

July 10, 2004

Kim's Place, east of Longmont. Wind calm at sunset. Puffy clouds appeared to disappear and then a huge one formed over the Big Dipper area.

- 8:53 PM Jupiter. Looking bad in the west. Too much atmosphere. Saw 3 moons and some bands.
- M4 9:40 PM Globular-Large loose association of stars. Almost 1/2 the FOV in diameter. Many member stars easily seen. It is large and distributed. Class X. Nucleus just a hare brighter. Easy to see.
- NGC 5694 9:54 PM Globular-Small and dim. Fuzzy ball-appears tight. Maybe Class II. No member stars seen.
- M53 10:06 PM Globular-Large, dense and bright. Some member stars seen. Almost uniformly lit. Nucleus a hare brighter. Class III.
- NGC 4251 10:16 PM Small, faint sliver of light with small, brighter nucleus.

The sky is clearing. Light wind from the south that soon died away. Above is a 12.0 magnitude galaxy and I could see it easily.

- NGC 4278 10:30 PM Very small faint glow. Maybe oval in shape with dim point field star on the glow.
- NGC 4274 10:40 PM Both in same FOV. Cigar shaped and much smaller than 4314 with a tiny, bright nucleus.
- NGC 4314 4314 is a circular, dim uniformly lit patch of light.

The sky is clear now, wind calm, coyotes howling in the distance.

- NGC ⁴⁴¹⁴~~4144~~ 10:58 PM Oval and dim with a hare brighter nucleus. It has a very bright (relatively speaking) tiny nucleus. There is a hint of halo that gives this galaxy the appearance of a much larger object than the others I have seen tonight.

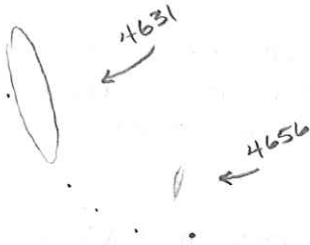
Stars almost steady now.

- NGC 4150 11:12 PM Very small and very dim circular point of light, but easy to see. Looks like an oof star for it has a tiny, bright nucleus for such a dim object. Situated near a bright field star and a dimmer one so they form a triangle like on my finder chart.



NGC 4631 11:27 PM Very long, approx 1/2 FOV in length, and slender. Uniformly lit, maybe cigar shaped. Very easy to see. It was surprisingly huge. There is a tiny field star to the left of the galaxy, centered on the length of it.

NGC 4656 4631 not as bright as it was earlier. Chased the 4 stars at the end of 4631 and above the brighter one, saw this dim, small, cigar shaped smudge of light (10.4). Sky is softening now.



NGC 4618 11:59 PM Very dim (10.8), circular smudge of light. Barely able to see this. This is the limit of the sky right now.

NGC 5005 12:11 AM Long, slender sliver of light. Like an edge on. See a brighter nucleus area and a hint of halo arms extending up and down from nucleus.

NGC 5033 12:15 AM Much smaller and very dim compared to 5003. Oval in shape with a bare brighter nucleus.

NGC 4449 12:21 AM Nice, easy to see edge on oval. Almost uniformly lit and just a bare brighter in the nucleus area. Might see a hint of halo extending on each side of it.

M51 12:26 AM Awesome. 2 eyes and hint of spiral arms.

M3 12:40 AM Globular-Large, tight, bright nucleus with many member stars in halo area, all stars easy to see. Class IV.

Remaining 4 Herschel 400s are low in the west and are in the Longmont sky glow. Will try again to get these 4 soon.