

I recreated this report the best I could, by reviewing my observing notes from 23 years ago. The following report may not be complete and what I submitted to the program's coordinator, but it will give you an idea of how I recorded my observations in 2003.

January 25, 2003

Went to Bone Valley, 14 miles north of Briggsdale, CO. At sunset, the sky was threatening to be overcast, but a steady north wind cleared the sky. For the rest of the evening, the sky was very steady. The wind came and went. Arrived just as twilight was ending. Left about 10:30 PM. Using 20x80 Binoculars.

Worked on the Deep Sky Binocular list.

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| NGC 869 and 884 | Easy to see both in FOV. Lots of stars see in both clusters with many other field stars in the area. |
| Mel 25 | Beehive cluster. Lots of bright blue-white stars. Need to pan binocs around the area to see all of it. |
| 6:52P NGC 752 | Large in FOV. Lots of stars seen. Low surface brightness. Linear in shape. |
| NGC 253 | Small glow. 3-4 bright stars on top of glow. |
| NGC 663 | Lots of stars seen. 5-10 members all of same magnitude. Irregular shaped. |
| 7:07P Stock 2 | Large. Fills FOV. Lots of stars all about the same brightness. |
| NGC 457 | Small. Compact. 3-4 brighter stars bound bottom. Rest much fainter. |
| 7:15P Cr 463 | Way off of "w" of Cass. Small, faint glow with 1 bright star on bottom. |
| Mark 6 and Mel 15 | In same FOV. Started at Stock 2 and moved south to find these two. Mark 6 has 2 stars on top of a tiny glow. Mel 15 has 4-6 stars on top of a glow. Mel 15 is approx 4x bigger than Mark 6. Mel 15 is circular in shape. The stars on top of the glow are much brighter. |
| Tr 3 | Moved south a bit more to find 3-5 bright stars, compact over a faint glow. |
| Mel 20 | Lots of blue-white stars east of alpha star. Need to pan binocs to see all of it. Very loose association. |
| Tr 2 | Linear shaped. ½ way between Nu and double cluster. 3-5 stars on top of a glow. |
| NGC 1342 | Boxy glow. Bordered with brighter stars. |

- NGC 1528 Boxy, dim but easy to see. Brighter stars sprinkled on top of a fainter glow.
- 8:43P NGC 2281 Small. Relatively brighter stars overlay a glow of stars behind them. Arrowhead shaped.
- NGC 2360 Small, faint glow. Tight association. w/AV, see speckling of stars.
- NGC 2539 Very faint glow just above and to right of bright field star. w/AV see member stars. Very small and compact.
- NGC 2527 Large in FOV, yet dim. Uniformly lit w/many member stars seen.
- NGC 2571 Small glow w/double star on top of it.
- NGC 1647 Large, loose, circular association of stars. Fill center of FOV nicely. Several magnitudes of blue-white stars seen.
- NGC 1746 Larger than 1647. Very loose association. Like oval in shape. Stars are all over the place. Several mags of blue-white stars.
- NGC 1807 and 1817 1817 on left. 1807 on right in FOV. Both relatively small. 07 is bigger. 17 has 2-3 brighter stars on top of fainter ones. 07 has 6-8 brighter stars on top of fainter ones. Both are in center of FOV but small.
- 9:22P NGC 1662 5-8 brighter stars on top of a faint glow.
- NGC 2169 Small, bright trapezium shaped (4 stars) on top of a glow.
- NGC 1981 4 bright blue-white stars to left of 4 a bit dimmer blue-white stars.
- NGC 2232 10 bright blue-white stars in a very loose association.
- 9:33P NGC 2343 Small, compact and dim. 2 brighter stars bound it at 10 o'clock and 2 more stars bound it at 5 o'clock.
- NGC 2301 String of bright stars with a dim glow near top (north) end of string.
- NGC 2264 10-15 blue-white stars around a brighter field star which is at the top or base of a downward shaped arrowhead.
- NGC 2251 Small, faint linear glow with 3-4 relatively brighter stars on top fo the glow.

9:48P NGC 2244 6 stars form a rectangle. All about same brightness. These are really bright blue-white stars. There are 3-4 more stars in the cluster that are a bit dimmer.

Sterling Reservoir Star Party 2003

Arrived Wednesday afternoon, April 23, 2003, in a driving rain. Forecast didn't look promising but Brian Kimball and I went anyway. Wednesday night broke to about 45 mins of sucker holes. Decided to do Binocular Messier objects. Using 20x80 Binoculars.

Thursday, April 24, 2003, was cloudy and windy. No rain. After dark, one huge sucker hole drifted overhead from the west. Tried for two more Binocular Messiers in Leo but could not find them. That was all the sky for this night.

Friday, April 25, 2003, had a high haze at sunset. Seeing was OK and improved and softened throughout the night.

8:55 PM NGC 2489 Very low, in hazy clouds of SW. Found 2 stars close to cluster, which was very faint. There was a glow where cluster should be with 5 stars seen in this glow with AV.

August 23, 2003

Went to Pawnee Grasslands to do Deep Sky Binocular observing. Cloudy most of the evening with clearing after midnight. Spent a lot of time watching and sketching Mars. Then about 12:30 AM, I sat in the binochair and captured these objects with my 20x80 binoculars.

12:30 AM	NGC 6910	Small faint glow w/4-6 stars on top of the glow.
1:18 AM	NGC 6819	Small faint glow but many stars seen though.
1:21 AM	NGC 7063	Small, tight OC. Approx 10-12 stars easily seen. Meteor shot thru FOV and left a wide smoke trail..
1:25 AM	NGC 6940	Easily seen. Stands out in FOV. Larger glow w/5-6 stars on top of it. Irregular glow extends some to the SE.
2:12 AM	NGC 6823	3-4 brighter stars on top of a small glow. Approx 6 stars to east approx same magnitude and form a line.
2:23 AM	CR 399	Approx 10 stars of same magnitude, 6 of which form a line on NE almost equidistant. Except NW 2 and 4-6 more in the area are a bit dimmer.
2:35 AM	NGC 7235	1 bright star on south edge of 3-4 dimmer stars sit on a small, faint glow.
2:48 AM	NGC 7160	Tight little know of bright stars. 2 brighter ones on east side and other 3-4 fainter ones form an arrowhead that is pointing approx SW.
2:53 AM	NGC 7789	Large glow situated in middle of 2 stars. Speckling of member stars easily seen. But the stars are faint.
3:00 AM	NGC 7243	Has 2 groupings of stars w/3 on the east side and 4-5 on the west side. Appears to be a glow underneath them. The glow is small though.
3:10 AM	NGC 7209	Has 6-8 dimmer stars than 7243 on top of a bit larger glow.

August 24, 2003

What hoped to be another night like last night, this night was overcast until about 1:00 AM. The sky broke into sucker holes. Saw Mars through Gary's 30". Awesome. By 2:15 AM, the sky was completely clear, but there was a haze and unsteady air left behind.

2:38 AM	NGC 6934	Faint glow-easy to see w/3-4 field stars around and on top of it. Some stars might be member stars.
2:49 AM	NGC 1582	Small. 6-8 blue white stars seen in 2 possible parts. West part in the shape of a comma. These comma stars sit on a faint glow.

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.

DeepSky Binocular Objects using 20x80 binoculars.

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.

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 using 20x80 binoculars

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.

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.

October 17, 2003

Deep Sky Binocular Object using 20x80 binoculars.

NGC 129 11:52P The stars of this cluster are easily seen. All blue-white and approx same magnitude. The bright field star was just to the north of this cluster as seen on a finder chart. It was easy to spot from my backyard. The seeing was good.