

Saturday March 17, 2007

A second night at Crow Valley Campground. Clear and calm at sunset. 52 degrees and a very light breeze from SW.

Started out evening with a bit of collimation problem. Fixed it later in the evening. Made stars a bit fatter than they should have been but didn't seem to affect what I could see of the galaxies.

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| NGC 1582 | 8:18 PM | 32mm - Re-look at this to see the backwards S, which I didn't think I saw before. Maybe its there. The brightest stars make a funky S, the 20 or so stars of the brighter magnitudes. This OC sits in a star rich field of much dimmer stars that number over 30+. Nicely fills FOV of 32mm eyepiece. The brightest stars match pattern on my finder chart. |
| NGC 2880 | 8:30 PM | 19mm - Small, round, dim glow with brighter, tiny core. Nestled in amongst 7 others very faint stars and stands right out with DV. Looks like an out of focus star. |
| NGC 2805 | 8:39 PM | 19mm - Large, dim, oval glow. Uniformly lit. See it barely with DV. |
| NGC 3065 | 8:45 PM | 19mm - Small, round glow. Easy to see with DV. Tiny, bright stellar core seen in middle of faint halo glow. In same FOV as NGC 3066. |
| NGC 3066 | 8:45 PM | 19mm - Just above and to left of NGC 3065 is this bit larger, approx same magnitude, oval shaped halo glow with larger, bit brighter core area. Its right near NGC 3065. |
| NGC 3516 | 8:52 PM | 19mm - Small, round, dim halo glow with very bright, stellar core in center of glow. Looks like an out of focus star. A similar magnitude field star is just above it and it's a pin point where this galaxy definitely has a glow around core. |

Sky is steady, Seeing good. Transparency good. Its 46 degrees now.

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| NGC 3359 | 9:01 PM | 19mm - Large, oval shaped, dim glow. Has a hare brighter core seen that is linear and near center of glow. There is a tiny, relatively brighter point in this linear core. Glow is pretty uniformly lit although there is a hint of texture. Nice one!!! |
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NGC 3225	9:11 PM	19mm - Small, round, very dim smudge of uniformly lit light. Seen with AV.
NGC 3079	9:17 PM	19mm - Nice, bright, linear, long. Relatively brighter large central bulge that dims quickly to tapered arms. Just above and in same FOV is NGC 3073.
NGC 3073	9:17 PM	19mm - Just below NGC 3079 and near it in same FOV is this very dim, uniformly lit, round glow of a smudge of light. Seen with AV although when you wiggle the scope, your eye is attracted to it with DV.
NGC 2756	9:27 PM	19mm - Small, dim, oval glow with hare brighter, larger nucleus seen.
NGC 4013	9:38 PM	19mm - Nice, tilted oval which is pretty uniformly lit and a <u>very</u> bright stellar nucleus in center of glow. Almost looks like a bright field star sitting in front of this galaxy but its not. Easy to see with DV. Nice surprise.
NGC 4138	9:44 PM	19mm - Nice, bright oval glow. Most of what is seen is bright nucleus glow. A hint of a very dim halo surrounds nucleus glow.
NGC 4062	9:49 PM	19mm - A large, cigar shaped, uniformly lit glow. Easy to see with DV. Stands right out in FOV.
NGC 3583	9:56 PM	19mm - Small, round, dim glow with hint of a brighter core area.
NGC 3668	10:07 PM	19mm - Small, <u>very</u> dim round glow seen with AV. Pretty uniformly lit with hint of a speckling (texture) on the glow.
NGC 3682	10:16 PM	19mm - Small, dim oval with larger, bit brighter nucleus in middle of dim halo glow.
NGC 3622	10:21 PM	19mm - Small, <u>very</u> dim oval glow with hint of a tiny, little brighter nucleus seen on glow.
NGC 4256	10:25 PM	19mm - <u>NICE!!!</u> Edge on with central region bit brighter and little bulge seen with tapered arms that extends a good bit from nucleus at 8 to 2 o'clock in FOV. Pretty dim though easy to see with DV. AV gives best view.

