



# Southern Sentinel Observing Session Notes

Observing Session - Sunday 1st September

Date: 1 Sep 2002 (Local)  
Time: 2030-0000 NZST (UT +12)  
Location: Waitetoko, Lake Taupo  
30 Minutes South of Taupo on Lake Taupo.  
Weather: Very Cold/Icy, Clear and Calm conditions,  
Seeing: Limiting Magnitude 5.5, transparency 4/5, seeing 4/5  
Moon: No Moon (Three Quarter Moon)  
Equipment: 13.1" F5 Dob with Paracorr, TeleVue Eyepieces, UHC Filter

Second Night in a row on the Plateau, conditions better than the first night.

The conditions were near perfect with the seeing steady and the transparency very good. The conditions were just above freezing and went sub zero as the evening drew on. The laptop ran out of battery at just before 11 PM and I continued using the Night Sky Observers Guide books till midnight. The cold brought the evening to a close. The telescope had iced over and the Telrad was covered in ice. The finderscope equipped with Dave Moorhouse's dew remover worked flawlessly all evening.

The night was spend at a much higher power than the previous with the Radian being the eyepiece of choice tonight with the Panoptic being used to find objects and the Radian and Nagler used to further observe the objects. I think that with the altitude and the cold conditions the sky is a lot steadier.

Objects seen were;

Object	Type	Altitude	Magnification	Eyepiece
NGC 7492	Globular cluster	35.4°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7314	Galaxy	47.4°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7176	Galaxy	56.5°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7174	Galaxy	56.5°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7173	Galaxy	56.5°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7172	Galaxy	56.4°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
sigma Pavonis	Star	57.8°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6943	Galaxy	57.9°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
IC 5052	Galaxy	57.3°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6880	Galaxy	56.1°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 6877	Galaxy	56.1°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6876	Galaxy	56.1°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6872	Galaxy	56.2°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6752	Globular cluster	63.7°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 6744	Galaxy	60.5°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 6684	Galaxy	58.1°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 625	Galaxy	34.1°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
M 71	Globular cluster	32.2°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7793	Galaxy	63.7°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
NGC 7755	Galaxy	64.9°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7713	Galaxy	69.1°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
IC 5332	Galaxy	69.2°	107x	TeleVue 18mm Radian
NGC 7009	Planetary nebula	60.9°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
M 73	Open cluster	61.5°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler
M 72	Globular cluster	60.7°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Type 2 Nagler

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The two galaxy groupings were the objects of note tonight. A tight galaxy grouping in Piscis Austrinis was a real 'find' for the evening. Four galaxies in this tight group; NGC7172, NGC7173, NGC7174 & NGC7176.

Along with this grouping was a galactic grouping in Pavo. An observing treasure has been found. There is a galaxy group in Pavo that is simply outstanding. There are four bright galaxies; NGC6872, NGC6876, NGC6877 & NGC6880. There are eight IC galaxies also in the same field of the 27mm Panoptic. None were noticed but will return to confirm them.

Tough objects ; NGC7492, very difficult galaxy.  
Memorable objects ; Pavo and Piscis Austrinis galaxy groupings.  
Saturn Nebula at High Power.  
M71 was quite nice too, a nice field.

Cheers.

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

-- The Southern Sentinel --