

Notes about this image, NGC 7380 The Wizard Nebula, from the astrophotographer, Tom Engwall:

The attached is NGC 7380, the Wizard Nebula. This is a star cluster surrounded by an emission nebula about 8500 light years away in the constellation Cepheus - discovered by Caroline Herschel in 1787. This image is an integration of the following:

Ha 86 x 180 seconds

Red 98 x 180 seconds

Green 90 x 180 seconds

Blue 88 x 180 seconds

Unguided for a total exposure of 18.1 hours

The image was captured on my remotely operated setup at PixelSkies in Castillejar, Spain from 9/8 - 9/28/2021 on a Esprit 150 scope and ASI 2600 camera, mounted on a 10 Micron GM 1000. I found this to be a tricky image because blending Ha (Hydrogen Alpha) is more complicated than I realized. The Ha creates a very dramatic highly contrasted image that needs to be toned down before blending with the RGB. I like this image but it probably is better using SHO filters (ie. the Hubble Palette). I still have a lot to learn about processing in Pixinsight but it is an enjoyable challenge. I'm currently capturing several other objects that are nearing completion and I can say remote imaging is a terrific way to capture data - way more clear skies than here and all done from my office desk.

For a larger and less compressed version of this image, please visit my Astrobin page:

<https://astrob.in/y1e9jl/0/>