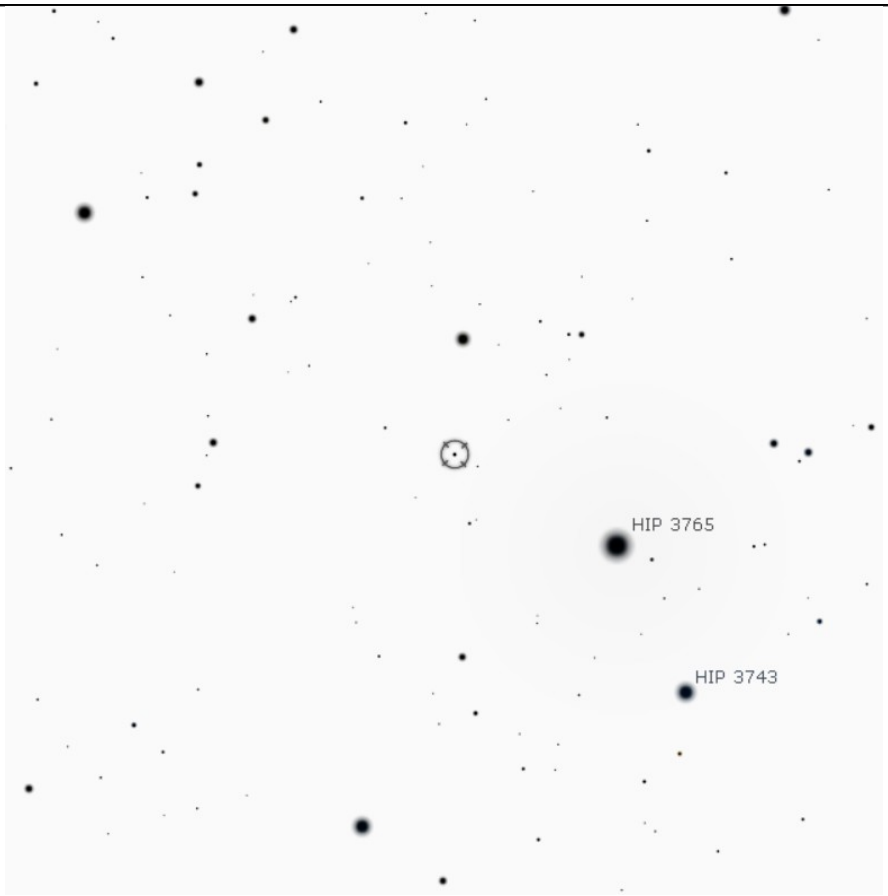
Van Maanen's Star



Quick Facts:

Distance: 14 light-years. **Constellation: Pisces.**

The closest solitary white dwarf star. At 12th magnitude, this is good for an 8" or larger scope. These are objects formerly like the sun, shrunk down to earth-size and therefore extremely high density, about 1 ton in a grape-sized volume. Because the dwarfs are so small, they are also quite faint. The surface gravity is about 1 million times that of the earth. Van Maanen's is also the first star discovered (1925) with a gravitational redshift (predicted by Einstein).

GOTO: Use the GOTO RA-DEC function in UTILITIES with the coordinates 00h49.2m, +05°23'. HIP 3765 is brightest star (6th magnitude) in the approx 1-degree square finder chart. North is up.

Image Stellarium. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.