



Southern Sentinel Observing Session Notes

Observing Session - Friday 9th and Saturday 10th August

Date: 9-10 Aug 2002 (Local)
Time: 2030-0100 NZST (UT +12)
Location: Waharau Regional Park
-- Kms, 70 Minutes from home
Weather: Very Cold, No Cloud but a strong southerly wind.
Seeing: Limiting Magnitude 5.5, transparency 3-4/5, seeing 2/5
Moon: No Moon (New Moon)
Equipment: 13.1" F5 Dob with Paracorr, TeleVue Eyepieces, UHC Filter

Auckland Astronomical Society Dark Sky Weekend. About 20 people turned out this evening with a variety of equipment. The conditions were very cold with a stiff south-westerly. The seeing throughout the night was poor. The wind sometimes whipped the Dobs around. A momentary cause of concern was had.

The idea of the weekend was to show people the popular 'bright' objects while snaring a few faint objects as well. Sagittarius early and Pegasus through to Fornax later while ignoring the Fornax Cluster for a later month.

Objects seen were;

Object	Type	Altitude	Magnification	Eyepiece
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NGC 104	Globular cluster	25.8°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 28	Globular cluster	58.8°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 22	Globular cluster	56.0°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 80	Globular cluster	76.0°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6118	Galaxy	55.3°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6451	Open cluster	68.6°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6755	Open cluster	37.1°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6756	Open cluster	36.7°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 5078	Galaxy	46.0°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 5101	Galaxy	46.4°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 83	Galaxy	50.5°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 5139	Globular cluster	52.4°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 4945	Galaxy	49.0°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6781	Planetary nebula	45.0°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 6905	Planetary nebula	27.0°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
IC 5148	Planetary nebula	49.1°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 6629	Planetary nebula	75.9°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 6583	Open cluster	74.3°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 6287	Globular cluster	65.0°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 6517	Globular cluster	60.7°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 6645	Open cluster	69.9°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 246	Planetary nebula	22.0°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 134	Galaxy	36.1°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 288	Globular cluster	28.8°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 253	Galaxy	29.1°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 247	Galaxy	26.9°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 55	Galaxy	41.1°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 300	Galaxy	33.3°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 24	Galaxy	52.8°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7479	Galaxy	35.5°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7541	Galaxy	41.4°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian

NGC 7339	Galaxy	27.3°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7332	Galaxy	27.4°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7814	Galaxy	26.6°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 578	Galaxy	39.7°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 613	Galaxy	42.0°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
M 74	Galaxy	15.3°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian

I have all but finished the Messier catalog with the final 'official' logging of M74. M74 is a nasty object and nearly always eludes me especially from the city where you cannot see it. Planetary nebulae were again on the menu with many of the fainter and stellar PN's being logged tonight.

The Nagler was used at times when the seeing improved but basically removed most of the high power observing this evening.

Tough objects ; M74 and the stellar PN's.
 Memorable objects ; NGC131 & NGC134 Galaxy pair.
 The large bright galaxies NGC253 & NGC55 & The large PN NGC6781 in Aquila.

Cheers.

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

-- The Southern Sentinel --



NGC134