

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Attended the Texas Star Party, 2005. Arrived Monday afternoon to clouds. Monday night thru Wednesday noon, misty clouds and drizzle was everywhere.

I setup in the lower field, where the car lights from the road was a bit annoying. The motor home was nearby though.

At sunset, light wind from north. A few puffy clouds drifting off to the east. 1st clear night at the TSP. After sunset, a high haze dominated the sky, but was able to do binocular observing lists through it.

Omega Centauri 10:21 PM 32mm. Nice tight bright core with large extended halo.
19mm. Almost fills FOV with halo stars. Tons of member stars seen. Large, extended halo. Class 6.

NGC 5102 11:28 PM Small, dim cigar shaped galaxy with brighter nucleus.

Sky is soft. Seeing OK. Dew VERY heavy. Temp 45 degrees.

NGC 5460 12:31 AM Approx 10 stars makeup this loose, small OC. Approx 3 groups of stars in this OC. All these stars are of the same magnitude.

NGC 5286 1:15 AM Small, yet bright. Its to the lower left of a brighter field star. Small, bright tight core and dim halo around it. Member stars seen. More of a mottling texture though. Class 3.

IC 4406 1:24 AM Small, round uniformly lit glow. Sometimes see central star with AV. w/OIII filter, central star easily seen. Glow easier to see though.


NGC 5986 1:33 AM little larger than 5286 yet it's a small, round, fairly compact GC. Member stars easily seen. Most of what can be seen is uniformly lit nucleus with a hint of a halo around this. Class 2. There is a much brighter star at 4 o'clock at edge of halo that doesn't appear to belong.

The sky comes and goes from where its completely clear for about 45 minutes and then completely covered. It was like the sky was going through the dew point all night. It did this twice and by 2:00 AM, it was completely overcast for the rest of the night. By 3 AM, a misty fog was setting in on the observing area.

Friday, May 6, 2005

It rained all evening. Still was raining at midnight. Barbara woke me at 1:30 AM to see a clear sky. Lightening and T-Storms moved along the northern horizon the rest of the night. Lightening often lit up the entire sky often.

After the rain, the sky was calm. Stars steady and great looking and steady. But the dew was very heavy again, but not like Wednesday night.

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| B228 | 1:55 AM | 32mm. Approx 4 FOV long, this area is void of stars in a very star rich area. Makes a dog leg while going from left to right. |
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| Omega Centauri | 2:08 AM | Outstanding! Fills FOV of 19mm. Not as bright as M13. For its low on the horizon yet tons of member stars seen. Core not as concentrated, yet its large. |
| Centaurus A | 2:08 AM | Dim, round glow with dust lane that is easily seen bisecting it. 2 field stars on upper part of glow. |
| NGC 5986 | 2:14 AM | Round, uniformly lit. Many member stars seen on it. 1 field star at 4 o'clock is brighter and just outside the main part of GC. I don't think this is part of it. Class 2. |
| NGC 6139 | 2:18 AM | Small, round dimmer than 5986. Little smaller. Small, relatively brighter nucleus with rest dim halo. Some member stars seen and mottling on nucleus glow. Class 2. |

52 degrees. Milky Way out and nice. Sky still a bit soft. Dew still present.

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| Ter 3 | 2:26 AM | Approx 1/2 FOV of 19mm. Just a basically round glow seen just above the sky glow. Some speckles of stars seen here and there on glow. Class 12. |
| M4 | 2:33 AM | Large and bright. Diffused. Small tight bright core with rest of what is seen a large and extended halo. |
| CR316 | 2:38 AM | 20x80 Binocs. Large, basically hour glass shape. Approx 20 stars makeup this hour glass shape w/many more dimmer ones inside and concentrated to the right of shape but still lots of stars everywhere inside shape. |



NGC 6281 2:38 AM



Small. Bright. Boxy. Knot of stars at upper left of a large glow of very dim stars. The knot is in a circular pattern. Lower right edge defined by an arc of 8 stars.

NGC 6124 2:50 AM

32mm. Fills FOV nicely. Approx 50 stars of 3 magnitudes. Very bright blue-white stars very easy to see in 8x50 binocs. Basically round in shape.

NGC 6231 2:54 AM

32mm. 8 very bright blue-white stars of same magnitude basically defines the borders to right of this OC. Approx 20-25 stars of same magnitude but lesser bright by $\frac{1}{2}$ or so are underneath these and some spill out to the left. Rectangular in shape.

Dew is making my paper wet to write on but not as bad as last night.

NGC 6242 2:58 AM

1 bright star, 8 of 2nd magnitude and may more fainter stars makeup this small, compact vertical linear OC.

