

## Sunday, March 11, 2012

Arrived at the Denver Dark Sky Site east of Deer Trail, CO about 3:15 PM. Joe Gafford was there working on the observatory. I helped.

This is the first night of Daylights Savings Time and observing starts an hour later. It just sprang ahead this morning.

Wanted to do some double star and southern sky binocular observing tonight. The sky cleared up by 7:30 PM and continued to clear from the west to the east the rest of the night. There was a cold wind blowing until about an hour after sunset, when it was calm.

Mercury was low along horizon. Looked like a very fat gibbous phase. Venus looked like a full disk and Jupiter was nice, with 3 moons seen.

Sky is OK. Transparency is OK.

NGC 1851	7:56 PM	20x80 Binocs – Bright, easy to see. Tiny. Looks like an out of focus star in FOV. Other stars in FOV are pin points. Brighter core area and bit of dim halo around it.
F Hya	8:29 PM	20x80 Binocs – A brighter blue white star to lower left and a bit away is a much dimmer companion.
19 Lyn	8:35 PM	20x80 Binocs – A dimmer blue white star and to left and above and a bit away is this much dimmer star approx ½ as bright.
τ1 Hya	8:37 PM	20x80 Binocs – A bright blue white star then above it and to left and near is a much dimmer companion. Both easy to see.
27 Hya	8:40 PM	20x80 Binocs – A brighter white star. To lower left and a bit away is a fainter companion by approx ½ as bright.
ζ 36&35 Leo	8:40 PM	20x80 Binocs – 2 bright blue white stars. Lower right much brighter than upper left by approx 2 times.

42 LMi , ,	8:51 PM	20x80 Binocs – A much brighter blue white star to upper left and a bit away from a dimmer companion.
$\delta$ Leo , , ,	8:55 PM	20x80 Binocs – A very bright blue white star and then blow it and a bit away is this <u>very</u> faint star.
93 Leo , .	8:58 PM	20x80 Binocs – A bright blue white star and then above and to left and very near is this <u>very</u> faint companion.

Spent much time looking for two southern sky objects in Vela. Only half of the constellation was poking above the southern horizon. Found the star fields where the objects were, but didn't see a hint of either of them.

17 Com , ,	10:06 PM	20x80 Binocs – A bright blue white star and above and to right is a much dimmer companion, somewhat near.
12 Com , ,	10:06 PM	20x80 Binocs – A dimmer blue white star and very near and to lower right is a <u>very</u> faint companion.
$\tau$ Leo , .	10:11 PM	20x80 Binocs – A bright blue white star and below and right is a <u>much</u> dimmer companion.
83 Leo , ,	10:11 PM	20x80 Binocs – 2 blue white stars very close. Upper left is bit brighter and easier to see than bit dimmer companion to lower right.
$\Sigma$ 1474 Hya , , ,	10:18 PM	20x80 Binocs – 3 stars. 2 on right are brightest and approx same magnitude with lower one brighter. Then between these two and to left is a much dimmer companion, very near these two.

Had a great night. Saw the inside of the DAS's observatory for the first time. This is an outstanding facility for us to use. Still have 3 more Binocular Double Stars to see to complete the list.