

The Observer's Challenge Objects

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

June: **NGC 6058** – Planetary nebula - Hercules; mag_v=12.4; RA: 16h 04m 27s Dec: +40° 40' 57"

Planetary Nebula **NGC6058**, is located in the spring constellation of Hercules - "The Hero", and shines at magnitude +12.9. The nebula is about 13,000 light-years distant, with a diameter of about 2 ly.

NGC6058 (H3 637) was discovered on the night of March 18th, 1787 by William Herschel using his 20 ft reflector at Slough, near Windsor Castle. Herschel described the object as "*Very faint, extremely small. Shewed 2 very small stars with nebulosity*". Having not detected a disk, Herschel placed this object in his 3rd category – 'Very Faint Nebulae', rather than his 4th category of 'Planetary Nebulae'.

NGC6058 was not determined to be an actual planetary nebula until 1918 by astronomer Heber Curtis at Lick Observatory using the 36" Crossley Reflector Telescope.

EAA Observation:

06/03/2024, from the Cherry Springs Star Party, using an 8" SCT optical tube @ f6.3 on a GEM mount, with a CMOS color camera and narrowband filter, 180-second guided exposure, live-stacked for 30 min. Image cropped.



NGC6058 is a small planetary, but displays a bright blue bi-polar disk containing a bright central star.