

Okie-Tex Star Party – 2003

Monday, September 22, 2003

Arrived late in the afternoon. Sky was clear all the way down here but clouds from a remnant hurricane in the Pacific started to drift in from the SW. The sky was very soft all night. I took advantage of huge holes in the areas of the sky where I wished to view objects.

All telescopic objects viewed with 19mm WideField eyepiece unless otherwise noted.

DeepSky Binocular Objects

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| NGC 6716 | 9:56 PM | Easily seen. A faint glow with 3-4 brighter stars around the glow. Followed 3 brighter stars in the shape of a U to it. |
| NGC 6709 | 10:13 PM | Fairly large. 5-8 brighter stars on top of a glow. w/AV, see member stars in this glowing region. Triangular in shape. |
| IC4756 | 10:17 PM | Moved down from 6709 to find a very large, oval to circular OC of stars. 20-30 very dim, yet easy to see compose this cluster. 5-6 brighter stars bound this on the top, left and bottom sides. Very nice. |
| NGC 6633 | 10:30 PM | Then moved a bit to the right to find this one. Approx 10 stars, fairly bright, that form a linear shape, up and down in the FOV. Very easy to see. Main concentration is the lower part and forms an arrow head pointing up at 11:30 o'clock. Lots of other stars in the area, but the main area has stars of approx the same magnitude. |

Caldwell Objects

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| NGC 7635 | 10:50 PM | 32mm- Very small, circular glow with 2 faint stars on top of the glow. Three brighter stars are below it and gives the impression of a glow sitting on top of these three stars. M52 just to the left of this object. |
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Tuesday, September 23, 2003

More clouds and haze at sunset. Very windy tonight. Clouds are from basically overhead to the south. Sky is very clear from overhead to the north though.

NGC 4236 8:54 PM Small, dim linear sliver of light. Up and down in FOV. Center really bright and extended wrt the halo, which is dim. There is a starlike point on the galaxy which could be a very faint field star.

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

At sunset, there were clouds and high haze. Took advantage of huge holes to look at these objects.

DeepSky Binocular Objects

IC4665 7:49 PM Very loose assoc, but together. Spans 3/16 in width of FOV. Approx 12 blue-white stars of same magnitude. 7 more of a bit fainter magnitude. Then to the lower right, there are 5-6 stars in a zig-zag line which are probably part of this because these magnitudes compare with the 7 and 12 other stars, but these stars are really set apart from the rest.

NGC 6520 8:30 PM Still a haze over the object. Clears to see a small, faint glow w/2-3 faint stars on top of this glow. To the right is a much brighter field star.

Put telescope on this object. 19mm see 5-8 field stars, 2 of which (not 3) I saw in the binoculars, on top of a faint, small glow. Sky is better at 9:20 PM and I can now see many, very faint member stars. Makes a small tight ball. 15+ very faint points of light w/AV, under 2 brighter field stars on the top. One star is at the edge of the tight ball and the other is right in the middle of the ball.

The are cloud bands around the horizon. The wind is now calm, as compared to 20 mph gusts the last 2 nights. Overhead is clear, but soft.

Stock 23 12:21 AM Very tight asterism of 4, maybe 6 stars, 5 of which are of the same magnitude.

Kemble 1 12:34 AM This is COOL!!! A linear string of stars that extends the width of the FOV. 8 stars to the left of a bright field star and 7-9 to the right.

NGC 1907 12:45AM M38 is just to the left of this small, circular faint glow. 2-3 stars seen on top of this glow.

NGC 1893 12:55 AM Faint glow with 3-4 field stars bordering this glow on each side. w/AV can see member stars.

Caldwell Objects

NGC 253 1:04 AM Long, linear smudge of light. Easy to see. Moved down from bright star in Cetus. It is uniformly lit and is more fat than long.



IC1613 2:06 AM Very faint, oval, uniformly lit. Matches stars on finder chart 12-5.



IC405 3:01 AM A very bright star surrounded by a large "halo" of nebulosity.

NGC 2403 3:23 AM Binocs-Oval glow. Easy to see. Relatively bright. Has 2 stars at each end of the glow.
32mm-Show oval in shape. Brighter. See 2 stars w/AV and a 3rd fainter one just below the center of the glow.
19mm-Best view. Can see all 3 field stars. Top star is brighter. Glow is a bit brighter from center to top, than from center to bottom.

Sky has been poor to fair all night. From 1-3 AM was OK. Should have seen 10th magnitude galaxy better than I did. Clouds are now streaming in from the east and drifting into the north.

Mars has been awesome the past nights. Just before it set tonight, took 1 more look and Syrtis Major was still around the limb. Too Bad.

NGC 1961 3:44 AM Faint, large oval smudge of light. Nucleus is a *bit* brighter. A very faint field star is at 9 o'clock at the edge of the glow.

NGC 2655 3:51 AM Small, oval smudge of light. Nucleus just a *bit* brighter.

Saturn was the best I have ever seen. Band on the planet easily seen. By 4:30 AM, sky had a high haze everywhere.

Sky turned very bad now. Cannot make points of stars. They are large circles. To bed.

