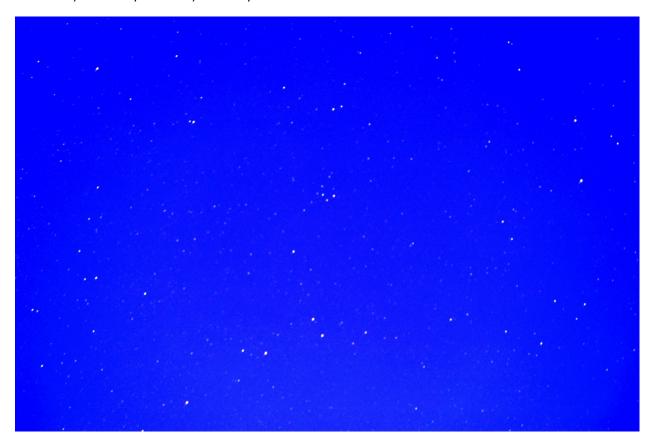
WORLD'S SHORTEST CATALOG: P3-PICKARD'S COATHANGER

The 3rd member in my catalogue is the Coathanger Asterism located in Vulpecula. It is currently referred to as Collinder 399, but has also been called Brocchi's Cluster. It was first identified by the Persian astronomer Al Sufi in 964 A.D. It had been considered a star cluster for most of the 20th century until data from the Hipparcos satellite showed that the stars did not have the same proper motion. Thus, it is no more than a chance alignment of stars.

Having multiple synonyms for stellar objects is not only common in astronomy, but sometimes mind boggling. So why does the Coathanger qualify as P3? Having an Iridium Flare within 8° seemed to be a fine reason as I had shot Flares in my Little Dipper and Triple Double.

The Magnitude of the 10 stars range from Mag $5.1^{\sim}7.1$. The Iridium Flare on August 14,2013, was Mag. -6.2. The difference in Magnitude between the asterism and flare is about Mag. 13 or 158,500 times brighter!

The first picture is a wide field with P3 in the middle. You can clearly see the different colors of the asterism's stars. Along a diagonal line to the upper left you will see a double star, Alpha and 8 Vulpeculae which are clearly split at 442 arcseconds. And in the upper left corner is Albireo, the beautiful orange and blue double star in Cygnus. (The field of view is too wide to split this at 34 arcseconds.) This was shot on 8/10/2013, Nikon D70, 50mm, f/5.6, ISO 1600, Light 27x30 sec, Dark 20x30 sec, Flat 20x1/1600 sec, Bias 5x1/1600 sec.

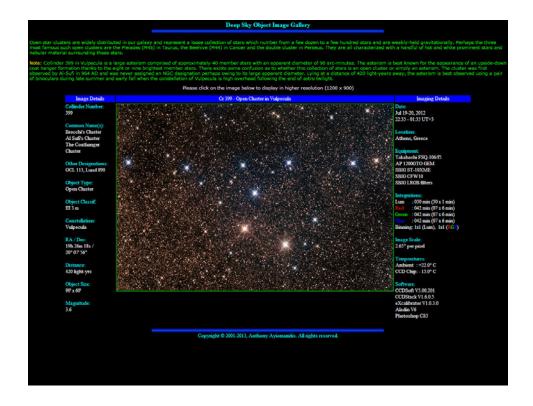


The shot with the Iridium Flare was a single shot, 30 sec, ISO 1600, f/5.6. The field of view still includes the doubles mentioned above. Thanks go to Pascal Menut for so nicely Photoshopping the image!



The next photo is a wonderful view of the CoatHanger. It was shot by Anthony Ayiomamitis in Greece and is reprinted with permission. For you astrophotographers, he has listed all the technical details right in the photo. It can be seen here (and below):

http://www.perseus.gr/Astro-DSO-Cluster-Cr-399.htm



He has an **amazing website** which can be seen here:

http://www.perseus.gr/

This is the rig I used for the pictures:



Bill Pickard

"The difference between Stupidity and Genius, Genius has its limits" Albert Einstein

