



Southern Sentinel Observing Session Notes

Observing Session - Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th August

Date: 10 -11 Aug 2002 (Local)
Time: 2030-0300 NZST (UT +12)
Location: Waharau Regional Park
-- Kms, 70 Minutes from home
Weather: Cold, Calm conditions but a lot of cloud.
Seeing: Limiting Magnitude 5.0, transparency 3/5, seeing 4/5
Moon: No Moon (New Moon)
Equipment: 13.1" F5 Dob with Paracorr, TeleVue Eyepieces, UHC Filter

Second Night of the AAS Dark Sky Weekend at the Waharau Regional Park.

Observing conditions would have been superb if the cloud had not veiled the skies for most of the evening, when patches of clear skies came along the observing was great. The day was great not a lot of cloud with warm sunny conditions. This attracted more people from the city and early in the evening the numbers swelled to about 50 people. Unfortunately the early evening cloud killed any chance of seeing anything. A few people packed up and went home. Many ended up going to bed. A few of us listened to the Warriors and the Bulldogs play while taking any opportunity to view that we could.

Drizzle punctuated the evening but eventually between 12 and 2:30 the skies were clear for large periods allowing for observations to be made. My telescope At 2:30 my telescope was the only one braving the conditions and being used in the cloud breaks. The rugby was great with the All Blacks winning against South Africa.

Objects seen were;

Object	Type	Altitude	Magnification	Eyepiece
NGC 6256	Globular cluster	81.5°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6026	Planetary nebula	38.9°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
IC 4637	Planetary nebula	51.1°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 5873	Planetary nebula	29.8°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 5986	Globular cluster	35.6°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6072	Planetary nebula	40.1°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 2070	Bright nebula	20.5°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6781	Planetary nebula	43.7°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 104	Globular cluster	46.4°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 362	Globular cluster	43.9°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 247	Galaxy	59.1°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 253	Galaxy	61.6°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 1360	Planetary nebula	36.9°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 1340	Galaxy	40.5°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 1097	Galaxy	49.3°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7623	Galaxy	44.6°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7619	Galaxy	44.8°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7626	Galaxy	44.8°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian

Medium power was on tonight and objects like NGC253 were showing subtle detail. NGC1097 was great showing the central bar and hints of the large spiral arms. NGC1360 was also a good looker, like a large dinner plate with one pea left.

Tough objects ; IC1613 a large galaxy in Pisces. Not seen....Blast!
Memorable objects ; NGC1360 & NGC1097 were the highlights. New bright objects...
makes a change.

Cheers.

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

-- The Southern Sentinel --