

July 21, 2001. Went to Brian Kimball's observatory, near Crystal lakes, CO. It is at an elevation of about 8600 feet. I was a bit skeptical at how much I could see with all the trees, but I found out that I saw everything I wanted to, with a bit of planning. used the digital setting circles to place the telescope in the right part of the sky all evening. This seemed to work well. Used my new laser collimator to align my scope tonight.

Arrived at about 5:30PM with broken clouds. As I setup, the clouds were rapidly disappearing. BUT...by sunset, it was totally overcast. By 10:30 PM there were some large rain drops, so I cover all my stuff and went to bed for a nap. Woke up about 12:30 AM. All clear in the W and SW. But 1:00 AM, the clouds had moved off to the east and the sky was steady, clear and very transparent.

NGC 6755 1:08 A Two open clusters side by side in Aquila. 6755 has the larger number of members. 32mm easy to see both in the same FOV. 6755 has several members (20-30) of same brightness. Then a set of stars with a second level of brightness. It's a loose association in a star rich field. Very blue-white stars. 6755 fills FOV of 32 mm EP.

NGC 6756 1:10A This is a bit to the north of 6755. A faint glow. Very small in FOV of 32 mm. 19mm can makeout 8 member stars on the southern edge of the glow. I first thought this was a globular cluster. The 8 members just pop into view with AV. Now put 32mm back in, can see 2-3 of the brighter stars of the 8 on the southern edge of glow.

Just saw a meteor shoot thru the EP. Very fast. COOL. There is a slight breeze from the NW. Milky Way is directly overhead.

NGC 6781 1:45A A very faint PL. W/ 19mm it is uniformly lit. With OIII, it knocked all the field stars out. Can see it is oval in shape and uniformly glow. Very faint. This is in a very star rich field..

NGC 6802 1:53A A very faint open cluster in Vul. 32mm it is just a smudge of light located near a couple of star that are to the east of this. Very small, oval in shape. W/ AV. can see a couple of the member stars on the N side. 19mm, easier to see member stars. Contains about 20 stars of equal brightness that seem to have a rectangular shape. With AV, then direct vision, can easily see these member stars.

NGC 6818 2:05A Very faint PL. I found it because it was a out of focus star that I couldn't focus on. 32mm, and OIII it stands right out. It is small, oval in shape with uniform brightness. 19mm makes it bigger and easier to see. It is sitting inside a triangle of 3 very faint stars. Definately oval in shape with a hit of a blue-green color. Studying this object, there is a hint of a ring structure present. The sky get steady and the ring structure appear, but most of the time it is uniformly lit.

Took a break and used my binocs to look at all the sky. Look at Alberio with the scope. Awesome colors. Saw bright meteor from Aquila to Sag. that left a smoke trail. Tried to see the central star in the ring nebula. 19mm gives a nice view. The middle of the ring dimmed out a lot, but never saw the star wink in.

NGC 6830 2:50A An open cluster. It's a small cluster. Can see about 12-15 stars. It is in a star rich area, but this is a higher density of stars all together. There are 2 levels of brightness in this cluster.

NGC 6826 3:11A Called the Blinking Nebula. It is a PL and this thing is really cool. 32mm, it has a star like nucleus. Looking directly at it, the PL almost disappears. Its as if it is embedded in a nebula. But if you look off it w/AV, you can see a very circular glow, but the central star just sticks right out. 19mm gives the best view. A meteor just shot right over the PL in the EP. Use the OIII and can easily see all the PL. There is a double star that if you put the PL at one edge of the FOV, the double is just outside the opposite edge. This is one of the neatest things I have ever seen.

NGC 6823 3:19A An OC embedded in a nebulosity. I am having trouble seeing this nebulosity. 19mm it is in the center of FOV nicely. Lots of blue-white stars. 32mm, easy to see the grouping. Using the UHC filter, there is a contrast in this area where the cluster is that is a bit brighter than if I slew the telescope a bit and the sky darkens in the FOV here. The Finder Card illustration places the cluster in the right location of the lighter to darker contrasting area.

NGC 6885 3:29A A pretty bright OC. 32mm, centered around a bright star that is on the northern side of the cluster. Fairly circular in shape. About 12-15 stars of same, blue-white color and mag. The star on the N side is about 3x brighter than the members stars of the cluster.

NGC 6889 3:39A A 2nd OC with 6885 to the W. This is a lot more loose assoc. than 6885. This cluster is bounded on the S by 3 brighter stars and to the W by 1 brighter star than the members stars brightness.

NGC 6905 3:48A A very faint PL. Found it by putting the OIII in the back of 19mm and panning the area for this object. It is a dim, uniformly lit circle. Removed filter, a faint glow nestled between 2 stars. The star on the left is about 3x as bright as the one on the right. 32mm can see the very faint glow but cannot make out any detail.

NGC 7006 3:53A A very dim globular cluster that is easy to spot. 19mm w/AV, can see that the nucleus is a bit brighter than the halo. But if you look directly at it, it appears to be uniformly lit. Tried to let it drift thru FOV several times to see if I could spot an member stars. Couldn't see any though.

- NGC 6910 4:00A 32mm the OC fills the FOV. Can put gamma Cygni at one edge of FOV and the cluster is off the opposite edge. Lots of blue-white stars. There is 2 levels of magnitude in this cluster. The dimmer stars are not quite $\frac{1}{2}$ as bright. This is in a star rich field. I am assuming the brighter stars are the cluster stars.
- NGC 6834 4:04A Very faint OC. It has 5 brighter stars on the eastern side all in a line and 4 are evenly spaced. It is small and compact. Catches your eye at 32mm because of the faint glow. You can see the faint, member stars. they are easy to see but are hard to count.
- NGC 6866 4:07A Little OC in Cygnus. This is neat. It catches your eye bcs it is in a star rich field, but then you slew to it and it is a little grouping of stars in 32mm. They are dim little gems that are easily seen. It has two groupings of stars that gives it a tack (nail) shape, with one grouping (12-15 stars of same mag) making the head of the tack, and another group of 8 (of same mag as head stars) stars below it making the nail part.
- NGC7008 4:17A Not going to check this one off list yet. Morning twilight is well in progress, washing out the contrast of this PL. 19mm, and OIII (and even visually), it may have an hour glass shape for it appears to be brighter on the W side. There are 2 field stars on the E side bounding this PL. There also appear to be 3 stars embedded in the PL itself. I will look at this again when the sky is darker.

Used Brian's scope to look at Saturn, Jupiter and Venus. Saturn has a nice ring presentation. In my scope, I saw bands on the planet surface and Casini's division easily. Brian's scope didn't show this detail. Jupiter had a field star at about 4'oclock position, right near the planet disk. It had just occulted this star in the very recent past. Venus was a $\frac{1}{2}$ gibbous shape.