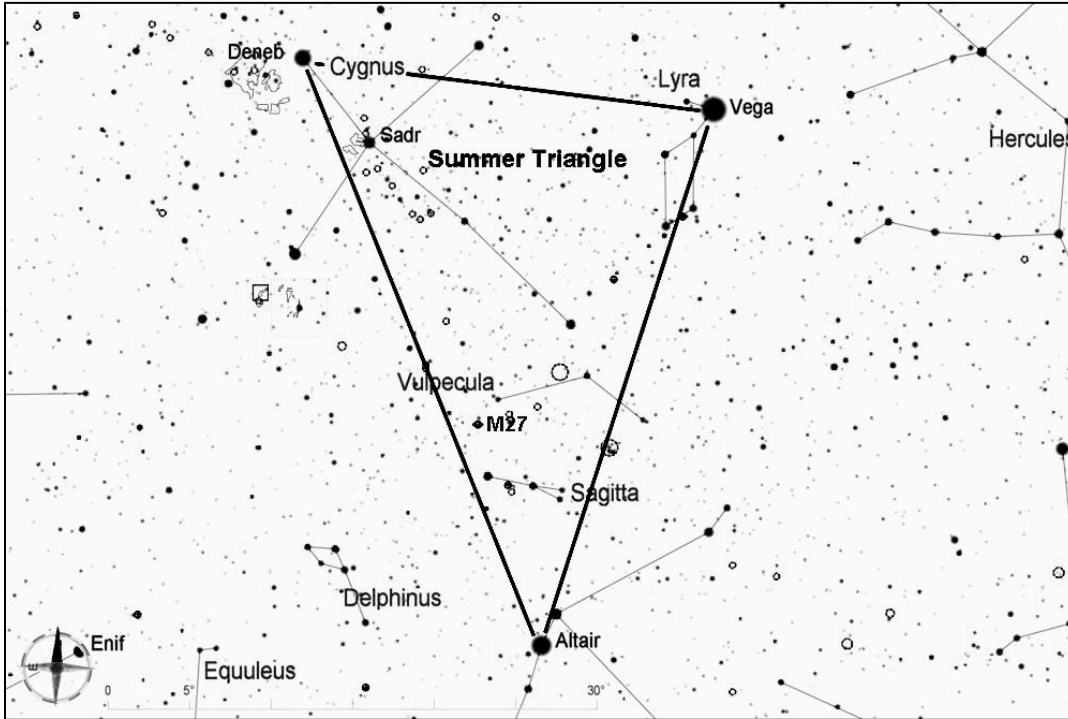


NGC 6811, Open Cluster in Cygnus

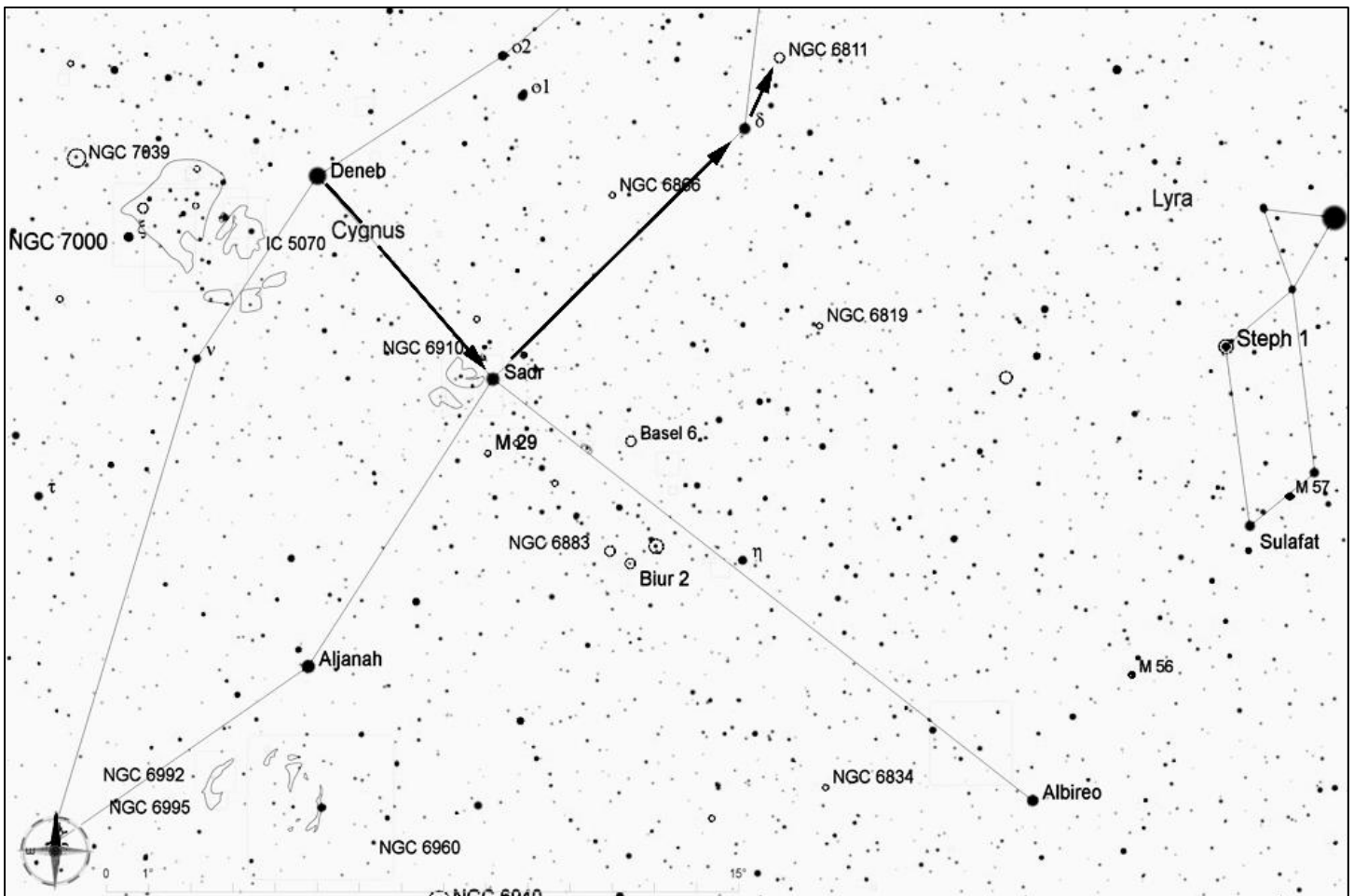
This open cluster covers an area of sky about half the diameter of the Moon. The stars of this cluster form several loops and chains. My son once said it looks like a four-leaf clover. You can decide what it looks like to you. The group is about 4,000 light years away.



Start by finding the Summer Triangle, which consists of the three of the brightest stars in the sky--Vega, Deneb, and Altair. The Summer Triangle is high overhead throughout the summer, and it sinks lower in the west as fall progresses.

For this star hop, start from Deneb, the first-magnitude star that forms the tail of Cygnus, the swan (or if you visualize the brightest stars of Cygnus as a cross shape, Deneb is at the top of the cross).

From Deneb, look to the southwest for Sadr, the magnitude 2 star at the center of the Cygnus cross shape. About 8 degrees to the northwest, find δ (delta) Cygni, which is the western point of the cross shape. Continue the line from Sadr past δ Cygni another 2 degrees, and slightly left (north), to reach NGC 6811.



Star hop from www.skyledge.net by Jim Mazur. Star charts created with *Cartes du Ciel*.