Sunday March 3, 2024

I left Colorado on Saturday and spent the night in Amarillo, TX.

On Sunday, I drove to the WalMart in Childress to get breakfast, lunch and dinner frozen meals. I arrived at 3RF about noon.

Gary Carter, Mike Roos and Ed Flashpoler will be here also and arrived well after I got here.

I used my quadrant and Astrolabe to record a few Astronomy Before the Telescope stars in the western sky before using the telescope with Mike.

Also using the 20" tonight. Seeing and transparency good.

M41	7:40 PM	17mm – Testing alignment of Sky Commander. Centered. Nice.

I used my quadrant and Astrolabe to record a few Astronomy Before the Telescope stars in the western sky. I also recorded the position of Mintaka to record its movement in an hour.

Gamma Cae	7:59 PM	17mm – A, B very close. Both orange and bright. To lower left is C, a bit dimmer star.
NGC 2243	8:02 PM	13mm – 5 very faint stars seen. With AV, see many more. Very small and compact open cluster.
NGC 2260	8:05 PM	13mm – 50+ brighter stars. Loose cluster. Almost fills FOV.
NGC 2270	8:11 PM	42mm – 20+ stars in 2 lines that for a curved lined X with brighter star in center. Fills center of FOV.
Eta Ori	8:14 PM	42mm – A, B extremely close and yellow. B is a bit fainter than A. C is white.
42 Ori	8:21 PM	13mm – Bright, elongated star.
45 Ori	8:32 PM	13mm – A bright, B faint, C very faint.
NGC 2267	8:37 PM	13mm – A faint, tiny oval glow. Maybe a hint of a stellar core.
NGC 2610	8:49 PM	13mm – A very small, round white planetary nebulae.

NGC 2207 IC 2163	8:51 PM	13mm – I 2163 is a fat, extremely faint, uniformly lit oval. N2207 is a linear, 2:1 shaped glow with 1 star in center of glow and another below on glow.
NGC 2271	8:56 PM	13mm – A small, roundish, very faint glow with hint of a stellar core.
NGC 2783	9:05 PM	13mm – A very small, very faint glow above 2 bright field stars. Can see 2 stellar cores on glow going 2-8 o'clock that are extremely close. These are the A and B components seen with AV.

I used my quadrant and Astrolabe to record a few Astronomy Before the Telescope stars that were transiting during this break.

NGC 2309	10:05 PM	13mm – An upside-down triangle shaped open cluster with 10 faint stars and a few more extremely faint starts making a glow inside the triangle. The triangle points at 4 o'clock.
NGC 2306	10:10 PM	13mm – 7 faint stars and 2-3 extremely faint stars make up this loose, small open cluster. Looks like a tiny Leo constellation.
NGC 2312	10:17 PM	13mm – 18+ stars in a boxy shaped, loose open cluster with 4-5 magnitudes of the stars seen.

I used my quadrant and Astrolabe to record a few more Astronomy Before the Telescope stars that were transiting during this break.

NGC 3018 NGC 3023	10:33 PM	17mm – Above and to upper left of a bright field stars is this tiny oval that is uniformly lit and faint. To upper right and near is N3023, a larger, fat oval that is a uniformly lit glow.

Seeing and transparency is good.

Mike Roos continued to use the 20".

I finished this evening by using my quadrant and Astrolabe to record a few more Astronomy Before the Telescope stars in UMa and UMi. Captured the movement of Capella in an hour also.

After this, I put all my equipment in the roll-off shed and went to bed.

Monday March 4, 2024

I spent the early part of the evening getting a hands-on tutorial of Gary Carter's SeeStar S50 imaging system. Very fascinating device. He spent his time at 3RF imaging in the darker skies.

About 11:30, I walked down to where Mike Roos was observing with the 20". I had a couple of targets on my logbook from last night that we looked at. Mike was looking a Bambury 600 targets.

Seeing and transparency good but deteriorating quickly.

NGC 2313	11:46 PM	13mm – A halo glow around a bright field star.
NGC 2486 NGC 2487	12:07 AM	17mm – Below a brighter field star is this very small, very faint oval glow with hare brighter core area. To the left and away is N2487, a very faint, fat oval glow with tiny, hare brighter stellar core.

I was very tired, so I headed back to see Gary and Ed. Ed was taking pictures thru his 6" astrograph that he bought from John Wagoner, with a DSLR camera.

I noticed I was having an A-Fib attack. I decided to take a shower and lay down, which usually makes it subside. It did die down a bit, but I fell asleep with my heart beating irregular. It may be the lack of sleep that caused this episode. It must have been coming on when I walked down to the 20" because I wasn't into observing more objects with Mike.

The sky must have gone bad because Gary and Ed were finished for the night and came into the room shortly after I laid down.

