



Southern Sentinel Observing Session Notes

Observing Session - Monday 2nd September

Date: 2 Sep 2002 (Local)
Time: 2100-2300 NZST (UT +12)
Location: Waitetoko, Lake Taupo
30 Minutes South of Taupo on Lake Taupo.
Weather: Very Cold, Clear and Calm conditions,
Seeing: Limiting Magnitude 5.0, transparency 3.5/5, seeing 4/5
Moon: No Moon (Three Quarter Moon)
Equipment: 13.1" F5 Dob with Paracorr, TeleVue Eyepieces, UHC Filter

Third Night in a row on the Plateau.

The conditions were not as good as the previous two nights. I think that there was high cloud floating through the area reducing transparency but the seeing was still as good as the other nights. Star images were steady at 161x. Although the skies were good the 27mm Panoptic was used almost exclusively due to the reduced contrast. I actually was reluctant to go out tonight but once outside got into the swing of things. Brighter objects viewed tonight, especially in the Sagittarius region.

Objects seen were;

Object	Type	Altitude	Magnification	Eyepiece
NGC 6717	Globular cluster	71.3°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6716	Open cluster	68.9°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
Cr 394	Open cluster	69.2°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6729	Bright nebula	77.6°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6558	Globular cluster	65.7°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
IC 5201	Galaxy	64.6°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6530	Open cluster	59.6°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 21	Open cluster	58.5°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 20	Bright nebula	58.5°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 8	Bright nebula	59.5°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
B 85	Dark nebula	58.5°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 55	Globular cluster	76.1°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 75	Globular cluster	73.0°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 6652	Globular cluster	63.1°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 70	Globular cluster	64.3°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 69	Globular cluster	62.0°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 54	Globular cluster	66.1°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic

Tough objects ; NGC6380 A faint globular and Ton 2 a globular nearby were not seen.
IC5201 a very faint galaxy in the same field as pi Gruis. On the limit of detection. Seen.
Memorable objects ; M55 Large globular in Sagittarius not seen for a while.

Cheers.

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

-- The Southern Sentinel --