

Friday, September 23, 2011

Arrived at the 2011 Okie-Tex Star Party a day earlier than the rest of the attendees. Pulled into Camp Billy Joe about 9 AM and found only 2 people working, Mike Dennis (the head star party guy) and Boyd, both from the Oklahoma City club.

I helped setup the star party by chalking the roads, laying out power cords and setting up the AV equipment. I helped with many talks throughout the week, making sure the computer, projector and sound system all worked.

Friday evening was threatening with clouds in the north.

M101 SN 9:26 PM 15mm – Saw the super nova in M101 again. It is bright. Brightest star in FOV. Joe Gafford said it was magnitude 11.6. It is to the right of M101's core.

M Cyg 10:22 PM 20x80 Binocs – Two blue white stars. Upper right is much brighter than lower left. Bit of separation between them.

Sky is soft. Seeing OK. Warm. Something is moving in from the north.

Jupiter is awesome. See 2 red belts.



79 Cyg 11:21 PM 20x80 Binocs – Two off white stars. Stands out in FOV. Lower right a bit brighter than upper left.

Sky is soft. Clouds drifting in from north making it difficult to observe. Calling it a night after a long day of work.

Saturday, September 24, 2011

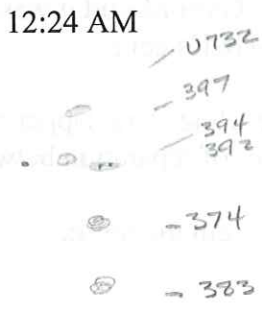
9:13 PM. Sky partially overcast and hazy elsewhere. 72 degrees. Light wind from north.

11:52 PM. 56 degrees. Clear enough overhead to observe a bit.

NGC 51 11:56 PM 15mm – N51 and N49 are an elongated, tiny halo glow. Maybe two tiny cores seen on glow. To right is a hint of a glow of N48.

NGC 80 12:04 AM 15mm – A small round dim glow with a relatively brighter core area seen.

NGC 383 12:24 AM 15mm – N383 is a very dim, tiny round glow with a hint of a hare brighter core. Above and a bit to left is N374. A very dim, linear, uniformly lit glow. Above and to right is an elongated glow of N394 and N392. Both have relative brighter star like cores. To left is N397, an extremely dim smudge of light. Above these and to right is a very din uniformly lit glow of U372. All in 15mm FOV and very near each other.




NGC 507 12:38 AM 15mm – A very dim, oval glow with brighter core seen with AV.

Seeing is OK. Transparency is OK to Good.

NGC 973 12:50 AM 15mm – Above and near a brighter field star is this very faint smudge of light. Small. w/AV can tell it has a core area.

NGC 1067 1:01 AM 15mm – N1067 is a hint of a smudge of light to right of N1066, which is an obvious round, uniformly lit glow. Below is an elongated halo glow of N1061 and N1062, with a larger, relatively brighter core. Then below and to right is this extremely dim smudge of light of N1057. Nice.



106/2 -

1057 -

κ Cet	1:38 AM	20x80 Binocs – Two blue white stars. Much brighter one on lower left. Near is a much fainter companion.
37 Cet	1:42 AM	20x80 Binocs – Two blue white stars. Bottom is <u>very</u> bright. Above and a bit to left is an extremely faint companion that is very near.
57 Per	1:46 AM	20x80 Binocs – Two blue white stars very near each other and almost the same magnitude. Can tell left star a bit brighter.
β Cam	1:50 AM	20x80 Binocs – A bright blue white star and very near and above and to right is this very faint, yet easy to see companion.
11,12 Cam	1:53 AM	20x80 Binocs – Two blue white stars, very near with right star brighter than left star.
35 Aur	1:55 AM	20x80 Binocs – Way Cool!!! A bright blue white star. To left and very near is this tiny spec of a star. Easy to see with direct vision.
θ Tau	2:11 AM	20x80 Binocs – Two equally bright blue white stars.
K 1&2 Tau	2:11 AM	20x80 Binocs – Two blue white stars. Upper left much brighter than lower right. A bit apart from each other.
62 Tau	2:16 AM	20x80 Binocs – A dimmer star is below and very near to a much dimmer companion.
φ Tau	2:19 AM	20x80 Binocs – A brighter star is below and bit to left of an extremely faint star. Easy to see with direct vision.
7 Tau	2:21 AM	20x80 Binocs – Another pair with much brighter primary and to right an up and very near is this <u>dim</u> companion yet easy to see w/AV.
σ 1&2 Tau	2:24 AM	20x80 Binocs – Two equally bright blue white stars a bit apart with upper left a hare brighter.

