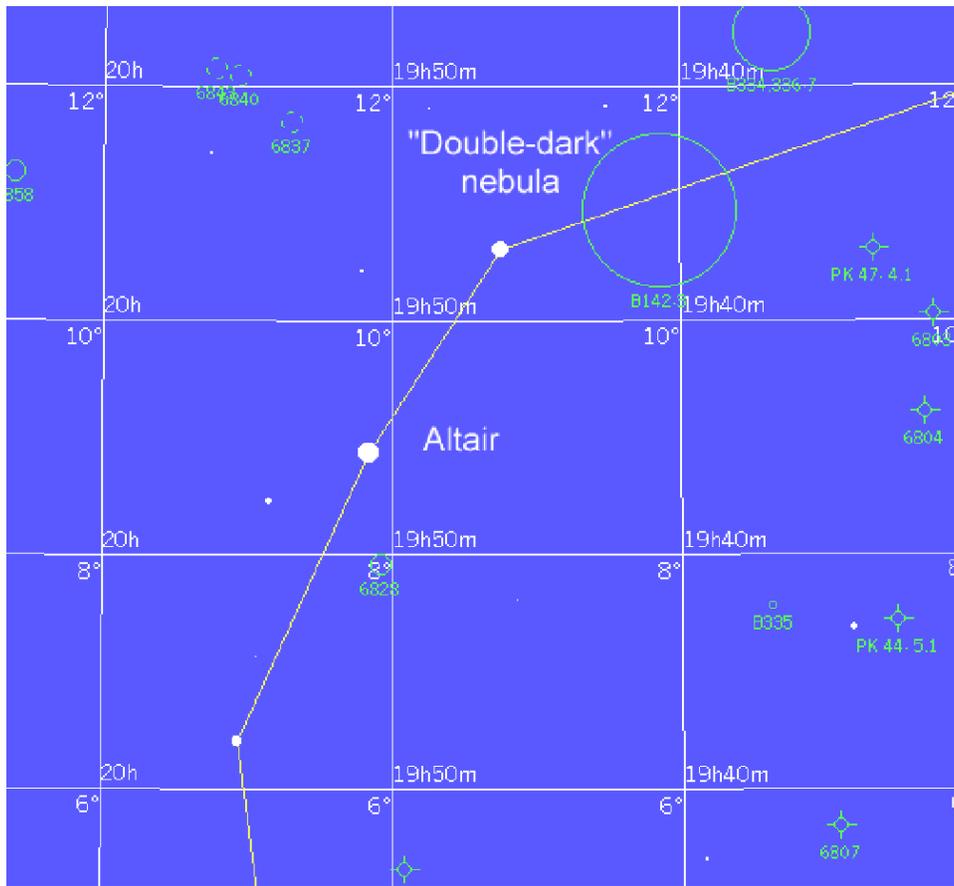


DARK NEBULAE IN AQUILA by Dick Suiter

Orig. Sept 2000, lightly edited in Dec 2017.

One of my favorite dark nebulae is something you can actually observe. I know the Horsehead nebula gets all of the press, but B142-B143 in Aquila is much easier to see because the background lighting is greater. Being an old-time binocular observer, I also like it because it is best observed by binoculars. It is actually so large that telescopic fields of view are too large. When you look right at it with a telescope, it appears like an unusually star-poor area of Milky Way. But if you look at it with binoculars, you see enough of the populated areas around it to see the difference. The diagram on the next page shows it as a spherical region off Gamma Aquilae, but it actually is a couple of blobs (like a drunken figure 8) about equidistant from Gamma. Beware, though. Even though I rated it as easy, you must get far out of town.



Adapted from *Skymap* by Chris Marriott. North is up.