

Thursday, December 21, 2023

At LTO using the 18" and the 22mm eyepiece. I chose this eyepiece because the double stars I am planning on looking at are very close in separation. This magnification helped split them into two stars.

I am hosting a group tonight at 7 PM. I thought I'd look at double stars before they arrive.

High, thin clouds at 4:15 PM. 58 degrees.

After sunset, it is 51 degrees and still high cirrus clouds persist.

Seeing and Transparency good at sunset. Clear. Cool. Calm.

HJ 301	5:06 PM	295x – A (orange), B (<u>very faint</u>). Both very close together.
STT 388	5:08 PM	295x – A, B close and both reddish in color. C fainter and a bit away.
STF 2665	5:11 PM	295x - A (orange), B (faint). Both very close together.
STF 2655	5:12 PM	295x – A, B (both white), C.
STF 2455	5:15 PM	295x – A (yellow), B.
STF 2457	5:17 PM	295x - A (yellow), B.
STF 2540	5:19 PM	295x – A, B.
STF 2804	5:21 PM	295x – A, B both orange and close. C (extremely faint).
STF 2721	5:23 PM	295x – A (orange), B (extremely faint). Both <u>very close</u> together.
STF 2786	5:24 PM	295x – A, B. Both white and very close together.
STF 2718	5:26 PM	295x - A, B both white. C (reddish).
STF 2586	5:29 PM	295x – A, B elongated a tiny bit. C.
BU 172	5:31 PM	295x – A (cream), C, D, E.
STF 2908	5:33 PM	295x – A (red), B. Both close together.
STF 2857	5:34 PM	295x – A, B.

STF 2958 5:38 PM 295x – A, B (faint). Very close together.

STF 2903 5:45 PM 295x – A (red), B (white). Both very close together.

HIP 113311 was in Pegasus and SAO 20035 was in Cepheus. When the telescope slewed to the SAO stars, it stopped but the dome kept rotating and never stopped. So I waited for the slit to pass in front of the telescope again and I saw SAO 20035 and recorded it.

The Abort and Disconnect buttons for the dome had no effect. I tried to slew to a new target and the telescope didn't move and the dome kept revolving.

Called Bryan Keil and he didn't know what to do. Finally got it to stop by turning the power off to the dome. With the power back on, the dome was still until I hit one of the move buttons. Then it revolved again and didn't stop.

The silver lining for the group was that the 24" is working and we used that scope the rest of the night. It is good to know this scope is fixed. I will use this scope from now on. It is a superior scope to the 18".

When I left the observatory, it was 43 degrees. The sky still showed the thin cirrus because only the brighter stars were seen.

Tonight, I had one of the best views of Jupiter I've seen in a long time. Lots of red bands seen and a lot of detail in the upper thick band was seen. The GRS was not visible.