88 Tau	2:27 AM	20x80 Binocs – A brighter blue white star and above and to right and very near is a very dim, yet easy to see companion.
62 Eri	2:31 AM	20x80 Binocs – A dimmer primary. w/AV see a faint companion, near and to lower right.
♁ Ori	2:34 AM	20x80 Binocs – A very bright blue white star and very near and above left is this faint, easy to see companion with direct vision.
42/5 Ori	2:38 AM	20x80 Binocs – A brighter star on left and a bit away on lower right is a hare dimmer star.
♁ Ori	2:40 AM	20x80 Binocs – A set of bright blue white stars with upper one brighter.

Seeing Fair. Transparency Fair.

B34	2:45 AM	20x80 Binocs – A larger area, boxy, void of bright stars. See a few <u>very</u> faint stars on void. Opacity 3.
B22	2:53 AM	20x80 Binocs – A larger area void of but a couple of faint stars. Opacity 3.
Fishes Mouth	2:57 AM	32mm – A long dark void that hooks into M42 and heads towards the trapezium. Opacity 5.

Thicker clouds coming in from North. Sky was Fair.


3:03AM. 52 degrees. Going to take a shower then to bed. Despite marginal skies all night, had a fun night. Doing binocular double stars was a perfect given the condition of the sky. Get some sleep and hope tomorrow night is better.

Sunday, September 25, 2011

At sunset, some clouds all around the horizon but clear overhead. A brisk wind from the south made my scope bounce too much to use. I took a nap.

12:12 AM. Wind died down a lot but still a slight breeze from south with stronger wind gusts. Party cloudy everywhere. 65 degrees. Using binoculars again and doing more binocular double stars.

21/22 Tau 12:18 AM 20x80 Binocs – Two evenly bright, dimmer blue white stars.

 Tau 12:20 AM 20x80 Binocs – Nice chain of stars. Brightest at bottom, next brightest above it and top two are dimmer and of equal brightness.

1:46 AM. Wind gone. Perfectly calm. Mostly cloudy with broken areas to observe in. 61 degrees.


32 Cam 2:24 AM 20x80 Binocs – Two very close, yet easy to split blue white stars with bottom star noticeably brighter than upper.

5 Lyn 2:31 AM 20x80 Binocs – Brighter star is off white in color. Companion is a bit away and much fainter.

19 Lyn 2:42 AM 20x80 Binocs – A 3 star system. First pair very close yet splittable. Companion is dimmer than primary. Then a bit away and to left is a fainter star. Close pair is blue white in color as is the 3rd. Close dim star approx same magnitude (7.6) as star a bit away to left.

54 degrees. Cool, light wind from south. Sky fair. Transparency fair.

NGC 7331 3:00 AM 15mm – N7331 is a nice, long, elongated oval with larger center core. N7337 is a linear smudge of light. N7335 is a small oval with a noticeable brighter core area. N7340 is a dim smudge of light. w/AV can see a hint of the glow of N7336.

 Gem 3:07 AM 20x80 Binocs – A brighter blue white star and a bit away to upper left is its much dimmer companion.

