NGC 2419, The Intergalactic Wanderer

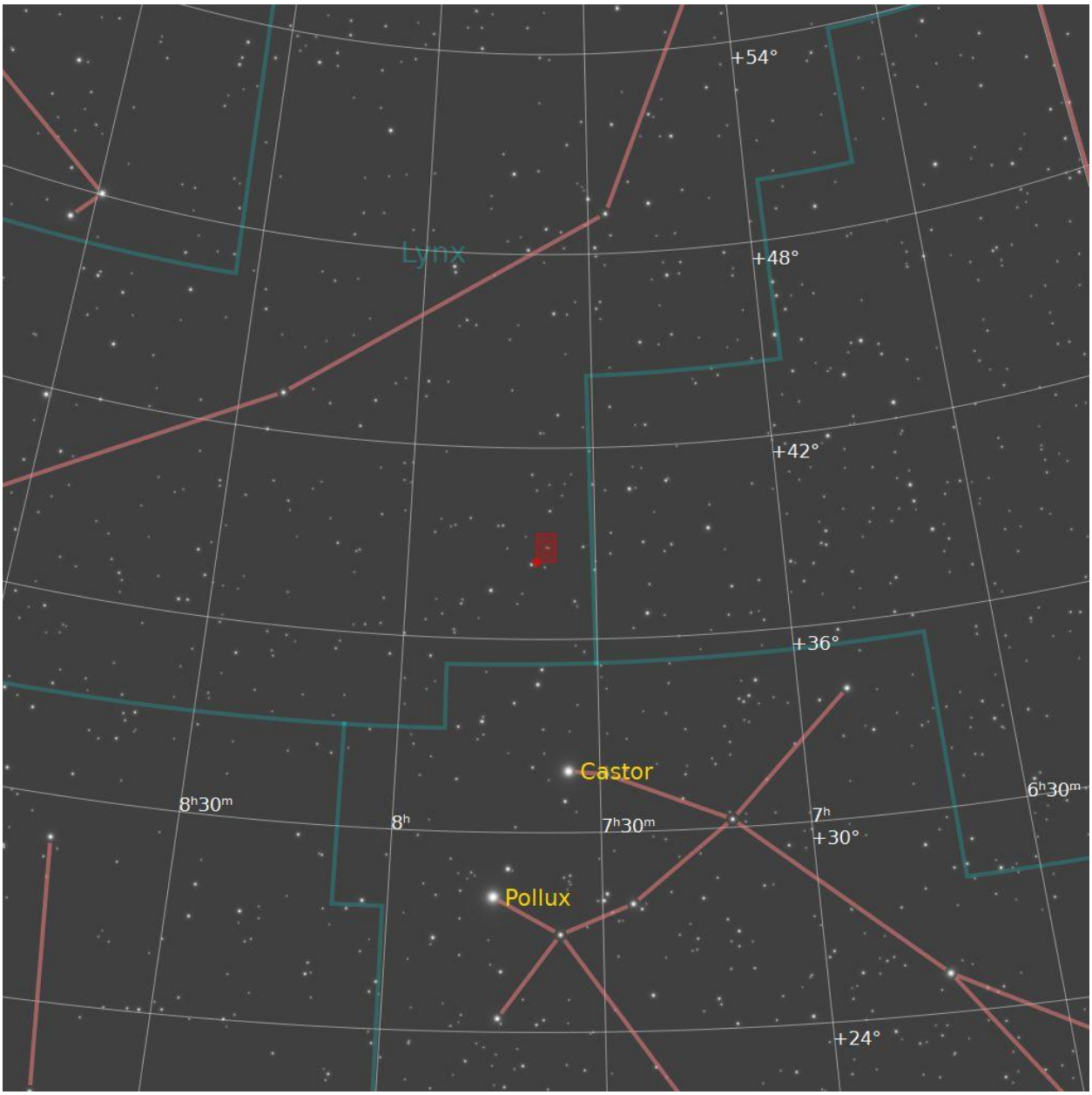
This is the globular cluster, NGC 2419, The Intergalactic Wanderer. I was not aware of this object until Bernie showed it in the 16 inch at Grassland a couple of months ago and I captured it in the camera on the 6 inch Stellarview there. It was pretty faint but visible in the 16 inch and faint but clearly visible after a 60 second exposure. This is a truly fascinating globular cluster because it is both huge (maybe more than 900,000 stars) and very far away. It is only technically part of the Milky Way with an orbit that takes it 300,000 light years out (further out than the Magellanic Clouds). It is called the Intergalactic Wanderer because it was first thought that it was just passing by. One commentary on it states that it would be on the "Best and Brightest" list for an observer in the Andromeda Galaxy because it is so far away from our galaxy. It is likely that most of the globulars in the Milky Way were captured and most are located in the outer ring, so I guess this is happening to NGC 2419.

This image would have benefited from a longer focal length than the scope I have in Spain (Esprit 150) and it probably could have used a little more exposure time (got too low in the west for me) but it still came out okay under the circumstances The exposure times:

Red 36 x 300 sec
Green 35 x 300 sec
Blue 34 x 300 sec
Lum 36 x 300 sec
Total 11.75 hours

Processing Notes:
I used a "Super Luminance" in processing this. You can create a Super Luminance by combining RGB masters with image integration to create a grayscale image and combine that with the luminance master using LRGB combine. I applied HDRMT to the luminance master before combining it with the RGB grayscale image. That did seem to provide more detail in the faint regions, so I will likely try this again.

Tom Engwall


+54°
Lynx
+48°
+42°
+36°
Castor
8h30m
8h
7h30m
7h
6h30m
+30°
Pollux
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