

The Observer's Challenge Objects

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

August: **Webb's Wreath** – Asterism - Hercules; $\text{mag}_v=10.4$; RA: 18h 02m 00s Dec: $+26^\circ 18' 00''$

The asterism of **Webb's Wreath** is located in the Summer constellation of Hercules - 'The Hero', about 2.7 deg southwest of +3.8 mag Omicron Herculis.

First observed by the British amateur Rev T.W. Webb (1807 - 1885), and mentioned in his 1881 4th edition of his observing guide - "Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes". For further information, there is a nice article in Sky & Telescope magazine, (May 2025, page 12), by Stephen O'Meara regarding the asterism. O'Meara speculates that Webb used his 3.7" f18 Tulley refractor for the observation.

EAA Observation:

05/24/2025 from dark-sky location of the ORAS Observatory in western PA. Using an 8" SCT optical tube @ f6.3 on a GEM mount, with a CMOS/USB color camera and broadband filter @ 15-second guided exposure livestacked for 6 minutes.



Using EAA techniques, visually on the monitor the telescopic circlet of 11th mag stars makes a nice oval asterism of about 20 stars with one bright 7th mag star HD164922 marking the diadem of the laurel shaped wreath along its eastern side. A pretty object. Also, several small 15th – 16th mag PGC galaxies can be found in the same FOV around the wreath.