64/5 Gem	3:12 AM	20x80 Binocs – Two equally bright blue white stars a long way apart.
↷ Gem	3:15 AM	20x80 Binocs – A much brighter blue white star is below and to right of a much dimmer companion.
20 Gem	3:17 AM	20x80 Binocs – Two blue white stars <u>very</u> close together yet splittable. Left star here brighter than right.
♃ Lep	3:20 AM	20x80 Binocs – A much brighter blue white star to lower left of a much dimmer companion that is a bit away.
Flame Nebula NGC 2024	3:38 AM	32mm – Bisecting the flame nebula is this darker area. Can see tentacles coming off right side into nebula. Opacity 4 or 5.

M42 and M43 incredible. M1 is nice.

NGC 430	4:18 AM	15mm – N430 has bright star like core with circle of close halo glow. N429 similar in appearance but smaller. N426 is just a tiny smudge of light seen w/AV.
NGC 429		
NGC 426		



B37	4:25 AM	20x80 Binocs – A kidney bean shaped area with many stars in this area. Bounded by a star rich area of winter Milky Way. Lots of stars outside area. Opacity 3.
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NGC 522	4:30 AM	15mm – A long slender edge on. Uniformly lit. Seen with AV. Position angle 150 degrees.
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H16	4:45 AM	122x – Seen with Joe's 20" f/4.5. Four galaxies arc around a field star. All about same brightness. Nice.
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UGC 711 4:58 AM 15mm – An extremely faint linear sliver of light. Seen with AV and moving FOV back and forth. Position angle 30 degrees.



NGC 1421 5:16 AM 15mm – An extremely faint, long, slender sliver of light. Barely there. Position angle 150 degrees.

49 degrees. Seeing OK. Transparency good. Brighter stars twinkling just a bit.

MGC-2-10-9 5:31 AM 15mm – An extremely faint sliver of light. Barely there. Position angle 120 degrees. Nestled between 2 equally bright, dim field stars. New friends Mike and Joe (from South Carolina) also validated they saw it.



7 Cam 5:45 AM 20x80 Binocs – The brighter star is off white and very near and able left is a dim blue white star.



11 CMa 5:48 AM 20x80 Binocs – A bright blue white star and a bit away and right is a dimmer blue white star.



h3945 CMa 5:53 AM 20x80 Binocs – Right star is brighter and more off white color and left star is very near and blue white in color.



Knt4 Pup 6:00 AM 20x80 Binocs – Two equally bright blue white stars a bit apart.



Monday, September 26, 2011

8:30 PM. Totally overcast with threat of rain. Will take a nap and check after midnight for clearing skies that are predicted.

Woke up at midnight and 2 AM to peek out window to see clouds here and there. Woke up at 4 AM to clear skies, brisk breeze from west and OK seeing. More 20x80 binocular playing.

19 Tau 4:12 AM 20x80 Binocs – This one was hard. The very faint companion is so near the bright primary that it is almost lost in it's glare. Used a chair to steady myself to stare at it and see it. The companion is at about 8 o'clock to primary.

I sent emails to Robert Kerr about this star. The past couple of nights, I did not see this double in the Pleiades. But Robert confirmed which star it was and only when I could concentrate on the very star at zenith was I able to see it.

14 CMi 4:27 AM 20x80 Binocs – A dimmer set of stars. Companion very dim and a bit away and to left of brighter primary.

5:12 AM. The zodiacal light yesterday and this morning is so bright, it looks like a light dome of a city in the east. Triangular shape extends up to about 45 degrees in the sky, well into Gemini. Never can say I've seen it so bright and obvious as it was this morning.

Δ 47 CMa 5:29 AM 20x80 Binocs – A brighter star and about and to left and near it is a much fainter companion.

Comet 45P 5:41 AM 20x80 Binocs – This comet is in Leo and is along the eastern horizon. It has a bright, star like core surrounded by a bit of easy to see coma. Very low along eastern horizon.

I packed up everything and took my shower. When I was walking back, Leo was much higher in the sky but I didn't want to get the binocs out again for another look. I was hoping to view it through a telescope later in the party, but never did. I just didn't stay up that long that rest of the week.