NGC 4250	10:31 PM	19mm - Small, round dim glow. With AV can see it has a hare brighter, tiny core in center of glow.
NGC 4133	10:35 PM	19mm - Small, very dim oval glow seen with DV. With AV can see it has a bit brighter tiny central core.
NGC 4319	10:38 PM	19mm - Small, round, very dim halo with bright, stellar nucleus. Makes a corner of a square with 3 other faint field stars of similar magnitude. In same FOV as NGC 4291. Pair near each other in FOV.
NGC 4291	10:38 PM	19mm - Cigar shaped, dim halo glow with hare brighter core seen. In same FOV as NGC 4319. Its above and to left of 4319. Very bright field star to lower right of pair. Pair near each other in FOV.

37 degrees now and the sky is great.

NGC 4096	10:57 PM	19mm - Long, edge on linear sliver of light. See central bulge and tapers out at ends. Pretty uniformly lit with central part brighter than extended arms which are a hare dimmer. Nice.
NGC 4100	11:04 PM	19mm - Dim, uniformly lit cigar shaped glow. Hint of hare brighter core seen. Stands on in FOV with DV. Description in book says round, but am on the field where galaxy is and its cigar shaped.
NGC 4144	11:22 PM	19mm - Long, thin, uniformly lit. dim sliver of light. Easy to see with AV.

33 degrees now and the sky is a bit soft. Light wind from south.

M106	11:32 PM	19mm - Nice. Bright tilted oval with nice bright small core.
NGC 4217	11:32 PM	19mm - Larger, dim, uniformly lit cigar shaped galaxy. Seen with AV.
NGC 4226	11:32 PM	19mm - Just above NGC 4217 is a <u>very</u> dim, small, circular uniformly lit smudge of light.
NGC 4248	11:37 PM	19mm - To lower left and at 7 o'clock from M106 is this very dim, larger oval shape, uniformly lit. It is just a nice glow.

NGC 4220	11:40 PM	19mm - Nice edge on galaxy with larger, brighter central region that dims quickly to extended arms that go from 12:30 to 6:30 o'clock in FOV.
NGC 4047	11:46 PM	19mm - Small, round, dim glow with hint of a hare brighter core.
NGC 4157	11:50 PM	19mm - Long, skinny, uniformly lit sliver of light. A very bright blue white field star lies to the bottom right in FOV and at 5:30 o'clock. It is a bit away. This is a nice one.
NGC 6340	12:07 AM	19mm - Small, round, dim halo glow with brighter, tiny core seen in middle of halo glow.
NGC 5129	12:33 AM	19mm - Small, <u>very</u> dim round glow of halo with hint of a hare brighter core.
NGC 5020	12:38 AM	19mm - Dim, round glow of halo with brighter, tiny core seen with DV.
NGC 4880	12:41 AM	19mm - Small, dim, oval glow that is pretty uniformly lit.
NGC 5012	12:50 AM	19mm - Larger, very dim oval glow with hare brighter central region. Can see with DV but best view is with AV.

Its 27 degrees now. Sky is great. Saturn is giving crisp, awesome views.

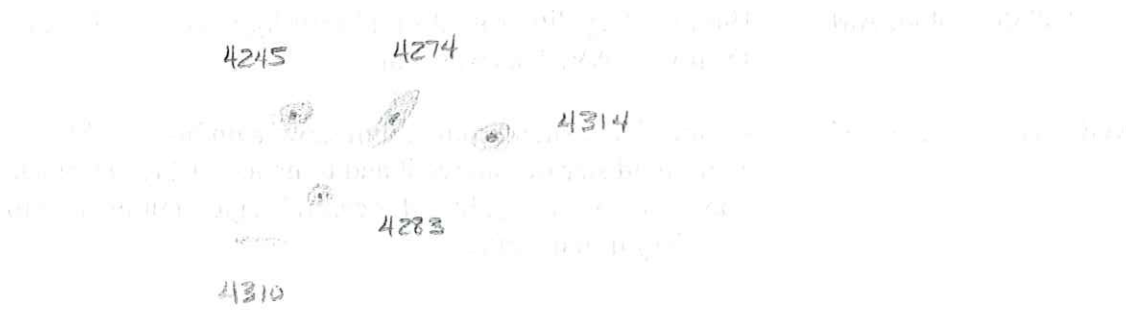
M98	1:22 AM	19mm - Nice, long, edge on with nice central glow and bulge and dims into long extended arms.
M84	1:30 AM	19mm - More oval shaped with nice bright core. In same FOV as M86.
M86	1:30 AM	19mm - Nice, round, bright. Has nice large bright core. In same FOV as M84.
M87	1:33 AM	19mm - Nice, tilted oval halo glow with larger, brighter core.
M60	1:35 AM	19mm - Nice, round glow with large, bright nucleus.
M59	1:35 AM	19mm - Large tilted oval with nice bright, large core.
IC 3672	1:35 AM	19mm - Right next to M59 is a smaller, oval, uniformly lit glow.

