SH2-170, Little Rosette Nebula

This is an image of SH2-170. also known as the Little Rosette Nebula captured on my remotely operated setup in Castilléjar, Spain. It is in an H2 region of Cassiopeia - some 7500 light years away. You can see a bright star in the very center of the nebula which is ionizing the surrounding hydrogen gas, making it glow. This object also contains a lot of SII in the same area as the Ha as well as OIII in the center blue area. You can also see a lot of dark dust mixed in as well. The ring structure of this object makes it look like the Rosette Nebula but it is much smaller and quite faint. I was able to devote a lot of exposure time to this one.

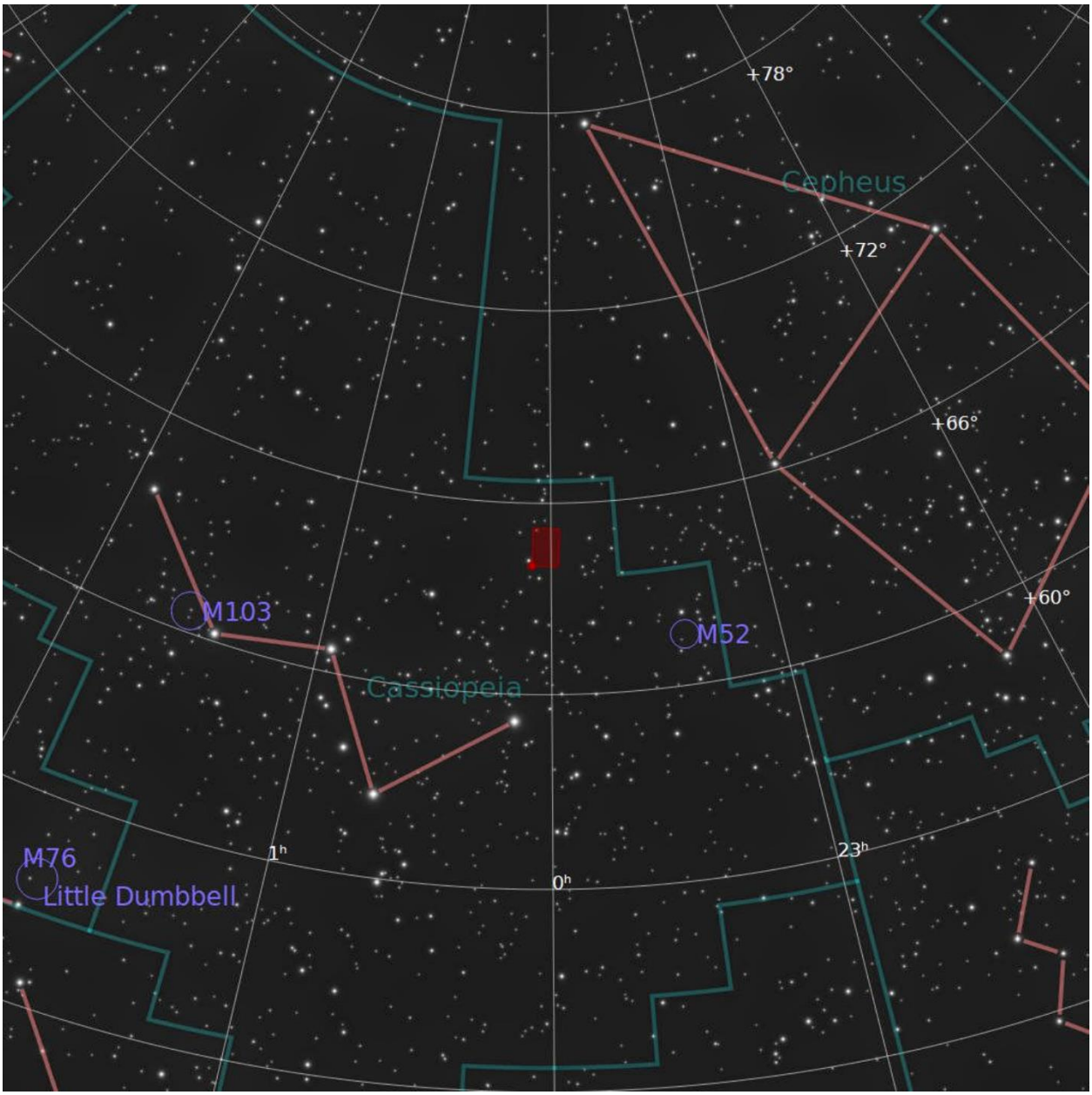
Exposure:
SII 108 x 600 sec
Ha 106 x 600 sec
OIII 105 x 600 sec

Total 55.2 hours

Processing Notes:
As usual, I spent more time than I should have processing this image. It presented some challenges because the Ha and SII overlap significantly, making it difficult to show color variations. The standard SHO palette seemed to work best for me and I used a new tool from the Graxpert Toolbox (comes with the Graxpert download). The Selective Color Correction script allows you to make and easily edit many different masks that can be applied with many different color options. This is very useful but real time preview is lousy because the actual application of the script turns out to be much stronger than the preview. Consequently, I had to hold back on what I created in the preview and apply it to see what I actually had. This required much experimentation to get it right. However, I think this script has a lot of promise, if they just fix the preview problem. The Improve Brilliance script in that tool box also looks very promising, but it suffers from the same preview problem and I was not satisfied with my results, so I used LHE and MNT instead. Still, if they fix these previews, it could be great. There are other scripts in the Graxpert Toolbox and Graxpert, itself, is a fine gradient removal tool.

One other note - my 10 Micron GM 1000 mount in Spain has been sent back to 10 Micron for repairs (been having problems with meridian flips). It's been there for a month now, so I'm very frustrated. Sure hope they fix it soon.

Tom Engwall


+78°
Cepheus
+72°
+66°
+60°
M103
M52
Cassiopeia
M76
Little Dumbbell
1h
0h
23h