

Weekend Under the Stars, 2002

Wednesday August 7, 2002

Arrived at Foxpark about 5:00 PM. There was rain all the way from Larimie, but was not raining at Foxpark. Got the popup setup and waited for the clouds to part. Steve Lynch brought out a glow in the dark frisbee and we had a blast. Once we were tired, we noticed that the clouds were breaking up overhead. This was about 11:00 PM.

I got my parallelogram binocular mount out and attached the 20x80 to view more Messier Binocular objects.

M11 was a bright glow.

I moved down and to the west to find M26. A faint glow with no individual stars seen.

I moved down and west to M16. A bright OC with many blue-white stars.

I moved down to M17 and M18. This is a glow of nebulosity and a nice OC.

Right below these two is M24. A tight grouping of stars, maybe 6-8.

To the east is the faint glow of M25.

M23 is a faint glow of stars. Many member stars seen.

The sky is very soft tonight, with clouds condensing from everywhere, then disappearing.

M75 is a faint, out of focus star. This was hard to see.

M14 is a dim, easy to see fuzzy ball. It is the same brightness as M12.

M10 is brighter than M12 or M14.

M31. Awesome.

Below and to the right of nucleus is M32, a faint, out of focus star like object.

Above and to the left is M110, a faint oval smudge.

M45 has lots of blue-white stars and fills " the FOV.

M37 is a tight ball of light. No member stars seen.

M36 is also a tight ball of light, and is the brightest of M36, M37 and M38.

M38 is very diffused, much bigger and very dim.

Turned in at 3:00 AM. Sky is now steady and heavy dew. Saw 10-15 Perseids streak across the sky tonight.

Thursday August 8, 2002

After rain on and off all afternoon, the clouds parted at dusk to leave a very heavy dew night. My dew heaters worked great though the night. All observations were done with the 19mm (133x) unless otherwise noted.

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| 9:37 PM | NGC 5248 | Faint circle shape. w/AV see star like nucleus and circular halo. |
| 9:44 PM | NGC 5466 | Large and diffused. w/AV, can see member stars. |
| 9:48 PM | NGC 5557 | Using AV, can see its circular. Easy to see. Bright nucleus with relatively bright halo. |
| 9:56 PM | NGC 5676 | A uniformly lit oval. Dim. |

The sky is steady. Awesome. Temperature is 45 degrees with 70 % humidity, according to Paul who shouted this out all night.

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| 10:00 PM | NGC 5689 | A small dim oval that is uniformly lit. |
| 10:40 PM | NGC 6642 | A small, circular, uniformly lit object. Can see member stars w/AV. |
| 11:00 PM | NGC 6629 | Starlike. Very bright. O3 makes it stand out even more. Saw in Paul's 10" and noted the star field. Then matched it up in my scope. This was a hard one to find. |
| 11:11 PM | NGC 6638 | Circular-Uniformly lit. w/AV see mottling but no member stars. Telrad is in the right part of the top of the teapot. With a 2 nd , longer look, can see some members stars in the halo at the edge of the cluster. |
| 12:55 AM | NGC 129 | Field star at top of FOV. Cluster then fills FOV below this star. Stars of all mags. This is a star rich area in a star poor part of the sky. Irregular in shape. 3-4 diff mags compose this cluster. |
| 1:00 AM | NGC 136 | Faint glow. w/AV see several member stars. Very faint. Appeared to be in a box shape. |
| 1:03 AM | NGC 225 | Two sets of stars here. The ones on the left are in a Capricornus shape and the 6 on the right form a nice arc. |
| 1:11 AM | NGC 381 | Loose assoc of stars. Several mags present. 10-25 stars. Chain of bright stars lead off to the east. These probably are not part of the cluster for these are a lot brighter. |

1:53 AM ⁷⁷⁹⁰NGC 7290 Tear dropped shape. The brighter stars are on the bottom left and dimmer stars are on upper right on point of teardrop.

Dew is gone, but sky is soft and clouds are forming. From what I heard the next day, the clouds only hung around for an hour. The formed right out of the air. They did not drift in from anywhere.

Friday August 9, 2002

This turned out to be the best night of the 4. The sky is clear at sunset. The wind, which raged all afternoon, is now calm. The sky will stay steady and very transparent all night, so I would take advantage of this.

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| 9:31 PM | NGC 6316 | Oval-member stars seen. Faint. Nescled btw 2 brighter field stars. Center is brighter and has angular resolution (not starlike). Halo is extended. |
| 9:37 PM | NGC 6304 | Moved south from 6316 and found this. Easy to see. Bit brighter than 6316 and larger. Circular in shape. Uniformly lit. See member stars dot glob w/AV. |
| 9:46 PM | NGC 6356 | w/AV, its fairly large. Brighter nucleus with diffused halo. See mottling of stars on nucleus. |
| 10:07 PM | NGC 6342 | Moved from 6356 to 6342. Brighter and easier to see than 6356. See many member stars. Halo dims to nothing. Fairly large. |
| 10:26 PM | NGC 6355 | Fairly faint. Small circle. Uniformly lit. No member stars seen. |
| 10:30 PM | NGC 6426 | Faint. Circular. Uniformly lit smudge. w/AV, see mottling of member stars. |
| 10:33 PM | NGC 6517 | Small and dim. Uniformly lit. Circular. w/AV see that nucleus is a bit brighter thanb halo and can see a mottling of stars. |
| 10:42 PM | NGC 6118 | Very faint linear smudge of light. See best when FOV moves. My eye catches the contrast. |
| 11:24 PM | NGC 7510 | Nice bright stars in a inverted triangle pattern. |
| 11:34 PM | NGC 7380 | Nice bright irregular OC. See a haze in the area of the nebula. |
| 11:41 PM | NGC 7209 | Overwhelms the FOV of 19mm. Several blue-white stars approx the same mag. Loose assoc. 32mm doesn't show it as good as the 19. |
| 11:46 PM | NGC 7243 | Very bright loose assoc of stars. More linear across FOV. Several mags of stars. Most bright in a faint star area. This OC stands right out. |
| 11:51 PM | NGC 7296 | Closely packed w/10 brighter stars and others fainter to |

give it a glow. Brighter star than others on lower left of OC.

