

The Observer's Challenge Objects

Submitted by Larry McHenry, Pittsburgh, PA.

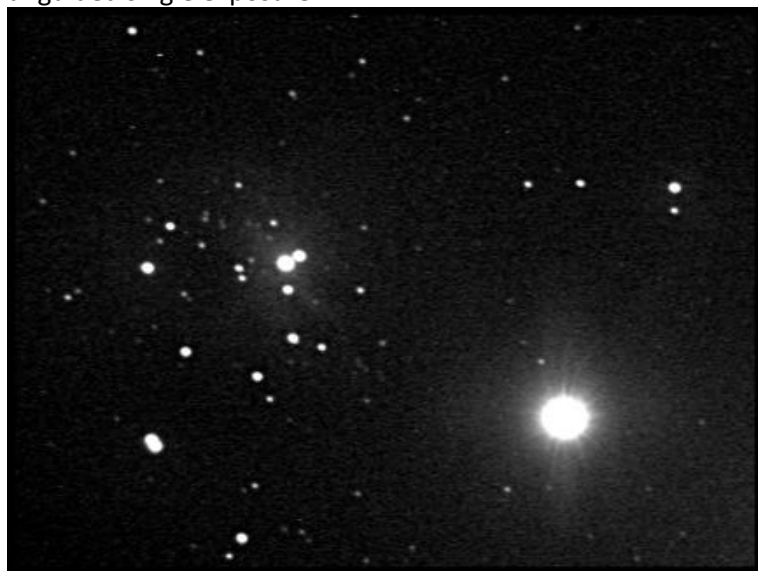
January: IC 348 – Cluster & Reflection Nebula – **Perseus**; Mag. V=7.3; Size 8'

RA: 03h 45m Dec. +32° 10'

IC348 is located in the fall constellation of Perseus - 'The Hero' near +3.8 mag Omicron Persei (Atik). This 7th magnitude deep-sky object is a sparse open star cluster embedded in a faint reflection nebula cataloged as Vdb19. The nebula is difficult to observe visually due to the nearby bright star. The star cluster, also known as Collinder-41, contains around 12 stars visible to amateur astronomers, but has close to 288 stars in total with over 20 identified as brown dwarfs. It is about 1,028 light years distant, and about 2 million years old.

Video-Screencapture:

10/08/2010 from rural location near Mansfield, OH at the Hidden-Hollow star party, using a 8" Celestron SCT optical tube @ f6.3 on a CG-5 mount, using a StellaCam-3 analog video-camera @ 45 seconds, unguided single exposure.



Visual Screen Sketch: 01/09/2021 - 8" SCT f6.3 Atlas Gem, ASI294MC & L-Pro filter, 30 second sub x 4 stacked for 120 second exposure. Compact core cluster, reflection nebula faint and elongated.

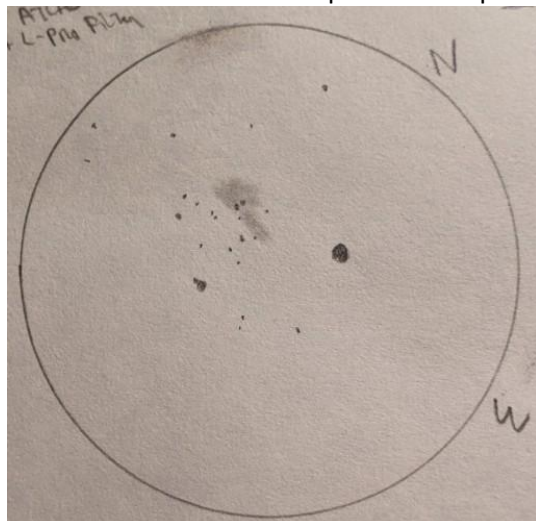


Image:

01/09/2021 from Big Woodchuck Observatory backyard in Pittsburgh, PA.

Using a 8" Celestron SCT optical tube @ f6.3 on a Atlas HQ6 mount, with a ASI294MC color camera and L-Pro filter @ 30-second guided exposure livestacked for 15 minutes

