



# Southern Sentinel Observing Session Notes

Observing Session - Saturday 8th February

Date: 8 Feb 2002 (Local)  
Time: 0000-0230 NZDT (UT +13)  
Location: Wenderholm Regional Park.  
45 Minutes From Home.  
Weather: Mild, Clear and Calm conditions, Patchy cloud all evening.  
Seeing: Limiting Magnitude 5.5, transparency 3.5/5, seeing 3/5  
Moon: No Moon (Small Waxing Moon, Set)  
Equipment: 13.1" F5 Dob with Paracorr, TeleVue Eyepieces, UHC Filter

Well, again another evening out. Third in the week. The moon is now intruding into the evening so the deep sky observer has to go out later, testing endurance and stamina. Be tired already, the conditions were too good to pass up as the observing in the evening is all but over. The Auckland region has had some good weather and was still and clear. Cloud was about, but that would not affect the observing too much. The wind was negligible and the waxing moon had set. The Wenderholm site has one real advantage, a good northern aspect with object that appear low in the north easier to see.

I arrived just before midnight and set up promptly. David Moorhouse was already onsite and had people who were out fishing looking through his telescope, not much observing was done as these complete strangers enjoyed the planets and other fine objects. Eventually they shuffled off just before 1 AM.

With Leo and Virgo making an impact in the Northeast, there is no surprise that the night consisted mostly of galaxies. I have specifically avoided the region between Porrima, Denebola & Vindemiatrix for a run in early March or April and a clear pattern to hit the Virgo cluster. But not to be outdone there was one low down Caldwell globular logged.

Objects seen were;

Object	Type	Altitude	Magnification	Eyepiece
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NGC 2419	Globular Cluster	14.2°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3955	Galaxy	47.5°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3904	Galaxy	53.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3887	Galaxy	47.4°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3672	Galaxy	46.9°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3593	Galaxy	32.1°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3489	Galaxy	32.8°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 5419	Galaxy	33.2°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3936	Galaxy	57.9°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3705	Galaxy	35.5°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3412	Galaxy	36.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 4856	Galaxy	38.5°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
M 104	Galaxy	40.2°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 4699	Galaxy	37.9°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 5247	Galaxy	34.5°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 4666	Galaxy	35.3°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 3245	Galaxy	24.0°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 5101	Galaxy	47.1°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 5061	Galaxy	47.6°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 5078	Galaxy	47.8°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4

Tonight's galaxy fest provided a bit of practice in determining the differences between spirals and ellipticals at the eyepiece, especially with the fainter galaxies. The evenings seeing improved allowing a higher power look at some of the galaxies logged. Detail is often easier to see at higher power. The last object logged tonight NGC5078 calls for closer attention, a companion and dark lane are present but I ran out of time for a decent look at higher powers.

Tough objects ; NGC5247, not too tough but harder to see than the others tonight.  
Memorable objects ; M104 with high power.

Cheers.

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

-- The Southern Sentinel --