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Clear and calm at sunset. 63 degrees. Clouds hugging horizon. Bought 26 mm eyepiece for \$20 at Swap Meet today.

9:24 PM. Clouds/fog here and there. Seeing Fair. Transparency OK.

NGC 5777 9:41 PM 15mm – A longer edge on glow with tiny star like core. To left is a faint field star approx same magnitude as core. Faint yet easy to see. Position angle 120 degrees.

NGC 5965 9:46 PM 15mm – N5965 is a linear edge on, longer, dim with hare brighter core. To upper right is a dim, round, uniformly lit glow of N5963. Maybe a hint of a tiny star like core a bit off center on glow. Right next to a brighter field star. Then a bit over 1 FOV below and to right of these two is a small, extremely faint smudge of light of N5971. N5965 has a position angle of 30 degrees.



UGC 11455 10:13 PM 15mm w/Galaxy Filter – A flat, thin smudge of light. Approx 1/2 FOV in width. Position angle is 90 degrees.

NGC 7130 10:40 PM 15mm – N7130 is a small round very dim glow, uniformly lit. Then above and to left and approx 1 FOV away is an oval glow of N7135. Has a hint of a hare brighter core.



UGC 12423 11:16 PM 15mm – An extremely faint, roundish smudge of light. w/Galaxy Filter can see it a hare better.

UGC 260 11:24 PM 15mm w/Galaxy Filter – A long, slender uniformly lit, extremely faint glow. Position angle is 120 degrees. It's long in the 15mm FOV.

12:08 AM. Sky Fair. Transparency Fair. Clouds/fog comes and goes all over the place. 57 degrees.

Jupiter incredible. See darker red spot and two dark festoons below lower red band, to right of it. 6mm showed lots of detail but just a hare too much power for the sky right now.

NGC 100	12:28 AM	15mm – A slender, linear, <u>extremely</u> faint sliver of light. Approx ½ FOV long. Position angle 90 degrees.
MGC-2-3-16	12:36 AM	15mm – A nice, slender, edge on with hare brighter core. Position angle 30 degrees.
UGC 1999	12:40 AM	15mm – A ghostly long linear glow. Barely there. Position angle 20 degrees.
PGC 3133	12:46 AM	15mm – A longer, <u>extremely</u> faint ghostly linear glow with 3-5 brighter field stars on glow. Position angle 75 degrees.

Sky OK. Transparency Good. 56 degrees.

UGC 1281	12:57 AM	15mm – An oval to circular shaped, <u>extremely</u> faint ghostly smudge of light.
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NGC 973 IC 1815	1:03 AM	15mm – N973 is a uniformly lit, small, linear glow. Position angle 30 degrees. To right of brighter field star. Above field star is IC 1815, a nice round glow with hint of hare brighter core.
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UGC 2082	1:41 AM	15mm – A ghostly, long, fat glow. Position angle 165 degrees.
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1:57 AM. Veil nebula chased east, center and western sides. Nice. While in neighborhood, looked at Alberio.

UGC 2441	2:05 AM	15mm – An <u>extremely</u> faint ghostly, small, linear smudge of light. Position angle 85 degrees.
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WLM Dwarf Galaxy	2:13 AM	80x – 20" f/5. A long, linear, faint glow with core area hare brighter. Goes from 10-4 o'clock and stretches clear across FOV.
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PGC 2526	2:18 AM	15mm - A longer, linear, uniformly lit faint glow. Easy to see. Position angle 90 degrees. There are two very faint fields stars on glow.
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NGC 10	2:25 AM	15mm – A <u>very</u> faint, circular smudge of light.
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NGC 45 2:28 AM 15mm – An extremely faint oval glow of light. Barely there.

NGC 1247 2:38 AM 15mm – An edge on with noticeable central bulge. Uniformly lit. Position angle 85 degrees.

NGC 7331 2:53 AM 15mm – Nice. Elongated oval with bright core. Stephen's Quintet is 4 faint glows seen all near each other.

