

The Observer's Challenge Objects

Submitted by Larry McHenry, Pittsburgh, PA.

March: NGC 2685 – Galaxy – **Ursa Major**; Mag. V= 11.3; sfc. br. 13.8; Size 4.6' x 2.5'

RA: 08h 56m Dec. +58° 44'

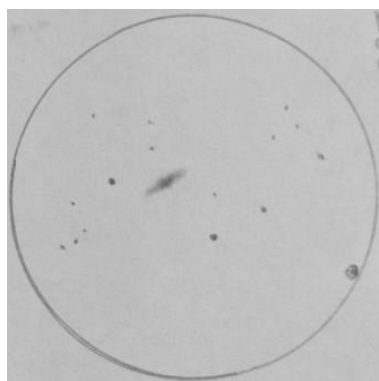
NGC 2685

Is a small +11.3 mag lenticular galaxy located in the spring constellation of Ursa Major - 'The Great Bear'. It is about 42 million light years distant, and about 50,000 light-years in size. Being only 31 degrees from Polaris, the galaxy is circumpolar and above the horizon year-round for most observers. Deep images of NGC 2685 show that it is a polar ring Seyfert galaxy showing an outer ring of stars, gas & dust that may have been perturbed by another unidentified passing galaxy or possibly from the breakup and merging of a satellite companion pulled into the main galaxy. NGC 2685 is listed as Arp336 in Halton Arp's 'Atlas of Peculiar Galaxies'.

Visual Screen Sketch:

03/02/2021 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 LP filter @ 30-second guided exposure livestacked for 20 minutes.



Visually, the galaxy is a small elongated spindle with a brighter bulge at its core and a star-like nucleus.

Video-Capture:

06/01/2016 from Cherry Springs State Park at the Cherry Springs Star Party, using an 8" SCT optical tube @ f6.3 on a GEM mount, with an analog deep-sky video-camera & IR filter @ 35 seconds, unguided single exposure.

