

The Observer's Challenge Objects

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

March: NGC 2440 – Planetary Nebula – Puppis; $\text{mag}_v=9.4$; Size = $74'' \times 42''$
RA: 07h 42m 55s — Dec. $-18^\circ 12' 30''$

NGC2440 (also known as SH2-222) is located in the winter constellation of Puppis – the stern of the great ship Argo Navis. The planetary nebula is about 4000 light-years light years distant and around 0.72 ly in diameter. Inside the nebula is a white dwarf star – HD62166 one of the hottest known at ~ 400 k F.

NGC2440 was discovered on the night of March 4th, 1790 by William Herschel using his 20 ft reflector at his home in Slough, near Windsor Castle. Herschel described the nebula as “a beautiful planetary nebula of a considerable degree of brightness, not very well defined”.

Video-Capture/EAA:

On 03/04/2024, from my backyard observatory in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Using an 8" SCT @ f6.3 on a fork-wedge mount, with a CMOS color camera and narrowband filter, 15 second exposure live-stacked for 15 minutes.



Using EAA techniques, the irregular shaped nebulosity of NGC2440 is located in a rich star field in northern Puppis, around 3.5° to the south of open cluster M46. Using a lower exposure, two bright bipolar condensations can be seen, while with a higher stacked exposure, grainy ansae appear to either side of the core. The central star was not visible.