

The Observer's Challenge Objects

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July: NGC6217 – Galaxy – **Ursa Minor**; Mag. V=11.2; Size 1.7'x01.2'

RA: 16h 32m 39s Dec. +78° 11' 54"

The barred spiral galaxy **NGC6217** (also known as Arp185), is located in the constellation of Ursa Minor – “The Little Bear”. NGC6217 is a near face-on SB type spiral about 61 million light-years distant, and about 55,000 light-years in size. NGC6217 can be found above the horizon year-round for most northern hemisphere observers.

NGC6217 (H1 280) was discovered by William Herschel on the night of December 12th, 1796, at his home in Slough, near Windsor Castle using his 20 ft reflector.

Video-Capture/EAA: 05/17/2023, from the ORAS Observatory in Western PA.

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



Using EAA techniques: NGC6217 is a bright oval-shaped disk with a star-like nucleus. The bar extends to either side of the core, with a spiral arm coming off the end of the north-western bar and another arm extending from the nucleus. A 16th mag field-star lies along the south-eastern bar near the nucleus. A number of bright knots are visible in both spiral arms.