

4/7/24

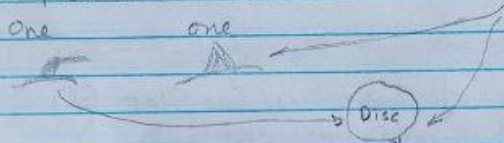
Observing at John's place near Mena, AR
Mike's 16" f/4.5

HR 4143	9:48P	40mm	A orange B v _f Blue + v _c	In same FOV
	40 9:59D		To left, another dbl star. A Blue, B v _f + v _c	
Thula 44*	9:56P	3mm	A Bright, BW, B of + v _c	
N 2996	10:00	v _f	small oval ul	
N 2945	10:07	A vs	oval v _f ul	
N 2947	10:10	A small	lens shape, faint, ul	
N 2982	10:14	OC 20+	stars, Boxy, 2-3 mag, compact	
N 2969	10:24	v _f	small round ul	
N 3082	10:29	US	faint round glow w/stellar core	
N 3072	10:31	A vs	v _f glow, has 2 stars in glow, center one is core other below center.	

4/8/24

Total Solar Eclipse

During totality, corona easy to see & wide away from Sun
3 prominences see around disc. One ^{easy} seen naked eye.



Totality was quickly over. Video of Bailey's Beads.

Saw shadow bands b_f & after totality. moved fast & were present for several seconds. They were easy to see on white blanket on the ground. very impressive.

Saw diamond ring just after totality. shadow bands started a few seconds after this.

Very cool day in Arkansas.

The temp drop was very extreme. As totality approached, you could feel the coldness of air increase.
Ve Phraa was not in sunshine

The sun's corona was easy to see & extended more 2-8 oc sides of sun than up. But there was some above & below also.

I took pics of eclipse thru my 8" w/ Baader filter w/ cell phone & holder. Every 4'. Took collinder pics also. very cool!

Totality started & took Baader filter off & made movie of edge of sun was going to swap 10mm & get closeups. Never did it & glad I didn't waste the 4' 15" of totality.

Looked up at sun & corona was awesome. Tried to get 1 pic but was in movie mode. Too much going on & the end of totality was coming. Jupiter Bright & 2d of sun & Venus closer, bright, 2d of sun. No one spotted the comet.

Then someone said "Here it comes!" I looked at the sun & saw the diamond ring. Then to my white blanket & tried to make movie of shadow bands. They were delayed & when they started, darker lines after darker lines came from west to east. Lots of them. This lasted several seconds & then it was over.

Went back to taking pics of 32mm ep projection every 4'. Went it was almost over, I snapped every 3' for last 2-3 min. Very end, when tiny bit of moon still on sun, I took pics as fast as I could.

The weather forecast was for increasing clouds
2PM on. There were a couple of puffy clouds that
drifted out of a thick cloud bank along N
horizon. I think the 3rd + 4th 4' pics had to
wait for sun to pop out from behind those
clouds. Then that was it. All the clouds in the N
just disappeared. Had a thin cloud layer around
sky but where sun was was mostly clear.
Clouds came in after 4PM

near totality, the sun made things on the ground
yellowish. During totality, the ground looked like
deep civil twilight. The yellowish was from a thin
slice of what remained of sun.

Met there
two @
Orie-Tex

Rod Gallagher from Tulsa, Gerald + his wife from
Mike Ross, John, His son Adriane + his girlfriend
Nancy were there.

4/19/24

- ~~That~~ morning was a prolonged thunderstorm w/
heavy rain, thunder + lightening from Zam-Tam.
I was afraid I'd get stuck in John's driveway
so the alarm went off at 7am, got cleaned up +
drove the RV out. His rock'd drive was OK +
the road was rock'd + wider than I remembered.
Got out just fine. Barely touched 1 of his 3 track
cans @ end of driveway + knocked it over.
- Hardly any wind in drive today, which made me
wax more. went 71 mph max.
 - Brought the bumpouts in last night b/c it
started to rain to keep them dry.

On the drive down, lots of ^{strong} crosswinds kept me on my toes. Spent 1st Night @ KOA in Amarillo, TX at Airport. Next day saw osprey tilt rotor airplane. Night bfr saw a sketched comet.

- 2nd night spent in DKC. The engine was clicking. When I got to RV Place, checked oil & not on dipstick. I put in 6 qts when I changed oil & it needs 8 qts. Bought & put in 3 qts, ~~the~~ bought from Velero station for \$15 ea. But oil on dipstick & motor sounded good all day. I just hope it didn't hurt engine. I cannot rely on my memory anymore for things like this. I need to always check the manual every time. Phil said 'I know how much oil all the cars I work on take, & check the dipstick after ea oil change'. I cannot remember when I quit checking oil level w/ dipstick. I will always check it now on.
- Pulled into John's Sat just after noon. Sunday John gave us a tutorial of all his image processing. Showed me how to use Astrotalk. Pretty easy.
- John looked good. We were him out, watched Iowa women on his TV Sun afternoon. He is also a Caitlin Ran.
- Mike got his 16" out w/ my help & we looked at one of Barn 600 stars in Vel. Then we looked at his ^{my} galaxies. I went to bed @ 10:30. He stayed observing another hour.
- I took showers in John's shower. Didn't want to fill grey & black water tanks. They were over $\frac{2}{3}$ full when I dumped them here at Triple J RV park in Russell, KS.
- Was a great Total Solar Eclipse event for me.