

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 Messier Binocular list.

M42 Nice glow all over FOV. 3 stars seen in nebulosity, with top star being the trapezium.

M78 Small, faint, circular glow. Bright (maybe a star) at the top.

M1 Faint oval glow. There is a field star at the bottom of FOV with Saturn at the top.

M37 Uniform glow.

M36 Smallest of these 3 but the brightest.

M38 Largest. Easy to see stars. You can see member stars in al 3. Move from one OC to the other.

M35 Lots of stars seen. Large in FOV. Low surface brightness.

Mel 25 Beehive cluster. Lots of bright blue-white stars. Need to pan binocs around the area to see all of it.

M79 Faint glow. Like out of focus star. Nestled between 2 stars that makes it look like the sword area of Orion.

M41 Dim. Circular. 6-8 brighter stars seen.

M44 Big in FOV. Lots of blue-white stars.

6:52P

7:52P M67 Small, oval glow with member stars seen.

M48 Easy to find in star poor area of sky. Nice in FOV.

M50 Small. 5-6 stars on top of a glow.

M47 6-10 bright stars. NW of M46. There seems to be a glow under these stars.

M46 Faint, dim glow. Large in FOV. Member stars easy to see.

8:09P M93 Small. Faint. W/AV, see member stars.

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.

9:23 PM	M81 and M82	M81 was easy to see oval of light-Fairly large. M82 was a long, slender sliver of light.
9:30 PM	M97	Faint circular glow.
9:37 PM	M65 and M66	M66 on left with both in same FOV. M66 brighter and larger than M65. Both linear along same line, almost parallel along their axis.

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.

Waited for sky to improve, which it did. Did more Binocular Messiers.

10:21 PM	M40	Very close double star. Very dim.
10:24 PM	M106	Fairly bright. Linear in shape. Long. Little brighter in middle.
10:28 PM	M51 M52	Easy to see double circles. Small circular glow with 1 bright field star on eastern side.
10:35 PM	M95 and M96	This is what I tried to find last night in the one sucker hole. M95 is on the right and is 2x as bright and big as M96. Both are rather dim. Both looked like out of focus stars, just round smudges.
11:06PM	M64	Oval glow with center brighter. Fairly bright and easy to see.