Helix Nebula

Quick Facts:

Distance: 700 Light-years. Size: 2.5 Light-years.

Constellation: Aquarius.

Another Aquarius planetary that is half the apparent size of the moon. Low powers will show a large, faint circular hazy spot. Approx 11,000 years old and expanding at 20 miles per second.

Find it: Sweep almost 10 degrees north of Fomalhaut, then due west about six degrees to find the Helix. GOTO: NAMED OBJECTS, NGC.

Image: NASA, ESA, and C.R. O'Dell. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.