

# Thursday, March 15, 2018

Volunteering for Spring Break activities at McDonald Observatory, in west Texas. Thursday night had no visitor star party scheduled, so I used the 16" f/9 Ritchie-Creighton telescope, FL 3658mm with an 18 mm eyepiece yielding 203x. I looked at more of my Herschel 2500s. The computer has Sky X control software.

High thin haze and brisk wind from west at 7:20 PM. CSK says clear after 9 PM.

Telescope setup:

- Plug in cord and tighten, Turn power on mount.
- Sky X Startup -> connect telescope.
- Find home with software.
- Open dome.
- Find bright star near area to observe with software. Center star in FOV and synchronize on this star to help pointing. This worked to keep galaxies in FOV somewhere or just at the edge of FOV.

Clearing nicely at sunset. Strong wind persists. At 8:42 PM, sky clear overhead and clouds low in east are moving east. Light breeze from west.

Seeing and Transparency Very Good. Stars are steady.

NGC 3043	9:09 PM	203x – A small, thin, 3:1 faint uniformly lit glow. Had stellar core pop in once in center of glow.
NGC 2870	9:12 PM	203x – A small, <u>extremely faint</u> linear uniformly lit glow. Has an <u>extremely faint</u> field star off upper end.
NGC 2710	9:16 PM	203x – A small, <u>very faint</u> fat oval. Core area larger, bit brighter, 2:1. Very hard to see.
NGC 2692 UGC 4671	9:19 PM	203x – 2 galaxies near. N2692 is a very small, roundish, faint glow with hare brighter tiny core. U4671 is to right of a field star. A very small, faint, uniformly lit oval.
NGC 2800	9:24 PM	203x – To upper right and touching a faint field star is this tiny, round, very faint glow with bit brighter core. Hard to see because field star touching lower right of halo glow.

NGC 3192 9:28 PM 203x – A small, very faint, fat oval. Seems to have a larger, hare brighter core but not sure. Seems something there at core. Not uniformly lit.

NGC 3600 9:31 PM 203x – A small, thin edge on. 4:1. Very dim. Has tiny, bit brighter core in center.

Seeing and Transparency very good. Wind persists outside dome. Looking towards east away from wind direction.


NGC 3782 9:35 PM 203x – To left of 2 field stars and pretty centered above them is a small, fat, very dim, uniformly lit oval glow. Easy to see since its so faint.

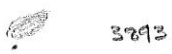


NGC 3811 9:39 PM 203x – A small, dim fat to roundish glow. Has small, bit brighter core seen in center.

NGC 3870 9:42 PM 203x – A very small dim oval. 2:1. Has a larger, brighter core. Maybe bar for core seems linear and not a single core.

NGC 3922 9:45 PM 203x – A very small, thin oval. 2 upper right and close to an extremely faint field star. Very faint halo glow with brighter, linear core. Seems to be brighter along thin axis of galaxy.

NGC 3896 9:50 PM 203x – Above a larger, oval, brighter galaxy with large core (N3893) is  
NGC 3893  3896 N3896, a tiny oval, uniformly lit, very faint glow to right of a faint field star.

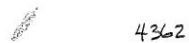
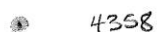


NGC 3928 9:52 PM 203x – A very small fat oval dim glow. Has larger, brighter core in center.

NGC 3906 9:55 PM 203x – A very small, extremely faint oval, uniformly lit smudge of light, ghostly glow. Almost not there.

NGC 3985 9:56 PM 203x – A very small oval. Very faint. 2:1 glow. Has tiny hare brighter core in center.

NGC 4358 9:59 PM 203x – A very small, round faint glow with tiny hare brighter stellar core.  
NGC 4362 Below is N4362, a dim, linear oval glow with hare brighter, larger core.



NGC 5007      10:03 PM      203x – To right of a bright field star is this medium sized, circular, uniformly lit dim glow. It is very lopsided to right of field star so its not a glow of nebulae.

PGC 45617      To right of N5007 is a tiny, oval, very faint glow with tiny stellar core.

