

## Thursday Sept 26, 2024

Arrived at Okie-Tex Star Party (OTSP) about 5:45 pm. Mike Roos was already setting up. It was a nice drive here.

7:04 pm – Sun set behind mesa. Put quadrant on its position for a reading of Venus and the Jacob's Staff.

It is clear and a light wind from the south. Using Mike's scope, a 20" f/5 tonight.

NGC 6820	9:05 PM	26mm – A very faint planetary nebula. Stellar. Has a cream color to it. Part of a triangle and is the upper star.
V450 Aql	9:15 PM	26mm – An orange-reddish star.
NGC 6195	9:42 PM	17mm – A small, <u>very faint</u> galaxy between 2 field stars, in the middle. Uniformly lit. Goes 1 – 7 o'clock between the 2 stars.
NGC 6196 NGC 6197	9:56 PM	17mm – A small, oval faint glow with here brighter stellar core. To lower left of N6196 and near is a small, round, uniformly lit, <u>extremely faint</u> ghostly glow.

Seeing and transparency is good. The air is dry.

NGC 6211 NGC 6213	10:20 PM	17mm – A small, faint, round glow with larger, bit brighter core. Below, near at 8 o'clock is a tiny, <u>extremely faint</u> oval glow going from 1-7 o'clock.
NGC 6212	10:33 PM	17mm – A tiny, stellar looking galaxy. Most of what is seen might be the core.
NGC 6228	11:10 PM	17mm – An <u>extremely faint</u> , small, uniformly lit oval.
NGC 6244	11:30 PM	17mm – An extremely faint, thin oval, uniformly lit glow. Very small.
NGC 6238		Above, near and to left of N6244 is an extremely faint, roundish, uniformly lit glow.

Temperature is cooler. Seeing and Transparency is OK. Sky is soft.

NGC 7424	11:45 PM	17mm – A small, dim, tilted oval. Has larger, brighter core.
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NGC 7410	11:47 PM	17mm – A larger, thin, 6:1, dim. Seems uniformly lit. But maybe a larger, bit brighter core seen.
NGC 7404	11:50 PM	17mm – A very small, <u>very faint</u> oval that is a uniformly lit glow. A field star is very close at 7 o'clock. Bright field star to lower left of these two.
NGC 7368	12:03 AM	17mm – A small, fat oval. Uniformly lit. <u>Very faint</u> .
IC 5269 IC 5270	12:13 AM	17mm – A small, very faint tilted oval with maybe here brighter, larger core. To lower left of IC5269 and near, is a much smaller, round, uniformly lit, <u>very faint</u> glow.
NGC 7462	12:18 AM	17mm – A medium sized, faint, long, thin, 5:1, uniformly lit glow.
NGC 7484	12:21 AM	17mm – A very small oval. Easy to see. <u>Very faint</u> . Has brighter stellar core.

These are very cool so low above the horizon.

NGC 7496	12:26 AM	17mm – To left of 2 field stars is this small, 2:1 oval. <u>Very faint</u> . 2 stellar glows on halo. One dimmer centered, the core, and other field star on lower edge of halo glow.
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Wind gone for a while. Seeing and Transparency is OK this low in the southern sky.

IC 5325	12:40 AM	17mm – A large, roundish, very faint, uniformly lit glow. It is to the lower left of a field star and near.
NGC 6857	1:03 AM	26mm – A brighter field star has a small halo glow around it that is easy to see.
IC 405	1:07 AM	26mm – A dim, larger halo glow around a brighter field star.
IC 410	1:11 AM	26mm – A faint glow in eyepiece around open cluster N1893.
NGC 1893	1:11 AM	26mm – A larger open cluster with 20+ stars of 3-4 magnitudes form an arc.



There is a light dew making my paper wet. Waiting for Mars to get higher for a quadrant reading. Light breeze from east.

Sky is soft. Seeing and Transparency is OK.

R Scl            1:38 AM            26mm – A bright red star.

It was a good night of observing. Mike was looking at another Wagoner 100 sequence tonight. I did some quadrant work.

Had a great time.

