

The Newbie Corner

Overlooked Objects of the Fall
Brad Hutton

I did not have time to do any research for this issue of The Newbie Corner. Therefore, I decided to highlight some overlooked objects of the Fall sky. The screenshots shown with the objects in this issue of The Newbie Corner were taken from the TheSky program. The date and time of the screen shots are of the sky on October 31st, 2009 at midnight. This Fall try finding these night-sky wonders, and enjoy.

NGC 7009

The Saturn Nebula is an interesting sight in the Fall skies of Aquarius. A 10" scope at a dark site on a good night will reveal the rays extending from the long axis of the nebula. These extensions give rise to nebula's common name, Saturn Nebula. The larger the telescope the better the view. Mag. 8, distance 3,900 l.y., size 42" x 30", diameter 0.8 l.y.

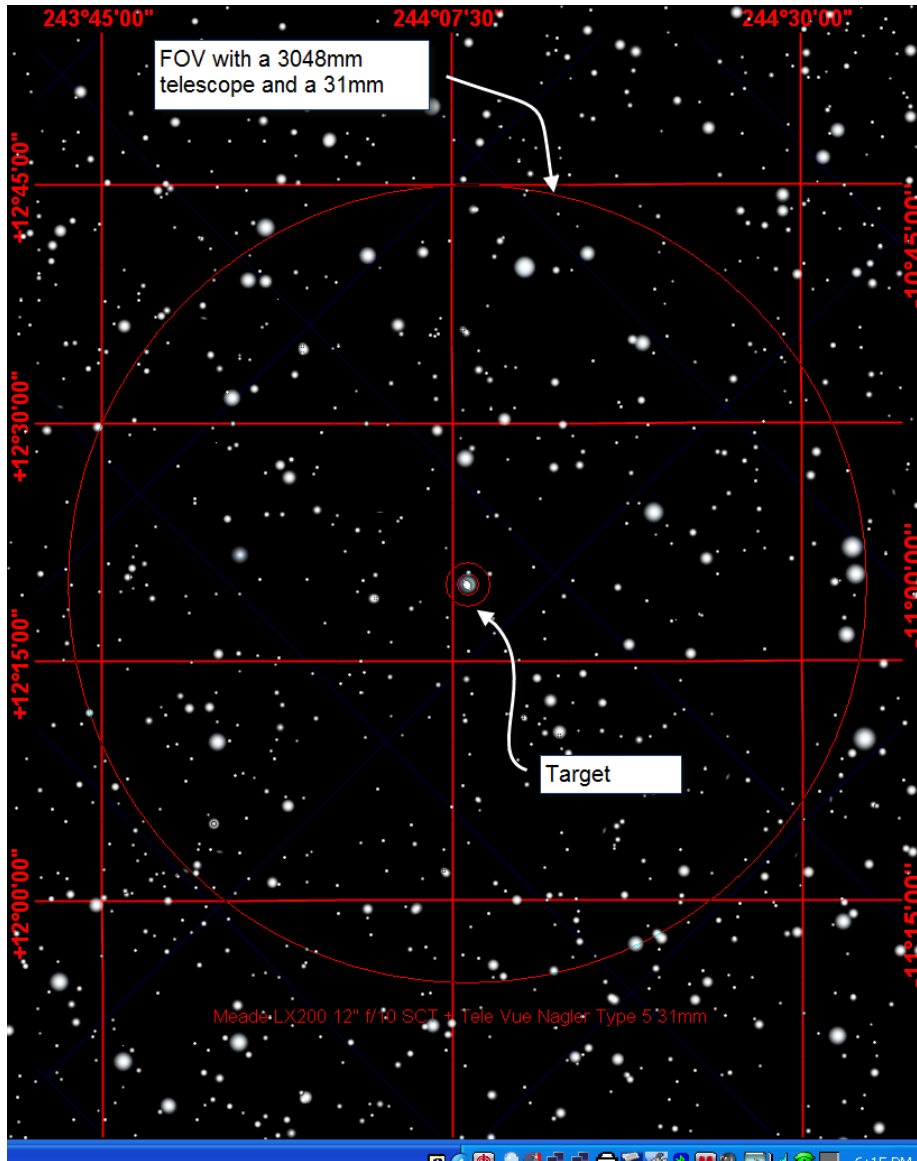


Figure 1 NGC 7009 Saturn Nebula

21h 4m -11d 22m

NGC 2281

In any size telescope this open cluster is a pretty sight. Use low magnification for the best views. It is a double row of stars forming a half heart with a bright pendant-like star at the end of the chains. This is why some astronomers call it the Broken Heart Cluster. Mag. 5.4, distance 5,400 l.y., size 15', diameter 23.6 l.y.

