

The Observer's Challenge Objects

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

July: **NGC 6181** – Galaxy - Hercules; $\text{mag}_v=10.4$; RA: 16h 32m 21s Dec: +19° 49' 35"

NGC6181 is located in the Summer constellation of Hercules - 'The Hero'. The barred spiral galaxy is about 107 million light years distant, and about 88,000 light-years in size.

William Herschel discovered NGC6181 (H2 753) on the night of April 28th, 1788 using his 20 ft reflector telescope in his backyard garden at his home in Slough, England.

EAA Observation:

05/24/2025 from dark-sky location of Calhoun Cty Park, WV. Using an 8" SCT optical tube @ f6.3 on a GEM mount, with a CMOS/USB color camera and broadband filter @ 180-second guided exposure livestacked for 30 minutes.



Using EAA techniques, visually on the monitor the face-on galaxy displays a bright oval core with a bar structure and a nearly stellar nucleus. Coming off either end of the bar, are two large spiral arms, each containing mottled dark lanes and knots of bright HII regions. A third fainter arm, just to the north of the eastern arm, is also visible.