0552

Messier 37

Quick Facts:

Distance: 4500 Light-years.
Size: Approx 25 Light-years.
Constellation: Auriga.
This rich cluster has a whopping 1800 members, though a small scope only reveals about 150. It formed about 500 million years ago and contains at least a dozen red giants. It's one of 3 Messier galactic clusters in or near Auriga's pentagon.
Find it: Naked-eye in dark skies, look 6 degrees northeast of Elnath at the bottom of the pentagon. GOTO: M (Messier).

Image by Ole Nielsen. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.