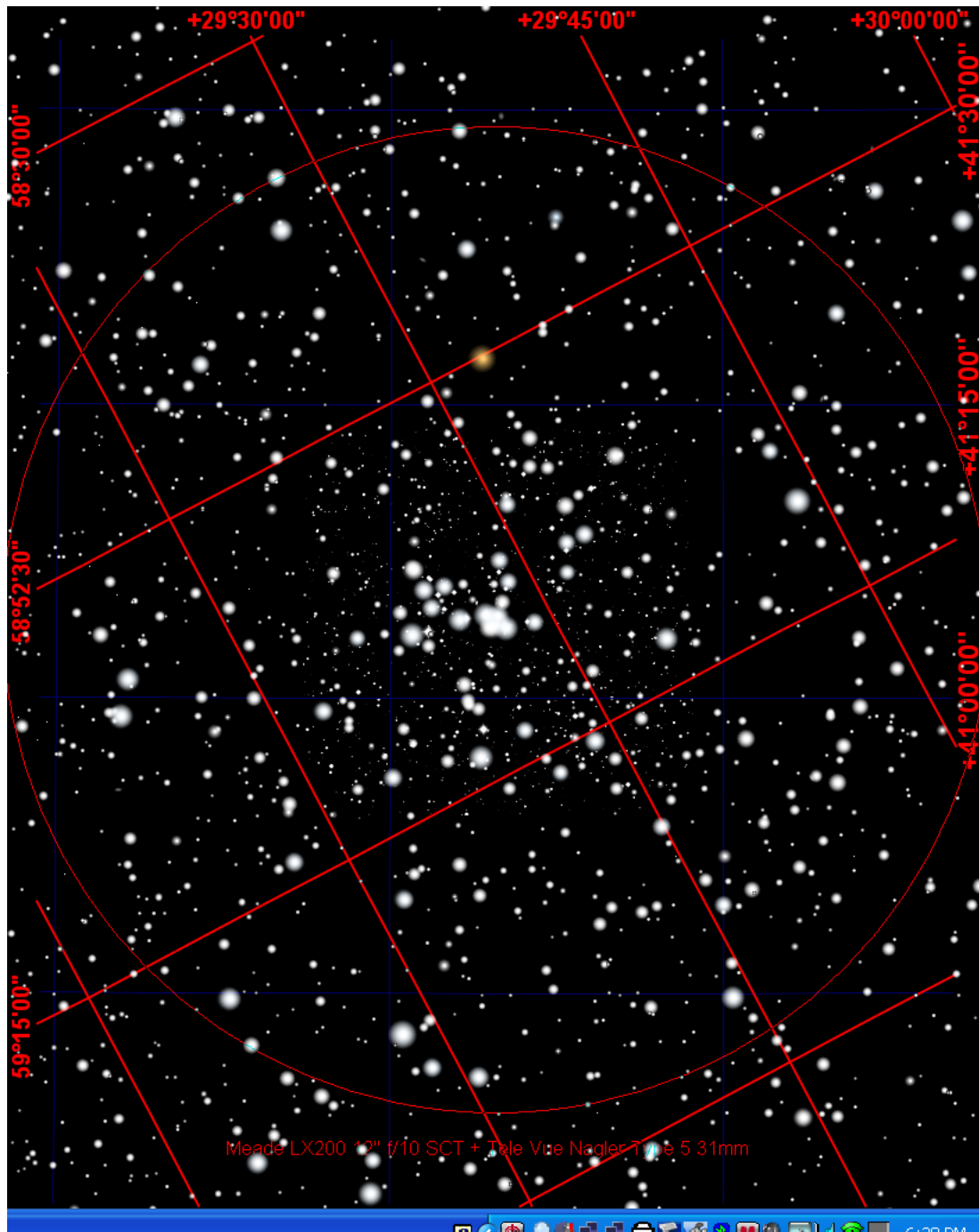


Figure 2 NGC 2281 Broken Heart Cluster
6h 49m +41d 4m

NGC 2403

NGC 2403 This is a very nice spiral galaxy with a lot of bright structure. The larger the telescope the better the views will be. In a good 10" scope and dark skies detail will be easily seen. Mag. 9, distance 8,000,000 l.y., size 16' x 10', diameter 37,200 l.y.

