Messier Binocular Certificate Observing Log

I went to Fox Park on Saturday, July 13th, 2002. The afternoon was overcast, but the evening cleared up great. The seeing was soft with forest fires depositing their smoke on the horizon. Sometime around midnight, while I was looking at the tail of Aquila and above Sag., clouds were forming and disappearing in this area. Also, note, when visiting Fox Park, take full winter gear always. You never know how cold it gets...how cold was it...I was shivering in my observing chair.

Used my binocular chair to observe the objects. This was harder than I thought. I used my 20x80. The heat from my face dewed up the oculars several times.

M75 A small, dim globular.

M3 Very bright and diffused. Using AV, you can see the nucleus is brighter with a diffused halo.

M53 Is a lot fainter than M3.

Crescent Nebula in Gary's 30". Nebulosity all over the place. He said you can see the whole egg tonight in a very star rich field.

NGC 4565 Very long and slender. See central buldge of galaxy. Can see the dust lane with more galaxy above it than below it. Faint hit of light below dust lane.

In Jim's scope, saw Pluto. It had moved from the night before from the bottom point of a diamond configuration to the left quite a bit to destroy the diamond configuration with 3 other stars.

The moon has just set. It is looking great. This was about 10:45 PM.

M101 Just a faint glow. Fairly big and easy to see, but still faint.

M5 Its very neat. Pretty big. Can see bright in the center and evenly dims out to the edge.

M107 It is just a faint glow. Uniform brightness.

Someone said it was 11:15 PM a bit ago.

M10 and M12 Almost in the same FOV. Have to move the binocs just a bit to see the other one. M12 is a bit dimmer than M10 and uniformly lit. M10 can see the center is bright and dims out into the halo.

M4 is easy to find. Its big and dim and uniformly lit.

M80 is a very bright, compact out of focus star.

M9 is a very small, uniformly lit fuzzy oof star.

M19 and M62. Both are dim. Fairly small with M62 just a hair brighter than M19.

M6 and M7. M6 is a bit smaller than M7. M7 is about ½ FOV. Bright blue white stars in both. Pretty open in nature.

M54 is bright and star like. But is oof wrt the other stars in the FOV.

M55 Uniformly lit and very large. It was easy to see and looked liked like a nebula.

M70 was a bit brighter with a star like nucleus and a bit of a halo.

M68 is very dim. Was difficult to see.

M28 and M22. M22 is big and maybe see member stars. Uniformly lit. M28 has a brighter nucleus and dims out quickly into the halo.

M8 and M20. Gaseous nebula with stars. Then move up a bit to M21, an open cluster of stars. Lots of blue–white stars in a star rich and gas righ field.

M13 is big. Uniformly lit and can see member stars.

M92 is very bright and small. The nucleus is much brighter than the halo.

Cannot find M57.

M56 is dim and small. W/AV, can see it is an oof star.

Alberio looked cool in the binocs.

M27 is easy to see. Uniformly lit and fairly large.

M71 is very faint. Very dim and small.

M29 is very small cluster next to the central star of Cygnus.

M39 is a very nice OC. Lots of blue–white stars.

M11 is a very small, compact cluster.

M23 was very tight OC.

M24,

M16, M17 is a nice nebulosity.

M25

M51 Two nice eyes and can see the extended nebulosity.

Moved down to M63. Long, cigar shaped object with a star at the bottom of it.

M94 and used two bright stars of Canes. This is a small smudge.

M15 is a very bright star–like fuzzy object.

M2 is small, tight and bright.

M72 is very faint. Almost unable to see it.

M30 is a very small, faint smudge next to a star.

M103 is a very small, compact OC.

M34 is a very small, compact OC.

M33 is a very large, uniformly lit oval smudge. Easy to see.

M31 is linear across the FOV. Bright central buldge. No dust lanes seen.

M110 is the bright nebulosity above M31.

It was about 1:30 AM when I finished.