1025

Ghost of Jupiter

Quick Facts:

Distance: 4,800 light-years **Size: 1 light-year**

Constellation: Hydra

A bright planetary nebula about the apparent size of Jupiter. Its central white dwarf is also bright and easily seen in small scopes. This star's ultraviolet radiation powers the light we see from the nebula much like a fluorescent bulb. Elliptical overall shape with a steely blue color. Also called NGC 3242.

Find it: From Alphard, sweep 17 deg southeast down the water serpent to locate Mu Hydrae. The Ghost is 2 deg directly south. GOTO: NGC.

Image by NASA/Hubble/ESA. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.