

The Observer's Challenge Objects

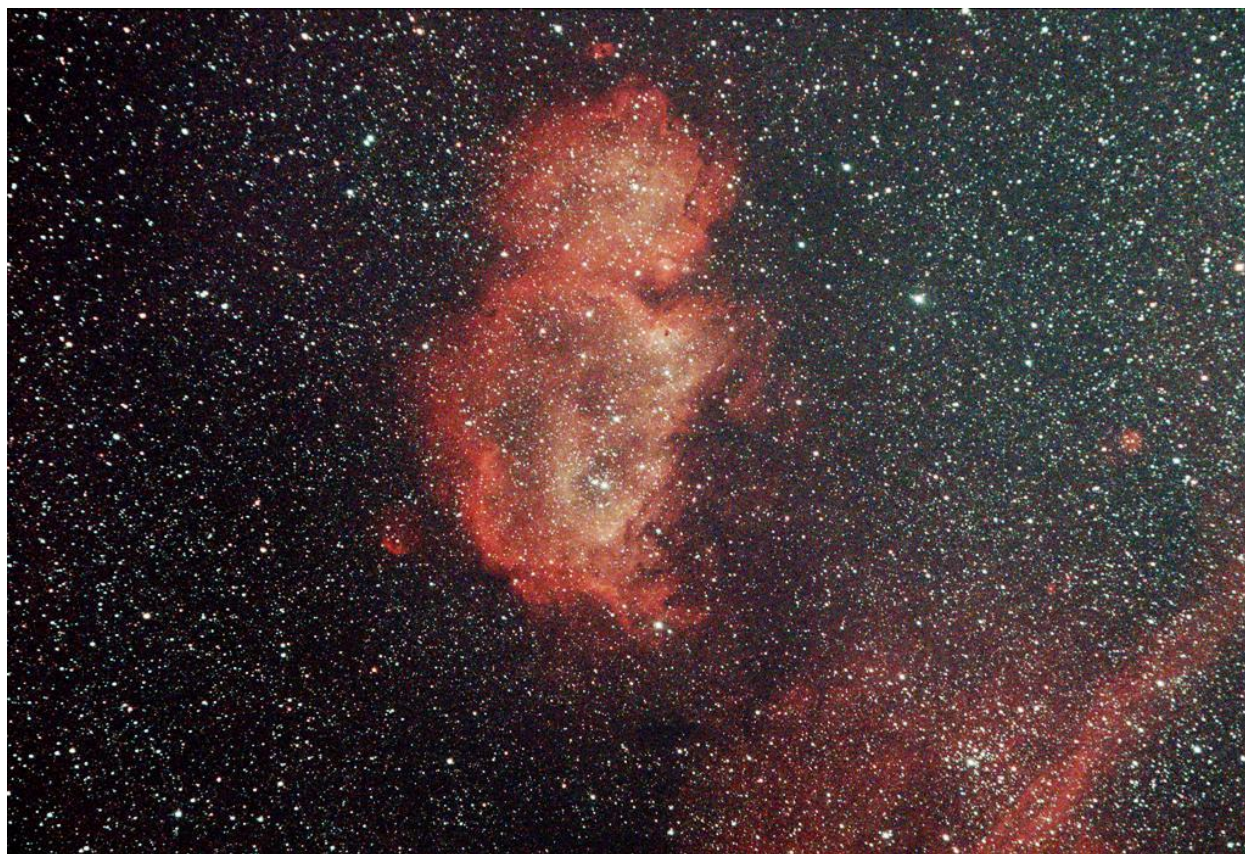
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December: IC1848 – Open Cluster and Emission Nebula, Cassiopeia; Mag. V=6.5 (open cluster);
RA: 02h 55m 24s Dec. +60° 24' 36''

Open Cluster and Emission Nebula IC1848, (SH2-199), nicknamed the “Soul Nebula”, is located in the Fall constellation of **Cassiopeia** - 'The Queen', and is located about 5 degrees away from the 'Double Cluster', close to the borders of Perseus and Camelopardalis.

The IC1828 star-forming region (cluster & nebula) is about 6,500 light years distant, and with the nebula having a diameter of about 150 light-years across. The open cluster is estimated to be only about one million years old. Several Collinder clusters are also embedded within the nebula: CR33 & CR34.

EAA-Capture: 10/11/2023, from the ORAS Observatory dark sky site in Western Pennsylvania.
Using a 50mm refractor @ f4.2 on a Gem mount, with a CMOS color camera and narrowband filter, 180 second exposure, live-stacked for 30 minutes. (Image rotated 180 deg)



Using EAA techniques, the emission nebula is a large, bright oblong shape, somewhat eerily resembling a human fetus. The bright cluster IC1848 is located in the lower 'body' while the CR clusters are in the 'head' region. A portion of the nearby 'Heart Nebula' - IC1805, containing open cluster NGC1027, is also visible in the lower right corner.