NGC 7273 3:20 AM 15mm – N7273 is to far left. A dim, tiny smudge of light with noticeable brighter core. To right is a bigger smudge of light of N7274. Approx same magnitude as N7273 and it too has a noticeable core. To right and above a faint field star is this very tiny, uniformly lit smudge of light of N7276.



NGC 7449 3:49 AM 15mm – N7449 is a tiny, round halo glow with a very faint star like core in center. Below and to right and a bit away is N7445, a similar galaxy. Tiny, round halo with very faint star like core in center. Then below N7445 and near is this tiny smudge of light of N7446. All 3 very close together in FOV.



NGC 7270 4:11 AM 15mm – N7270 is a small round very dim glow with star like core seen. Above it is N7271, a much smaller glow with star like core. Looks like an out of focus star.


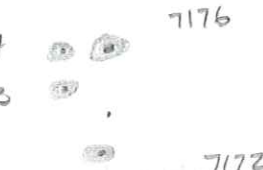


NGC 7433 4:16 AM 15mm – A faint oval, pretty uniformly lit with maybe a hint of a core in center of halo glow.

M42 is awesome in my new 26mm eyepiece. It is 55 degrees now. Sky is good. Tired. Ready for my shower and bed.

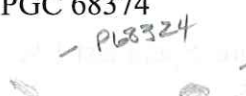
Wednesday, September 28, 2011

Sky is clear at sunset. Seeing Good. Transparency great. Light breeze from southwest. 70 degrees.


NGC 6925	9:52 PM	15mm – A nice, brighter tilted oval. Longer. Halo bright with larger, brighter core area in center of glow. Position angle 120 degrees.
NGC 6923 PGC 64895	10:03 PM	15mm – A very dim, irregular to roundish shaped halo glow with tiny faint star like core. Then above and to left is this very faint oval glow of P64895. Uniformly lit but easy to see.
NGC 6947	10:10 PM	15mm – A <u>very</u> faint circular, uniformly lit smudge of light.
IC 5131 NGC 7130 NGC 7135	10:27 PM	15mm – All 3 are <u>extremely</u> faint circular smudges of light with hare brighter tiny cores in center seen w/AV. All 3 in FOV and very near each other. N7135 to right, N7130 is below center and I5131 to left.
I5131 		
H90 NGC 7174 NGC 7176 NGC 7173 NGC 7172	10:35 PM	15mm – 4 galaxies in FOV. N7176 is largest and brighter. A round halo glow with brighter tiny core. Then to left and very near is N7174, a smaller circular halo glow with tiny brighter core in center of glow. Then below is a fainter circular halo glow with tiny brighter core. Then way below these 3 is an oval, extremely faint, uniformly lit smudge of light of N7172.
7174 		
NGC 7221	10:48 PM	15mm- An <u>extremely</u> faint oval glow. w/AV can see what looks like a larger linear core on halo glow.
NGC 7225	10:55 PM	15mm – A <u>very</u> faint oval. w/AV can see a hare brighter core. Has a <u>very</u> bright field star that you have to put out of the top left of FOV to see this guy.

NGC 7167 11:06 PM 15mm – An extremely faint glow to left and very close to a very faint field star.

PGC 68324 11:16 PM 15mm - P68324 is a tiny cigar shaped, very faint, uniformly lit glow. P68374 is to right and is a small circular, uniformly lit glow. Both in FOV and split by a brighter field star.



NGC 7306 11:24 PM 15mm – N7306 is a very faint, linear, thin uniformly lit smudge of light. To left and near is P69155, a tiny round uniformly lit glow. A faint field star is below and to left of N7306.



NGC 7361 11:36 PM 15mm – A very faint, longer, thin, linear uniformly lit halo glow.

NGC 7513 11:41 PM 15mm – Very near two brighter field stars and below is this tiny oval, uniformly lit glow.

NGC 7507 11:41 PM 15mm – A small, round glow. Easy to see that it has a larger brighter core surrounded by a tiny bit of halo.

PGC 72228 12:31 AM 15mm – A very faint, linear smudge of light.