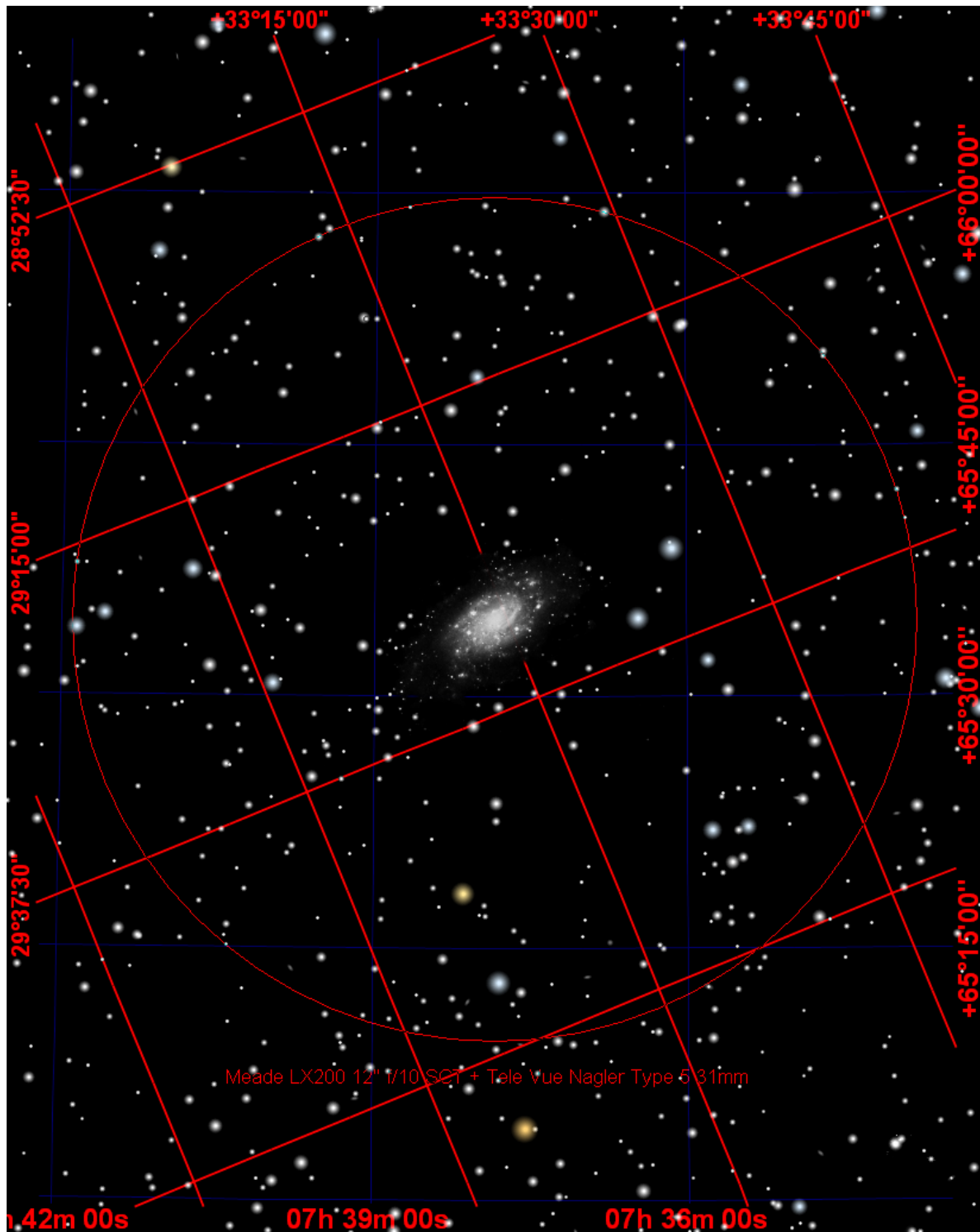


Figure 3 NGC 2403 Spiral Galaxy

7h 37m +65d 36m

NGC 457

NGC 457 The naked eye star Phi Cassiopeia forms one of the eyes of the Owl Cluster. At a distance of 9,300 light years, it shines with the brightness of 275,000 suns. About 60 other stars make up this cluster. With imagination, an owl perched on a limb can be seen in the cluster. Mag. 6.4, distance 9,300 l.y., size 13', diameter 35 l.y.