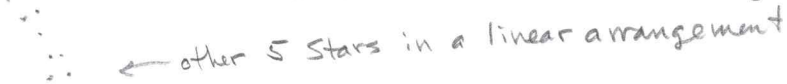
# Friday Sept 27, 2024

Some little broken clouds in west at sunset. Calm. Cooling off as soon as sun set.

Want to use quadrant on Acamar about 2 am. Then all the Nav stars will have been recorded.

Using my 8" scope tonight.

NGC 6573 8:57 PM 19mm – 20 stars of 3 magnitudes. Obvious. 5 left stars form arrow head. Other 5 stars in a linear arrangement.



He 2-213 9:15 PM 19mm – A pale white dim star.

NGC 6590 9:18 PM 10mm – 3 dim stars of same magnitude surrounded by dim halo glow.



Seeing and Transparency is good.

Bernes 157 9:28 PM 10mm – A dim star has a tiny halo glow around it. All stars in this area have halo glows around them.

Gamma CrA 9:31 PM 19mm – A brighter yellow star with a bit of halo glow around it.

Beta 1 Sgr 9:34 PM 19mm – A double star. A is brighter, white. B is close, dimmer and blueish.

HR 6426 and HD 191849 – Sketched 2 solar neighborhood stars using 10mm eyepiece.


T Ind 9:47 PM 19mm – A dim red star.

Seeing and transparency is good this low, just above the horizon.

Formalhaut 9:55 PM 19mm – A bright yellowish star. I first thought this was Alnair.

Saturn 9:57 PM 19mm – The rings are almost edge on. 2 lines now on each side of the planet's disk.

19 Psc 10:06 PM 19mm – A brighter red star.

NGC 6525	10:23 PM	10mm – A wedge shaped open cluster. 12 brighter blue white stars in a field with many fainter stars. Both sets of stars are of same magnitude with brightest star on right hand side of wedge at apex. It is the 10mm FOV wide.
		
Mel 126	10:30 PM	24mm – A bright field star at top end of an open cluster. 10-12 brighter blue white stars of 3 similar magnitudes. Fills center of FOV.
Berk 79	10:38 PM	10mm – Above a brighter field star is this tiny knot of 5-10 very faint stars.
Alnair	10:54 PM	10mm – A bright white star. Just skirting above mesa saddle to the south. I first thought this was Formalhaut. The lowest point of the saddle is just below -46 degrees declination.
Diphda	10:58 PM	10mm – A bright orangeish star.

I didn't record Alnair nor Ankaa last night with quadrant. They are just above the mesa saddle to south. I didn't think they were that low. I did find the constellation stars for each once I realized that these stars were the ones I needed to record. Recorded the real Alnair at 10:54 PM. Waiting for Ankaa to come into the saddle area.

King 4	12:09 AM	10mm – 15 blue white stars in a poor star field stand out. Boxy in shape. Fills center of FOV. 2 groups of stars on left and right of open cluster. Maybe 2-3 magnitudes in this open cluster.
Ankaa	12:22 AM	10mm – A bright white star.

Seeing and transparency OK. Sky is soft again. Milky Way washed out.

Acamar	2:10 AM	19mm – A very close double. Left star brighter than right. Both white. Maybe yellow in color. Right two times brighter than left.
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# Saturday Sept 28, 2024


Clear at sunset. Calm. Cooling off quickly.

Did quadrant and staff measurements of Venus at sunset.

Seeing and transparency is good.

Tr 31            8:58 PM            10mm – 20+ brighter blue white stars of 3 magnitudes. In center of eyepiece, a circular glow of faint stars that are easy to see. Fills FOV nicely.

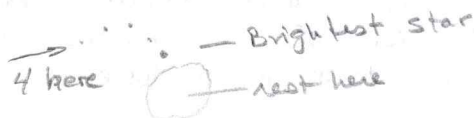
Ru 133            9:03 PM            10mm – 2 groups of stars. Right hand side is 17 faint stars. Tall and narrow. Left hand side is 8-10 stars forming a circle. 3 stars on top and rest on the bottom.



Ru 168            9:19 PM            6 mm – 8-10 very faint stars roughly form a circle. Very small.

Ru 134            9:24 PM            6mm – 10-15, one brighter, rest fainter form a small, fat oval shape. Maybe a glow of fainter stars underneath these.

