

# Kitt Peak Nightly Observing Program

## Splendors of the Universe on YOUR Night!

Many pictures are links to larger versions.

Click here for the ["Best images of the OTOP" Gallery](#) and more information.



### M51 Whirlpool Galaxy

**M51**, the **Whirlpool Galaxy**, gets its name from its bright and prominent spiral arms. It lies at a distance of 23 million light-years away. It also has a smaller, companion galaxy (NGC 5195). The two galaxies are one of the best examples of interacting galaxies.

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### M13 Hercules Globular

**M13**, the "**Great Globular Cluster in Hercules**" was first discovered by Edmund Halley in 1714, and later catalogued by Charles Messier in 1764. It contains 300,000 stars, and is 22,000 light-years away. Light would need over a century to traverse its diameter.

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### Jupiter

Jupiter is the largest planet in the Solar System, a "gas giant" 11 Earth-diameters across. Its atmosphere contains the Great Red Spot, a long-lived storm 2-3 times the size of the Earth. The 4 large Galilean satellites and at least 63 smaller moons orbit Jupiter.

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### Saturn

Saturn, the second-largest planet in the Solar System, is known for its showy but thin rings made of ice chunks as small as dust and as large as buildings. Its largest moon, Titan, has an atmosphere and hydrocarbon lakes; at least 61 smaller moons orbit Saturn.

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## Cor Caroli ( $\alpha$ CVn)

The star **Cor Caroli** ( $\alpha$  Canum Venaticorum) or "**Heart of Charles**" was named after King Charles I or II of England. These stars are about 110 light-years away, but it is unknown if they are actually orbiting around each other.

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*Carmen Austin*

Your Telescope Operator and Guide. Thank you for joining me this evening! See you soon!!

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The web page for the program in which you just participated is at [Nightly Observing Program](#). Most of the above images were taken as part of the Overnight Telescope Observing Program. For more information on this unique experience please visit [Overnight Telescope Observing Program](#).

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