

Monday, October 27, 2008

Arrived at Deer Trail, CO DAS Dark Sky Site at about 3:30 PM. Very brisk, gusty wind from south. At sunset, 51 degrees, brisk wind from south but the sky is clear. Initial observing conditions is sky is OK, transparency is OK.

NGC 6755 7:09 PM 19mm – Small. Compact. Roughly circular shaped. Lots of Stars seen, maybe 10-15 stars that are easily seen of about 3 magnitudes. There is a glow of more stars underneath these stars that can be seen. The concentration of stars is much brighter in the center than edges. Most of the brighter stars on lower left half of cluster. Stands out nicely in FOV.



Very windy. Seeing OK. Transparency OK.

NGC 7625 7:31 PM 19mm - Very near a very bright field star. Small, dim circular halo glow with brighter core that every once in a while looks stellar. Most of the time it's a larger glow. Easy to see in FOV. Need to put bright field star out of FOV to see it which puts galaxy very near edge of FOV, making it harder to study.

NGC 7678 7:39 pm 19mm – Nice. Easy to see. Very dim elongated oval. Goes from 11 to 5 o'clock. On lower right, glow is bounded by 3 stars and upper left its bounded by 1. Glow fits nicely in between these stars. Dim, here brighter core seen in very middle of glow.



NGC 7753 7:49 PM 19mm – Very dim, circular smudge of light. Barely there tonight.

NGC 14 7:55 PM 19mm – Small. Circular glow with very bright stellar core. At 12 o'clock and at very edge of halo glow is a brighter field star that is brighter than core. The glare of this bright field star makes it hard to study the exact nature of this galaxy.

NGC 7585 8:14 PM 19mm – Small, brighter circular halo glow with larger, here brighter core area seen on halo glow. Easy to see. w/AV, central part of core is a bright, tiny stellar nucleus. Nice.

43 degrees. Gusty wind from south. Seeing Good. Transparency good but in south, seeing OK and stars fat.

NGC 7314 8:28 PM 19mm – A long, skinny oval going up and down in FOV. Pretty uniformly lit. Easy to see. Very faint field star just to left of it and near it and just below the middle of it.

NGC 7284 8:37 PM 19mm – An almost circular glow with elongated nucleus. The lhs bright core is much brighter (7285) than a bit dimmer core on rhs (7284). Both on overall halo glow of galaxy. Very subtle. The nucleuses are on a line from 10 to 4 o'clock. Nice. Relooked at it at 9:01 PM and can see it better.

NGC 7252 8:44 PM 19mm – Small, circular halo glow with larger hare brighter core area seen. Easy to see in FOV.

NGC 833 9:22 PM 19mm – 5 faint, round galaxies make an arc on rhs of a very faint field star. 833 is lower one. Its round with tiny stellar core in center of halo. 835 is next and is a bit larger version of 833. It too has a bright stellar core. 838 is next and is very similar to like 835. 839 is next and it has a dimmer, but easy to see stellar core. 848 is at top. Faintest of all. Maybe a hint of a hare brighter nucleus. All pretty dim yet easy to see. This was pretty cool. Got Uranometria out to validate which galaxy was which.






IC 51 9:33 PM 19mm – Very faint circular smudge of light. Maybe hint of something at core.

39 degrees. Seeing is great. Transparency good. Wind almost calm.

NGC 935 9:53 PM 19mm – Very faint, linear, uniformly lit glow. A very faint field star is just to the left of this. Pretty dim. No brighter core seen.

NGC 247 10:00 PM 19mm – A long, slender, faint, uniformly lit glow that goes up and down in the FOV and approx 1 FOV long. Field star seen on halo glow.

NGC 253 10:04 PM 19mm – Nice. Bright. Tilted oval approx 1 1/2 FOVs long. Goes from 10 to 4 o'clock. Large, bright core with mottling of dust lanes seen on core. Dims slowly into tapered halo arms. I like this one.

NGC 288	10:11 PM	19mm – Nice. Large globular. Circular. Lots of member stars seen on glow of globular.
NGC 578	10:16 PM	19mm – Small, dim, flat oval. Uniformly lit glow. Not much to it. Pretty faint.
NGC 613	10:21 PM	19mm – Nice tilted oval with larger, brighter core with faint tapered arms that dims quickly at ends of core area. Goes from 1 to 7 o'clock. Nice. Easy to see.
		
NGC 134	10:29 PM	19mm – Nice edge on. Nice central bulge that tapers into thin arms. Small. Looks like a dust lane bisects it just below center. Faint field star below it. Goes from 10 to 4 o'clock in FOV.
		
NGC 7793	10:37 PM	19mm – Large, fat oval or circular shaped uniformly lit glow. Dim, yet easy to see. Maybe a few <u>very</u> faint field stars on glow. It hints they are there.
NGC 55	10:40 PM	19mm – Large, dim, tilted oval. Large, uniformly lit core area surrounded by very dim halo. Goes from 8:30 to 2:30 o'clock in FOV. Approx 1 FOV long. Nice. Very low in south.
		
NGC 300	10:44 PM	19mm – Very dim, uniformly lit oval bounded by 4 dim field stars on each side. No central brightening. Just a glow. Very low in south.

The sky was getting really good when I left at 11:15 PM. I saw some favorites M13, M57 and M42. Also saw a very bright, greenish colored meteor streak from Auriga towards the horizon, almost straight down. Pretty cool.