

Friday, January 16, 2009

Arrived at Deer Trail, CO site about 3:00 PM. Clear. Light wind from SW. First time in a long time I arrived to a cloudless sky.

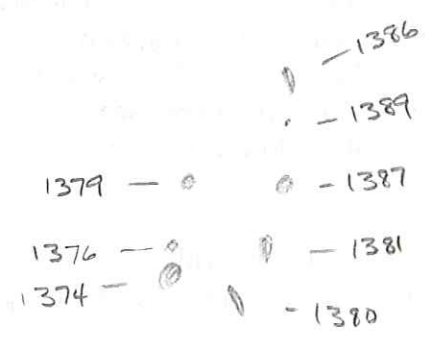
Looked at Venus at 5:19 PM. Well over $\frac{1}{2}$ gibbous phase. Calm at sunset. Thin clouds along northern horizon. 35 degrees.

At 5:21 PM, sky is darkening. Found Aldeberan. First star on way to comet 144P/Kushida. If I find it, this will be my 18th comet for the Astronomical League's Gold Comet award.

Sky is OK, Transparency is OK.

Comet Kushida	6:10 PM	Found the comet. Nice. Round coma with hint of a brighter core. 19mm FOV view the best..
NGC 1052	6:34 PM	19mm – Nice fat oval with tips on top and bottom. Pretty bright and uniformly lit. Don't see companions NGC 1042 and NOG 1035. Oval center tapers to the tips that makes it look like a vertical eye..
NGC 1232	6:43 PM	19mm – Larger round glow with large, bit brighter nucleus area. Pretty dim overall yet easy to spot in FOV.
NGC 1300	6:45 PM	19mm – Small, vertical thin sliver of light. Pretty faint. In center of halo glow, w/AV, see larger, bit brighter core. Then below core glow and on halo glow is a very faint field star that makes it look like it has 2 cores.
NGC 1297	6:45 PM	19mm – Above NGC 1300 is this <u>very</u> faint, large circular glow. In center see a brighter concentration of the core. Very nice. Almost in same FOV of 1300.
NGC 1398	6:55 PM	19mm – Small, round bright galaxy with bit brighter, large core area. Very easy to see. Maybe an extended halo surrounds this bright galaxy. Looking again, see it's a tilted oval from 11 – 5 o'clock in FOV. What was described above is brighter central part and can see faint halo arms above and below central glow as it tapers off.
NGC 1425	7:01 PM	19mm – A faint, fat oval glow with central core a linear glow and easy to see on halo glow. Central bar goes from 8 – 2 o'clock.

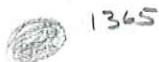
NGC 1406	7:07 PM	19mm – A very faint, thin sliver of light. Goes from 11 – 5 o'clock and is small. Uniformly lit. See no contrast in glow.
NGC 1350	7:11 PM	19mm – Nice, tilted oval with larger, brighter core surrounded by dim, yet easy to see halo glow. Tilt is 10 - 4 o'clock. Easy to see in FOV.
NGC 1380	7:11 PM	19mm – Nice tilted oval with larger, brighter core and tiny bit of halo around it.
NGC 1381	7:11 PM	19mm – Is dim, maybe oval with hint of hare brighter central region.
NGC 1374	7:11 PM	19mm – Is small, dim circular uniformly lit glow.
NGC 1376	7:11 PM	19mm – Is right next to NGC 1374 and is circular and very faint. Uniformly lit.
NGC 1387	7:11 PM	19mm – Is a bit of an oval. Dim. Uniformly lit.
NGC 1379	7:11 PM	19mm – Is a dim, circular glow.
NGC 1389	7:11 PM	19mm – Is a very small, dim, round glow.
NGC 1386	7:11 PM	19mm – Is a smaller and dimmer version of NGC 1389, which was a very small, dim, round glow.



NGC 1399 7:35 PM 19mm – A brighter, circular glow with brighter central region.

NGC 1365 7:38 PM 19mm – Small, round, pretty dim, uniformly lit glow.

NGC 1369 7:38 PM 19mm – A very dim, small round smudge of light.



1369

NGC 1316 7:42 PM 19mm – Small, dim, oval maybe circular glow. Central part bit brighter and hint of halo around it. Pretty dim and low in south so hard to see its exact shape.

B34 7:59 PM 19mm – About half way between M37 and M36. A boxy oval void of stars in a very rich star rich field. Goes from 2 – 8 o'clock and its approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ of 19mm FOV long and about $\frac{1}{2}$ as wide as it is long. Bounded nicely by lots of stars.

M37 and M36 Nice in 19mm FOV.

NGC 1907 8:05 PM 19mm – M38 is nice. Then above M38 about 1 19mm FOV is this tiny, compact grouping of 10-12 faint, blue-white stars all of the same magnitude. Stands out in FOV as a cluster.

Wind is pickup up from Southwest and making it hard to keep the scope from bouncing. Seeing is OK and Transparency is OK.

NGC 2633 8:17 PM 19mm – This is a linear looking flat oval with what looks like 2 brighter, tiny cores offset from center of linear glow. Then in same FOV and to upper left is NGC 2634.

NGC 2634 8:17 PM 19mm – In same FOV at NGC 2633. This is a dim, round circular glow with hare brighter, larger core seen on glow.



NGC 2523 8:25 PM 19mm – Very dim, small round glow. Pretty uniformly lit with maybe a hint of something on the glow.

UGC 3730 8:32 PM 19mm – An extremely dim, circular, maybe oval smudge of light. Its barely there yet I can see it with AV.

- NGC 2685 8:39 PM 19mm – Wind making it hard to study this one. Bounces scope. See a tilted oval with brighter linear core. Think I see 2 tiny star like nucleuses once in a while with AV to each side of center of linear nucleus. Small galaxy overall and dim, yet easy to see. Nice.
- NGC 2798 9:13 PM 19mm – Small, oval with brighter core area. See bright, tiny stellar core with AV once in a while in center of core area. Pretty small and dim.

It's 9:25 PM. The wind is persistent and making the scope bounce so much, I cannot study the objects I am finding. The moon rises in 2 hrs but the wind is too much. I am tired and can make it home to sleep in my own bed. This has been a great night and saw a lot of seasonal objects I wanted to see before they get too far in the west and the Denver sky glow. Its 31 degrees but the wind makes it feel much colder.