



# Southern Sentinel Observing Session Notes

Observing Session - Saturday 31st November

Date: 30 Nov - 1 Dec 2002 (Local)  
Time: 2200-0230 NZDT (UT +13)  
Location: Belcher Rd, Te Kauwhata  
57 Minutes From Home.  
Weather: Warm, Clear and Calm conditions, No Cloud.  
Seeing: Limiting Magnitude 5.5, transparency 4/5, seeing 4/5  
Moon: No Moon (Nearly New Moon)  
Equipment: 13.1" F5 Dob with Paracorr, TeleVue Eyepieces, UHC Filter

Despite local cloud in Auckland and Hamilton, Dave Brock and I decided, to risk the cloud and meet up near Te Kauwhata. On arrival a spot needed to be found as Symes Rd in the Maramarua Forest was too difficult to get to regularly for Dave (lots of turns). We found a spot on the side of Belcher road about 10 minutes from State Highway 1. Despite being further south, it actually took the same amount of time to get to Belcher Rd as Symes Rd (57 minutes)

We set up in a roading metal storage area and quickly were off observing. Seeing was very good earlier on and warm conditions made observing pleasant. We observed for just on 4 hours. Cloud only interrupted us for a 20 minute segment other than that skies were 100% clear.

No particular pattern to observing tonight, just get out and observe after a real drought of 6 good weeks. Actually the last time I went observing in the evening with my scope was with Dave at Te Awamutu.

Objects seen were;

Object	Type	Altitude	Magnification	Eyepiece
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NGC 1574	Galaxy	56.1°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1559	Galaxy	54.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 43	Bright Nebula	28.8°	0x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 42	Bright Nebula	29.0°	0x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
IC 418	Planetary Nebula	35.8°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 2207	Galaxy	32.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
IC 2163	Galaxy	32.7°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 2217	Galaxy	35.9°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 2170	Bright Nebula	28.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 2232	Open Cluster	25.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 33	Galaxy	21.6°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 891	Galaxy	10.8°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 34	Open Cluster	10.4°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
C/2002 V1 NEAT	Comet	36.4°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
theta1 Orionis	Star	53.6°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
Saturn	Planet	27.2°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 2022	Planetary Nebula	39.7°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1980	Bright Nebula	54.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1977	Bright Nebula	53.1°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1975	Bright Nebula	53.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1973	Bright Nebula	53.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1514	Planetary Nebula	22.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 2440	Planetary Nebula	52.7°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 2438	Planetary Nebula	50.5°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 2188	Galaxy	78.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4

NGC 1808	Galaxy	88.6°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 1792	Galaxy	87.9°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 46	Open Cluster	50.5°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 2477	Open Cluster	59.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 2090	Galaxy	83.1°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3242	Planetary Nebula	27.1°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 44	Open Cluster	20.1°	0x	(None)

Observing allowed use of higher powers so the 17mm Nagler Type 4 and the 12mm Nagler Type 2 were used almost exclusively. Looking at Saturn with the 12mm Nagler was memorable, nice contrast and the Cassini Division was clear all the way round.

Tough objects ; C/2002 V1 NEAT and NGC891.  
 Memorable objects ; Saturn and IC418, NGC2440 & NGC1514. Nice Planetaries.

Cheers.

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

-- The Southern Sentinel --