



Southern Sentinel Observing Session Notes

Observing Session - Friday 2nd August

Date: 2 Aug 2002 (Local)
Time: 2230-0000 NZST (UT +12)
Location: Maramarua Forest - North Waikato
77 Kms, 57 Minutes from home
Weather: Cold, No Cloud but with a an occasional light mist
Seeing: Limiting Magnitude 5.5, transparency 3/5, seeing 3/5
Moon: No Moon (Third Quarter)
Equipment: 13.1" F5 Dob with Paracorr, TeleVue Eyepieces, UHC Filter

More excellent conditions in the North. After from suffering from Fog in Auckland during the day and planning an Observing Session in the evening, finding a spot in the North Waikato where conditions would be unaffected by mist and fog was going to be a challenge.

I planned with Dave Brock to meet at Te Kauwhata at 7:30PM and we met just before that. The mist was thick at Te Kauwhata, which is near the Waikato river and finding a spot was going to prove more difficult that first thought. After about an hour of driving up and down dead end roads we found a place in the Maramarua Forest which was suffieciently high enough and therefore relatively clear of mist. There are no disadvantages to this site. Being on the edge of the forest and farmland to the North gave excellent horizons to the North and East with just a minor obstruction in the Northeast. The lights of Auckland and Pukekohe glowed in the Northwest.

The conditions were Cool, Calm and Dark. The seeing throughout the night was average, not allowing too much high power work, even so the 18mm Radian got a good workout tonight. The mist annoyed us for about 30 minutes but after about 9:15PM the mist left us for the remainder of the evening.

Dave had his recently completed 12 Inch Dob and he put it through its paces and performed superbly all night. Strange to see Dave without his 16 Inch, which was left at home. My scope with its recently anti-dew system rigged up worked spot on for all of the 3 1/2 hours we observed. A credit to Dave Moorhouse and his electrical skills. Thanks Dave.

Interesting to note that as we left and dropped away from the forest the mist picked up and was almost continuous until the Bombay hills. We were lucky considering the prevailing mist.

Objects seen were;

Object	Type	Altitude	Magnification	Eyepiece
NGC 6723	Globular cluster	66.3°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
IC 1297	Planetary nebula	63.2°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6768	Galaxy	63.4°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 70	Globular cluster	68.5°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
IC 4776	Planetary nebula	68.3°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
IC 5105	Galaxy	39.7°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6958	Galaxy	45.5°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
IC 5030	Galaxy	43.5°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
IC 5029	Galaxy	43.7°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 2	Globular cluster	17.8°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6923	Galaxy	59.1°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian

NGC 6925	Galaxy	59.4°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
IC 5011	Galaxy	62.4°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6924	Galaxy	60.3°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6936	Galaxy	59.7°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
M 15	Globular cluster	27.1°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
M 30	Globular cluster	50.1°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
IC 1633	Galaxy	22.3°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 55	Galaxy	29.0°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 300	Galaxy	23.6°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 7293	Planetary nebula	44.7°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6553	Globular cluster	65.5°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
B 90	Dark nebula	66.9°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6565	Planetary nebula	67.2°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
B 86	Dark nebula	65.2°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6520	Open cluster	65.4°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
B 92	Dark nebula	61.7°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
B 93	Dark nebula	61.8°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
M 16	Bright nebula	58.8°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
M 17	Bright nebula	61.0°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 27	Planetary nebula	30.4°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
M 9	Globular cluster	51.8°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 57	Planetary nebula	18.8°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6960	Supernova remnant	21.3°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6974	Bright nebula	19.9°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6979	Bright nebula	19.6°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6992	Supernova remnant	19.8°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6995	Supernova remnant	20.2°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic

The feature of the evening has to go to finally nabbing IC1633 the final Dunlop 100 Object for me to see to complete the list. After getting all but 1 object at Pauanui in March it has been a wait for Phoenix to roll round and pop back up in the East. Other than that just a general chase of objects rising in the East, a "Night Sky Observer Guide" Galaxy hunt between Capricornus and Microscopium and a good look at the Veil.

Good workout at medium power with the 18mm Radian. My UHC filter and Dave's OIII filter comparison was good, the OIII outperformed the UHC tonight due to its narrower light bandwidth pass showing more detail in the Veil, in particular.

Tough objects ; IC5011 and its companion. Companion galaxy not seen.
 Memorable objects ; The Veil, The Veil through Dave's scope & you guessed it...the Veil again.

Cheers.

Paul Kemp
 13.1" Reflector
 Auckland, New Zealand
 36° 55' 16" South, 174° 43' 30" East

-- The Southern Sentinel --