Thursday, September 25, 2003

The sky was clear at sunset. Strong gusty wind from the SW at dusk and died down as twilight ended. The air is very dry.

Tried to find NGC 6124 but it was below the mesa to the SW, so it is lost for the season. I used the binoculars to view the DeepSky objects I looked at the other night and I can see them as clearly now as I did the other 2 nights looking thru holes in the clouds, so the observations I did are good.

NGC 6302 7:57 PM Appears oval in shape. Center is much brighter than halo. Central stars sometimes seen, comes in and out. O3 gives best view. Central star there. Center is large and appears mottled. Central star easily seen now at 8:06 PM. Fainter parts extend from upper left to lower right. This was low in the SW so re-look at this object next season.

NGC 4236 8:24 PM Small, oval dim smudge of light. Nucleus is brighter and is most of what can be seen. Star like point in the center of the nucleus.

Globular Cluster Objects

M13 8:29 PM Awesome as always. Class 5. Fills FOV nicely. Member stars easily seen all over the extended halo.

M92 8:34 PM Nice, bright tight center w/stars all over the halo. Class 8. Member stars easily see. Fills FOV nicely.

NGC 6229 8:38 PM Small and dim. Center brighter and small, dimmer halo. w/AV see speckling of stars but not pin points. Class 2.

NGC 6760 9:11 PM Small, dim, center uniformly lit w/hint of extended halo. Class 3. No member stars seen, but w/AV can tell the texture is speckled but no individual stars seen.

Palomar 14 9:05 PM Very dim. UHC filter adds to see a contrast of a hint of a glow against the background sky.

NGC 6749 9:32 PM Faint, circular glow. Bright field star $\frac{1}{2}$ FOV to NW. A hare brighter nucleus than halo. Too dim to classify.

NGC 7006 9:46 PM Small, circular, almost uniformly lit w/center just a bit brighter. No member stars seen. Class 2.

NGC 6934 9:49 PM Small circular. Center is brighter and dims evenly into the

halo which is a bit extended. Class 3.

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| M56 | 9:54 PM | Bright, easy to see member stars. Uniformly lit though the center is uniformly lit. Can see an extended halo. Class 8. |
| NGC 6981 | 10:06 PM | Dimmer than M56. Uniformly lit. w/AV see speckling on the glow. Class 7. |
| NGC 7089 | 10:13 PM | Large. Bright. Easy to see. Member stars present. Dims evenly from center into extended halo. Class 5. |

Sky is OK now but is not good. Still soft.

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| NGC 7099 | 10:28 PM | Bright. Loose. Class 10. Bright, tight nucleus that dims slowly into halo which is diffused. At 7-8 o'clock there are a line of 4-5 stars from the center of the glow into the diffused halo. These spokes of stars were neat. Stars (halo) seem to be lopsided towards the 2 o'clock side of the GC. |
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Caldwell Objects and Globulars

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| NGC 6888 | 11:00 PM | in 22" scope, bright comma shaped nebula on the bottom. On the right, the nebulosity goes thru 3 bright field stars, then loops around into a large oval. See a faint glow on the rest of it (top and left). Filled FOV of Ron's medium power EP.
19mm-In my scope, faint, wide, long sliver of light. Barely seen. Fatter and brighter at the left side and gets fainter to right as it fans out into nothing.
All observations were done with O3 filter. |
| NGC 7078 | 11:28 PM | Nice. Large. Center very bright and dims evenly into very diffused halo. Member stars easily seen. Class 10. |
| M71 | 11:24 PM | No nucleus seen. Uniformly lit, irregular shaped GC. Member stars easily seen though. In a star rich field. Class 12. |
| NGC 55 | 12:15 AM | Large sliver of light. Extends clear across the FOV. Very wide and much brighter on the lhs and dims into nothing on the rhs. Goes from 8 o'clock to 2 o'clock in EP. Even though it is low surface brightness, VERY easy to see. |
| NGC 300 | 12:33 AM | VERY dim, circular glow situated between 2 field stars to the left and right of it. Uniformly lit. Extremely hard to see. Just sitting above a mesa in the SE. |

NGC 1275	1:31 AM	Very small, dim, circular smudge of light. Relatively bright nucleus that quickly dims into shell of a halo.
NGC 288	2:29 AM	Large, dim GC. Uniformly lit. Member stars easily seen. Class 10.

Friday, September 26, 2003.

Spent the evening visiting and looking through other people's scopes. Met Dean Salman and watched him setup his CCD camera to take a picture of a nebulosity in Casseopia. Looked through Ron's 22". Could not find the cocoon nebula in Cygnus. I could not find it last night in my scope either.

Over the week, saw many great meteors, the space station and many refueling planes flying overhead. The plane getting gas was large. The KC135's wings were before and there were a set of large wings trailing.

Saw many faint galaxies thru Ron's 22" throughout the week. He said these were 15th magnitude but since the sky was so soft all week, they were very faint.

Saturday, September 27, 2003.

Left about 9 AM, stopped at the Sante Fe Trail to read the signs and then headed north for home.