

NGC 7635, The Bubble Nebula

This image was acquired in October of 2021 at my remote observing site in Castilléjar, Spain. It is NGC 7635, otherwise known as the Bubble Nebula. It is an emission nebula in the H II region around Cassiopeia, about 7,000 to 11,000 light years away. It is interesting that the bubble was not formed by a supernova explosion as in the Crab Nebula, but this bubble has been created by the stellar wind from a massive hot 8.7 magnitude young star - about 45 times more massive than our sun. That star can be seen at about 10:00 inside the bubble. The other neat thing about this image is the star cluster in the top right. That is M52. Clearly Messier's equipment was not good enough to notice the nebula but William Herschel did discover it in 1787. I liked the idea of getting both in the frame and the focal length of my Esprit 150 (1050 mm) was perfect for this. This is an Ha, L, R, G, B image. The Ha filter really picks up the detail of the nebula but I suspect it could have used some luminance as well. That just seems to brighten things up and provide some sharp contrast. I may try to add that next fall.

Tom Engwall