

The Observer's Challenge Objects

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March: **NGC 2419** – Globular Cluster - Lynx; mag_v=+9.1; RA: 7h 38m 09s Dec: +38° 32' 55"

The 9th magnitude globular cluster **NGC2419** nicknamed “the Intergalactic Wanderer” is located in the winter constellation of Lynx – “The Cat”. It is about 300,000 light years distant, and ~ 260 light-years in diameter. Around 12 billion years old. Due to its distance and age, NGC2419 is considered to be possibly the remnant core of a spheroidal galaxy that was cannibalized by our Milky-Way galaxy, or another theory is that it was stripped from the Sagittarius dwarf elliptical galaxy during a close encounter.

William Herschel discovered NGC2419 (H1 218) on New year’s Eve, December 31st, 1788 using his 20 ft reflector at his home in Slough near Windsor Castle. Herschel described the galaxy as: “*Considerably bright, round, very gradually much brighter in the middle,*”.

EAA Observation:

12/30/2024 from Big Woodchuck Observatory backyard in Pittsburgh, PA.

Using an 8" SCT optical tube @ f6.3 on a GEM mount, with a CMOS/USB color camera and broadband filter @ 15-second guided exposure livestacked for 2 minutes.



Using EAA techniques, visually on the monitor the globular is partly resolved along the outer edges. Two bright 8th mag field stars on one side line up in a row with the globular.