

Kitt Peak Nightly Observing Program

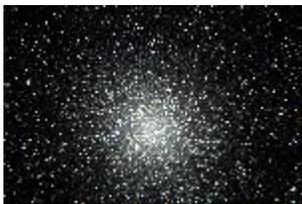
Splendors of the Universe on YOUR Night!

Many pictures are links to larger versions.

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



M13: The "Great Globular Cluster in Hercules" was discovered by Edmund "Comet" Halley in 1714. It is 22,000 lightyears away, and light would need over a century to traverse its diameter.



M22: Near the top of the "teapot" of Sagittarius, this was probably the first globular cluster ever found. It is a gravitationally bound flock of 80,000 suns, orbiting the galactic core.



M51: The Whirlpool Galaxy. This galaxy gets its name from its bright and prominent spiral arms. It lies at a distance of 23 million ly. It also has a smaller, companion galaxy (NGC 5195). The two galaxies are in the process of a massive collision in space.



M82: The "Cigar Galaxy". This edge-on spiral galaxy is twelve million lightyears away, and perhaps 37,000 lightyears across. There are vast gas clouds here, where suns are being born at an incredible rate.

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.



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.



M57: The Ring Nebula. This remnant of a dead star looks exactly as it's name says - a ring or doughnut shape cloud of gas. The nebula is about 2.6 lightyears across and lies about 2,300 lightyears away.

Johnathan Siquieros

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

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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