

The Observer's Challenge Objects

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

December: **NGC 891** – galaxy - Andromeda; $\text{mag}_v = 10.8$; RA: 02h 22m 33.4s Dec: +42° 20' 57"

The "The Silver Sliver Galaxy", NGC891, is located in the constellation of Andromeda "the Princess". NGC891 is an SA class spiral galaxy located about 30 million light years distant, about 116,000 light-years in diameter. It is an edge-on spiral with a bright central bulge bisected by a prominent dark lane. The galaxy is located in a rich Milky Way starfield with nearby bright 6.6th mag star HD14771.

William Herschel discovered NGC891 (H5 19) on the night of October 6th, 1784 using his 20 ft reflector at his home's back garden in Datchet. Herschel described the galaxy as "*Considerably bright, much extended above 15' long, 3' broad. A black division 3' or 4' long in the middle*".



EAA Observation:

11/10/2020, from Big Woodchuck Observatory backyard in Pittsburgh, PA.

Using a 60mm f4 Refractor on a GEM mount, with a CMOS color camera and broadband filter, 30 second guided exposure, live-stacked for 45 minutes.

11/04/2021, from Calhoun County Dark Sky Park in West Virginia.

Using an 8" SCT optical tube @ f6.3 on a GEM mount, with a CMOS color camera and broadband filter, 60 second guided exposure, live-stacked for 30 minutes.

A beautiful, bright spindle shaped galaxy in a pretty FOV. Great detail in the dark lane obscuring the central core of the galaxy.