

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

I arrived at the Denver Club's Dark Sky Site east of Deer Trail, CO about 6 PM. It was clear and looked to be an outstanding night. It has been a cloudy/rainy pattern for the last week and a half and this was the first night the weather was predicted to be good.

I setup the 17.5" and my 8" telescopes, my table and laptop...All ready for a night of observing.

Mike Roos arrived about 7:15 PM. This was his first time there.

The Clear Sky Clock showed transparency was grey from 9 to 11 PM. Mike and I setup chairs on the 17.5" walkway. I was facing west. I noticed dark clouds gathering along the western horizon with some lightening. Initially it looked to be moving north. It quickly overtook the entire sky. I decided to put my telescope and equipment back in my car and put the 17.5" back in the shed, just in case it started to rain. The NWS indicated there was to be a good chance of rain from 7 to 11 PM. The NWS forecast was right.

While sitting there, we felt a few drops hit us. We decided to move into the warming hut. That is when the rain let loose and it rained for quite a while. It quit raining sometime after 10 PM. By 11 PM, the sky was clearing off nicely from the NW to the SE.

I got the 17.5" back out, aligned it and we made our first observation of the night at 11:27 PM. The seeing and transparency was surprisingly good.

We used Mike's 13mm Ethos in the 17.5" f/4.5 scope all night. Mike and I alternated objects on our respective lists, all night. Looked at 2 of mine and then 2 of his. That worked out nice.

Seeing and transparency good.

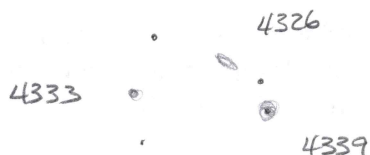
NGC 5352 11:27 PM 13mm – A small, roundish, dim glow with larger, brighter core. This galaxy is at the end of a chain of 3 stars that were a triangle and not an arc.

NGC 5401 11:32 PM 13mm – A small, very faint edge-on. 3:1 in size. Has a tiny, brighter stellar core and a very faint field star on the lower part of the halo glow. Both core and star easy to see.

NGC 4365 11:49 PM 13mm – Brighter. Round. Has bright core.
NGC 4370 Small, very faint oval. Uniformly lit.
NGC 4366 An extremely faint, round, smudge of light.

Seeing and Transparency good.

NGC 4342	11:59 PM	13mm – Brighter. Small. Very faint.
NGC 4343		
IC 3267		
NGC 4341		All of above 4 galaxies are very close and form a rhombus.
IC 3259		Away from above 4. An <u>extremely faint</u> ghostly glow.
NGC 5730	12:11 AM	13mm – An <u>extremely faint</u> , uniformly lit, 4:1 thin glow.
NGC 5731		Then below N5730 and almost parallel to it is a bit brighter, smaller, <u>very faint</u> , 3:1 thin, uniformly lit glow.
NGC 5616	12:16 AM	13mm – A <u>very faint</u> linear glow. 4:1. Has hint of a hare brighter, larger core area.
PGC 214261		An <u>extremely faint</u> , tiny linear smudge of light glow.
NGC 4326	12:23 AM	13mm – <u>Very faint</u> , uniformly lit oval glow.
NGC 4339		Dim, roundish halo glow with a brighter core area.
NGC 4333		Extremely faint, uniformly lit very small oval.



NGC 4325	12:27 AM	13mm – A small round, <u>extremely faint</u> , uniformly lit glow.
NGC 4320		To left and away from N4325 is an <u>extremely faint</u> , ghostly glow. Jiggled the scope to help see it and then my eye locks on it. It is a fat oval in shape.
NGC 5305	12:36 AM	13mm – To upper left of a bright field star and near is an extremely faint, small, fat oval with hare brighter core area.
NGC 5233	12:39 AM	13mm – A small, very faint, 3:1 tilted oval. Has a bit brighter complex core area. There are brighter spots in center of halo glow.

Seeing Trans Good. Slight breeze from SW. Temperature is not too bad. I am all layered up with tennis shoes on.

