

Sunday, March 11, 2007

Arrived at the Denver Dark Sky Site east of Deer Trail, CO about 6:15 PM, had the scope setup by sunset. There are high thin clouds that appear to be dispersing. The winds are calm.

This is the first night of Daylights Savings Time and observing starts an hour later. It just sprang ahead this morning.

Aligned the finder scope on Saturn. It was a very nice view of it. The brown band was very obvious. Venus was almost a full phase. Could see the 6 stars of the trapezium.

The temperature is about 34 degrees and the stars are steady, the sky is looking great right now.

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| NGC 2283 | 8:06 PM | 19mm – Re-look at this. Very faint, circular glow in between 2 brighter field stars that bound it on either side. Seen with AV. |
| NGC 1348 | 8:13 PM | 19mm - Re-look at this. 8 brighter and 3-4 more very faint stars makeup this boxy shaped OC. Hint of a glow seen underneath bottom rhs where the faintest stars are seen. Arrow of stars above it and to the right points right at it. Faintest stars seen with AV. |
| NGC 1491 | 8:21 PM | 19mm - Bright star at bottom edge of a nebulosity glow. Glow extends in a 1/2 circle above star and leaning to the right. UHC filter shows it nicely with brighter part of nebula near star and dims slowly to the edge. Quite large with UHC. See it with DV and without filter but not as nice. Stands out in FOV. |

The sky is incredible right now. Steady. Seeing great. Winter milky way easily seen as a band overhead.

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| NGC 1624 | 8:32 PM | 19mm - Re-look at this. 10-12 stars of approx 3 magnitudes makeup this OC in the shape of a large arrow or 'L'. The corner of the L/arrow head are the 3 brightest stars of the OC and there is a nebulosity that glows in this area that is the brightest near these stars. With the UHC filter, see a glow that extends to much of the area of the stars of the L with a circular shape to the glow. The OC and nebulosity is small but stands out in FOV with DV. |
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NGC 1582 8:54 PM 32mm - 20+ stars of approx 3 magnitudes fills FOV of 32 mm EP with a nice S shape to the line of stars. Nice!!!. The S is orientated on its back from about 10 o'clock - 4 o'clock.

Just after this, the sky went very soft. The temperature felt warm and the wind was calm. For the next hour, the sky was this way. Then a light cold wind started blowing out of the south, the temperature dropped to 34 degrees, and the sky returned to its incredible state for the rest of the evening.

NGC 2855 10:14 PM 19mm - Small, dim round glow with hint of a hare brighter central region. Pretty uniformly lit though. Easy to see in FOV with DV.

NGC 2889 10:15 PM 19mm - Elongated oval. Faint. Uniformly lit. Seen with DV. Easy to see. Pretty featureless.

NGC 1579 10:43 PM 19mm - Small, irregular shaped glow of light with it being brighter in center of glow. 2 field stars just below it and to the left. UHC didn't make it any better. Its in the NE and there is a haze of clouds over here, being lit up from the sky glow of Denver. This was still easy to see with DV though.

NGC 1605 10:35 PM 19mm - This was nice. A small pentagon of 5 stars, 4 easy to see but very faint and fifth seen once in a while with AV. This pentagon sits on a small, faint glow underneath it.

NGC 2781 10:53 PM 19mm - Small, round, brighter galaxy with small, bright core surrounded by dim halo. Easy to see with DV.

NGC 3145 10:57 PM 19mm - Small, dim, round galaxy with dim, tiny stellar core seen. Next to lambda Hydra and had to put this very bright star just out of the FOV to see this galaxy which put the galaxy near the edge of the FOV, not making it easy to study. Seen with DV. A tiny brighter core seen with AV.

NGC 2986 11:04 PM 19mm - Small, round dim glow with tiny stellar core seen on center of glow. Easy to see with DV.

