

NGC 281 and IC 1590



Isaac Newton Telescope + Photographic Prime Focus Camera



Dark nebulae are clouds of dust which are simply blocking the light from whatever is behind. They are physically very similar to reflection nebulae; they look different only because of the geometry of the light source, the cloud and the Earth. Dark nebulae are often seen in conjunction with reflection and emission nebulae. Show here are NGC 281 and IC 1590. NGC 281 is a busy workshop of star formation. Prominent features include a small open cluster of stars, a diffuse red-glowing emission nebula, large lanes of obscuring gas and dust, and dense knots of dust and gas in which stars may still be forming. This image is the result of combining 30 minute photographs taken at the INT prime focus in 3 different filters matching the standard B,V,R system.

Photograph by David Malin (AAO).