Blue Snowball Nebula

Quick Facts:

Distance: 4,000 light-years **Size: 0.7 light-years**

Constellation: Andromeda

A small, bright planetary nebula that shows its bluish color in an 8-inch scope at medium magnification. One of the first celestial objects studied with a spectroscope (1864) by English Astronomer William Huggins, who discovered its gaseous nature. Also called NGC 7662.

Find it: Sweep about 13 degrees due west of the Andromeda Galaxy to find a 5th mag star. 1 deg beneath it is the nebula. GOTO: NGC.

Image by Judy Schmidt. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.