

Barred Spiral Galaxy NGC 6217

Many spiral galaxies have “bars” of stars, dust, and gas slicing across their centers. Even our Milky Way Galaxy is thought to have a central bar.

This Hubble Space Telescope image displays the barred spiral galaxy NGC 6217, the first snapshot taken by the newly repaired Advanced Camera for Surveys. Astronauts repaired the camera in May 2009 during Servicing Mission 4.

Captured in spectacular detail, the galaxy displays dark, thin dust lanes, clumps of young, blue stars, and the red glow of hydrogen gas. The galaxy’s bright, central core may house a supermassive black hole.

NGC 6217 resides 60 million light-years away in the constellation Ursa Minor (the Little Bear).

For more information on Tactile Astronomy projects from the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland, go to the following

page at the Web site, Amazing Space:

<http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/tactile-astronomy/>