

## Jeff's Binocular Picks for December 2009

This monthly list of binocular objects contains some of my choices of the best objects visible through binoculars. Many of these are easy targets and visible thru ordinary binoculars, but a few of them can be quite challenging. Viewing some the more challenging objects from a dark location will help, and the steadiness obtained by mounting your binoculars on a tripod will also help! Use this list along with a current copy of the monthly sky map from [www.skymaps.com](http://www.skymaps.com) and try to locate as many as you can. This will help you learn your way around the night sky. This list is also good for small scopes, too! Good Luck and have fun hunting!

*~Jeff Benuzzi~*

<u>Seen?</u>	<u>Object</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Constellation In / Near</u>
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√ **Early Evening**

_____	Cr 399 (Coathanger Cluster)	Asterism	Sagitta
_____	Albireo (Cub Scout Star)	Double-Star	Cygnus
_____	ε Lyra (Double-Double)	Double Star	Lyra
_____	Jupiter & its 4 Moons	Planet	Capricornus
_____	M15	Globular Cluster	Pegasus

**Mid Evening**

_____	M29 (Cooling Tower Cluster)	Open Cluster	Cygnus
_____	M39	Open Cluster	Cygnus
_____	μ Cephei (Herschel's Garnet Star)	Red Variable Star	Cepheus (a.k.a. Erakis)
_____	M31 (Andromeda Galaxy)	Galaxy	Andromeda
_____	NGC 457 ("ET" Cluster)	Open Cluster	Cassiopeia
_____	M103 (Mini Dipper)	Open Cluster	Cassiopeia
_____	Double Cluster (NGC 869 & 884)	Open Clusters	Perseus / Cassiopeia
_____	M34	Open Cluster	Perseus
_____	M45 (Pleiades or 7 Sisters)	Open Cluster	Taurus
_____	Hyades	Open Cluster	Taurus
_____	M38, M36, & M37	Open Clusters	Auriga

**Later in the Night**

_____	M42 (Great Orion Nebula)	Diffuse Nebula	Orion
_____	M35 (Kermit Cluster)	Open Cluster	Gemini
_____	NGC 2264 (Xmas Tree Cluster)	Open Cluster	Monoceros / Gemini
_____	M41	Open Cluster	Canis Major
_____	M81 & M82 Galaxy Pair	Galaxies	Ursa Major
_____	M44 (Beehive Cluster)	Open Cluster	Cancer
_____	Mars	Planet	Leo
_____	Geminids - Dec. 13th/14th	Meteor Shower	Gemini