

## Friday, March 12, 2010

Arrived at Deer Trail, CO about 12:30 PM to clear skies. Very clear. 55 degrees at 4:30 PM. Brisk wind from N to NW. At sunset, calm winds and 35 degrees..

12 people showed up tonight at the DSS for the Messier Marathon.

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

NGC 2451	7:27 PM	20x80 – SSB - About 20 stars of 2-3 magnitudes surround a very bright blue-white star. Pretty open and diffused.
NGC 2477	7:27 PM	20x80 – SSB – To lower left of NGC 2452 is this large, round, soft glow with a hint of member stars seen.
NGC 2546	7:39 PM	20x80 – SSB – About 20 faint stars. Fairly compact and circular in shape.
NGC 2627	7:39 PM	20x80 – SSB – To lower right of a bright field star and inside a triangle of 3 stars is this faint, round glow of this open cluster.
NGC 3158	8:08 PM	19mm – Nice dim round glow with hare brighter core seen. Part of NGC 3158 Group.
NGC 3163	8:08 PM	19mm – Above NGC 3158 is a fainter, uniformly lit linear glow. Part of NGC 3158 Group.
NGC 3161	8:08 PM	19mm – To left of NGC 3163 and near it is a very faint, tiny dim smudge of light. Part of NGC 3158 Group.
NGC 3159	8:08 PM	19mm – To the left of NGC 3161 and very near it is this very faint, tiny, smudge of light. Part of NGC 3158 Group.
NGC 3184	8:24 PM	19mm – A large, round, dim, uniformly lit glow.
NGC 3198	8:24PM	19mm – A longer, slender, dim, uniformly lit glow. Easy to see. Maybe a hint of a larger, round core in center of glow making this a very tilted oval.

Seeing is OK. Transparency is OK. Sky is steady. 19 degrees.

NGC 2929 9:03 PM 19mm – 3 very tiny, faint, smudges of light.  
 NGC 2930 Basically vertical in FOV and very near each other.  
 NGC 2931 Middle one faintest, bottom one  
 2930 second faintest and top one brightest. Still all 3 are  
 2931 very faint.

NGC 2903 9:09 PM 19mm – Nice, large, bright tilted oval with larger,  
 NGC 2916 linear bright core. Lots of halo extends 1 – 7  
 2916 o'clock. Then to left is this extremely faint, tiny  
 2903 ghostly glow of NGC 2916. Very near 2903 and at  
 9 o'clock in FOV to it.

NGC 2991 9:21 PM 19mm – Two very faint glows seen. Upper one  
 NGC 2988 (NGC 2991) is dimmer and lower one is larger  
 NGC 2994 (NGC 2994 & NGC 2988). Lower one is uniformly  
 lit. Upper one may have hint of a tiny, stellar core.

NGC 2289 10:12 PM 19mm – Very faint, dim, uniformly lit glow of light.

NGC 2389 10:12 PM 19mm – Two, very faint, dim, smudges of light,  
 NGC 2388 very near each other. These are hard to see.


NGC 2373 10:12 PM 19mm – Then to the left of NGC 2388 & 89 are  
 NGC 2375 these 3, dim, round glows. Pretty easy to see all in a  
 NGC 2379 line. All look about the same.

The above galaxies would have been easier to see if I had my light baffle in place. I didn't notice it until later on that evening. It was very windy when I setup in the afternoon and didn't put it on. I was looking to the west where the Denver sky glow was, so I didn't see these very well.

NGC 2510 10:23 PM 19mm – There is a small, oval glow with maybe 2  
 NGC 2513 very faint star like cores very close together in  
 NGC 2511 center of glow. This could be NGC 2511 & 13.  
 Don't know if I saw 2510, but there is something to  
 the left and a bit above that shows a hint of  
 something being there.

18 degrees now. Sky is Fair. Transparency OK. Frost on table and eyepiece fogs a lot.

NGC 2872                      10:36 PM      19mm – This is a round, dim glow with a tiny, relatively brighter core seen. NGC 2873 is below 2872 and is a long, slender, uniformly lit glow. Both approx the same, dim magnitude. Didn't see NGC 2874 in between them as charts indicate.



NGC 2943                      10:45 PM      19mm – A very dim, oval, uniformly lit smudge of light.


M105                              11:20 PM      19mm – Bright, tilted oval with larger, brighter core.

NGC 3384                      19mm – This is smaller than M105 yet a bright tilted oval with a large, bright core.


NGC 3389                      19mm – this is a dim, uniformly lit, larger oval.

Sky is soft. 18 degrees. Sky steady. Transparency OK.

NGC 2856                      11:32 PM      19mm – NGC 2856 is the one on the lower right. A very small, dim, uniformly lit oval. NGC 2857 & 2854 are together and form a hare brighter, dim, uniformly lit oval, perpendicular to 2856.




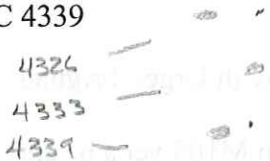
IC 696                              11:50 PM      19mm – A long, slender, uniformly lit, fairly dim halo glow. Can see arms coming off central bulge on each side. Goes from 9:30 – 3:30 o'clock in FOV. Fairly large. Has tiny, really bright star like core in center of halo glow.



NGC 3801                      12:00 AM      19mm – There are 2 galaxies very near each other. 3801 is a slender, dim, uniformly lit glow. Then above it is 2806, a bit larger, rounder, but still a uniformly lit dim glow.

NGC 4076                      12:30 AM      19mm – 4 very faint galaxies in FOV. All look about the same. Small, very dim, round glows of light. All very close to each other.



NGC 4005	12:43 AM	19mm – A <u>very</u> faint oval glow. w/AV, see 3 or so extremely faint stars on glow. Stars on upper right side of glow.
NGC 3730	12:58 AM	19mm – A very small, very dim oval glow with 2 brighter stars on very dim glow.
NGC 4333	1:12 AM	19mm – Can see all 3. 4333 is brightest. Round glow with hare brighter, larger core. Above it is an extremely dim smudge of light which is 4339. Then above 4339 and to left is a hint of a glow of 4326. It is extremely faint yet can see it once in a while.
NGC 4326		
NGC 4339		
		

Spent the rest of the night looking for faint galaxies in Draco. Never found them.

Then I poked around at Messier favorites. Packed it in about 3:30 AM. The temperature was about 20 degrees then.