

January 1, 2006

Kim's Place, east of Longmont on CR22

Arrived at sunset to finish two of the Lunar II requirements, to see a perigee moon and sketch an earthshine moon. There was a light breeze from the NW but died away shortly after sunset. The sky was clear but the seeing was soft.

I used my 8 inch f/8 telescope tonight.

The earthshine sketch was easier to see the dark side features when the moon was higher in the sky. By 6 PM, when I quit sketching, everything was soft on the moon and smeared out, but you could still see the darker mares. The moon was about 3 degrees above the horizon.

Was visited by an Adam's County deputy sheriff who wanted to see what I was up to. After a brief conversation, he left.

NGC 7235      6:28 PM      121x - Small, compact triangular shaped cluster of about 10 stars, approx 3 magnitudes makeup this OC. There are 8 more stars below it, in the shape of an upside down question mark that are of the same brightness. 1 star is much brighter than all the rest and is in the upper cluster of 10 stars. Classification II 2 p.

NGC 225      7:34 PM      64x - Approx 20 stars of 2 magnitudes makeup this loose, yet bright OC. Its in 2 parts. Lhs part is a line of 4 stars and other group is an upside down triangle. Classification II 1 p.

M103            7:47 PM      Small arrow headed shape. 1 bright blue-white star at tip of arrow. 4 lesser magnitude stars and 15+ more a whole lot fainter. Best view at 64x. Classification I 2 p.

NGC 581

Its 18 degrees. Sky is a bit soft. Stars somewhat steady.

Tr 1            8:00 PM      64x - Nice, small, glow with 4 tiny, faint blue-white stars at the top in a nice line and 2 more stars of same magnitude at bottom left and right sides. These 6 stars bound the glow. Classification III 3 p. 121x doesn't show much more details.

M38            8:22 PM      64x - Nice. Lots of stars seen in basically a circular pattern. 50+ stars of a brighter magnitude and many more of lesser magnitudes seen. Classification I 2 r.

NGC 1912

- NGC 1893 8:38 PM 64x - 15-20 dim, blue-white stars of 3 magnitudes forms an arc. Very loose and linear in shape. Classification II 1 p.
- NGC 1746 8:49 PM Easily seen in 8x50 binoculars. 64x - 5 brighter stars and many dimmer stars makeup this very loose, roughly circular assoc of stars. This area seems to have a glow underneath the stars. Classification II 3 m.
- CR69 9:06 PM 32mm - 4 very bright blue-white stars and a nice row of 3 more fainter stars to the right of these. Few more yet fainter stars seem. About 30 stars of 4 magnitudes makeup this large, loose OC. I can see a glow of nebulosity around the 2 brightest stars. Classification III 2 p.
- NGC 2169 9:24 PM 64x - 15 stars of 3 or 4 magnitudes spell the #37. VERY COOL!!! 6 stars form the 7 while the rest are in the 3. Classification II 2 p.

Its 16 degrees. Sky is steady. Seeing Good.

- NGC 1981 9:36 PM 64x - 14 bright, blue-white stars. Very open. Approx 3 magnitudes makeup this OC. Classification III 1 p.
- NGC 2158 9:44 PM 64x - To lower left of M35. It's a round glow, almost nebula in appearance, yet see spackling of stars on it. 121x - still a glow but can see very faint stars easier on the glow. Not touching M35, but a bit away from it. Classification I 1 r.
- NGC 2244 9:54 PM 64x - 7 bright, blue-white stars of same magnitude and 7 more of a lesser magnitude and 15+ more of yet a fainter magnitude. Its boxy in shape. Classification III 3 p.
- NGC 2392 10:10 PM 121x - Small, round glow with central star easily seen in center with AV but can be seen with direct vision. OIII filter shows circular glow but central stars harder to see. Best view is without the filter. 64x gives a nice view of this object also, but smaller.

Packed it in after this observation. 16 degrees. Clear, calm sky with seeing back to OK.