

THE TEXAS STAR PARTY

2007 TELESCOPE OBSERVING CLUB

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TEXAS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF DALLAS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Welcome to the Texas Star Party's Telescope Observing Club. The purpose of this club is not to test your observing skills by throwing the toughest objects at you that are hard to see under any conditions, but to give you an opportunity to observe 25 showcase objects under the ideal conditions of these pristine West Texas skies, thus displaying them to their best advantage. This year Clayton Jeter of the Houston Astronomical Society has brought back our daytime observing program, the Bright Sky Observing Program, and details are below. The regular observing program is “**Be A Sap (Shapley-Ames Person)**”. This is a list of 25 Shapley-Ames galaxies (out of 1200). To make life a little easier, I have concentrated them in a small portion of the sky. I think you will find this category of galaxy very enjoyable. So, just observe the 25 objects on the list.

That's it. Any size telescope can be used. All observations must be made at the Texas Star Party to qualify. All objects are within range of small (6”) to medium sized (10”) telescopes, and are available for observation between 10:00PM and 3:00AM any time during the TSP. Each person completing this list will receive an official Texas Star Party Telescope Observing Club lapel pin. These pins are not sold at the TSP and can only be acquired by completing the program, so wear them proudly.

To receive your pin, turn in your observations to **John Wagoner - TSP Observing Chairman** any time during the Texas Star Party. I will be at the outside door leading into the TSP Meeting Hall each day between 1:00 PM and 2:30 PM. If you finish the list the last night of TSP, or I am not available to give you your pin, just mail your observations to me at 1409 Sequoia Dr., Plano, Tx. 75023, and I will see that you get a pin.

Good luck and good observing. Now, let's get out there and **observe!!!**

P.S. If you would like to see some of your favorite objects on a future TSP program, or have any ideas for a new program, let me know during TSP or email me at john@wagoner.org

“Be A Sap (Shapley-Ames Person)”

Object	Type	R.A.	Dec	Con	Size	Mag	Date	Time
NGC 2768	Gal	09 11.6	+60 02	Uma	6.6	9.9		
NGC 2841	Gal	09 22.0	+50 58	Uma	6.8	9.2		
NGC 2985	Gal	09 50.4	+72 17	Uma	3.9	10.4		
NGC 3077	Gal	10 03.3	+68 44	Uma	5.5	9.8		
NGC 3079	Gal	10 02.0	+55 41	Uma	8.0	10.9		
NGC 3184	Gal	10 18.3	+41 25	Uma	7.8	9.8		
NGC 3198	Gal	10 19.9	+45 33	Uma	9.2	10.3		
NGC 3310	Gal	10 38.7	+53 30	Uma	3.5	10.8		
NGC 3610	Gal	11 18.4	+58 47	Uma	3.2	10.8		
NGC 3631	Gal	11 21.0	+53 10	Uma	5.5	10.4		
NGC 3675	Gal	11 26.1	+43 35	Uma	6.2	10.2		
NGC 3726	Gal	11 33.3	+47 02	Uma	5.6	10.4		
NGC 3877	Gal	11 46.1	+47 30	Uma	5.1	11.0		
NGC 3941	Gal	11 52.9	+36 59	Uma	3.7	10.3		
NGC 3953	Gal	11 53.8	+52 20	Uma	6.0	10.1		
NGC 4026	Gal	11 59.4	+50 58	Uma	4.6	10.8		
NGC 4036	Gal	12 01.4	+61 54	Uma	3.8	10.7		
NGC 4051	Gal	12 03.2	+44 32	Uma	5.5	10.2		
NGC 4088	Gal	12 05.6	+50 33	Uma	5.4	10.6		
NGC 4096	Gal	12 06.0	+47 29	Uma	6.6	10.8		
NGC 4605	Gal	12 40.0	+61 37	Uma	6.4	10.3		
NGC 4414	Gal	12 26.4	+31 13	Com	4.4	10.1		
NGC 4494	Gal	12 31.4	+25 47	Com	4.6	9.8		
NGC 4559	Gal	12 36.0	+27 58	Com	12.0	10.0		
NGC 4565	Gal	12 36.3	+25 59	Com	14.0	9.6		

The "Bright Sky" Observing Program by Clayton Jeter, Houston Astronomical Society

Here we go again for our next annual daytime hunt...

With the new telescope mount designs like go-to systems, digital setting circles, etc., that are available for amateurs; it's now easy to observe during the daylight hours. With these systems, it's possible to locate stars and planets during the day. Many go-to scopes have a "hibernate mode" that allows the observer to "wake up" the telescope and use the setup that was made during the previous night to observe objects during daylight hours.

Here is a challenge list of 25 objects (stars, Moon, and planets) that are observable at TSP-2007 during the daylight hours. You'll notice that it is much easier to observe away from the sun to find these elusive objects because of the sun's glare. If the sun is in the western quadrant when you are observing, then observe to the east for your object. A good focus is extremely critical. It's best to keep the same focus from your observing session that was used earlier during the night. When the telescope is correctly pointed to the desired object, let your eyes move around the field of view in the eyepiece for several seconds and soon the object will pop into view. An observer can usually even see star color to some extent. The light blue color of the daylight background sky helps add contrast for viewing these objects.

Locate and log 20 of the 25 objects listed for a beautiful badge given at TSP-2007 from the observing program coordinator. Good luck.

CAUTION:

When the telescope slews (or you manually move it), cap the tube assembly and finder scope to prevent eye and telescope damage from the bright and dangerous sun.

Object	Constellation	RA.	Dec.	Mag	Date	Time	Comments
Mars	Pisces			0.93			
Moon	Pisces / Gemini			-10.81			
Polaris	Ursa Minor	2h39m	89.17	1.96			
Mirfak	Perseus	3h24m	49.53	1.78			
Rigel	Orion	5h14m	-8.11	0.15			
Capella	Auriga	5h17m	46	0.06			
Betelgeuse	Orion	5h55m	7.2	0.43			
Menkalinan	Auriga	6h00m	44.56	1.87			
Sirius	Canis Major	6h45m	-16.4	-1.47			
Adhara	Canis Major	6h58m	-28	1.5			
Venus	Gemini			-4.15			
Castor	Gemini	7h35m	31.5	1.56			
Procyon	Canis Minor	7h39m	5.12	0.37			
Pollux	Gemini	7h45m	28.1	1.15			
Dubhe	Ursa Major	11h4m	61.4	1.78			
Denebola	Leo	11h49m	14.3	2.12			
Alioth	Ursa Major	12h54m	55.5	1.75			
Saturn	Leo			0.44			
Spica	Virgo	13h25m	-11.1	0.96			
Arcturus	Bootes	14h16m	19.8	-0.07			
Rasalhague	Ophiuchus	17h35m	12.3	2.06			
Vega	Lyra	18h37m	38.4	0			
Altair	Aquila	19h51m	8.53	0.75			
Deneb	Cygnus	20h41m	45.1	1.25			
Fomalhaut	Piscis Austrinus	22h58m	-29.34	1.15			

NOTE: All objects are in RA order