

Okie-Tex, 2002

Monday September 30, 2002

It was windy all day. Clouds moving to the east as sun set. By 9:30 PM, wind still enough to cause a problem. I decided to try to see what I could see and was amazed that even as the scope bounced, I was able to see much detail in the objects I was looking at.

The new deadman for the azimuth axis for the Sky Commander is working great. But it still binds a bit. Slewed from Altair to M13 and it hit right on.

Unless otherwise stated, all observations were made with the 19mm EP (133x).

9:28 PM NGC 7293 32mm-Uniform glow w/3-5 stars in the glow. O3 shows elongated oval structure w/left side a fat ring with slightly dimmer center. DSF shows stars better and still see the faint ring.
19mm-almost fills FOV. Easier to see than above. DSF shows uniformly lit-slight ring structure seen. O3 not as good of a view as the 32mm-slight ring seen.

While over at Joe's tent, the wind blew the ladder onto the back of my scope and broke off the ear of the 1/2" plywood wing used to hold dust cover on. I will need to replace this.

9:58 PM NGC 7686 Put red star at bottom of FOV of 32mm. Boxy in nature w/long axis of box above red star. 2-3 magnitudes of stars seen. Fills center of FOV nicely. 20+ stars.

10:11 PM NGC 1023 19mm-Small in FOV-bright with diffused halo. Halo is elliptical, long and extended.
W/AV see halo extend relatively long way away from nucleus.



M31 Easy to see dust lanes. Seeing is good yet wind blows and gusts.

10:22 PM NGC 752 32mm-Overfills the FOV. Very bright. Blue-white stars w/1 really brighter than the rest on SW corner. 3-4 diff magnitudes. 30+ stars. Was easy to see for in a star poor area of sky and this just popped out.

10:35 PM NGC 147 Very faint smudge. Seems to be oval in shape. Couple of very faint field stars seen in the glow.

10:45 PM NGC 7023 19mm-Bright star w/very faint companion at 5 o'clock embedded in extended glow. Fills center of FOV nicely.



10:51 PM NGC 188 19mm-circular-faint-2 brighter field stars at bottom of FOV. Approx 10 relatively brighter stars w/a glow behind these of fainter stars in a star poor area so this faint patch stands out easily.

11:15 PM NGC 247 Very faint smudge-hard to see for it was very low in the south.

The sky is soft and bright now. ???

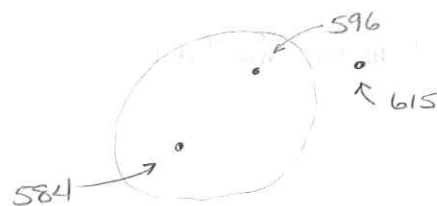
11:28 PM NGC 157 Faint elongated oval w/bright field star on right side. Uniformly lit w/maybe a hair brighter nucleus.

11:50 PM NGC 247 Long sliver w/brighter star on top edge. Fat at center. Up and down in EP. Uniformly lit.

11:53 PM NGC 584 Very small-oval-nucleus is a bit brighter than halo. Halo very small part of what can be seen.

11:56 PM NGC 596 Very small. Uniformly lit. Circular in shape. Very bright field star just outside the FOV w/this in the center.

11:59 PM NGC 615 Very faint, uniformly lit sliver of light. Definitely linear in shape.



Relative positions
wrt FOV

12:02 AM NGC 720 Small-elongated oval-faint-uniformly lit but easy to spot

12:05 AM NGC 779 Very dim-uniformly lit-linear sliver of light.

12:06 AM NGC 908 Very dim, yet large. Oval in shape. Uniformly lit. Easy to see.

12:08 AM NGC 936 Small-Brighter nucleus diffuses into circular halo.

12:11 AM NGC 1022 Very faint and very small. Uniformly lit. Circular in shape. Sometimes see a star like nucleus when seeing steadies.

12:14 AM	NGC 1052	Very small-very faint-Uniformly lit-circular in shape.
12:15 AM	NGC 1055	Very, very faint-cigar shaped-uniformly lit.
	NGC 288	The globular cluster near NGC 253. Uniformly lit. Large in FOV. Can see many member stars.
	NGC 253	Rather dim. Stretches from side to side of FOV. Slightly larger central bulge. No dust lane seen.

Tuesday was cloudy and windy all day. Wind from the south. By 4 AM, broken clouds. Saw Orion framed in sucker hole. Wind from the north at this time.

Wednesday was cloudy and windy from north. After dark, a misty rain developed. Rained all night off and on. Locals said this was the most rain they received all year so far.

Thursday October 3, 2002

Thursday was cloudy till mid-afternoon. Wind from south. At sunset, clear steady sky. Wind very light.

8:11 PM NGC 6822 Very faint. See linear and wide faint glow. Has 3 field stars on left side. Galaxy is horizontal in FOV.



8:32 PM NGC 6722 O3 shows oval. Uniformly lit, faint patch of light. No O3, very faint oval of light. Central star was not seen.

8:59 PM NGC 6907 Very faint glow. Took much time to find this even though CAP was high in the south. Almost star like, like OOF star.

The sky is very soft tonight. Cannot see Helix. Did 3 asteroids the rest of the evening and hung around other peoples' scopes. The asteroids are Ceres, Melpomene and Enomia.

