Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Arrived at Keota, CO to mostly cloudy skies. Tom Teeters was already here and Dan LaFaive showed up at sunset. Sky cleared from N to S at sunset. Light wind from NE. High thin clouds being lit up in west by setting Sun. Sky was good early and deteriorated as the evening wore on.

Stars are steady. Seeing is Good. Transparency is Good.

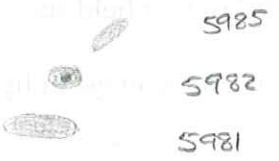
NGC 5916 NGC 5915	9:47 PM	19mm - Nice. Dim oval glow with 2 small hare brighter nucleuses side by side hear center of halo glow.
M106 NGC 4217 NGC 4248	10:10 PM	19mm - M106 is a nice, long tilted oval with nice, large \ bright core. To the left and above it is NGC 4248. A dim, long slender shape with a hare brighter core area. Above 4248 and a bit away is NGC 4217 which is a long, slender dim, uniformly lit glow right next to a bright and brighter field stars. Easy to see. 13mm doesn't show it any better.

Seeing is Good. Transparency is OK. Light wind from SE..

Abell 2147 (UGC 10143)	10:37 PM	19mm - A larger, very dim (magnitude 14.2)circular glow. Uniformly lit. It is just above a little brighter field star.
Abell 2152 (MGC +3-41-95)	10:38 PM	19mm - An extremely dim, small circular smudge of light.
Abell 2151 (NGC 6047)	10:41 PM	19mm - An extremely dim, small, circular, maybe fat oval smudge of light.
Abell 2162 (NGC 6085)	10:49 PM	19mm - A very dim, tiny oval with hare brighter core. Looks like an out of focus star.
Hickson 82 (NGC 6162)	11:01 PM	19mm - Just to the left of a bright field star is this small, very dim oval glow. Pretty uniformly lit. Maybe hint of a 2nd glow just to the left of this one and very near it which would be NGC 6162b.
NGC 6120 NGC 6122 NGC 6119	11:12 PM	19mm - Nice. Faint. Two glows, with the one on the right being a larger oval with 2 tiny dim nucleuses side by side on halo glow. NGC 6120 is on the right and NGC 6119 is the left one. Then above it and very near is NGC 6122 which is this very dim oval glow.

58 degrees. Light wind from NE. Sky is good. Transparency is great.

NGC 6541	11:21 PM	19mm - Nice circular globular. Dim. Lots of member stars seen. Nicely fills center of field of view.
NGC 6729	11:22 PM	19mm - Nice, large area of nebulosity that reveals itself around 4-6 bright field stars in area. Then there is a tiny patch of glowing nebulosity above some double field stars that stands out by itself. Nice.
Hickson 86 (ESO 451-7)	11:46 PM	19mm - See only 1 very dim tiny oval glow. Nailed the star field to this location. Low in south and it's a bit soft in seeing down there.
NGC 6927 NGC 6928	12:02 AM	19mm - Small oval glow with 2 tiny, brighter star like nucleuses side by side on glow. Oval goes from 10 - 4 o'clock in FOV. NGC 6927 is the nucleus on the left side.
NGC 5981 NGC 5982 NGC 5985	12:24 AM	19mm - 3 galaxies in a line from 1 - 7 o'clock. All in 19mm FOV. Bottom one is NGC 5981 and is largest of the 3. Small, fat, uniformly lit oval. Dim. NGC 5982 is center one. Small, fat oval has brighter, larger nucleus in center of dim halo glow. Top one is NGC 5985. Dimmest of the 3 and is a long, linear smudge of light that is uniformly lit.



I spent the next hour trying to find 13.5 magnitude galaxies with no success. The sky went soft pretty quickly. At 1:29 AM, I could not find 12.0+ galaxies. I spent the next hour and a half trying to find the globular cluster G1 in the Andromedia Galaxy. Could find some of the finder star asterisms but not all. Did not find it. Gave up on the search about 3:10 AM.

At 3:30 AM, saw the comet impact on Jupiter's south polar area. It was a light shade of grey in a small oval shape. Callisto's tiny, dark round shadow and the Great Red Spot moved across the face of Jupiter all morning and was about to rotate out of view when I noticed the comet impact on the surface.