

## *The Observer's Challenge Objects*

Submitted by Larry McHenry, Pittsburgh, PA.

**May: M3** – Globular Cluster – **Canes Venatici**: Mag. V= 6.2 ; Size 18'

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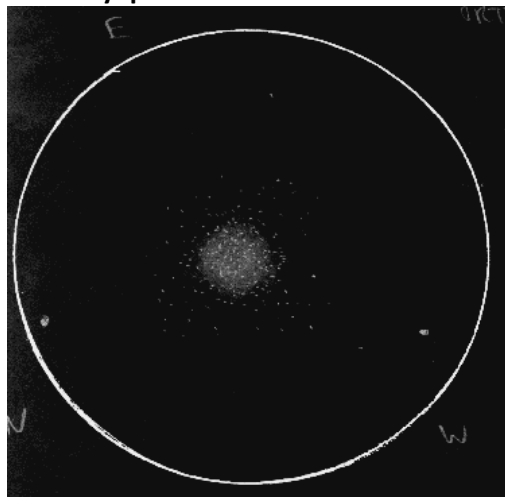
### **Messier 3 (M3)**

Charles Messier discovered the 3rd entry on his “not a comet” list appropriately on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1764.

**M3** is located in the spring constellation of Canes Venatici, Bootes hunting dogs of Asterion and Chara. At magnitude +6.3, the globular cluster has upwards of half a million stars in a glowing ball around 220 lights-years in diameter, is about 34,000 light years distant, and about 11.4 billion years old. Some sources say that it is this object which prompted Messier to actually start his catalog.

Visually in the telescope, M3 is a large and bright globular cluster, with many resolved stars. A number of star-chains radiate outwards from the cluster’s core. Two moderately bright, (8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Mag) field stars ‘guard’ either side of the cluster.

### **Visual Eyepiece Sketch:**



05/18/1987 from suburban backyard in Louisville, KY.

Using a 13.1" f4.5 Dob Reflector and 12.5 eyepiece (92x). West is to the lower right.

### **Video-Capture:**



04/05/2013: from Big Woodchuck Observatory in Pittsburgh, PA., Using a 6" RC optical tube @ f9 on a GEM Mount, using a analog video-camera & IR filter @ 25 seconds, unguided single exposure.