

# Eridanus Optics CC

## Newsletter November 2005

### (Andromeda Galaxy – M31)

November is the best month to view the Andromeda galaxy from South Africa. At around  $+41^\circ$  Dec, Andromeda barely rises more than  $25^\circ$  above the horizon for Gauteng observers and only about  $17^\circ$  for observers in the Southern Cape. Andromeda transits at around 22:00 at the beginning of November, 21:00 during mid November and 8:00 at the end of November.

Up to now, the Moon had been in the sky during the time that Andromeda transits. With the moon currently waning (and therefore rising during the night), it means that you will have the best available timeslot (20:00 to 21:00) to view Andromeda without the moon interfering. For your best views, avoid light polluted areas, but the Andromeda galaxy is so bright that you can easily find it with 10x35 binoculars.

The best way to find Andromeda (at least in light polluted areas where less stars are visible) is as follows (see file attached):

1. Find the North-eastern star (lower right) of the great square of Pegasus (Alpheratz or Alpha Andromedae)
2. Extend the line from Scheat (lower left star of the Great square of Pegasus) through Alpheratz to Delta Andromedae, you'll find a bright triangle asterism with two stars in a vertical line and a third towards the left.
3. Going further to the right, but looking lower, you should find Mirach, the brightest star in that direction.
4. You should now aim for Mu Andromedae going further down, but left.
5. You'll find the Andromeda Galaxy if you continue on that line (Mirach/Mu Andromedae) another length. Andromeda galaxy forms a triangular asterism with Nu Andromedae and 32 Andromedae and looks like a white cloud.

