



Southern Sentinel Observing Session Notes

Observing Session - Saturday 31st August

Date: 31 Aug 2002 (Local)
Time: 2030-2300 NZST (UT +12)
Location: Waitetoko, Lake Taupo
30 Minutes South of Taupo on Lake Taupo.
Weather: Very Cold, Clear and Calm conditions, Occasional Cloud.
Seeing: Limiting Magnitude 5.5, transparency 4/5, seeing 4/5
Moon: No Moon (New Moon)
Equipment: 13.1" F5 Dob with Paracorr, TeleVue Eyepieces, UHC Filter

The Volcanic Plateau, a dark spot in the middle of the North Island and dark skies. Pretty good really.

Spent a couple of hours on the telescope fine tuning it for an observing run. Put a few coats of paint on the fan assembly and finally permanently mounted it to the mirror cell. It's only taken thirteen months. A quick trip to the Mitre 10 at Turangi for a few small bolts and the job was finished.

The day was superb and most people were skiing on the mountain. Lucky we avoided the weekend crowds, the actually closed the road up because of too many people. The evening started off a bit cloudier than what I would have liked. The southern sky was veiled with cloud and only the northern third was available, although to the south, stars could be seen under the cloud. A good sign. All the cloud was gone by 9 PM and unrestricted access to the sky, apart from some inconvenient trees. Often we are a bit greedy and observe over the whole sky taking in all of the delicacies. I had the nearly the whole sky but still muttered about a tree which was blocking my eastern sky. Aquarius was not a constellation on offer tonight.

Objects seen were;

Object	Type	Altitude	Magnification	Eyepiece
M 13	Globular cluster	12.8°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
M 57	Planetary nebula	19.8°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
M 56	Globular cluster	21.9°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6765	Planetary nebula	21.7°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 7213	Galaxy	48.2°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
IC 5152	Galaxy	49.6°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 7141	Galaxy	56.8°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 7205	Galaxy	54.1°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 7205A	Galaxy	54.2°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 7090	Galaxy	59.2°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 7049	Galaxy	63.6°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7041	Galaxy	64.0°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7041A	Galaxy	63.8°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6861	Galaxy	74.2°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6868	Galaxy	73.9°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6870	Galaxy	73.9°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6851	Galaxy	74.8°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 22	Globular cluster	69.8°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
M 27	Planetary nebula	30.3°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 104	Globular cluster	41.3°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 6802	Open cluster	32.5°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6830	Open cluster	30.0°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian

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NGC 6823	Open cluster	29.7°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 371	Open cluster	39.0°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 395	Open cluster	38.9°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 362	Globular cluster	43.4°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
IC 1624	Open cluster	43.0°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 253	Galaxy	44.0°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 55	Galaxy	55.2°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian

Conditions allowed the full eyepiece box to be used. Some very nice views of the brighter objects with the 12mm Nagler were memorable. NGC6823 needs revisiting as it is immersed in a emission nebula not seen without a filter.

Tough objects ; Galaxy grouping in Telescopium. NGC's 6851, 6861, 6868 & 6870 seen but two other within range not seen.

Memorable objects ; M57 with the Nagler.

Open clusters in the SMC. More time needed to identify exactly each object.

Cheers.

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

-- The Southern Sentinel --