



Southern Sentinel Observing Session Notes

Observing Session - Saturday 5th October

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Date: 05 Oct 2002 (Local)
 Time: 2100-0300 NZST (UT +12)
 Location: Lake Ngaroto, Te Awamutu
 30 Minutes South of Hamilton.
 Weather: Mild, Clear and Calm conditions, No Cloud.
 Seeing: Limiting Magnitude 5.0, transparency 3.5/5, seeing 4/5
 Moon: No Moon (New Moon)
 Equipment: 13.1" F5 Dob with Paracorr, TeleVue Eyepieces, UHC Filter

Travelling south from Auckland I met up with Dave Brock for an observing session that we had planned for a couple of weeks. Heading further south, we picked up Jethro from Te Awamutu and also met Alan Kane who was also staying in the Waikato for the weekend. Daylight Savings actually kicked in while we were out, knocking off 1 hour of recovery time (sleep).

The observing site was new to all due to Jethro's recent move to Te Awamutu, but on the map there looked like a possibility that there would be a reserve on the southern shore of the small Lake Ngaroto. The site was directly south of the light dome of Hamilton which affected the low down northern objects. The park was also fairly busy with cars coming and going but nevertheless they were only a brief problem. A daytime check of sites in the area would be beneficial to decrease the chances of interruptions from headlights.



Telescopes cooling soon after arriving

The cloud cover was quite thick during the afternoon, but cleared so that there was less than 10% cloud and it was clear in the south. Due to the cloud the evening started out mild and cooled off in the early hours. It was basically clear for the entire time. Good conditions for observing.

Objects seen were;

Object	Type	Altitude	Magnification	Eyepiece
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NGC 104	Globular cluster	49.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 22	Globular cluster	46.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 6781	Planetary nebula	34.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 6729	Bright nebula	56.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 6727	Bright nebula	56.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 6723	Globular cluster	56.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1087	Galaxy	26.1°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1055	Galaxy	26.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 779	Galaxy	38.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 77	Galaxy	26.4°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 74	Galaxy	25.4°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4

NGC 524	Galaxy	36.8°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 488	Galaxy	40.9°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 32	Galaxy	11.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 31	Galaxy	10.6°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3195	Planetary nebula	28.7°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3149	Galaxy	28.4°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1232	Galaxy	45.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1187	Galaxy	47.6°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1097A	Galaxy	54.2°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1097	Galaxy	54.1°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1365	Galaxy	50.5°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 253	Galaxy	77.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 7293	Planetary nebula	47.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 6752	Globular cluster	28.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 43	Bright nebula	26.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 42	Bright nebula	27.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1535	Planetary nebula	40.1°	98x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
IC 5148	Planetary nebula	42.0°	98x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 2070	Bright nebula	49.0°	98x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 45	Open cluster	26.7°	---	(None)
M 41	Open cluster	33.8°	98x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 30	Globular cluster	26.0°	98x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1964	Galaxy	48.0°	98x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1637	Galaxy	49.0°	98x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 33	Galaxy	10.5°	98x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4

* Magnification drop later in the even was due to the removal of the Paracorr to check the performance of the new 17mm Nagler without it.

Most of the observing was conducted using my new 17mm Nagler Type 4. I purchased this eyepiece to replace the 18mm Radian as it was not used very often due to being a 1 1/4 eyepiece. The 27mm Pan and the 12mm Nagler were also used but each object was logged with 17mm.

Tough objects ; IC1633 again, suspected in both the 13" and 16" but not confirmed.

Memorable objects ; Some objects were memorable. The Barred Spirals of NGC1097 & NGC1365 were great specially with Dave's 16".

Cheers.

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