

The Observer's Challenge Objects

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April: **NGC 3893/3896** – Galaxy Pair – Ursa Major; mag_v=10.2; RA: 11h 48m 38s Dec: +48° 42' 39"

The galaxy pair **NGC3893/3896** is located in the spring constellation of Ursa Major - 'The Great Bear'.

NGC3893 is a grand design SAB spiral, located about 51 million light years distant, and about 70,000 light-years in size. **NGC3896** is a +mag 13.5 close-by dwarf spiral galaxy of about 19,000 LY in diameter, interacting with NGC3893 at about the same distance.

William Herschel discovered both NGC3893 (H2 738) and NGC3896 (H2 739) on the night of February 9th, 1788 using his 20 ft reflector telescope in his backyard garden at his home in Slough, England.

EAA Observation:

04/22/2025 from dark-sky location of the ORAS Observatory, PA.

Using an 8" SCT optical tube @ f6.3 on a GEM mount, with a CMOS/USB color camera and broadband filter @ 180-second guided exposure livestacked for 30 minutes.



Using EAA techniques, visually on the monitor the main galaxy displays several spiral arms, each with dark lanes and knots of HII regions. A bright oval core is visible. The nearby small dwarf galaxy displays a diffuse glow with a bright central area.