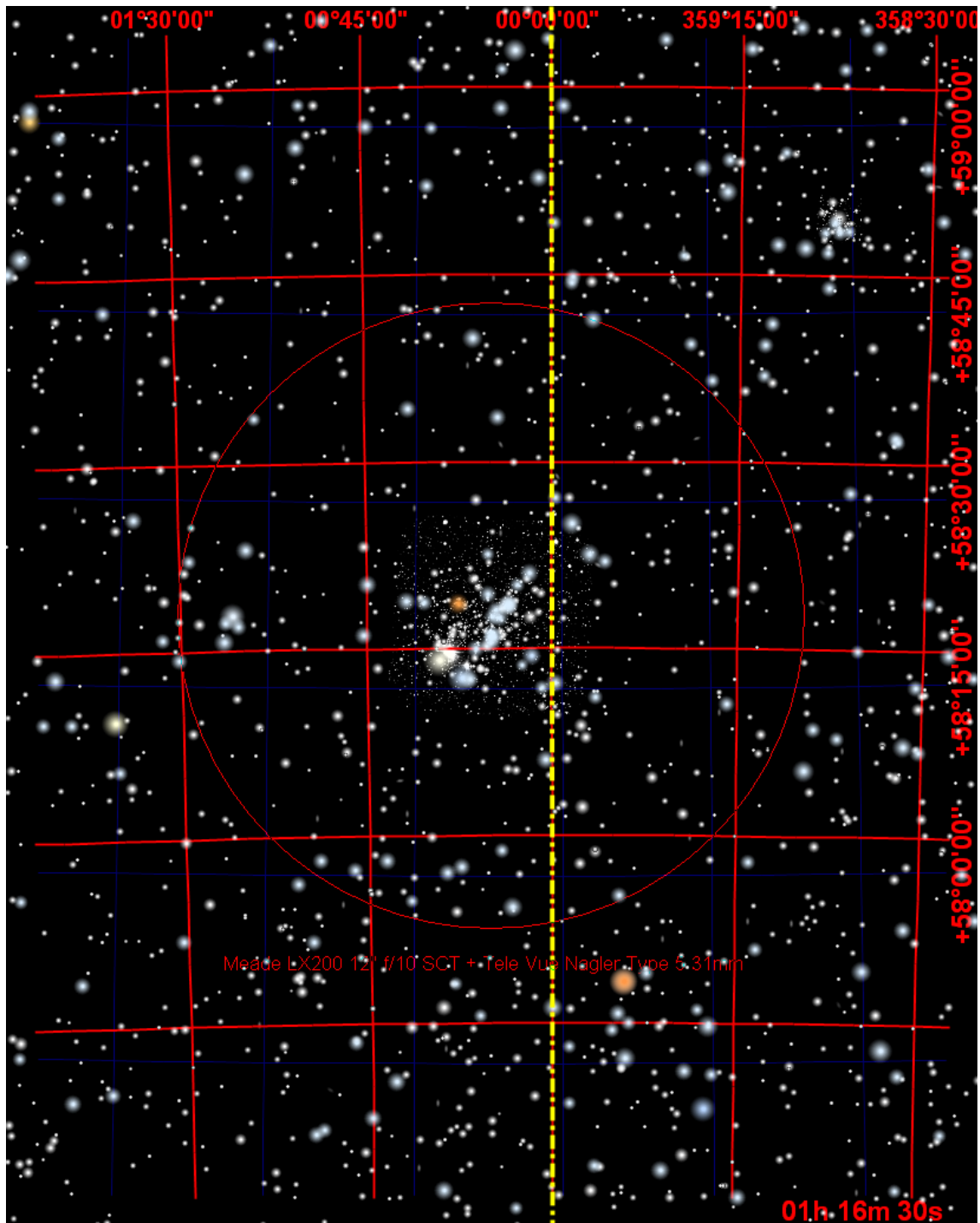


Figure 4 NGC 457 Owl Cluster

1h 19m +58d 20m

NGC 7789

This open cluster is a glorious sight in nearly any size telescope. It is very rich, being an intermediate cluster between a globular and a galactic cluster. With a large telescope use low power because of the clusters size. Mag. 6.7, distance 6,000 l.y., size 16', diameter 28 l.y.