Seeing Good. Transparency Good. 53 degrees.

NGC 254 12:56 AM 15mm – A tilted faint oval with larger, hare brighter core surrounded by a bit of faint halo.

NGC 289 12:59 AM 15mm – A larger oval glow. Uniformly lit. Has a very faint field star below and near halo glow.

NGC 148 1:06 AM 15mm – A small, very faint linear glow. w/AV see something like an extended core on very faint glow.

NGC 418 1:12 AM 15mm – A small round glow with hare brighter core.

NGC 150 1:21 AM 15mm – A larger tilted oval. Easy to see. Uniformly lit. Has maybe a faint field star below center on halo glow.

IC 1558 1:30 AM 15mm – Next to this brighter field star is this very dim smudge of light.

Transparency and seeing poor in south.

2:56 AM. Sky is weird. Stars in FOV are fat. Can't find galaxies anymore. Spent last 1 ½ hours trying. Temperature is 52 degrees a bit ago and is now 55 degrees.

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Clear at sunset. Light, gusty breeze from northeast. All day was windy and gusty. Seeing good. Transparency good. 60 degrees.

PGC 64488	9:30 PM	15mm – A tiny, <u>very</u> faint round glow with tiny central star. Galaxy nestled between two close, very faint field stars. Very low above horizon.
IC 5179	10:10 PM	15mm – Very low above horizon. A linear oval faint glow with hint of a larger core. To right and near is a very faint field star.
NGC 7313	10:29 PM	15mm – A nice, elongated, easy to see tilted oval. Dim. Uniformly lit.
NGC 45	11:18 PM	15mm – A small round uniformly lit smudge of light.
NGC 7755	12:43 AM	15mm – A small roundish uniformly lit smudge of light.
PGC 5362	12:56 AM	15mm – A tiny, <u>extremely</u> faint ghostly glow in an oval shape seen once in a while w/AV.
PGC 8223	1:03 AM	15mm – An <u>extremely</u> faint, small, roundish smudge of light see with AV.

Sky OK. Transparency OK. Light breeze from east. 49 degrees.

PGC 9273	1:13 AM	15mm – A larger, circular, very faint glow. w/AV see a larger core area centered on glow. Nestled just below 3 field stars forming a triangle with lower one on halo glow.
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NGC 922	1:18 AM	15mm – A <u>very</u> faint tilted oval glow with bare brighter larger core seen on halo glow.
NGC 897	1:31 AM	15mm – An <u>extremely</u> faint ghostly slender sliver of light.


Looked at Jupiter and great red spot was in upper red band. Looked at M13, M31, 110, 32, M57 and M42. All nice views.

2:08 AM. 48 degrees. Partly cloudy. Packing it in. Can't find galaxies in Fornax anymore.

Friday, September 30, 2011

All day it was very windy. I packed up all my stuff for I plan to leave tomorrow. I miss Barbara and want to get back home to give her a hug. Since this is my last night, I will walk around and visit everyone I ignored all week.

NGC 383	11:00 PM	180x Bob Kepple's 18" f/4.5 scope. N383 is a small, circular glow, easy to see with tiny core.
NGC 386		
NGC 385		Below and to left is a smaller circular, dimmer glow with central core of N386. The two more are below this (N385 and N384) and 2 to right of N383 (N380 and N379) are all the same brightness and size. A small circular glow, bit smaller than N383 with halo glow and tiny cores. Then off to right of all of these and a bit away is this uniformly lit smudge of light of N374. First 6 very near each other and 7 th was farther away.
NGC 384		
NGC 380		
NGC 379		
NGC 374		



NGC 55	11:53 PM	100x – Mike Roos's 16" f/4.5 scope – A long slender cigar shaped, uniformly lit glow that extends clear across FOV. Position angle 90 degrees.
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Sky tonight was similar to rest of week. Started out good and later in evening, dim stuff is just not seen.

Walked around and looked through other people's scopes. Saw lots of favorites and Comet Gerrard in a 25 inch scope.