Fun Facts:

**BLINKING PLANETARY NEBULA**

Computer Code: ngc6826

* **Location:**
  + RA: 19h 45m 20s
  + Dec: 50⁰ 34’
* **Other Names:**
  + NGC 6826
* **Basics:**
  + Description: planetary nebula in Cygnus
    - Planetary Nebula are the remains of a sun-like star that has used all of its hydrogen gas (fuel). The Sun will become an object like this in 5 to 6 billion years. The glowing gases were once thought to be planets in the process of forming, hence the name “planetary nebula”.
  + Why it blinks:
    - When viewed through a small telescope, the brightness of the central star overwhelms the eye when viewed directly, obscuring the surrounding nebula. However, it can be viewed well using averted vision, which causes it to "blink" in and out of view as the observer's eye wanders. It is one of the most prominent blinkers, but not the only one. It’s central star is among the brightest found at the center of nebulas.
  + Visual Magnitude: +8.89 (not visible to naked eye but can be seen in small telescopes)
  + Apparent Size: 2.1 arcminutes
  + Distance: 2,200 light years away
    - It’s suspected the light we’re seeing now left the Blinking Planetary Nebula around 200 BC.
    - This is what was happening on Earth around 200 BC:
      * The Roman Republic was fighting Carthage in the Punic Wars. Rome was on the rise.
      * The Han Dynasty unifies China and it becomes the first of many great imperial Chinese dynasties.
  + Diameter: 2.6 light years across
* **Other Notes:**
  + A distinctive feature of this nebula are the two bright patches on either side, which are known as Fast Low-Ionization Emission Regions, or FLIERS. They appear to be relatively young, moving outwards at supersonic speeds.