

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Arrived about 1 PM at Fox Park, WY site for the 2008 Weekend Under the Stars. This was my first time in four years to visit this event. I was the second person on the second field, and picked a campsite that gave me a great command of the southern sky.

At 7:33 PM, sky is clear. The brisk wind from the afternoon is gone. 65 degrees. Getting dark at 8:30 PM with a temperature of 52 degrees. No wind. Sky completely clear. Stars steady. Seeing is incredible.

M56	9:33 PM	19mm. Small round globular with many member stars seen. Pretty uniformly lit. No noticeable central brightening in eyepiece.
NGC 6751	9:42 PM	19mm. Small dim oval. Just a ghostly glow without filters. w/O3, stands out. See central star. UHC shows it nicely also. 9mm Shows it nicely. Almost circular but a bit oval on a 1 - 7 o'clock line. Uniformly lit. Maybe see central star once in a while. 2 very faint field stars near it to 3 and 8 o'clock side.
IC 1295	9:55 PM	19mm. Larger circular uniformly lit glow in O3. UHC doesn't show it as well as O3. w/o any filter, it is barely there. Just a hint of it. Nice.
B50	10:01 PM	32mm. Fills FOV nicely. In a very star rich area is this noticeable void of stars. To the right is a 1/2 circle of stars. 3-5 stars seen in this void. Basically linear and fat on a 11 - 5 o'clock line.
B86	10:08 PM	19mm. A dark "V" shaped void with 4 bright stars bounding it on left and couple on right. NGC 6520 open cluster is a bit to the right of it. 3 very faint field stars seen on void.
NGC 6520	10:08 PM	19mm. Small. Fairly compact. 3 brighter stars on top of 20+ fairly faint stars. Mixture of bright and faint stars.
B90	10:17 PM	19mm. A dark, irregular patch bounded by 4 field stars of same brightness. Not quite a square configuration. It's a lopsided diamond. It's a noticeable void in a star rich area. Small in size.
NGC 6207	10:21 PM	18" f/4.5 - 250x. To lower right of M13 is a long sliver of light with brighter nucleus. Easy to see in FOV with part of M13 in same FOV.

M6	10:24 PM	32mm. Nicely fills FOV. Lots of stars seen in roughly a circular pattern. 1 to lower right much brighter than others. Stars of several magnitudes.
M14	10:34 PM	19mm. Dimmer, uniformly lit circular glow with member stars seen.
M10	10:38 PM	19mm. Nice. Brighter globular. Sort of diffused with hare brighter core and lots of member stars seen. 9mm shows it nicely also.
M12	10:53 PM	19mm. Dimmer than M10 with hare brighter core. Bit dispersed. 3 bright field stars bounds it. 1 on right and 2 on bottom. Member stars easily seen.
M2-9 PK 10+18.2	11:30 PM	19mm. See it barely. Very dim. Bit of an out of focus star. 9mm shows it as a very dim elongated glow. Goes from 1 - 7 o'clock line in FOV. In 18" f/4.5 250x, its easier to see but in same spot as I saw it in my scope and is still very dim. Linear and not quite vertical in FOV.
M92	12:00 AM	19mm. Small, compact, bright. Brighter core area and lots of member stars seen. 9mm view is just awesome.
NGC 6741	12:13 AM	19mm. Nice. See it well w/O3 and a little less w/UHC. Nice bright with hint of halo abound it. Can barely see this w/o filters. 9mm. Nice. See it's a bit oval in shape. Central star seen in center of halo glow once in a while.

40 degrees now. No wind. Sky incredible.

NGC 6778	12:23 AM	19mm. Small, round dim uniformly lit glow. Easy to see w/o filters and responds well to O3 and UHC. 9mm w/O3 makes it bigger and see its circular in shape but doesn't add much more.
NGC 6790	12:31 AM	19mm. Stellar PN. Found it with O3 blinking. 9mm shows it as a circular out of focus star with O3. Reveals it nicely at this power.
Sh 2-71 PK 36-1.1	12:39 AM	19mm. <u>Very</u> faint circular glow seen with faint star right in the center of the circular glow. Bit larger than what I've been seeing. My eye spotted it as I moved into the FOV where it was. O3 and UHC made it disappear.

NGC 6807	12:55 AM	19mm. Stellar. Responds well to O3. 9mm with O3 shows it as an out of focus star which reveals it.
NGC 6804	1:00 AM	19mm. Small, dim uniformly lit circular glow. Responds well to O3 and not so much to UHC. No central star seen but dim field star just below it and outside of circular glow.
NGC 6803	1:06 AM	19mm. Shows bright stellar PN that responds well to O3. 9mm shows blue-green colored out of focus star that responds well to O3. Nice.
PK 45-2.1	1:13 AM	9mm shows it the best. Bright bluish central star with tiny bit of halo around it. Responds well to O3 and UHC filters. 19mm shows a stellar PN.
NGC 6781	1:22 AM	19mm. Larger, circular dim, uniformly lit glow. No central star seen. Easy to see without filters and responds well to O3 and not so much to UHC.
B142 B143	1:27 AM	32mm. B143 forms a "U" with prongs going up and rhs fatter than lhs. Not many stars on this void in star rich field. Its 3/4 FOV high and fills FOV nicely. B142 is to the right and 1/2 FOV away. It too is 3/4 FOV high and is fatter at top than at bottom. Very bright field star on bottom of B142. Very few field stars on either void and both are obvious.
M71	1:35 AM	19mm. Small, dim, tight grouping of stars in a very star rich field.
M27	1:43 AM	19mm. Nice bright bowtie. Bright with nebulosity filling in an oval shape. O3 shows it the best. Nice. Vertical oval like the shape of an eye. 9mm shows it nicely with central star just peeking through center of bowtie glow. 2 very faint field stars seen also on glow.
NGC 6886	1:56 AM	19mm. Shows a stellar, blue colored PN. Responds well to O3. 9mm shows tiny out of focus star and is best seen with O3 filter.
NGC 6905	2:09 AM	19mm. Small, dim, round uniformly lit glow. No central star seen. Sits between 2 field stars, lhs one brighter than rhs one. 9mm shows it the same, but bigger. Responds well to O3 and UHC filters.

IC 4997	2:25 AM	19mm and 9mm. Stellar. Good response to O3 and UHC. Shows the same view in each eyepiece.
NGC 6879	2:30 AM	19mm. Shows a stellar PN. Good response to O3. 9mm. With O3, shows an out of focus star. No central star seen.
NGC 6891	2:39 AM	19mm. Tiny round to oval uniformly lit PN. Blue-green in color. Responds well to O3 and UHC. 9mm didn't show it any better.

33 degrees now. Little dew setting in. Sky still great.

Sh 2-216	3:01 AM	19mm. Am on the star field where it is supposed to be. Pan around w/o filters and see hints of knots of contrast. Its here and there but not too much. But there is something there in the FOV.
Min 1-92	3:39 AM	9mm. Pretty stellar yet not a pinpoint for a star. Responds well to O3.
JrEn1	4:07 AM	Tried to find PK 164+31.1. Found the correct star field but nothing is there. Drew the star field.

It was a great night. Looked at many other favorites in my scope and neighboring scopes. The sky was as good as I have ever had it and the night was great.