



Southern Sentinel Observing Session Notes

Observing Session - Friday 4th April

Date: 4 Apr 2002 (Local)
Time: 0815-1115 NZDT (UT +12)
Location: Belcher Rd, Te Kauwhata.
57 Minutes From Home.
Weather: Clear and Calm conditions.
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

With the weather been less than desirable for observing in the last 6 weeks, this is the first time out for at least that long. There have been good nights but often they have clashed with weddings and other functions that have taken priority.

I arranged a observing session with Dave Brock and we headed to Te Kauwhata to Belcher Road again. Belcher Rd had all of the gravel missing making the area quite open and could accommodate more than 30 telescopes. The cloud had been present all day but had disappeared to leave on distant cloud in the hills. We are going to get mist in this region on of these days but none was present so we set up and started observing at 8:15. Cloud eventually arrived and while the skies were still observable we called it a night after 3 hours at 11:15.

Tonight I also debuted the 80mm Stellarvue refractor as a finder. The sharp star images were good with objects easily located. Nice wide field views of the Eta Carinae region and objects like NGC4945 were seen easily despite being faint. Dew became a bit of a problem a bit later on and I'll have to now investigate the anti dewing system to eliminate that problem.

Again I kept intentionally away from the Virgo cluster again and worked around Leo and in the region south of Spica. A show down with the Virgo cluster region is looming.

Objects seen were;

Object	Type	Altitude	Magnification	Eyepiece
NGC 3918	Planetary Nebula	53.9°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3640	Galaxy	37.9°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3227	Galaxy	30.2°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3226	Galaxy	30.1°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3672	Galaxy	49.7°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 4995	Galaxy	33.8°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 4958	Galaxy	34.7°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 4781	Galaxy	38.5°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 4778	Galaxy	37.7°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 4776	Galaxy	37.9°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 4770	Galaxy	38.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 4761	Galaxy	37.7°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 4759	Galaxy	37.7°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 4742	Galaxy	38.9°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3810	Galaxy	33.4°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 4790	Galaxy	38.8°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 4760	Galaxy	39.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3691	Galaxy	32.8°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4

NGC 3686	Galaxy	32.5°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3684	Galaxy	32.8°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3681	Galaxy	33.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3626	Galaxy	32.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3608	Galaxy	32.5°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3607	Galaxy	32.6°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3605	Galaxy	32.6°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 3599	Galaxy	32.6°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 5634	Globular Cluster	29.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
IC 4191	Planetary Nebula	54.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4

Leo is an excellent constellation. The big groupings involving Messier galaxies are often viewed and the others neglected. There are some real treasures in the area between Chort, Zosma & Denebola. Not to mention others in the hook asterism further to the west.

A nice amount of time was spent looking at IC4191 in Musca. Identifying the PN was the challenge but once found was quite easy to see. Looked Neptune like in the 16 inch at high power. The nearby PN NGC5189 was also looked at but not logged.

Tough objects ; NGC4778 Galaxy group. Quite difficult with the 13 inch, easier with the 16 inch.

Memorable objects ; NGC3607 Group & The NGC3684 galaxy chain.

Cheers.

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

-- The Southern Sentinel --