

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Arrived at Deer Trail, CO site about 4:15 PM. Very clear overhead but thin clouds hanging over northern horizon. Light wind from NW. 69 degrees at 4:30 PM.

Sky is OK, Transparency is OK.

Venus 5:44 PM 19mm – Nice. Crescent shaped.



51 degrees. Sky overhead clear. Clouds along W->NW->N horizon. Very light wind from NW.

NGC 2129 6:40 PM 19mm – Easy to see. Basically circular in shape with brighter star to upper right of center of cluster. 20-25 stars of approx 4 magnitudes. Somewhat concentrated.

NGC 2266 6:49 PM 19mm – A brighter star at top with 2 dimmer ones then 4 much dimmer form a line that bounds the upper part of this. Very dim. 20 or so stars form a tight grouping, roughly circular cluster. Nice. Stands out in FOV.



NGC 2090 6:55 PM 19mm – Nice. Very dim. Seeing soft in south. See elongated oval, very uniformly lit with hare brighter central area. Goes from 11 – 5 o'clock. See 3 very faint stars off bottom edge in a little arc. Pretty faint. Best seen with AV.



NGC 1851 6:59 PM 19mm – Nice. Bright, small compact core dims quickly to a large circular halo of member stars. Very low along horizon yet member stars almost pop out.

7:00 PM - Seeing Good. Stars steady. 44 degrees.

M42 7:03 PM 19mm – With new baffle opposite eyepiece, it's the best I've seen it in a long time. Lots of contrast. 4 trapezium stars seen.

NGC 2301 7:09 PM 19mm – Nice. A chevron shaped cluster with brighter stars forming chevron. Chevron points at 2 o'clock. Other dimmer stars fills in behind chevron. 40-50 stars of many magnitudes with 1 star a bit redder right in center with rest very blue-white in color.

NGC 2798 7:22 PM
NGC 2799



19mm – Small, very dim, oval shaped with bit brighter central area. Then to upper right is a very dim, ghostly smudge of light (2799). Best seen with AV.

NGC 3104 7:33 PM



19mm – Very faint smudge of light with 2 very faint field stars on each end of it on halo glow. Uniformly lit. Left star brighter than right. Goes from 9-3 o'clock in FOV. Longer than wide halo glow.

NGC 2911 7:46 PM
NGC 2914



19mm – Nice. 2 galaxies split by a bright field star. Near each other in same FOV. Both very faint. Better seen with AV. Above field star and to right is 2911. Small, dim circular glow with hint of brighter central area. Below field star and to left and 2 times away is 2914. A bigger circular glow with hint of brighter central area. Going back for a second look, it stands out in FOV and is easy to spot. Details seen with AV.

7:52 PM. 32 degrees. Sky is OK. Seeing Good. Stars steady.

M93 8:11 PM

19mm – Nice, tight grouping of approx 30 blue-white stars of about 3 magnitudes. Nice.

M46 8:15 PM

19mm – Fills FOV completely with lots of bright, blue-white stars. Planetary nebula in cluster in lower part. 32mm shows it nicely also.

NGC 2539 8:20 PM

19mm – Nice. Small compact. 50 stars of 4 magnitudes with 4th being very faint. To lower left of a very bright field star. Roughly circular in shape.

Comet Lulin 8:25 PM

Nice in 10x50 binoculars. Nice tail seen.

NGC 2613 8:28 PM

19mm – A longer, slender sliver of light with larger, bit brighter core area. Goes from 8:30 – 2:30 o'clock. Core tapers into very dim halo arms. Pretty dim yet easy to see.

NGC 2451 8:33 PM

32mm – Overwhelms FOV at this power. 10-20 blue-white stars of 4 magnitudes with 1 off-white, brighter star in middle. Very loose. No concentration. But blue-white stars stands out in star poor field.

- NGC 2477 8:36 PM 32mm – Nice. Lots of fainter blue-white stars forms a tight circular shaped open cluster. To lower right at 45 degrees is a string of 8 stars that forms a nice line. 9mm fills FOV nicely. Cool object.
- NGC 1857 8:46 PM 19mm – Small, loose. 30-40 fainter stars of approx same magnitude are around a much brighter field star near center of cluster. 5 dimmer, yet much brighter than fainter stars also on stars of this cluster.
- B29 8:58 PM 32mm – A long vertical area void of stars in a star rich area. Very subtle in FOV.
- B26-8 9:02 PM 32mm – In a star rich field is this area, approx 3 FOV long going from 1 – 7 o'clock. See some stars in this void yet at boundary, star counts go up and you can make out the boundary between void and star field.
- UGC 5720 9:22 PM 19mm – Very small, tiny object. Has a bright core and hint of halo around it. Looks like an out of focus stars while other stars in FOV are in focus. Pretty dim though.

28 degrees. Cold light wind from SW. Seeing OK. Sky steady.

- UGC 3730 9:41 PM 19mm – WOW. This one is **very** faint. A very dim oval smudge of light with tiny star on lower end and just outside of faint glow. Goes from 1 – 7 o'clock in FOV. Small in size. Glow uniformly lit.
- NGC 3445 10:07 PM 19mm – Very small, dim, uniformly lit glow to lower left of a bright, blue-white field star. Maybe hint of a core seen but not sure. Could be circular to fat oval shaped.
- NGC 3448 10:11 PM 19mm – A tilted oval going from 2-8 o'clock. Small. Uniformly lit. Maybe hint of hare brighter core area. Its pretty dim yet easy to see.

30 degrees. Light breeze from SW. Sky OK. Stars good.

- NGC 3738 10:19 PM 19mm – Small, dim fat oval. Pretty uniformly lit. Easy to see. In same FOV as 3756.
- NGC 3756 10:19 PM 19mm – Above 3738 to left is a much larger, oval shaped, uniformly lit glow. In same FOV as 3738.

NGC 3656	10:28 PM	19mm – Small, uniformly lit circular glow. To lower left and very near is a brighter field star.
NGC 3690	10:33 PM	19mm – An oval glow, easy to see with tiny star-like nucleus off center and on lower part of halo glow. Goes from 2 – 8 o'clock. This one was neat.
NGC 4194	10:40 PM	19mm – Small, dim, round halo glow with much brighter star-like core seen in center of halo glow.
NGC 3769	10:45 PM	19mm – A linear shaped uniformly lit glow going from 11:30 – 5:30 o'clock in FOV. Easy to see. No central brightening of core seen.
NGC 3239	11:08 PM	19mm – A very dim, circular smudge of light very near and just below a brighter field star which is part of a triangle with 2 other stars.
UGC 5832	11:12 PM	19mm – A small, uniformly lit circular or fat oval galaxy. It is just below and to right of a dim field star. This is pretty dim overall but easy to spot in FOV.
NGC 3800 NGC 3799	11:28 PM	19mm – 3800 is larger, a linear oval. Uniformly lit. Goes from 9 – 4 o'clock. Then off upper left edge is a round, dim glow of 3799. Both are pretty faint. Maybe a hint of a brighter core region in both. Both pretty faint.
NGC 3664	11:45 PM	19mm – <u>Very</u> faint smudge of light.

Seeing fair. Transparency OK. Stars steady. 33 degrees.

NGC 5218 NGC 5216	12:15 AM	19mm – Both in same FOV. 5218 is more linear and 5216 is circular. Pretty uniformly lit and dim. 5218 is on right and 5216 is on left. Faint field star to right of 5218. Maybe something see at core of each. There is a hint of a brightening.
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It was a great night. Saturn with its edge on look was different. The comet was neat. The sky was good for a while then softened after it started to warm up a bit. Spent the night and drove home in the morning.