

Friday, February 8, 2008

Arrived at Deer Trail, CO site in the afternoon to a brisk wind from the west that was blowing snow. Setup the scope near sunset when the wind appeared to be dying down. High thin clouds at sunset that disappeared. Wind was calm to none for the rest of my time there. It came from the North, then the South, then the NW. When the wind blew, the temperature went up a degree or two, and the seeing went south. Otherwise, it was a great evening. Left at 10:30 PM after finishing the Open Cluster Observing Club.

IC 2165 6:56 PM 19mm – Small, round, like out-of-focus star. With O3, can see central star in center of glow. O3 shows it the best. 9mm shows it as a small, circular glow but this is almost too much magnification right now. No central star seen at this power but can see its not stellar in size.

16 degrees. Light wind. Sky good. Seeing good.

Ru 7 7:09 PM 19mm - Relook at this one again. Very small. Very faint. See 5-6 very faint stars in a "U" shape. Class I 1 p. Really too faint to classify. A bit of a very faint glow around these stars. 9mm shows these stars that were seen with 19mm and 4-5 more, **very** faint ones to upper right of these. Fairly compact.

Tr 7 7:35 PM 19mm - See 3 stars, almost in a line. 9mm see a 4th not much else. Seen approx 1 1/2 hrs from meridian. Class II 1 p. Taking another look with 9mm see 8-10 stars. Fairly compact (small in area) but taller from top to bottom than it is wide.

Seeing good. Transparency good. Light wind from south. 14 degrees.

Tr 6 7:40 PM 19mm - In same FOV as Tr 7 but to its lower left. 5 faint stars seen forming a "V" that points (bottom of) at 4 o'clock. With 9mm see 8-9 stars now that forms a "Y". There is one off by itself to lower right of approx same magnitude and may be part of it. There is a hint of a glow underneath these stars. Class II 2 p.

Tr 9 8:06 PM 19mm - 12-15 faint stars of approx 2 magnitudes make a funky looking question mark with a line of brighter stars along bottom. With 9mm see many more stars. Approx 15-20 total underneath these brighter ones seen in 19mm. With bottom stars, now looks like a "2". There are 4 very bright stars forming a vertical line way off to left of these. Nice. Class II 3 p. Going back to 19mm, can now see all these fainter stars everywhere.

Wind from north. Sky soft low in south where I am observing. Was OK for Tr 9. 16 degrees .

NGC 2453 8:32 PM 19mm - Small, compact. Boxy in shape. Approx 3 magnitudes of stars seen. 10-12 stars seen w/AV sitting on a glow. Stands out in FOV nicely. 9mm shows these stars and hint of fainter ones. Lot brighter and easier to spot than last 3 Trumplers I looked at. Class I 2 p.

NGC 2439 8:42 PM 19mm - Nicely fills center of FOV. 40-50 stars, some very faint seen. Roughly circular in shape. A very bright star, much brighter than all others in this OC to bottom right, near edge of stars at 4 o'clock. Nice. Its small though. This is the last OC of the OC club I looked at. Class II 3 m.

I 2165 8:57PM 19mm - Relook at it and its what I saw earlier but seeing is better so it easier to see. 9mm now shows it nicely also.

M42 8:59 PM See 5 stars of trapezium. Nebulosity incredible.

Saturn is nice. Rings tilted towards line of sight makes it look different. Saw surface details on Mars. Nice.

PK 254+5.1 9:18 PM 19mm - Small, off white colored round with central star easily seen. Responds well to O3 and central star is now obvious. 9mm shows halo better (larger) and central star in middle once in a while. Star hopped right to it. Back to 19mm the O3 dims halo and see tiny central stars in center. Nice.