

The Dolphin-Head Nebula

This is Sh2-308, commonly called The Dolphin-Head Nebula, for rather obvious reasons. It's located about 4,500 light years distant in the constellation Canis Major. The nebula is about 60 light years across at its widest spot. The central star is an extremely hot massive star type called a Wolf-Rayet star, which is thought to be in the pre-supernova stage. The intense ultraviolet radiation from the star ionizes the gases of the outer layers of the star that were thrown off long ago, which produces the beautiful colors we see.

45 x 300 second exposures taken through my 5-inch refractor with a specialized dual-band filter over my dedicated astronomy camera.

The objects in the universe around us are amazing.

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