

The Observer's Challenge Objects

Submitted by Larry McHenry, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. <http://stellar-journeys.org>

April: NGC 3044 – edge-on spiral galaxy - Sextans; $\text{mag}_v = 12.5$; Size = $4.2' \times 0.7'$
RA: 09h 53m 40.8s Dec: $+01^\circ 34' 46.7''$

The barred spiral galaxy **NGC3044** is located in the spring constellation of Sextans - 'The Sextant'. This bright, edge-on deep-sky object is about 67 million light-years distant, with a 79 deg inclination, moving away from the Milky-Way with a radial velocity of about 1,289 km/s, and has an estimated diameter of about 91,000 light-years. NGC3044 (H3 254) was discovered on the night of December 13th, 1784 by William Herschel using his 20 ft reflector, from the back garden of his home at Datchet.

Video-Capture/EAA:

03/19/2023, from Big Woodchuck Observatory backyard in Pittsburgh, PA, using an 8" SCT optical tube @ f6.3 on a GEM mount, with a CMOS color camera and broadband filter, 180-second guided exposure, live-stacked for 21 minutes.



Using EAA techniques: the bluish needle stood-out well from the surrounding star field, displaying a bright central region with the edge-on spiral showing hints of knots and mottling in the arms along its major axis. A pretty sight!