UGC 8214      Below these two are 3 UGC galaxies that look all the same. They are very small ovals, very faint glows with tiny cores.

UGC 8234

UGC 8237



Seeing and Transparency good. Milky way soft but stars are steady.

NGC 3897      10:13 PM      203x – A very small oval, very faint glow. Has hare brighter stellar core.

NGC 3971      10:16 PM      203x – A very small, very faint roundish glow with brighter stellar core.

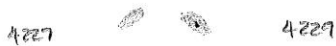
NGC 4097      10:19 PM      203x – A very small, very faint over to lower left and near a dim field star. Has a bright stellar core in center of b it of halo glow.

NGC 4190      10:21 PM      203x – A medium sized fat oval. Extremely faint, uniformly lit ghostly glow.

NGC 4163      10:22 PM      203x – A small fat oval to roundish, extremely faint glow. Uniformly lit.

NGC 4229      10:25 PM      203x – N4229 is a small, thin oval, very dim. Has brighter stellar core.










NGC 4227      N4227 is to left and near and a very small, thin, very faint oval. Has hare brighter core.



NGC 4401      10:28 PM      203x – A small fat oval. Uniformly lit. Extremely faint smudge of light. Almost not there.

NGC 4317      10:32 PM      203x – 5 very faint stars for a medium sized Z pattern.

NGC 4272      10:35 PM      203x – A very small, very faint thin oval with hare brighter core.

NGC 4253	10:37 PM	203x – A very small, thin, very faint oval. Has a brighter linear core in center of oval along axis.
NGC 4174	10:41 PM	203x – 4 galaxies. Bottom (N4169) is a very small oval, very faint with brighter stellar core. To left is N4173 a very small, very faint, uniformly lit thin oval glow. Upper left is N4175, a very small, thin, uniformly lit edge on. Very faint. To right is N4174, a tiny stellar looking out of focus star, very faint.
NGC 4175		
NGC 4173		
NGC 4169		
		
NGC 4134	10:47 PM	203x – Top is N4134, a very small, thin linear glow with hare brighter tiny core. Center is N4132, a very small, extremely faint fat uniformly lit oval glow. Bottom is N4131, a very small, thin over. Very faint with brighter core.
NGC 4132		
NGC 4131		
		
NGC 4286	10:50 PM	203x – N4283 is right galaxy and a larger oval with large, bright core. To left is N4286 a very small oval with larger, brighter core that dims slowly to edge.
NGC 4283		
		
NGC 4196	10:54 PM	203x – A very small, very faint oval with larger, bit brighter core.
NGC 4209	10:54 PM	203x – To left of N4196 is an <u>extremely faint</u> roundish, very small glow. Uniformly lit.
NGC 4275	10:57 PM	203x – To lower right of a dim field star is this small, fat oval to round, uniformly lit glow.
NGC 4101	11:00 PM	203x – A very small, <u>very faint</u> oval glow. Has hint of a hare brighter core that is seen with AV.
NGC 4018	11:03 PM	203x – A very small, very faint oval with bright stellar core. Looks like an out of focus star.
NGC 4021	11:05 PM	203x – A very small, thin oval. <u>Very faint</u> with brighter stellar core.

NGC 4015	11:05 PM	203x – A very small, thin oval. Very faint with tiny, hare brighter core.
NGC 4007	11:08 PM	203x – Just above a brighter field star. A tiny round uniformly lit glow with maybe hare brighter larger core. Not sure because field star is so overpowering.
NGC 4162	11:10 PM	203x – A small tilted oval. Very dim. Has a complex core of 2-3 stellar points in center of glow.
NGC 4213	11:12 PM	203x – A tiny oval <u>very faint</u> glow with tiny, bit brighter core.
NGC 4067	11:15 PM	203x – A small very faint oval glow with hint of a hare brighter complex stellar core. Maybe tiny linear bar.
NGC 4200	11:17 PM	203x – An <u>extremely faint</u> , small oval glow with tiny, very faint stellar core.
NGC 4193	11:19 PM	203x – A <u>very faint</u> thin oval glow. 2:1. Uniformly lit.
NGC 4037	11:21 PM	203x – A medium sized fat oval. Uniformly lit. <u>Extremely faint</u> ghostly glow. Almost not there.
NGC 4262	11:24 PM	203x – a very small dim round glow with larger, bright core.
NGC 4126	11:26 PM	203x – A very small oval, <u>very faint</u> glow with tiny, hare brighter stellar core.
NGC 4049	11:28 PM	203x – An <u>extremely faint</u> small oval uniformly lit glow. Ghostly. Almost not there.