NGC 4385	12:52 AM	13mm – A medium sized, dim, round glow with larger, bit brighter core area.
NGC 4378	12:53 AM	13mm – A small, bright, larger core surrounded by dim halo. It is a fat oval.

NGC 5399 12:56 AM 13mm – An extremely faint, thin linear (3:1) glow. Has tiny, extremely faint stellar core seen once in a while on the halo glow.

The seeing and transparency is very good. I thought I was done looking at my H2500 relook galaxies because the rest were magnitudes 14.8 thru 15.1. I didn't think the sky would show me that.

I was going to use my 8" for the rest of the night to look at solar neighborhood stars. One of the mirror alignment screws fell out the back and the laser collimator was hitting the side of the tube. I put my 8" back in the car and will fix it when I get home.

Mike went into the warming hut for a break and to warm up. I took advantage and tried to find the rest of my H2500 galaxies.

NGC 5902 1:24 AM 13mm – A very faint, round, very small glow. Has bit brighter core area.

NGC 5821 1:33 AM 13mm – An extremely faint, thin linear (2:1) uniformly lit glow.

NGC 5820 Above and near N5821 is a brighter tilted oval with larger, bright core.

NGC 5265 1:37 AM 13mm – An extremely faint, small, thin, 2:1 linear glow. Has a very faint field star on lower part of the halo glow.

NGC 5403 1:39 AM 13mm – An extremely faint, small, uniformly lit, 3:1 linear glow.

PGC 49824 A very small, thin, 2:1. Extremely faint and uniformly lit. It is near and perpendicular to N5403. Pretty cool.

5403.



NGC 5100 1:46 AM 13mm – A very small, extremely faint, uniformly lit oval smudge of light. To upper left of field star and very near it.

NGC 5096 1:53 AM 13mm – A very small, fat oval. Extremely faint. Uniformly lit. Between 2 field stars and a bit to the left of them.

NGC 5098A Above top field star and near is this very small, 2:1 linear oval. Extremely faint. Uniformly lit.

5098A

5096

Seeing and Transparency very good. This is the last of my H2500 relook galaxies. These were very faint, yet easy to see.

NGC 4380	1:58 AM	13mm – A large, fat oval. Uniformly lit, <u>very faint</u> .
NGC 4670 NGC 4673	2:03 AM	13mm – A bright, medium sized galaxy. Near, above and to left of N4670 is a dimmer oval glow. Smaller. Very dim. Has hare brighter tiny core.
NGC 4725 NGC 4712	2:13 AM	13mm – Very large, bright, tilted oval. Small. Very faint. Medium sized circular, uniformly lit glow.
NGC 4747	2:16 AM	13mm – A large, long, fat oval. Very faint. Uniformly lit.
NGC 4789	2:21 AM	13mm – A dim fat oval that is uniformly lit. To upper left and almost touching a brighter field star.

The night turned out better than the Clear Sky Clock and National Weather Service forecasts indicated. I was able to finish my 13 remaining H2500 Relook galaxies. It was disappointing my 8” needs to be repaired and was unusable.

At 2 AM, I used my star clock to try to tell the time of night. I noticed that if I aligned the star clock with Cassiopeia aligned with the actual constellation, the star clock would have been much closer to the actual time of 2 AM than when I aligned it on the bowl stars of the Big Dipper. I felt the bowl stars were easier to align the clock with. Aligning with the bowl stars, the time on the star close read almost 3 am. I was tired and saw the hour difference in real time and star clock time and that accounted for hour Daylight Savings time. The next day, I realized the hour was in the wrong direction. If I had realized that at 2 AM, I would have realigned the star clock on Cassiopeia for the near 1 AM time of night reading.

I slept sitting up in my car and found I don’t like sleeping like that. My feet were cold and I should have put my boots on to keep them warm during the many times I woke up.

Mike knocked on my window at 6:30 AM and wanted to go to McDonalds’s in Bennett for breakfast. I got to work at 8:30 AM. Shaved and brushed my teeth in the bathroom and worked a full day on just about 4 hours of sleep.