



Southern Sentinel Observing Session Notes

Observing Session - Wednesday 5th February

Date: 5 Feb - 6 Feb 2002 (Local)
Time: 2315-0145 NZDT (UT +13)
Location: Belcher Rd, Te Kauwhata.
57 Minutes From Home.
Weather: Warm, Clear and Calm conditions, Patchy cloud after 12:30.
Seeing: Limiting Magnitude 5.5, transparency 3.5/5, seeing 4/5
Moon: No Moon (Small Waxing Moon, Set)
Equipment: 13.1" F5 Dob with Paracorr, TeleVue Eyepieces, UHC Filter

Headed down to Belcher Rd to meet up with Dave Brock, Dave Moorhouse and Guy Thornley for some observing. The weather was 100% overcast in Auckland but clear in Hamilton. It was decided that an attempt was to be made to meet up. Belcher Rd was selected and proved to be an excellent site between Auckland and Hamilton. I decided not to take my scope to speed up the process in getting south, as I decided to go at the last minute.

The cloud in the north was going to be a problem late in the observing run, but the sky was clear until about 12:30, after then the cloud tended to come and go until at about 1:30 in came in for good.

As I did not have my own scope, but took the lappie, only a few objects were seen tonight and no new deep sky objects. A nice social observing session.

Objects seen were;

Object	Type	Altitude	Magnification	Eyepiece
NGC 3166	Galaxy	30.0°	125x	TeleVue 16mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 3115	Galaxy	39.4°	125x	TeleVue 16mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 2022	Planetary Nebula	40.3°	167x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
Cr 69	Open Cluster	38.9°	167x	(None)
Comet/2001 HT50	LINEAR-NEAT	53.9°	167x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 2346	Planetary Nebula	53.5°	125x	TeleVue 16mm Nagler Type 2
Saturn	Planet	23.1°	125x	TeleVue 16mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 5189	Planetary Nebula	36.9°	286x	Pentax 7mm XL
NGC 4071	Planetary Nebula	45.6°	125x	TeleVue 16mm Nagler Type 2
Jupiter	Planet	35.2°	125x	TeleVue 16mm Nagler Type 2

Comet HT50 was bright and very nice. No magnitude estimate was taken. Lazy. Nice views of NGC5189 at high power. Held up well and looked very similar to the image on the computer. A bit of time was spent looking at the differences between the 16 Inch and the 12 Inch on a few objects such as NGC4071 and NGC5189.

Tough objects ; NGC4071 in Musca.
Memorable objects ; Comet/2001 HT50 LINEAR-NEAT, NGC5189 at high power.

Cheers.

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

-- The Southern Sentinel --