

Picking out Globular Clusters around The Andromeda Galaxy. Dave Eagle FRAS

Globular clusters not only surround The Milky Way, they also swarm around other galaxies. It should therefore come as no surprise that we can also observe them around a few of our nearest and brightest neighboring galaxies. The Andromeda Galaxy M31 has a number above 15th magnitude, which can be observed directly if you have a large telescope. The brightest at magnitude is known as G1 (Mayall II) and is located about 2.5 degrees to the south west of the nucleus of M31.

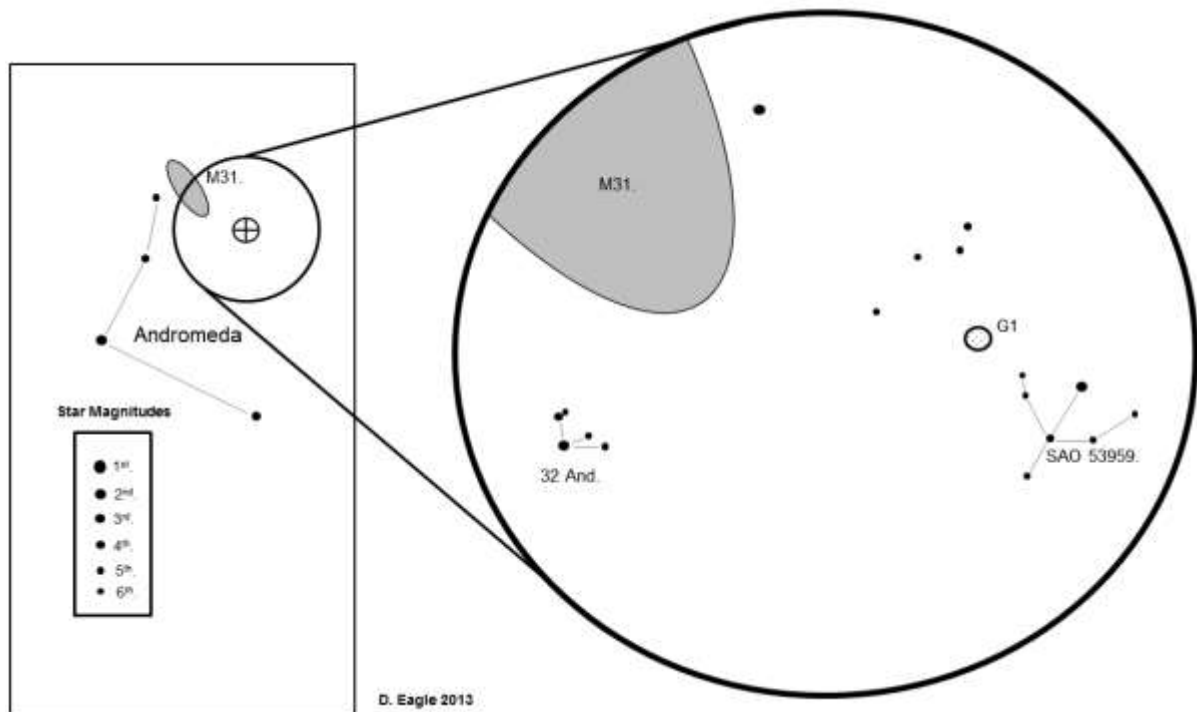


Fig 1. Finder chart for Globular Cluster G1.

Some observing notes and a more detailed map for finding G1 are located on this Web site:

<http://deepsky.astroinfo.org/And/g1/index.en.php>

At magnitude 13.8 it will require a fairly large telescope above 10" to find where it forms a triangle with two stars of 14.5 and 15th magnitude.



Fig 2. Close up view of the area showing the location of globular cluster G1.

As well as G1 there are also a number of globular clusters bright enough to be found around M31. These really do need 10" or bigger telescope. These globular clusters are a bit more challenging than G1 as they are situated in front of the galaxy itself. This results in the background sky being a little brighter, so that there is less contrast.

A monochrome finder chart with the globular clusters marked around M31 is available from the Cloudy Nights Web site:

http://www.cloudynights.com/images/SWandromedaglobs/m31globs_inverted_bw.jpg

Dave Eagle

Eagleseye Observatory, Higham Ferrers, UK.

www.eagleseye.me.uk

dave@eagleseye.me.uk