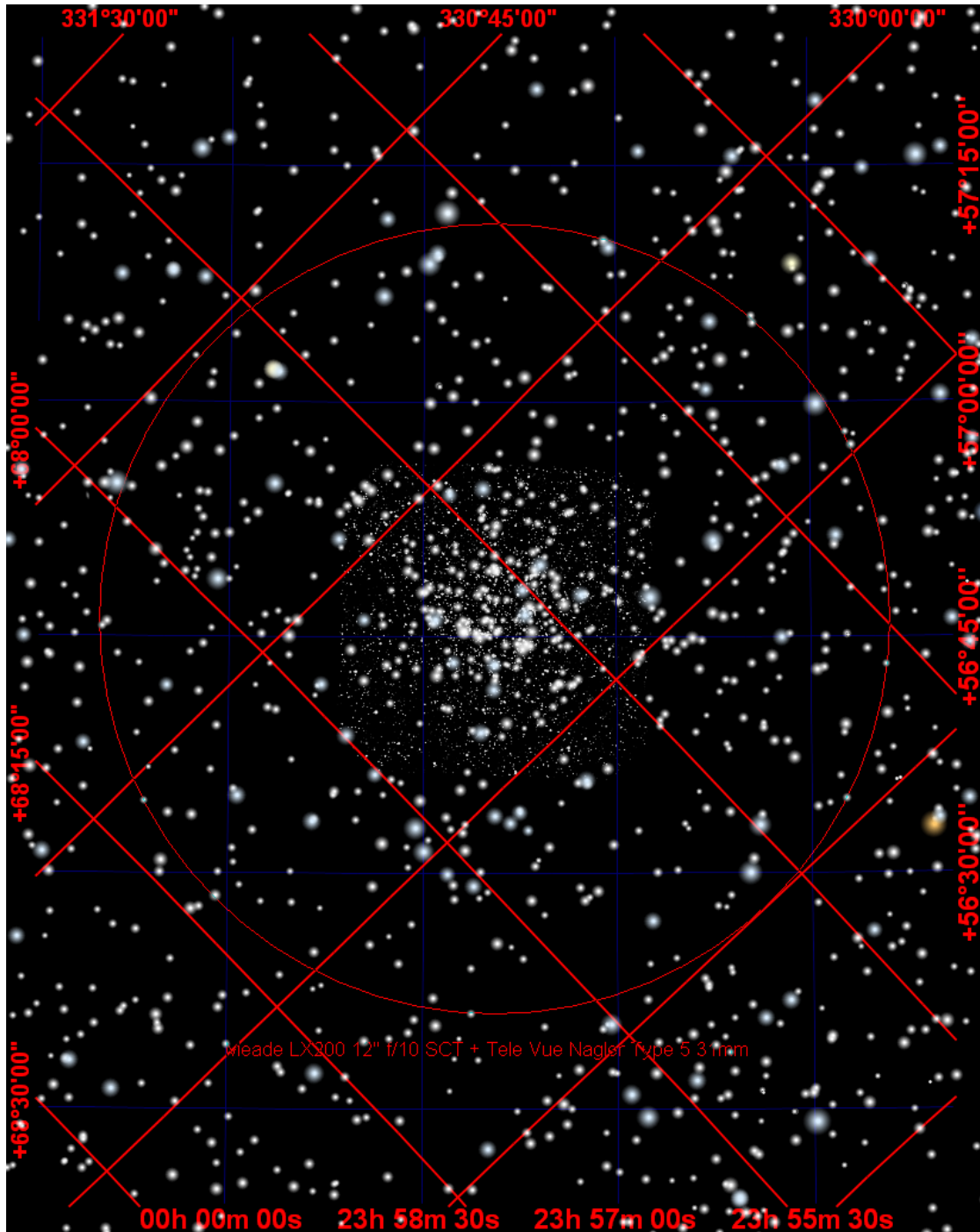


Figure 5 NGC 7789

23h 57m +56d 44m

Enjoy the hunt for these objects. Till next time keep your telescope pointed up and may your skies be clear- the Newbie.