

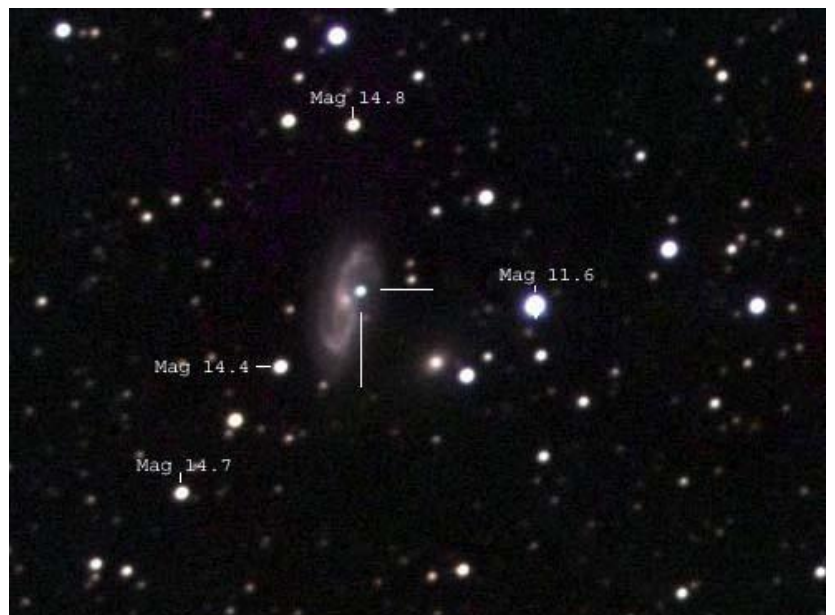
Brett White Bags Two Supernovae

On the second last day of the Sydney Olympic Games in the year 2000, Brett White became at that time, one of only about 10 people in the world to have discovered two supernovae through the eyepiece of a telescope. On that night at Linden in the Blue Mountains, he had checked through about 40 galaxies (he might do a 100 in one night) when he saw a giant blue star in NGC 6754 that wasn't supposed to be there. "I knew straight away what it was".

Fellow amateur Ted Dobosz photographed the star to make certain. The new supernova was in the same galaxy as Brett's 1998 discovery! Brett had phoned Bob Evans, who at the time had 33 supernovae to his name. Bob urged him to email his discovery to the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams (CBAT). Only 3 supernovae had been found visually in the previous three years, Bob Evans having found the other one.

Brett White, Linden, NSW, Australia,
Visual discovery of SN 2000do in NGC 6754 on September 30.5 UT.

Ted Dobosz: "This image is 2000do in NGC 6754 that I obtained at around 11pm on Saturday 30th September, 2000. The spiral galaxy NGC 6754 presented its 3rd supernova in 3 years (1998X, 1998dq and 2000do)"



Brett White, Linden, NSW, Australia,
Visual discovery of SN 1998dq in NGC 6754 on August 23.4, 1998 UT.

Ted Dobosz's SN 1998dq image:
"On 23rd August 1998, I received a frantic call from Brett White to confirm whether this was an actual Supernova. Brett had been looking for Supernovae in a serious sense for less than a year and incredibly had bagged one! :)".



The Two Nova (Supernova) Awards

At the Annual Meeting of the AAVSO in October 1928, a Nova Award Medal (later becoming a Nova Award Plaque) was instituted to encourage and recognize the visual discoverers of novae. The Medal was not restricted to members of the AAVSO, but it would be awarded to the original discoverer of a nova by direct visual methods. This award is also awarded to the visual discoverer of a supernova.

Brett White has been twice a Supernova Award recipient. Shown below is Brett's scope, from which he found the two supernovae, parked in front of the Beames' Dome at Linden Observatory. His two Nova Awards are displayed in the photo.



Brett was also WSAAG President from September 1999 to September 2001.

Rob Horvat (WSAAG)