

Weekend Under the Stars, 2004

Tuesday August 10, 2004

Arrived at Foxpark about 6:00 PM. First ones there, Barbara and I. First time out with our new motorhome.

The sky was clear and calm at sunset.

- 9:44 PM NGC 5897 Large, dim uniformly lit with some member stars seen. Class 10.
- 10:06 PM M5 Large and bright. Concentrated center very bright with a large halo area. Tones of member stars seen. Class 6.
- 10:18 PM M9 Class 3. Small and tight. Uniformly lit. Many member stars seen.
- 10:21 PM NGC 6342 Small, round dim glow with speckling of stars seen. Tight. Class 2. Nucleus **maybe** here brighter.
- 11:10 PM M12 Large, round uniformly lit. Member stars seen. Class 5. Large halo glow with a hint of a here brighter nucleus.
- 11:16 PM M10 Large, bright, uniformly lit (no nucleus brightening). Lots of member stars seen. Brighter than M12. Class 8.

Sky clouded over at this point. Seeing we OK thought when I saw these objects. There were some other campers at this area of Foxpark, to the west of us. They had a huge bonfire going and a lantern glowing white light hanging on a post. Marty Curren asked them to tone down the light and they said no. Then Marty said that 200 amateur astronomers were converging on Foxpark this weekend, so they left the next morning.

Wednesday August 11, 2004

Clear at sunset with a light breeze from the NE that died away sometime after darkness fell on the observing field.

9:23 PM M80 Small. Dense. Class 2. Bright little nucleus that dims out into a nice, easily seen halo. Many member stars seen.

9:28 PM NGC 6144 Dim, uniformly lit loose association. Bright FS to left. Member stars seen. No nucleus concentration. Class 12.

9:42 PM NGC 6496 Nice bright dense nucleus. Dims evenly into a large halo. Pretty compact though. Member stars seen. Class 3.

The sky is fairly steady now. Wind is calm. Temp 35 degrees. A little dew setting in. Meteors are everywhere. Every time I got near the eyepiece, it fogged up.

9:50 PM NGC 6441 Small, tiny relatively bright nucleus dims evenly into a small halo. Very bright FS to left of it. Maybe a couple member stars seen. Class 2.

9:56 PM NGC 6453 **Very small**, dim, uniformly lit. Some member stars seen. No nucleus glow seen. Class 10. There is a very large, bright OC just outside and to the right of FOV. Many blue-white stars seen.

10:00 PM M107 Fairly large and dim. Nucleus is a hare brighter than halo. Many member stars seen. Class 8.

10:12 PM NGC 6366 Large. Loose. Very dim. Its to the lower right of a very bright FS. Member stars seen. Uniformly lit. Class 12.

10:14 PM M14 Large and bright. Most of what can be seen is a uniformly lit nucleus. Small halo area around this large nucleus area. Many member stars seen. Class 5.

10:23 PM NGC 6426 Very faint. Nucleus maybe a hare brighter. Class 11.

10:36 PM NGC 6517 Small and dim. Nucleus is most of what can be seen with a hint of an extended halo around nucleus. Class 10.

- 10:51 PM NGC 6356 Small and dim. Nucleus is a hare brighter than small halo area. Class 10.
- M11 Larger and brighter than 6356. Compact bright nucleus and large extended halo area. Member stars easily seen. Class 8.
- NGC 6342 Like M11, yet more compact. Large, uniformly lit nucleus and a small halo area. Member stars barely seen. These were hard to see. Most of what can be seen is uniformly lit nucleus. Class 8.
- 10:57 PM NGC 6235 Small, dim, uniformly lit glow. w/AV, can see member stars. Class 10.
- 11:00 PM NGC 6287 Almost identical to 6235. Small, dim, uniformly lit. Somewhat compact. w/AV can see member stars. Class 10.
- 11:03 PM NGC 6325 Small, dim, uniformly lit glow. No member stars seen. Too dim do classify.
- 11:06 PM M19 Large and bright. Most of what can be seen is uniformly lit nucleus with a bit of halo around this. Class 4. Tons of member stars seen.
- 11:13 PM NGC 6284 Small, bright nucleus surrounded by a dim halo. Mottling of member stars seen. Class 6. Rather dim overall.
- 11:17 PM NGC 6293 Small, bright nucleus surrounded by a bit larger halo. Class 4.
- 11:19 PM NGC 6355 Very dim glow with a hint of a hare brighter nucleus. Too dim to classify.
- 11:23 PM M54 Small, bright nucleus surrounded by a bit larger halo. Member stars easily seen. Class 6.
- 11:26 PM M70 Tiny, bright nucleus surrounded by a large halo. Very compact though. Member stars easily seen. Small size overall. Class 4.
- 11:29 PM NGC 6652 Tiny, bright nucleus surrounded by a small halo. Dim object overall and small in size. Next to a bright FS below it and to the left. Class 5.

11:32 PM M69 Large, uniformly lit nucleus is almost all of what can be seen. Not too compact though. Hint of halo around this nucleus. Member stars easily seen. Class 9.

11:38 PM NGC 6638 Small, uniformly lit nucleus with a hint of a larger halo around it. Mottling seen on glow of nucleus. Might be a class 4.

