

## Thursday, February 3, 2005

Drove down to SE Colorado to John Martin State Park for 2 days of astronomy fun, Barbara, Kolby and I.

Arrived about 2 PM and pulled the RV into slot #1 of the Hasty Campground. There were a handful of green flies hanging around the area. Kolby snipped at them as if to try to eat them. Don't they know its February.

At sunset, 5:56 PM, it was 39 degrees with a light wind from the south. There were some yellow street lights shining on the area from park lighting nearby. To the west was the dam, which took about 10 degrees of the sky away. I could not see any light pollution from Lamar, CO, about 30 miles to the east.

IC 418          7:10 PM          19mm shows a bright, small round glow with a brighter central star in the middle of the glow. 10mm doesn't show central star as good but its there and a bigger circular glow. The OIII didn't improve the view. This is a NICE PN!!!

Comet Machholz      7:17 PM          Nice bright nucleus with coma almost filling FOV of 19mm. To the 10 o'clock side, a glow of a tail appears and is about 1 1/2 FOV long.

NGC 1832      7:26 PM          Small, round, very dim glow with a tiny, much brighter stellar nucleus. The galaxy is situated to the left of a brighter FS.



At 8:38 PM, I stopped to sketch some constellations. The temperatures is 34 degrees and there is a light wind from the east. The sky is steady and the transparency is good.

NGC 2139      8:42 PM          Small, oval, very dim glow but not uniformly lit. Hare brighter in the middle, but almost uniform though.

NGC 2196      8:48 PM          Very small, very dim circular glow with a hint of a brighter, almost stellar nucleus.

NGC 1750      9:00 PM          In an area of very bright blue-white stars is nestled this much dimmer knot of stars. Fills FOV of 19mm. 30-40 stars of approx 3 mags makeup this somewhat tight area (stars on left hand side of FOV) with several looser ones on right hand side.

1537  
1532  
1531

NGC 1537	9:16 PM	There are 3 galaxies in the FOV. 1537 is a small, round and very dim galaxy.
NGC 1531		1531 is very small and just a dim glow.
NGC 1532		1532 is the biggest and brightest of the 3. All 3 have a hint of a nucleus.

10:15 PM, 29 degrees. More constellation sketching.

NGC 1883	10:28 PM	Very small, compact glow. w/AV can see 10 or so very faint member stars on this glow. Had to read about it in the Night Sky to know what to look for.
NGC 1990	10:45 PM	A glow about the bright, middle belt star in Orion. This was best seen with the H-Beta filter.
NGC 1977	10:55 PM	Heart of the Orion nebula. I can see all 6 stars in the Trapezium. The seeing is excellent. The sky is steady at 29.5 degrees. Gas wisps off to left and right and much contrast see in the cloud tonight. One of my best views ever of this. Many of the stars outside the main gas complex shows halos around them while others light up curtains (filaments) of gas in their area. Awesome view...
NGC 2467	11:01 PM	A dim, yet easy to see glow. Quite large in 19 mm. Has bright star in bottom 1/3 of glow. Most of glow above (N) of star, which also is the brighter part of this nebula.
NGC 3132	11:10 PM	Low on horizon, this is a neat PN. The central star stands right out and is surrounded by a soft, circular glow. Approx size of M57 but circular. OIII doesn't improve the image.
NGC 3201	00:03 AM	Really low on the horizon in the south, just to the left of the where the dam and horizon meet. Large glow with mottling on it. Hare brighter nucleus than halo. I need to see this again in a more southly location. I might see 2-3 outlaying member stars that are not part of the halo glow.

Sketched more constellations.

At 1 AM, its 27 degrees. I packed it in. Saw several nice meteors throughout the night. They seemed to be coming from Leo or Gemini part of the sky.