Fun Facts:

**M36: PINWHEEL CLUSTER**

Computer Code: m36

* **Other Names:**
  + NGC 1960
* **Location:**
  + RA: 05h 37m 4s
  + Dec: 34⁰ 08’
* **Basics:**
  + Description: open cluster in Auriga
    - It is one of three Messier open clusters in the southern part of Auriga (along with M37 & M38)
  + Visual Magnitude: +6.0
  + Apparent Size: 10.0 arcminutes
  + Distance: 4,300 light years away
  + Diameter: 12.6 light years across
* **History:**
  + First discovered in 1654 by Giovanni Batista Hodierma, but his observations were largely unknown until 1984.
  + Guillaume Le Gentil independently discovered it in 1749 (along with M38).
* **Other Notes:**
  + Contains around 60 stars, mostly young, hot, blue main sequence stars
  + It appears to be around 25 million years old
  + It is about 10 times further away than the Pleiades, but if it were the same the distance, it would be at least 3 times as bright. It burns with the luminosity of 8,000 Suns.