1945

Barnard's Galaxy

Quick Facts:
Distance: 1.6 Million Light-years.
Size: 7000 Light-years.
Constellation: Sagittarius.
A nearby irregular galaxy first noted by E. E. Barnard in 1884. Like the Milky Way, a member of the local group of galaxies. Also known as NGC 6822, it is chock full of star forming regions and young, hot and massive blue stars. The first galaxy beyond the Magellanic Clouds (also dwarf irregular galaxies) to have its distance measured (Hubble 1925).
Find it: Look about 10 deg west of the stars Alpha and Beta Capricornii for a small triangle of 5th mag stars. Use the two easternmost triangle stars to point at the galaxy a degree NE of the triangle. GOTO: NGC (New General Catalog).

Photo: ESO La Silla Observatory. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.