

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Arrived at Crow Valley Campground about 5 PM and setup under clear skies with a light breeze from the SE. Dan LaFaive showed up at dusk and setup near me.

Seeing is Good (6), transparency is Good (6).

NGC 6997 8:19 PM 32mm – Very loose open cluster. Very large. Best seen in 32mm, which it overwhelms the FOV of. Printed a picture of it and can match stars of picture with star field. Can count 20+ brighter stars in FOV, but of several magnitudes. Hard to tell which stars in field belong to this OC. Some stars are very bright with respect to the others. Class III 2 p.

NGC 6996 8:19 PM 32mm – This OC is just south of 6997. Its more compact and easier to see OC boundaries. Count 20+ stars here also of several (3-5) magnitudes. But much dimmer stars as compared to 6997. Best seen in 32 mm also. Small and concentrate. Fills approx 1/3 FOV. Class I 2 p.

Sky is great now. Steady. Trans 6. No wind.

NGC 6991 9:17 PM 32mm – Hard to tell which stars belong to this OC in FOV. Read description in Book and in a very star rich field. I saw a line of stars of approx the same magnitude make over a ½ circular arc and with 3-4 stars in the tail. Nice. Approx 12 stars seen in this chain yet more stars near it (in same area) of same magnitude.

NGC 7177 9:33 PM 19mm – Dim. Round galaxy. Seems brightest in center and dims slowly to edge. No definite nucleus glow, just that the center is the brightest.

Wind is from the NE now. Sky softening. Transparency still good.

Gamma Del 9:40 PM 19mm - Nice double star.

NGC 7042 9:54 PM 19mm – Small, round dim glow of light. Easily seen with AV. Very round. Pretty uniformly lit.

M15 9:57 PM 19mm – Nice. Bright tiny core that dims quickly into lots of stars. Pretty round with stars at edge stringing away a bit in lines.

NGC 7457 10:01 PM 19mm – Elongated oval. Definitely not round. Dim, yet nucleus area is brighter. Most of what is seen is nucleus glow with hint of a halo around it. W/AV, once saw an almost stellar nucleus offset from center of glow to lower part a little bit.

Tried to find Palomar 12 for a bit. Never found it.

NGC 23 11:06 PM 19mm – Long, skinny glow with 2 field stars on top of glow at each end of it, right on the center line of the glow.

NGC 214 11:10 PM 19mm – Small, round to oval glow. Pretty dim. Uniformly lit yet with AV and at times, nucleus looks a bit brighter.

NGC 24 11:18 PM 19mm – Larger, elongated oval. Cigar shaped. Uniformly lit. Southern sky is not good transparency tonight. Stars are fat here, not pinpoints. A faint field star is on glow on rhs.

NGC 6857 11:57 PM 19mm – A faint, yet easy to see triangular (fan shaped) patch of light. Wider on bottom. Better seen with UHC filter. 9mm eyepiece does not show it any better. Can see it without filter, but barely as a smudge of light. 3 faint field stars border this glow on west (lhs). Brightest of these field stars is near the point of the fan.

NGC 6894 12:04 AM 19mm – Medium sized, round, uniformly lit glow. Shows very well with O3 filter. That's how I found it was with the filter in. w/o O3, can see round glow with direct vision but easier to see with filter.

M57 12:08 AM 19mm – Nice, fat oval shaped donut with center (donut hole) showing a hint of glow with nebulosity in there. O3 and UHC give a hare better view. 9mm eyepiece doesn't show it as good as 19mm. One of my favorites. No central star seen.

NGC 6765 12:16 AM 19mm – Tiny, like an out of focus star while other stars in FOV are focused. w/O3 filter, central star stands right out. 9mm shows central star better with O3. Bright blue hue in color while stars in area are blue-white. Central star, when it pops in with O3 filter, can see a tiny bit of halo surrounding it. This was a nice surprise.

NGC 6824 12:22 AM 19mm – A nice, larger oval with brighter core region that dims slowly to edges. Situated on a line from 10 o'clock to 4 o'clock. Maybe see a very faint field star, once in a while, on bottom edge of glow, right near the edge. Center of nucleus glow is tiny and bright. Can see it with direct vision but core details seen with AV.

NGC 206 1:08 AM 19mm – Just above a triangle of stars. It's a large, diffused, basically oval glow that is brighter than surrounding sky glow and Andromeda galaxy glow in this area. UHC doesn't show it any better.

Sky is very soft now. Stars are fat. 39 degrees. Stars steady. Calm.

NGC 718 1:34 AM 19mm – Small, round to oval shape with tiny bright nucleus seen with AV sitting in middle of halo glow.

NGC 741 1:40 AM 19mm – Very dim glow. Oval. Mottling seen on central part of glow.

NGC 706 1:45 AM 19mm – Small, dim, round glow. W/AV see nucleus area is tiny and brighter than glow.

NGC 665 1:54 AM 19mm – Small, very dim round glow. W/AV see tiny brighter nucleus.

NGC 660 2:03 AM 19mm – Small, dim, linear (boxy) shaped galaxy that is uniformly lit.