Ru 141            9:42 PM            10mm – 15 stars, 1 brighter and rest faint, small, compact.



Ru 144            9:49 PM            10mm – 10-12 very faint stars form a small oval. At top of oval are a brighter and 2 fainter stars very close together.



NGC 6827            10:24 PM            24mm – A smaller, roundish open cluster. 20-30 blue white stars of similar magnitudes. Fills center of FOV nicely.

Seeing and Transparency good.

Berk 45            10:33 PM            10mm – 10-15 very faint stars form a small, compact open cluster.

Berk 43            10:38 PM            10mm – All stars are very faint and same magnitude. 4 stars for chevron on left hand side and 8-10 more stars form a diamond on right hand side. Long and narrow. Almost 1 FOV long.

Berk 83            10:51 PM            10mm – A line of about 10 very faint stars of same magnitude. Very faint. Half a FOV long.

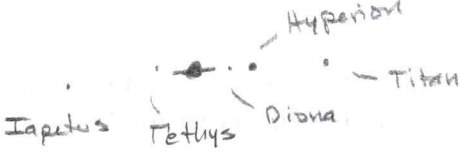

King 20	10:59 PM	10mm – 8-10 very faint blue white stars of 2-3 magnitudes form a line on right hand side. 8-10 more similar stars form a compact, roundish shape at lower end of line of stars on left hand side. Easy to see.
Berk 1	11:06 PM	10mm – 8 brighter stars and a few more very faint stars form the outline of a crescent, half a FOV long.
		
King 1	11:18 PM	10mm – A very small open cluster. Around 3 dim stars, my eye can see many <u>extremely faint</u> stars that are barely there.
King 15	11:31 PM	10mm – 4 faint stars form an arc. This matches Sky Tools 4 star field. Don't see any fainter stars in this area of the arc.
NGC 886	11:43 PM	10mm – 10-15 brighter stars of approx. same magnitude make a circular chain. There are many extremely faint stars that close the circle. A few <u>extremely faint</u> stars in this area also.
		
King 2	12:06 AM	10mm – 15-20 <u>very faint</u> stars form 2 lines of stars about 1 FOV long. 1 line goes from 9-3 o'clock. Other chain above this one with most of the stars. This one is shorter and above and at a slight angle away from first line, slanted left to right in FOV.

Seeing and transparency OK. Milky Way is soft.

Waiting for Mars to rise so I can take a quadrant reading of it. The will call it a night.

# Sunday Sept 29, 2024

Clear at sunset. Light breeze from southeast. Breeze blows stronger now and then.

Saturn	8:34 PM	
IC 4997	8:50 PM	10mm – A stellar planetary nebula. Has a white color. Matches star field. Responded well to OIII filter.
PK 64+5.1	8:57 PM	10mm – Responds to OIII filter. Can't tell a color because it is so faint.
IC 5217	9:16 PM	10mm – A bright, cream colored star that stands out in the FOV. Responds well to OIII filter. Matches star pattern in FOV. Not a pinpoint planetary nebula like other stars in the FOV.
PK 100-8.1	9:21 PM	10mm – A brighter, yellowish star. Responds very well to OIII filter. Not a pinpoint star like others in FOV.
NGC 6879	9:28 PM	10mm – A stellar planetary nebula. Cream colored. Dim. Responds very well to OIII filter.
IC 5117	9:33 PM	10mm – A stellar planetary nebula. White to cream colored. Responds very well to OIII filter.
PK 111-2.1	9:40 PM	10mm – A faint stellar planetary nebula. Responds to OIII filter. Hard to tell it's color because it is so faint.
M 2-23	10:05 PM	10mm – A stellar planetary nebula. <u>Very faint</u> . Does NOT respond to the OIII filter at all.
<del>SI-9.1</del> PK 51+9.1	10:10 PM	10mm – A stellar planetary nebula. Yellow to orange in color. Responds to OIII filter.
NGC 6724	10:18 PM	10mm – 10 very faint stars of approx. the same magnitude. Almost half a FOV long. Forms an arrow head pointing at 8 o'clock.
		
IC 5013	10:30 PM	6 mm – Maybe saw a hint of this galaxy.



