

January 25, 2003. Went to Bone Valley, 14 miles north of Briggsdale, CO. At sunset, the sky was threatening to be overcast, but a steady north wind cleared the sky. For the rest of the evening, the sky was very steady. The wind came and went. Arrived just as twilight was ending. Left about 10:30 PM.

Worked on the Messier and Deep Sky Binocular lists.

M42 Nice glow all over FOV. 3 stars seen in nebulosity, with top star being the trapezium.

M78 Small, faint, circular glow. Bright (maybe a star) at the top.

M1 Faint oval glow. There is a field star at the bottom of FOV with Saturn at the top.

M37 Uniform glow.

M36 Smallest of these 3 but the brightest.

M38 Largest. Easy to see stars. You can see member stars in al 3. Move from one OC to the other.

M35 Lots of stars seen. Large in FOV. Low surface brightness.

NGC 869 and 884 Easy to see both in FOV. Lots of stars seen in both clusters with many other field stars in the area.

Mel 25 Beehive cluster. Lots of bright blue-white stars. Need to pan binocs around the area to see all of it.

M79 Faint glow. Like out of focus star. Nestled between 2 stars that makes it look like the sword area of Orion.

M41 Dim. Circular. 6-8 brighter stars seen.

M44 Big in FOV. Lots of blue-white stars.

6:52P NGC 752 Large in FOV. Lots of stars seen. Low surface brightness. Linear in shape.

NGC 253 Small glow. 3-4 bright stars on top of glow.

NGC 663 Lots of stars seen. 5-10 members all of same magnitude. Irregular shaped.

7:07P Stock 2 Large. Fills FOV. Lots of stars all about the same brightness.

NGC 457 Small. Compact. 3-4 brighter stars bound bottom. Rest much fainter.

- 7:15P Cr 463 Way off of "w" of Cass. Small, faint glow with 1 bright star on bottom.
 Mark 6 and Mel 15 In same FOV. Started at Stock 2 and moved south to find these two. Mark 6 has 2 stars on top of a tiny glow. Mel 15 has 4-6 stars on top of a glow. Mel 15 is approx 4x bigger than Mark 6. Mel 15 is circular in shape. The stars on top of the glow are much brighter.
 Tr 3 Moved south a bit more to find 3-5 bright stars, compact over a faint glow.
 Mel 20 Lots of blue-white stars east of alpha star. Need to pan binocs to see all of it. Very loose association.
 Tr 2 Linear shaped. 1/2 way between Nu and double cluster. 3-5 stars on top of a glow.
 NGC 1342 Boxy glow. Bordered with brighter stars.
 NGC 1528 Boxy, dim but easy to see. Brighter stars sprinkled on top of a fainter glow.
 7:52P M67 Small, oval glow with member stars seen.
 M48 Easy to find in star poor area of sky. Nice in FOV>
 M50 Small. 5-6 stars on top of a glow.
 M47 6-10 bright stars. NW of M46. There seems to be a glow under these stars.
 M46 Faint, dim glow. Large in FOV. Member stars easy to see.
 8:09P M93 Small. Faint. W/AV, see member stars.
 8:43P NGC 2281 Small. Relatively brighter stars overlay a glow of stars behind them. Arrowhead shaped.
 NGC 2360 Small, faint glow. Tight association. w/AV, see speckling of stars.
 NGC 2539 Very faint glow just above and to right of bright field star. w/AV see member stars. Very small and compact.
 NGC 2527 Large in FOV, yet dim. Uniformly lit w/many member stars seen.
 NGC 2571 Small glow w/double star on top of it.

- NGC 1647 Large, loose, circular association of stars. Fill center of FOV nicely. Several magnitudes of blue-white stars seen.
- NGC 1746 Larger than 1647. Very loose association. Like oval in shape. Stars are all over the place. Several mags of blue-white stars.
- NGC 1807 and 1817 1817 on left. 1807 on right in FOV. Both relatively small. 07 is bigger. 17 has 2-3 brighter stars on top of fainter ones. 07 has 6-8 brighter stars on top of fainter ones. Both are in center of FOV but small.
- 9:22P NGC 1662 5-8 brighter stars on top of a faint glow.
- NGC 2169 Small, bright trapezium shaped (4 stars) on top of a glow.
- NGC 1981 4 bright blue-white stars to left of 4 a bit dimmer blue-white stars.
- NGC 2232 10 bright blue-white stars in a very loose association.
- 9:33P NGC 2343 Small, compact and dim. 2 brighter stars bound it at 10 o'clock and 2 more stars bound it at 5 o'clock.
- NGC 2301 String of bright stars with a dim glow near top (north) end of string.
- NGC 2264 10-15 blue-white stars around a brighter field star which is at the top or base of a downward shaped arrowhead.
- NGC 2251 Small, faint linear glow with 3-4 relatively brighter stars on top fo the glow.
- 9:48P NGC 2244 6 stars form a rectangle. All about same brightness. These are really bright blue-white stars. There are 3-4 more stars in the cluster that are a bit dimmer.