

The Observer's Challenge Objects

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

April: NGC 3190 – galaxy group (Hickson 44) – Leo; mag_v=12.1; Size = 4.4' x 1.2'

RA: 10h 18m 06s Dec: +21° 49' 57"

+12.1 mag spiral galaxy NGC3190 is the second brightest member of the galaxy group Hickson 44 (also known as Arp316), located in the Spring constellation of Leo - 'The Lion'. Other cluster members include spirals NGC3185, NGC3187, and the brightest at 11.8 - elliptical galaxy NGC3193. The quartet of galaxies is located about half-way between the bright stars Algieba (Gamma Leonis) and Adhafera (Zeta Leonis). Nearly edge-on to our view, NGC3190 is about 79 million light-years distant, with a diameter of about 69,000 ly.

NGC3190, along with NGC3187 & NGC3193 is also cataloged in Halton Arp's peculiar galaxy catalog, published in 1966, as Arp316, (Galaxy Group). Arp notes that edge-on NGC3190 shows "signs of interaction", though he didn't specify which galaxy NGC3190 was interacting with.

NGC3190 & friends were then cataloged by Paul Hickson in 1982. Using the Palomar Observatory Sky Survey (POSS), Hickson compiled a catalog of 100 faint, compact galaxy clusters. Hickson's research goal in creating his catalog was to develop a uniform statistically significant sample to aid in studying galaxy evolution and any discordant red shifts between the individual members of these compact groups.

NGC3190 (H2 44) was discovered on the night of March 12th, 1784 by William Herschel using his 20 ft reflector setup in the back garden of his home in Datchet near Windsor. (NGC3193 'H2 45' was discovered later that same evening).

Video-Capture/EAA:

05/15/2023, from the ORAS Observatory in 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 15 min.



The highly inclined spiral NGC3190 stands out well from the star field, displaying a warped disk unevenly bisected by a prominent dark-lane. Its nearest companion is spiral NGC3187 which displays faint arm extensions on either side of the main spiral. The elliptical NGC3193 is an unresolved ball of stars with a bright core. Lying further away is the barred spiral NGC3185, displaying a bright core with two nice arms.