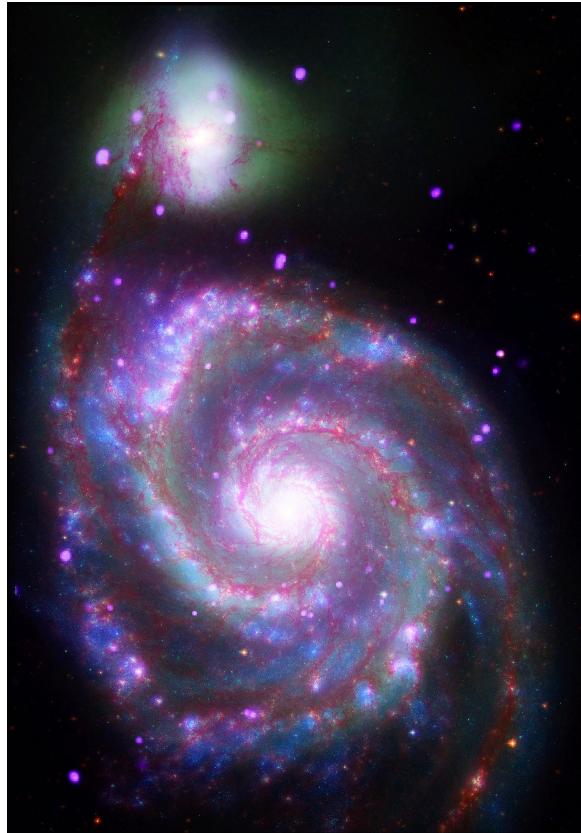


# Astro Log: Whirlpool Galaxy



## Session Details:

Union City, California is located at approximately 37.59° N latitude and -122.02° W longitude. On the evening of November 15, 2025, at 10:45 PM, the weather in Union City is expected to be clear with temperatures around 7°C (45°F). There is a 20% chance of precipitation, and the moon will be in a waxing gibbous phase, approximately 78% illuminated.

## Equipment Used:

Telescope: 8" Dobsonian; Mount: Sky-Watcher EQ6-R Pro; Camera: ZWO ASI1600MM Pro; Filter: Ha (7nm).

## Object Research:

The Whirlpool Galaxy, also known as M51, is approximately 31 million light-years away from Earth. It has an apparent magnitude of 8.4, making it visible through small telescopes under dark skies. This grand-design spiral galaxy is characterized by its prominent, well-defined spiral arms, which are active regions of star formation. The Whirlpool Galaxy's striking appearance is significantly influenced by its interaction with a smaller companion galaxy, NGC 5195, which is believed to have passed through M51's disk multiple times, triggering the galaxy's pronounced spiral structure and intense star formation.