

Saturday night, April 13, 2002. Sterling Reservoir Star Party 2002. Last night was completely clouded over, and tonight the sky is clearing at sunset. There is a light breeze from the west at 8:00 PM.

Looked at Jupiter. Many bands present and the shadow of a moon. Venus is almost a full disk. Many local people visited the state park after dark. I showed them the Orion Nebula, M13 and M36. They all were very fascinated with the views. They left about 10:00 PM and then the wind kicked up from the west. The clouds overtook the sky by 11:30 PM. I put my scope in the back of the truck at Midnight and called it a weekend. I did get some viewing in on the Herschel objects.

9:54 PM NGC 2129

An open cluster nestled between two brighter stars. The rest of the members are a lot dimmer than these two stars. About 10 members seen. Very compact between the two stars. Just off the foot of the Gemini twins. 32mm gives the best view and the 19mm allows you to see the member stars easier.

9:58 PM NGC 2158

Right off of M35. 32mm it is a faint glow. With the 19mm its very and compact right off the edge of M35. W/ AV, you can see some member stars. But it is a very faint glow of all the stars here. Very small in the FOV.

10:05 PM NGC 1931

Started with M36, which is awesome as ever, then moved a bit to the east to find this cluster. 32Mm it was a faint glow. With 19mm, I am having trouble seeing a compact cluster. There are many stars here with the same brightness, but it is very open. Around one star on the eastern side there is a haze, a faint linear glow. I counter 10-11 stars in the FOV with the same brightness. This is a C/N, so I guess that this is what it is.

Looked at the comet Ikeya-Zhang. It is low under Cassiopeia. The nucleus is a bright glow, and can see the tail, but no detail seen in either part.

The wind is kicking up pretty good. 10:30 PM the clouds overtook Auriga. It was going to be a great night until this. :-)