Sky is steady and the seeing is fantastic. Seen many Perseids but missed others while looking down. Heard the Ohhs and Ahhs of the crowd.

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| 12:37 AM | NGC 3147 | Faint elongated oval w/AV can tell nucleus is brighter than halo. |
| 12:47AM | NGC 5866 | Easy to see edge on. Stretches 1/3 across FOV. Brighter nucleus and bit dimmer halo. Hint of a dust lane just below the center line of gal. |
| 12:56 AM | NGC 5982 | Bright, starlike nucleus w/oval shaped halo. Halo very dim.

Below is a faint smudge perpendicular to 5982. It is linear in shape, uniformly lit. This is 5985. And above at a 45 degree angle to 5982 is a smaller sliver of light and is 5981. This is long and slender. |
| 1:40 AM | NGC 6543 | Cats Eye-Blue green oval. Central star stands right out. Was hard to find but once found, outstanding. O3 didn't improve what I could see w/o it. |
| 1:58 AM | NGC 288 | The way Sculptor is situated in the sky, started out at the alpha star and just moved up in altitude. The sky in the south is very soft and this is low. Not far above horizon. Nicely fills the center FOV. Uniformly lit. w/AV, see member stars. Circular in shape. |
| 2:24 AM | NGC 7606 | Very faint oval. Slightly brighter nucleus. |
| 2:35 AM | Saw Comet Hornig.
NGC 7723
NGC 7727 | Fuzzy Ball, elongated to one side.
Elongated oval. Uniformly lit. Faint.
Looks circular. Faint. Nucleus is a bit brighter than the halo. |
| 2:43 AM | NGC 404 | Next to beta Andromedia. Need to get beta star out of FOV to see this. Circular. Dim. A good size though. Bit brighter nucleus than halo. Nucleus is almost starlike. |
| 2:47 AM | NGC 752 | Large OC. Overwhelms FOV. 30+ stars in a very loose assoc. Most stars approx same mag, rest are a bit dimmer. |
| 3:25 AM | NGC 613 | Nice edge on gal. Very faint but easy to see slender sliver of shape. Nucleus is a bit brighter and starlike. |
| 3:33 AM | NGC 772 | Very faint. Circular. w/AV see nucleus is brighter than halo. |

3:30 AM	NGC 488	Very faint. Possibly circular. Bright little nucleus.
3:42 AM	NGC 524	Faint, circular. w/AV see relatively brighter starlike nucleus with gradual fading into halo.
3:55 AM	NGC 651	Little Dumbel-M76-Butterfly shape. Uniformly lit. Easy to see.

Looked at Saturn thru my scope. Awesome. But Gary's 30" was the best I have ever seen it. I saw many bands on the planet surface and the rings were just gorgeous.

Back to Binocular Messiers.

M1 is a faint Oval Glow.

Couldn't find the M object in Cetus for the binocs were dewing up almost as fast as I brought them out of the trailer.

Saturday August 10, 2002

Clear skies at sunset and the wind is calm. The sky is steady but not as transparent as last night was.

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| 10:00 PM | NGC 7044 | Faint glow of stars. Very compact. w/AV see some member stars, approx 8. Bright line of field stars to east sort of point to OC. |
| 10:15 PM | NGC 7062 | Very faint glow. Boxy and compact. Underneath about 8 brighter stars. |
| 10:35 PM | NGC 7086 | 10-30 blue-white stars approx same mag. Several more much fainter. Loose assoc. Appears to be 2 grps, top is boxy and bottom forms an arc chain of about 6 stars. |
| 11:23 PM | NGC 7128 | Extremely hard to find. Ring of stars, 5-10 w/ a red star on top. Faint glow underneath ring. |
| 11:45 PM | NGC 6882 | Several blue-white stars surrounding a very bright star. Very loose assoc. |
| 11:50 PM | NGC 6217 | Highly elongated oval w/starlike nucleus to the right side of a little glowing nucleus. The halo is dim. |
| 12:07 AM | NGC 7331 | Bright sliver of light. Can see extended halo away from nucleus in both directions. Nucleus gradually dims into halo. |
| | Stephens Quintet | 2 pockets of glow. Almost at the limit of my scope. Last night in Gary's 30", I saw all 5 components. Two nucleuses are very close, the other two were separated a lot more and the fifth glow was by itself. Even in Gary's scope, the fifth was very hard to see. |
| 12:46 AM | NGC 7448
NGC 7463 | Very dim oval-little brighter nucleus.
Very small smudge of light w/starlike nucleus. |
| 12:56 AM | NGC 7814 | Elongated oval. Large, uniformly lit nucleus dims quickly into halo. |
| 1:20 AM | NGC 7646 | 32mm Many Blue-white stars approx same mag. Fills approx 2 FOVs, very loose. |

Sat the rest of the night, till 3 AM and watched several spectacular Perseids streak all over the sky.

Packed up Sunday morning and headed for home about 11:00 AM. A great WUTS and a

great time to relax under the stars for me.