NGC 7085 10:57 PM 19mm – 10 faint and 3-5 more fainter stars form arrowhead pointing at 8 o'clock. Large in FOV.



NGC 7352 11:09 PM 24mm – 5 stars fills FOV. 1 bright, 3 dimmer and 1 the dimmest.

Seeing and transparency good all night.

GeoSat Flare 11:35 PM Went to 29 Psc and just above that. Just to right a GeoSat flashed 5 times about a minute apart. This was very close to the ingress point to the Earth's shadow for this one. First time I've seen this.

NGC 7790 12:06 AM 10mm – 2 groups of stars. On right hand side, 5 stars form an upside down house with a sixth star. All of same magnitude. Faint stars. To left is a tiny knot of extremely faint stars, 8-10 total.



NGC 7795 12:12 AM 10mm – If I put a bright field star near the center of the FOV, there is a flat loop to upper left of it. With 6 bright stars on bottom and 10-15 very faint stars on top to complete loop back to the bright field star. Brighter stars of the same magnitude as are the very faint stars, all of same magnitude.  $\frac{3}{4}$  FOV in size. Sky Tools 4 shows another FOV away from top of loop is a roundish grouping of stars, 20-30 several brighter stars and rest very faint to extremely faint. About a FOV in size.

Didn't see the GeoSat egress from shadow. Brad said I should not move FOV for an hour and the GeoSat will be there because it doesn't move.

50 Cas 1:00 AM 24mm – A bright blue white star.

Berk 8 1:06 AM 19mm – 16 stars of same magnitude and a few dimmer stars make up 3 connected arcs of stars.



Frolov 1 1:15 AM 10mm – 5 dimmer stars make arrow pointing at 2:30 o'clock.

Berk 101	1:33 AM	10mm – 8 very faint stars of same magnitude and 4-6 dimmer stars of same relative magnitude make a compact comma shaped open cluster.
Kapteyn's Star	6:00 AM	19mm – A faint red star.
AP Col	6:04 AM	19mm – A very faint red star.
M42	6:06 AM	19mm – Awesome. Lots of nebulosity.
Crescent Moon	6:07 AM	19mm – A very thin sliver of it.
NGC 2174	6:14 AM	19mm – Around a couple of brighter field stars is this hint of a halo glow.
NGC 2327	6:26 AM	19mm – Around a brighter field star is this faint circular glow.

Geigenschein was very prominent in the eastern sky pointing high into the eastern sky.

Seeing and transparency was good. Brisk wind from south that was warm.

I got a 4 hour nap and got out at 6 am. Sky was awesome.

Comet C/2023 A3 6:54 AM

Used <sup>10</sup>8x50 binoculars. Could not see it naked eye because sky was too bright from pending sunrise.

It had a long tail. In nautical twilight, could barely see it with binos at 7:01 AM.



## Monday Sept 30, 2024

Gusty winds kept people from observing. Someone said smoke from forest fires in northeastern Canada had wrapped around a weather system in the central US and drifted down over us. At sunset, the smoke was obvious.

Saw 3 nice meteors. Space station passed brightly overhead.

Called it a night at 11:30 PM. Mike was trying to find galaxies in a soft looking sky. He said he found 3. The sky looked like it did at midnight the past 3 nights.

Wind predicted again Tuesday night. Did get a quadrant and staff reading of Venus tonight. Wind bounced quadrant a lot so I didn't try for the other 3 planets. Decided to sleep instead.

Will fight the wind Tuesday night to observe.

## Tuesday Oct 1, 2024

Clear at sunset. Wind from southeast. It dies out and returns. National Weather Service says 5 mph wind all night. Clear Sky Clock says stronger winds all night.

After sunset, wind died way down. Clear. No smoke from northeastern Canada fires seen after sun set, like I saw last night.

Seeing and Transparency good.

More planetary nebulas to observe.

M 2-32 8:43 PM 19mm – A brighter white star that responds well to OIII filter.

PK 86-8.1 8:52 PM 19mm – A faint white star that responds to OIII filter.

PK 3-6.1 9:03 PM 19mm – A faint cream colored star that responds to OIII filter.

Back to my list.

