

The Observer's Challenge Objects

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

February: NGC 1579 – Diffuse Nebula – Perseus; $\text{mag}_v=10.2$; Size = $12' \times 8'$
RA: 04h 30m — Dec. +35° 16'

NGC1579 (also known as SH2-222) is located in the fall constellation of Perseus - 'The Hero'. The H II star forming nebula is about 2100 light-years light years distant and around 3.5 ly in diameter. Shrouded inside the nebula is a young star cluster estimated to be only 500,000 years old.

NGC1579 was discovered on the night of December 3rd, 1788 by William Herschel using his 20 ft reflector at his home in Slough, near Windsor Castle. Herschel described the nebula as "Considerably bright, considerably large, much brighter to the middle".

Video-Capture/EAA:

On 09/22/2022, from the Black Forest Star Party at Cherry Springs, Pa.

Using an 8" SCT optical tube @ f6.3 on a GEM mount, with a CMOS color camera and broadband filter, 3 minute guided exposure, EAA live-stacked for 15 minutes.



Using EAA techniques, the roundish dusty nebulosity of NGC1579 is located in a rich star field. Known as the Northern Trifid, NGC1579 somewhat resembles its southern namesake – M20, having several dark lanes that bisect the red H II nebula, along with a hint of blue reflection around several of the brighter stars. A pretty observation!