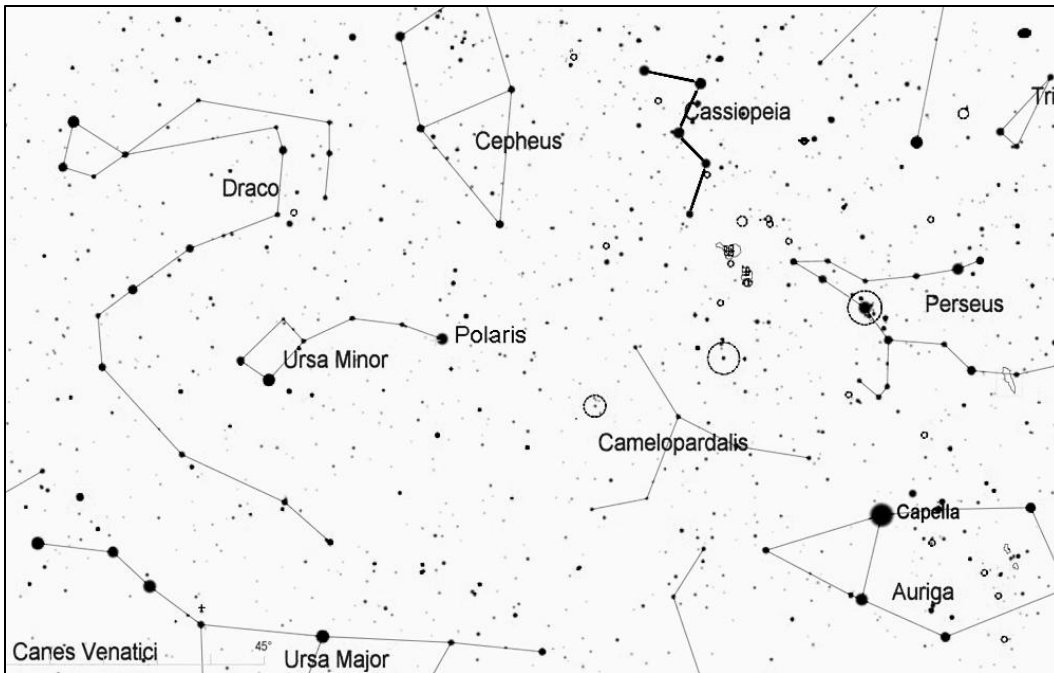


NGC 7788, NGC 7790, and Berkeley 58, Open Clusters in Cassiopeia

There are dozens of open clusters in the Cassiopeia Milky Way, and these three line up in a row less than a degree long, so they will all fit in one low-power telescopic field of view. From southeast to northwest, the clusters are Berkeley 58, NGC 7790, and NGC 7788. They are dim and similar in overall brightness, so if you can see one, you should be able to see the others. All three clusters are about 9,000 light years away.



Find the constellation Cassiopeia, which can be recognized by its distinctive "W" shape (although its orientation changes at different times of year as it circles the north celestial pole). On fall evenings, look for Cassiopeia in the northeast, where its tilt makes it look like a "3", and in the winter look high in the north above Polaris, where it is oriented like an "M".

Once you have located Cassiopeia, find the two stars at the end of the W shape, Schedar and Caph. Visualize a line from Schedar to Caph, then a slight left turn and another line about half as long. This is the location of the three open clusters, with NGC 7790 in the middle of the three. After you have found them, use high magnification to see more detail in each cluster.