Temperature dropped to 25 degrees when I quit. Sky was calm and real steady. Watched meteors until about 1:30 AM. Saw several nice ones. Saw some space junk that sparkled like fireworks and had a corkscrew motion to its burning. Went from W -> E through the Great Square of Pegasus. It was in two pieces. The first was a short burn streak, while this second piece went a long ways. Both were on the same track.

Thursday August 12, 2004

Wind calm and sky clear at sunset. 41 degrees already and dropping.

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| 9:27 PM | M62 | Small, bright nucleus dims evenly into large halo area. Lots of member stars seen. Easy to see. Class 6. |
| 9:33 PM | NGC 6304 | Small, dim, uniformly lit glow. No brighter nucleus seen nor any member stars. Class 2. |
| | NGC 6316 | Very small, dim glow with a maybe hare brighter nucleus. No member stars seen. Class 1. Situated just below two brighter FS. |
| 9:53 PM | NGC 6401 | Very small, dim uniformly lit glow. No member stars seen. Bright FS on glow at 2 o'clock side. Too dim to classify. |
| 10:05 PM | NGC 6440 | Very small, very dim glow. Bright FS just to the left of it. Too dim to classify. No member stars seen. |
| 10:09 PM | NGC 6528 | Small, bright nucleus with a hint of halo around it. Member stars seen. Class 3. |
| | NGC 6522 | Much dimmer than 6528 and in same FOV with each at one edge of it. Tiny, hare brighter nucleus with larger halo around it. Much smaller than 6528 but not by 1/2 . No member stars seen. Maybe Class 1. Both are easily seen though. |
| 10:15 PM | NGC 6558 | Very small, very dim glow with nucleus area hare brighter. Mottling of stars seen. Class 11. |
| 10:18 PM | NGC 6569 | Much brighter than 6558. Uniformly lit glow with maybe a mottling of stars seen. Maybe hare brighter nucleus. Class 1 or 2. Small in diameter but much larger than 6558. Can easily move between the two GCs for they are about 1 ½ FOVs apart. |
| 10:27 PM | NGC 6624 | Small, bright nucleus surrounded by larger, dim halo. Easily seen. Mottling seen. Class 8. |
| 10:39 PM | NGC 6553 | Larger, dim, uniformly lit glow with FS outside glow at the 7 o'clock position. Too dim to classify. |

10:54 PM	NGC 6544	Very small, dim glow of stars with a pinpoint nucleus. Member stars seen. Class 12. This was in a star rich area, maybe behind a closer OC.
10:56 PM	M28	Large and bright overall. It dims evenly from the very center into an extended halo. Tons of member stars seen. Class 8.
10:59 PM	NGC 6642	Very small and dim glow yet easy to see a tiny bright nucleus and a mottling of stars seen on glow. Class 2 or 3.
11:05 PM	M22	Large and bright. Large nucleus just a hare brighter than halo. Nucleus is offset to the left of the overall geometry of this GC. Class 6. Lots of member stars easily seen. Nicely fills center of FOV.
11:11 PM	NGC 6723	Large, dim, uniformly lit glow with some member stars seen. Very low above SW horizon so hard to see any details. Maybe class 4. From a more southerly location, this is probably a spectacular globular.
11:14 PM	M55	Bit smaller and dimmer version of M22, but large in the FOV. Uniformly lit. No nucleus seen. Stand right out though. Lots of member stars seen. Class 12. Has a large halo area.
11:22 PM	M75	Very small, very bright nucleus surrounded by a larger halo glow. Possible a little mottling seen otherwise no member stars seen. Class 8.
11:25 PM	NGC 6717	Very small, very dim glow right next to a very bright FS to the lower left of this GC. 2 very dim FS on glow. Too dim to classify.
11:32 PM	NGC 6535	Large, dim uniformly lit glow. 3 dim, yet brighter than glow, field stars on upper left edge of glow. w/AV see mottling on glow. Too dim to classify but might guess a Class 5.
11:43 PM	NGC 6539	Small, dim uniformly lit glow. No member stars seen. Too dim to classify.
11:45 PM	IC 1276	Bit larger than 6539, just a very dim glow seen. Two FS on lower left side of glow. Too dim to classify.

11:52 PM M56 Small, uniformly lit glow with some member stars seen on glow. In a very star rich area of the Milky Way. Class 2 or 3. Stands right out in this area of the sky.

12:00 AM NGC 6712 Larger. Uniformly lit, dim glow. Easy to see though. Some member stars seen on glow. Class 3. No halo seen.

Some clouds are moving through the South in the area of the sky where I am looking. Need to wait for them to pass. Its now 25 degrees.

12:30 AM NGC 6981 Small and dim. Most of what can be seen is a uniformly lit nucleus with a little bit of halo around this. Member stars seen w/AV. Class 3.

12:41 AM NGC 7089 Large and bright. How did Messier miss this one? Starts in the center as the brightest part and dims evenly to the end of the halo. Tons of member stars seen. This was a cool one. Class 3.

Sky is soft now with the clouds in the area. Still 25 degrees. Time to call it quits for WUTS 2004. I had a great time with Barbara attending her first star party. It was great to introduce her to all my astronomy buddies.