NGC 6268 3:01 AM



32mm. Small, vertical rectangle shape. 7, then 8, then 5 relatively bright stars form horizontal lines from top to bottom. Many more fainter stars making a glow underneath these.

19mm. Fainter stars are not seen now. Lines very prominent. 1st line now has 12 stars in it, 2nd line has 18 and 3rd line has 15, with 5-6 stars in a 4th line between the 2nd and 3rd lines. Stars of all magnitudes with some very faint makeup these 4 lines in 19mm.

NGC 6541 3:10 AM

Small, round with bright, large nucleus area and some halo around it. Member stars seen. Yet object is dim for its low above the horizon. Class 5.

NGC 6723 3:14 AM

Large than 6541 by 2 times. Yet its dim and uniformly lit. All of what can be seen is halo. Member stars easily seen. Class 10.

NGC 6726 3:25 AM

Small, dim, uniformly lit glow just above the background sky glow.

- NGC 6830 4:13 AM Small, compact group of 8-10 stars. 32mm very small.
- NGC 6823 4:47 AM 19mm. Small, bright group of 4 brighter stars with 12-15 much dimmer stars.
- NGC 6834 4:50 AM 19mm. 8 brighter blue-white stars form a thin arrow head pointing left. This sits on a glow of much fainter stars.



- NGC 6940 4:54 AM 19mm. Many dimmer blue-white stars form this OC that has a shape of a tadpole with the tail off towards 2 o'clock. Approx $\frac{3}{4}$ FOV long.



- NGC 6572 5:08 AM 19mm. Faint oval glow with 4 stars at the edge of the glow.



- NGC 6633 5:08 AM 19mm. 20-25 bright, blue-white stars in a vertical rectangle shape. 5 stars at upper left edge and outside for a little ringlet.

Packet it in about 5:35 AM. Telescope is very wet and morning twilight well in progress.



Saw several nice meteors and one bright one that went from SGT in SE to CEN in SW just above the horizon.

I spend all night with both the regular and challenge binocular lists as well as the telescope lists of the TSP. I looked at many objects in the telescope that looked great in the binocs.

I also sketched 3 constellations for the northern constellation hunter program and needed Aquila but didn't know I needed it until I got home. So I cannot get the award just yet.

Friday, May 6, 2005

At sunset, there were a high haze and a light wind from the SE.

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| | 9:23 PM | The Okean-0 rocket body went through the FOV while looking at Jupiter. It was very bright. Jupiter had GRS on the meridian and Io and its shadow was seen just above the bottom red band moving across the disc of the planet. |
| NGC 5053 | 10:27 PM |  Very dim, circular glow within 1 FOV of M53. Some mottling seen on uniformly lit glow. Class 12. Some 8 field stars bound this glow on lhs by a 1/2 circular arc. M53 is a bright, small and round. Brighter nucleus seen. May member stars seen. |
| NGC 4147 | 10:49 PM | Very dim, uniformly lit round glow with some member stars seen. Class 11. |
| NGC 5634 | 11:18 AM |  Small, round dim glow. Uniformly lit with maybe a hare brighter nucleus. Class 8. Mottling seen and maybe speckling of member stars. GC is situated between 2 brighter field stars. |
- Barbara and I went up to the upper field where I looked through Larry Mitchell's 36 inch scope at M51. I have never seen it as clearly as I did though his scope in any other amateur scope. I saw a 3rd spiral arm when there is usually only 2 and the bridge was seen to the neighbor galaxy all the way. I looked through a 25 inch at the Antenna Galaxies and didn't seen all that much, for there was a haze cloud in the area. Lots of activity on this field.
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| Pal 5 | 00:14 AM | Right next to a bright field star. A very extremely faint round glow. Fairly large though. Too dim to classify. Easy to see it if you move the scope back and forth. Sky is soft though. Some mottling seen. |
| NGC 5824 | 00:29 AM | Small, round, bright tiny nucleus. Surrounded by a very faint, yet extended halo. No member stars seen but mottling seen. Class 2. |
| MGC 5986 | 00:34 AM | Larger, uniformly lit glow. Little brighter field star at 3 o'clock just outside visible halo. Maybe Class 7. |

TSP Summary

I also did some satellite observing for the ESOC AL program. I wanted to see more satellites but the early evening clouds prevented me from seeing many.

I finished and received the nice pins from John Waggoner for the regular and challenge binocular programs. I used my 20x80 binoculars for this. I also finished the Eye on the Sky Telescope program also.

I looked at some southern globulars but didn't get a real good look at them for the sky was very soft. The faint globulars just stood out above the sky glow. I will re-look at these in darker skies to see more detail.