NGC 6595 9:10 PM 6 mm – 3 very faint stars sit on top a very small circular glow.

NGC 6605 9:14 PM 10mm – 4 brighter and 6-10 very faint stars make a wavy line half a FOV long.

Ru 143 9:19 PM 10mm – 1 very faint star in center of an arc of 5 very faint stars over top of this star.

In Mike Roos's 20" scope.

IC 4931 9:21 PM 13mm – A tiny, extremely faint out of focus fuzz ball. Just below a brighter field star.

PGC 63996 13mm – To left of IC 4931 is another star of same magnitude. Very close and at 8 o'clock is a tiny fuzzy spot of this galaxy. Can tell there is something to the lower left of that star.

Back to my 8" scope.

Ru 142 9:31 PM 10mm – Between 2 faint stars, lower a bit dimmer than upper, are 3 very faint stars in center and 2-3 extremely faint stars basically all in a line.



Ru 170	9:38 PM	10mm – 3 <u>very faint</u> stars form a small triangle that has 5 or so <u>extremely faint</u> stars around this triangle.
NGC 6411	9:53 PM	6 mm – To upper left of a brighter field star at 10 o'clock is an <u>extremely faint</u> , seen once in a while, roundish glow <u>very close</u> to this field star.
Back to Mike's 20" scope.		
NGC 6223	10:01 PM	13mm – A small, very faint oval with brighter, stellar core.
NGC 6226	10:03 PM	13mm – A small, 2:1 oval with a brighter, linear core down center of oval. Easy to see core.
NGC 6632	10:10 PM	13mm – A small, roundish dim glow with extremely faint, larger complex core area.
NGC 7135	10:32 PM	13mm – A small, round very faint, uniformly lit glow.
NGC 7130	10:35 PM	13mm – A small fat oval. Extremely faint. Has larger, bit brighter core area.
IC 5131	10:37 PM	13mm – A small, <u>very faint</u> fat oval, uniformly lit glow.
IC 5156	10:40 PM	13mm – A small, <u>very faint</u> , 3:1 glow with a hint of a hare brighter, tiny core.
PGC 67907	10:45 PM	13mm – Below IC 5156 and half FOV away is this oval to left of an extremely faint field star. Oval glow is approx. same magnitude as field star. See it as a "double" star.
NGC 7154	10:50 PM	13mm – An <u>extremely faint</u> long oval glow. Small. Barely there but can see it.
NGC 7165	10:53 PM	13mm – Between 2 field stars is this fat oval, uniformly lit, <u>extremely faint</u> glow.
NGC 7167	11:05 PM	13mm – To right of a brighter field star and near is a ghostly glow. Small. My eye follows it and seen once in a while. Hard to tell if it is really there but I think it is.

Bit stronger constant wind from southwest.

Seeing and transparency OK in this part of the sky around PsA and Aqr.

NGC 7187 11:13 PM 13mm – A small oval glow, very faint, that has a larger brighter core.

Back to my 8" scope.

NGC 7772 11:33 PM 10mm – 6-8 very faint stars in a compact grouping of same magnitude.

NGC 1502 11:38 PM 19mm – 20+ stars of 2-3 magnitudes. Most bright. Makes a double circle with 2 yellow, brighter stars on circles. Called Golden Harp.

Berk 98 11:59 PM 10mm – 9-12 faint stars of same magnitude make a larger arrowhead pointing at 11:30 o'clock. Almost ½ FOV long.

Strong wind gone now. Very slight breeze now and then.

PK 118-8.1 12:07 AM 10mm – A dim white star that responds very well to OIII filter.

Berk 100 12:14 AM 10mm – 4 stars, very faint, bottom 2 close looks like a double star, in a line, ¼ FOV long.

I'm tired. Jupiter high. Wait for Mars. Going to call it a night with the telescope. Get quadrant reading then go to bed.

## Wednesday Oct 2, 2024

Seeing and transparency good. Wind from the south.