Tuesday March 5, 2024

Using the 20" with Mike Roos tonight. The sky was clearing at sunset. Once we started to observe, the seeing and transparency were good.

R Lep	7:40 PM	13mm – Deep red star.
W Ori	7:45 PM	13mm – Brighter red star.
BL Ori	7:48 PM	13mm – Bright orange star.
NP Pup	7:53 PM	13mm – Bright red star.
NGC 2380	7:56 PM	13mm – A small, dim tilted oval with bright stellar core.
NGC 2243	7:59 PM	13mm – A small, round glow. With AV, see 4-5 extremely faint stars and rest are unseen.
Y Hya	8:02 PM	13mm – Bright red star.
PGC 28313	8:05 PM	13mm – A very small, extremely faint galaxy with tiny, stellar core.
Gamma Vel	8:13 PM	13mm – A bright, B bit dimmer, both pale white. C and D easy to see.
Kappa ~~Pup~~ Vel	8:18 PM	13mm – 2 bright white stars, both of equal magnitude.
~~β~~ Beta Mon	8:26 PM	13mm – A, B, C all bright, blue-white stars. B and C very close.
Pal 2	8:35 PM	13mm – 4 very faint stars on top of a hint of a glow.
IC 2375 IC 2377 IC 2379	8:42 PM	13mm – 3 extremely faint glows. I2375 is a linear, 2:1 glow. I 2377 and I2379 both roundish. All uniformly lit. Seen with AV.

Seeing and Transparency very good.

NGC 2316	8:53 PM	13mm – A small, dim oval glow of an emission nebulae.
NGC 2645	8:58 PM	13mm – 6 brighter starts and several (8-10) fainter stars around these brighter stars. It is a small and compact open cluster.

Waterloo 6	9:02 PM	13mm – 3 brighter and 8-10 dimmer stars form this small, compact open cluster.
Delta Vel	9:06 PM	13mm – A bright yellow star.
NGC 2660	9:09 PM	13mm – A round, compact glow. See member stars sprinkled on glow. It is between 2 field stars.
NGC 2670	9:13 PM	13mm – 13 faint and 5 even fainter stars forms a plus sign with 2 lines of stars. A few more stars are sprinkled about. Small in size.

NGC 2851	9:26 PM	13mm – A very small, very faint glow. Hard to tell shape. Has hare brighter core area on glow.

Seeing and transparency good.

Tr 10	9:41 PM	13mm – 8 bright stars, 2 bit brighter, and 15 dimmer stars form a toadstool shape. Nice one.
K 2-15 K2-15 PK 263+0.1	9:51 PM	13mm – Nailed star field. A small, ghostly round glow. If we had an OIII filter, might have seen it better.
Pal 3	10:07 PM	13mm – An extremely faint, small, round ghostly glow. Nailed star field.
PGC 25886	10:13 PM	13mm – A very faint, uniformly lit, fat oval glow. Small. With brighter field star on lower part of glow.
IC 591	10:33 PM	13mm – A very small oval, uniformly lit glow. Regulus lights up the haze in the sky in this area. Was looking for Leo 1. Never found it.
NGC 2671	10:48 PM	13mm – 7-8 brighter and 10-15 dimmer stars and a nice glow underneath these dimmer stars. Roundish in shape. Fills center of FOV.
CR 197	10:51 PM	13mm – 15 brighter and several dimmer stars forms a FOV wide, thin box shaped on left hand side and comes to a point on the right hand side.
CR 205	10:55 PM	13mm – Small and loose. 4 bright stars on right hand side and 2 even brighter by themselves on left hand side. 5-7 fainter stars on right hand side with the 4 bright stars.

Bochum 7	11:00 PM	13mm – 50 stars of 3-4 magnitudes fills FOV. Its shape is taller than wide. Easy to spot because of the increased star density.

The last few objects were very low above the horizon. The 20” was almost horizontal. The seeing and transparency was good this low. The stars were not that bloated as has been seen before.

There is a brisk wind from NE now. With the A-Fib episode from the night before, and the drive home tomorrow, I called it a night. I left Mike Roos observing with the 20” and went to bed.

Gary and Ed were still imaging when I got to the cabin #4 we shared. I showered and was in bed when they came in later. The total cost for 4 nights in the cabin cost me $91.35. We got a discount because Gary hosted a group of astro imagers tonight before it got dark. They setup their cameras to capture star trails with the 15” dome in the foreground.

It was nice to hang out with Gary for a few nights. We went to the Rusty Spur for a 16 oz ribeye steak on Monday night, which was delicious.

On the way down, I drove to Amarillo, TX on Saturday March 2. I had a steak at the Big Texan that was not as good as the Rusty Spur’s steak.

I drove all the way home on Wednesday, March 6 and was home around 7 pm.