NGC 2784	11:12 PM	19mm - Nice. Long fat oval with brighter tiny core and larger, bit dimmer central region and can see it tapers at each end from 9:30 o'clock to 3:30 o'clock in EP to a dim halo glow. Seen with DV.
NGC 3078	11:23 PM	19mm - Small, round, dim with tiny, brighter stellar core. Pretty uniformly lit though. Seen with DV.
NGC 2415	11:48 PM	19mm - Small, round dim glow. Looks like an out of focus star. Its tucked in a line and flanked by 2 very faint field stars and a much brighter star to its lower left. Can barely see it with DV and best with AV.
NGC 2493	11:54 PM	19mm - Larger, round, very faint halo, yet can see its there with DV. With AV, can see a bit brighter, tiny nucleus in center of faint halo glow.
NGC 2541	12:06 AM	19mm - <u>Very</u> dim, larger, slightly oval, uniformly lit smudge of light. Barely able to see it w/AV.
NGC 2500	12:10 AM	19mm - Large, fat oval. Dim, yet easy to see with DV. Uniformly lit glow.
NGC 2639	12:15 AM	19mm - Long, slender oval. Bright. Easy to see with DV. Has small, brighter nucleus. Maybe a field star on halo glow below nucleus. Thought I saw 2 dots on halo glow.
NGC 2756	12:21 AM	19mm - Oval shaped. Dim halo with bit brighter tiny nucleus seen with DV, Better seen with AV.
NGC 3511	12:42 AM	19mm - Nice. Long, linear shaped. Halo easily seen and hint of a hare brighter core. In same FOV and below 3513 and to left. Seen with DV. 3511 is a bit brighter than 3513.
NGC 3513	12:42 AM	19mm - Roundish in shape. Uniformly lit. Easy to see with DV. In same FOV as 3511 and above it to the right. 3511 is a bit brighter than 3513.
NGC 3693	12:50 AM	19mm - <u>Very</u> dim, almost invisible. Oval. Uniformly lit smudge of light.
NGC 3585	12:54 AM	19mm - Nice. Round. Bright. Relatively brighter core that dims slowly into halo glow.

NGC 4105	1:09 AM	19mm - Small and round. Very bright tiny core surrounded by a bit of halo. In same FOV as 4106. Both easy to see with DV.
NGC 4106	1:09 AM	19mm - Bit dimmer and smaller than 4105. Right next to 4105 and to its right but not touching it. Has brighter core and bit of halo surrounding it also, but much dimmer. Both easy to see with DV. These were a nice surprise. I like 2 galaxies this close to each other.
NGC 5582	1:22 AM	19mm - Very dim oval with hare brighter core seen in center of glow.
NGC 5371	1:30 AM	19mm - Very dim, yet very extended circular halo with hare brighter, tiny core seen in center of glow. Very bright field star is at the 4 o'clock side and outside of halo glow.
NGC 5383	1:37 AM	19mm - Very dim, uniformly lit round glow. Easy to see with DV. Maybe a hint of a hare brighter core.
NGC 5440	1:44 AM	19mm - Small, round and has bright tiny core in center of dim halo glow. This is above 5444 and 5445.
NGC 5444	1:44 AM	19mm - Right next to 5445. Has very bright stellar core surrounded by a bit of round, dim halo.
NGC 5445	1:44 AM	19mm - To right of 5444. Much dimmer of 3 in FOV. Small, round halo glow seen with tiny, dim stellar core in center of glow.
NGC 5985	1:56 AM	19mm - Long, thin oval. Most of what is seen is brighter nucleus with dim ring of halo around that. This is below another galaxy NGC 5982.
NGC 5982	1:56 AM	19mm - In same FOV as NGC 5985 and is above it. Large, dim, uniformly lit oval shaped smudge of light. Easy to see in FOV though with AV.
NGC 6015	2:01 AM	19mm - Long, fat, dim oval shaped, uniformly lit smudge of light. Easy to see with DV. Best seen with AV.

Looked at M13 and M57 for the first time this season. The sky held to be incredible from about 10 PM on and its now 32 degrees. Packed it in at 2:15 AM with Jupiter rising in the southeastern sky with the last quarter moon soon to follow.