Friday October 4, 2002

Clear and cool at sunset. Some gusty breezes from the south.

Spent the first part of the evening getting the 2nd reading on the asteroids I noted the previous night.

12:16 AM NGC 1084 Faint. Uniformly lit glow. Central nucleus is oval and fades out into a linear shaped galaxy.

12:29 AM NGC 1407 Faint, round glow with a little brighter nucleus. This was very low above the horizon and I was looking through a lot of atmosphere.

The sky is very soft and bright again, like the other night. The wind is gone. The stars are steady but the transparency is poor.

12:35 AM NGC 1535 Small. Round. Uniformly lit. w/ and w/o O3 yields same view. W/AV no diff seen. No central star seen.

12:42 AM NGC 2126 Faint glow with 3-4 field stars on top of it. Was NE of 6th magnitude star.

1:07 AM NCG 1097 32mm-Small-bright nucleus. Edge on. Nucleus blends into slender halo.
19mm-Relatively brighter circular nucleus blends into long, slender arms.

2:09 AM NGC 1788 Easy to see. Has brighter region to left and dims out to right. Appears to have 3-4 stars superimposed on brighter part of nucleus.

Seeing is good now.

2:18 AM NGC 2186 Found arrowhead pointing to East. 10 stars in loose assoc. Stars are very faint. Some spill of to the NE side.
32mm-arrowhead easy to see (the 3 stars) embedded in faint glow of rest of cluster.



2:23 AM NGC 2355 Faint yet easy to see. 15+ stars in a tighter assoc than most I have seen. Much brighter field star in cluster on northern side seen.

2:34 AM NGC 2371-72 19mm w/O3-see a two lobed, almost bow-tie object with a stellar object in the left lobe. Left lobe is brighter than right. W/o O3-see 2 lobes w/ star in left lobe. Basically same view. Easy to see w/AV.

2:40 AM NGC 1964 Off the tip of an arrowhead. Bright stellar nucleus w/very hard to see halo. Halo is circular or a bit elliptical. It's hard to say for it is so faint.

Saturn is awesome. Crisp image. See 2 bands on planet. Saw 6 stars of trapezium of M42.


3:27 AM NGC 2215 Approx 15 stars all about the same magnitude. Easy to find bcs in star poor field. Somewhat compact and shaped in a downward arrow.

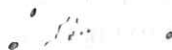
3:30 AM NGC 2185 Faint, irregular shaped glow w/4-5 brighter field stars on top of it.

3:37 AM NGC 2251 Approx. 20 stars of same magnitude with fainter ones giving underlying area a glow. Broken into 3 main chunks w/ a total shape of a tear drop.

3:50 AM NGC 2239-37 This was COOL. 32mm showed 2 stars surrounded by a circular, mottled nebula. 19mm showed upper star >2x brighter than lower star in center of nebula. Near stars, the nebula was uniformly lit and bright. Then it faded into a mottled lit texture before fading out into nothing.

4:07 AM NGC 2261 Fan shaped cone w/star easily seen at apex. Both 19 and 32 easily showed this object.

- 4:18 AM NGC 2286 32mm-Very loose assoc of approx 20 stars of same magnitude. Irregular in shape. Matched picture on pg 250 of Night Sky.
- 4:21 AM NGC 2301 32mm-7 stars of a brighter magnitude than approx 30 other. Loose, irregular assoc. General shape is . Easy to spot.
- 4:24 AM NGC 2311 Approx 15 stars. 32mm shows a glow w/stars seen. 19mm shows a somewhat tear drop shape.
- 4:28 AM NGC 2324 Somewhat linear from UL to LR. There are 6 brighter stars on the bottom right that appear to bound this side of it. There are 2 magnitudes that makeup this cluster w/many member stars seen.
- 4:31 AM NGC 2335 These field stars bound on L and R side of a very open, loose assoc of 20-50 stars of about 4 magnitudes. No shape seen here. Fills 2/3 of center band of FOV.
- 4:35 AM NGC 2343 Approx. 12 stars. Bright, easy to see in a somewhat box shape.
- 4:37 AM NGC 2353 About 15-18 stars of about 3 magnitudes makeup this box shaped cluster. There is an extremely bright field star at UL edge of this cluster.
- 4:44 AM NGC 2506 Easy to spot in 19mm. Tight, compact glow. 2 brighter stars and about 8 dimmer stars seen. The rest of OC is just a nice glow.
- 4:50 AM NGC 2264 A double. UL is substantially brighter than companion surrounded by a bright nebulosity w/many bright, blue-white stars around this area.



From about 2:00 AM till 5:10 AM, the sky steadied and became transparent. By 3:30, a light dew formed and the seeing was excellent. The object in Monoceros were easy to find, especially the OCs. They stood out nicely in this star poor area of sky.

Jupiter had many bands tonight and I saw 2 moon shadows transiting across the equator.

Saturn was awesome. 1 planet band easy to see. Rings were crisp and division seen.

Saturday afternoon I packed my scope and bummed around other people's scopes that night. On the way home on Sunday, I lost one of the leveling feet of the camper. That is the last time I go west out of Camp Billy Joe.