Saturday, January 20, 2006

Arrived at Pawnee Grasslands about 4:30 PM and setup under clear, but windy skies. What's new!!! Winds calmed down a lot at sunset with a light breeze from west. 19 degrees now.

IC 1396	6:23 PM	Lots of stars. Overwhelms 55mm (46x) FOV. This gives the best view of it with a 65 minute diameter FOV. Lots of stars of all magnitudes. 3-5 very bright blue-white ones with one near the center a nice triplet. Can tell edge for star density drops off quickly. Basically round. See stars to limit of my eye and then a hint of more from the glow. Loose. Large yet concentrated. Class II 3 r. Panning 32 mm (80x) around it gives a nice view of it also.

The sky is steady and the seeing is good. 16 degrees now.

King 14	6:35 PM	134x (19mm) - 6 brighter stars in 2 lines (4 + 2) on lhs and lots of much dimmer stars form this irregular, loose association of stars. To right of lines are 2 clumps of dimmer stars, easily seen with lots more very faint stars seen under these. Class II 3 m.
King 16	7:24 PM	134x (19mm) - 6 or so brighter stars form a Y with top left star of Y a tiny double. Sits on top of a faint glow. Class III 2 p.
Berk 58	7:44 PM	134x (19mm) - 15 + dim stars in an irregular, loose, but in a tight group, OC. 3 brighter stars for a triangular cap on top side. Class II 1 p.
NGC 1662	8:28 PM	134x (19mm) - 20 bright blue-white stars all over 19mm FOV. Few more of a lesser magnitude in area. Class III 1 p.
NGC 1807	8:43 PM	134x (19mm) - 13 brighter and 18 stars of a lesser magnitude. Loose association. Flat on one side and most of it is above. Class II 2 p.
NGC 2141	9:09 PM	134x (19mm)- 15-20 brighter stars of 3 magnitudes sits on top of a circular glow. The glow is mottled, not uniform. On the glow can see many more very faint stars. Most of the brighter stars are around outside of glow, bounding it. Class I 3 m.

NGC 2232	9:19 PM	80x (32mm) - Northern part is 3 very bright stars form an arc with middle star a double, companion much fainter. Approx 15 or so stars of a lesser magnitude, but again very blue-white are scattered between end stars of arc. Southern part has 7 stars, very bright, blue-white, for a flat V with apex star much brighter then other 6, which are of the same magnitude. 10-12 bright blue-white stars, but of a lesser magnitude surrounding bright apex V star. South part at 32mm FOV away from north part. Next to each other in separate 32mm FOVs. Class III 2 p.
NGC 2353	9:47 PM	80x (32mm) - A bright field star is to upper left of this cluster, Roughly circular in shape with 50+ stars of 3-4 magnitudes seen. Class I 2 m.
Ru 1	10:10 PM	134x (19mm) - 13 or so brighter stars form a diamond shape with a line of stars at bottom of it, perpendicular to diamond. 15 more stars of a lesser magnitude populate this area also. Class II 3 p.
Ru 3	10:24 PM	134x (19mm) - Seeing is poor in this part of the sky because of sky glow from Greeley, CO. 7 brighter stars form an arrow head on top of a faint glow. Class II 1 p.
IC 348	10:49 PM	134x (19mm) - Large halo glow seen around bright, blue-white star. Thought eyepiece was fogging up, but it's the glow of the nebula. To right is the OC. 12 stars of 2 magnitudes form a horseshoe shape. Class II 1 p.

Its 5 degrees now. Getting cold. Sky still holding incredibly great.

NGC 1798	11:00 PM	134x (19mm) - Small, compact, irregular shape. 12 or so stars of same magnitude makeup this OC. Class I 1 p.

Its 11 degrees now with Moon rising in the SE. The sky was incredible tonight. Steady. Clear. Crisp. A light breeze blew from the West most of the night. Temperature hung at 16 degrees for most of the evening. The wind shifted to the east for a few minutes, when the temperature dipped to 5 degrees. My fingers got cold then. I didn't use the mit of the gloves all night until then. Then the wind went back to the west and temperature rose to 11 degrees.