Seeing and Transparency good. Wind from west is brisk. Nice and comfortable inside dome.

NGC 3805	11:32 PM	203x – A very small thin tilted over. Very faint. Has a complex core area, maybe linear core. <u>Extremely faint</u> .
NGC 3821	11:36 PM	203x – A very small, very faint thin oval glow. Has 2 <u>extremely faint</u> stars on glow. Once centered and maybe a core and other just below this one but on halo glow.

NGC 3851 11:43 PM 203x – Lots of galaxies in FOV. N3851 is a very small oval, very faint with tiny brighter core.

NGC 3844 An extremely faint, tiny oval smudge of light.

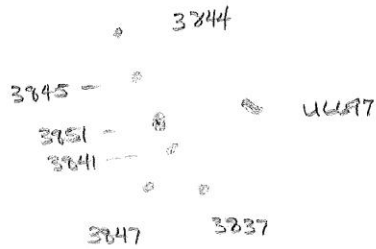
NGC 3845 A very small, extremely faint uniformly lit oval glow.

UGC 6697 A thin, linear uniformly lit, very faint glow. Very small.

NGC 3841 An extremely faint, round, tiny, uniformly lit glow.

NGC 3837 A tiny very faint oval glow with hint of a hare brighter stellar core.

NGC 3847 A tiny very faint oval glow with hint of a hare brighter stellar core.



NGC 3884 11:47 PM 203x – to upper right of a bright field star is a very small, very faint oval glow with hare brighter core.

NGC 3883 11:52 PM 203x – A very small, extremely faint oval. Uniformly lit smudge of light to right of a dim field star.

NGC 3937 11:55 PM 203x – A very small, thin, very faint oval. Has complex, brighter core. Maybe a bar.

NGC 3940 11:57 PM 203x – A very small, very faint oval with tiny, hare brighter stellar core.

Seeing and Transparency good. Wind is gusty outside.

NGC 3947 11:59 PM 203x – a very small, extremely faint oval. Uniformly lit glow.

NGC 3954 12:01 AM 203x – A very small, very faint oval with hare brighter stellar core.

NGC 4061 12:07 AM 203x – A very small, very faint oval with hare brighter stellar core.

NGC 4069 A very small, very faint oval with hare brighter stellar core.

NGC 4074 A very small, very faint oval with hare brighter stellar core.

NGC 4070 A tiny, very faint oval with hare brighter core.



NGC 4098	12:09 AM	203x – Right galaxy. Very small, very faint oval with hare brighter stellar core.
NGC 4095		Center galaxy. A tiny oval very faint glow with 2 cores seen.
NGC 4092		Left galaxy. A very small, very faint almost uniformly lit glow. Maybe hint of a hare brighter stellar core.

4092      4095      4098

NGC 4158	12:12 AM	203x – A small, very dim oval. Has larger, hare brighter core area that dims slowly to edge.
NGC 4565	12:14 AM	203x – Nice. Fills FOV from top to bottom. Center seen nicely.

This was a great night on the mountain. Telescope worked beautifully. I did a synchronize star on bowl of Big Dipper and all the galaxies were in the FOV, often just at the edge. The wind gusted all night but I never felt it inside the dome for I was always pointing downwind with the slit.

To put 16" scope away:

- Shutdown Sky X software.
- Shut off display
- Double push control knob to park the telescope.
- Power off telescope.
- Close dome.