M91	1:40 AM	19mm - Small, round glow with tiny, bright core.
M88	1:40 AM	19mm - Nice, large oval halo glow with nice, large, bright core.
NGC 3242	1:59 AM	19mm - Nice, large, opaque round grayish glow. Bright. No central star seen. O3 filter doesn't show it any better or worse.
NGC 4565	2:24 AM	19mm - NICE!!! One of my favorites. Long, slender edge on with brighter, round core with nice central bulge. Center tapers to nice extended arms that dims slowly to nothing. Almost 7/8 of 19mm FOV in length.

Had to wait for Coma Berenicies to get out of the dobsonian hole so I can finish the Herschel II objects.

I went over and hung out with Vern Raben and Gary Garzone and looked at Messier objects they were looking at for they were doing the Messier Marathon.

NGC 4310	3:27 AM	19mm - Small, dim, uniformly lit oval.
NGC 4245	3:30 AM	19mm - Within a degree of NGC 4310 is this small, bright, round glow of halo with a small, brighter core seen. Nice.
NGC 4274	3:30 AM	19mm - To the right of NGC 4245 and about 1 FOV away is this large, bright nice oval halo glow, with a little bright central core seen.
NGC 4314	3:30 AM	19mm - To the right of NGC 4274 and about 1 FOV away is this small, bright round glow with a small, brighter core seen. Looks a lot like NGC 4245.
NGC 4283	3:30 AM	19mm - Just below and to the left a bit from NGC 4274 is this small, round glow of halo with a little brighter central core seen.



NGC 4185 3:41 AM 19mm - Oval shaped. Very dim, uniformly lit glow. Maybe a hint of hare brighter central region.

Seeing is good now. 25 degrees. Transparency if fair.

NGC 4169 3:44 AM 19mm - Very small, round, dim halo glow with tiny, brighter nucleus seen. Looks like an out of focus star. See with DV.

NGC 4136 3:47 AM 19mm - Larger, round, dim, uniformly lit glow. Not much more detail seen. Seen with DV.

NGC 4062 3:51 AM 19mm - Larger, tilted oval. Pretty uniformly lit. Central area looks a bit brighter than it does right at the edge of glow before it ends.

NGC 4359 3:59 AM 19mm - Very dim, linear sliver smudge of light. Very hard to see. By wiggling scope, can see its there.

NGC4395 4:06 AM 19mm - Very large, very dim oval glow of light. Can tell its mottled for it is not uniformly lit. I see the 4 very dim framing stars for they are just outside the glow. There is a 5th little brighter star on rhs of glow and set in a bit from that edge's framing star line.

NGC 4369 4:15 AM 19mm - Small, round, dim halo glow with small, brighter core seen in center of glow. Stands out in FOV with DV.

NGC 4138 4:29 AM 19mm - Small, dim oval. Larger, little brighter core surrounded by a bit of dim halo.

NGC 4914 4:35 AM 19mm - Small, oval glow with tiny stellar core seen with DV. Stands out in area and in FOV.

NGC 4956 4:38 AM 19mm - Very small, dim, round glow with maybe a tiny, hare brighter core.

NGC 5056 4:46 AM 19mm - Very dim, round smudge of light. Barely able to see it with AV. This was dim.

NGC 5103 4:53 AM 19mm - Very small, round, dim glow with brighter blue white field star just above it and to its left at 11:30 o'clock. Looks to have a tiny, brighter central region but its hard to tell. Very dim overall.

NGC 5023 4:59 AM 19mm - Very faint linear sliver of light. Pretty uniformly lit. See it best with AV.

This concludes ALL the 400 objects of the Astronomical Leagues Herschel II list.

Its 26.5 degrees now.

M4 5:07 AM 19mm - Nice globular, but its not as compact as others.

Also looked at the Cat's Eye (NGC 6543), the Blinking PN, and the Ghost of Jupiter tonight. All incredible view. M13 nice.

Spent the last 30 minutes with Gary and Vern looking at the early morning Messier objects. Their marathon got me excited to do this next year. Looks like fun.

This has been one awesome weekend of viewing and I am glad I ventured out.