Using Bernie's 16" f/4 scope

M11	9:01 PM	20mm – Nice.
NGC 6818	9:06 PM	20mm – A small, bright, oval planetary nebula.
NGC 6965	9:30 PM	20mm – A small, dim oval halo with larger, brighter core.
NGC 6964		Close to N6962 is a small oval glow. Faint with brighter stellar core. At 1 o'clock from N6962.
NGC 6962		Then below these and to left of a faint field star and very close is a tiny sliver of extremely faint glow. Pretty cool.
NGC 6959		A tiny, <u>extremely faint</u> "star" in a circle of field stars and where it should be. All these are in this same group of galaxies.
NGC 7184	9:53 PM	20mm – Nice, dim edge-on. 5:1. Center of glow is a hare brighter.
ASC 3	10:14 PM	Solar Sail satellite seen. It was bright for a bit, dim and brightened up again. Went thru the bowl stars of UMi. Very cool.
NGC 457	10:22 PM	ET Cluster. Also called Cochina Dancer. Has dress being held down by arms. Gems on chest with all the stars there. Other stars make bells on knees and faint stars near feet make more bells in that area. Also called the Owl Nebula. Rick Angell said this.

Make my own sketch of NGC 1502, Golden Harp in Aur.

## Thursday Oct 3, 2024 thru Saturday Oct 5, 2024

At 2:30 AM, the noro-virus hit me with bad diarrhea. On Tuesday morning, the person who brought the virus to the star party threw up in the dining hall. Most of the attendees eventually caught this very contagious intestinal virus. Mike Roos's symptoms started Friday night and he had to drive home dealing with them.

I spent all day Thursday, Thursday night and most of Friday sleeping. Had a good sleep Friday night. Saturday morning was the first solid poop I had in the past 2 days. My drive home tired me out but I had no problems with the virus.

I didn't win a Friday night door prize despite  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the people had left the event. The Friday night speaker was informative about all the Mars rovers and works for JPL.

I am now in front of my home, in the motorhome, spending 3 days of a 5 day quarantine that will be over on Tuesday. Barbara doesn't want to catch this virus. I am still pretty gassy as I write this. The other symptoms are gone. 5 days is the usual time the virus is not contagious anymore. Then I'll spend another 5 days isolating myself in the house and should be back to normal.

I had planned on driving home on Thursday. We were going to apple fest on the western slope with Sue and Bill. Sue has a lot of goat head burrs in her yard and Sally would have had them in her paws, so Barbara cancelled the trip. I stayed at the star party for a couple more days. I am glad I did. Because if I had driven home Thursday, I would have been in bed with Barbara Thursday night when the diarrhea started and she would have caught the noro-virus. So it all worked out for the best.



## Summary

I drove 708 miles round trip. I sold 15 Exploring books at \$5 each for a total of \$75. I sold 11 Globular books at \$3 each, for a total of \$33. A total of \$108 in book sales. I spend \$247 in gas.

Up until I got sick, I was having a good time. I was leisurely observing the sky in Mike's, Bernie's and my scope. I spent a lot of time finding and observing open clusters (OC). Sky Tools 4 was instrumental in identifying the star fields the OCs were in.

Mike had planetary nebulas to find and I enjoyed showing him the off-color I've noticed about these.

i do like this laid back kind of observing. it was relaxing.

The Thursday and Friday nights were marginal at best. At sunset, the sky looked like it did at midnight the previous nights. So I got to observe during the best nights of the star party.

I was to go into the house on Tuesday afternoon. On the way home, I developed a little, dry cough. 2 coughs and then a long time till the next cough. I thought it was all the dust at Okie-Tex I was suffering from. On Sunday, the cough had developed into a flemy cough. On Tuesday afternoon, it seemed like I had a cold, but not like any other cold I had.

I asked Barbara for a Covid test and it turned positive. All the years during the Pandemic I went to work, this was the first time I saw the pink T line on the tester, indicating the positive result. I called my doctor and he got me a Paxlovid prescription. I have 3 more doses of a 5 day treatment to take. This is Friday, Oct 11, and i still have the flemy cough, every now and then.

Isolating in my home is not what I wanted to do once I got home. We were to take the motorhome out again, and now we cannot. I need to completely disinfect the motorhome and get it ready to put away for winter. I won't start that until next week, another 5 days of quarantine from the general public.

This is the last public star party I will ever attend. Catching both viruses was not something I imagined happening. Having both, back to back, is not what I ever want to do again.