



Southern Sentinel Observing Session Notes

Observing Session - Monday 2nd June 2003

Date: 02 May 2002 (Local)
Time: 1930-2145 NZDT (UT +12)
Location: Wenderholm Regional Park - North Auckland
45 Minutes From Home.
Weather: Clear, Cool and Calm conditions. Slightly Hazy at the Horizon.
Seeing: Limiting Magnitude 5.5, transparency 3.5/5, seeing 4/5
Moon: No Moon (Waxing Moon)
Equipment: 13.1" F5 Dob with Paracorr, TeleVue Eyepieces, UHC Filter

With the telescope already packed into the trailer after an aborted effort to observing in Waikato the previous evening with Dave Brock, Monday was clear and cool and observing would be a definite possibility. With the conditions the way they were, I decided to go to Wenderholm Regional Park to observe.

I rang Guy Thornley and he said he would come up and observe with me but Dave Moorhouse was working and didn't make it. The skies were good with 5.5 mag stars at 45 degrees just visible. The northern horizon was a bit murky and the southern sky was it's usual condition, light polluted to about 25 degrees up. I believe Symes Rd to the South is a better option now, higher up and with less light polluted skies, it's just that much better.

I setup and was away observing at 7:30, just as Guy arrived. Another local astronomer Jason Harris turned up about 45 minutes later. Another 2 hours plus at the scope, but with the moon becoming a factor in the evening now, the observing in the evening will be gone for the next 2 weeks

No particular pattern to the observing this evening, just a look at Caldwell and Messier objects in the low down Canes Venatici, and some galactic stragglers in Virgo. With the Scorpius and Sagittarius regions observed quite heavily in recent years, I will probably switch to the fainter Herschel II catalog in the coming months.

Objects seen were;

Object	Type	Altitude	Magnification	Eyepiece
NGC 5005	Galaxy	14.4°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 63	Galaxy	9.5°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
M 94	Galaxy	11.4°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 4449	Galaxy	9.0°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 4244	Galaxy	15.3°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 4214	Galaxy	16.8°	72x	TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
NGC 4368	Galaxy	42.5°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 4325	Galaxy	42.5°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 3935	Galaxy	20.3°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 5033	Galaxy	15.9°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 4020	Galaxy	22.2°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 4868	Galaxy	15.7°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 4914	Galaxy	15.7°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 4490	Galaxy	11.5°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 5020	Galaxy	40.3°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 5129	Galaxy	38.8°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
NGC 4030	Galaxy	51.2°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
Fleming 1	Planetary Nebula	65.0°	161x	TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2

NGC 3918	Planetary Nebula	63.8°	161x
NGC 6164	Planetary Nebula	56.6°	72x
IC 4662	Galaxy	45.2°	72x
NGC 6235	Globular Cluster	51.3°	72x

TeleVue 12mm Nagler Type 2
TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
TeleVue 27mm Panoptic
TeleVue 27mm Panoptic

Clocking a few unobserved Caldwell objects was definitely good as there are now only one or two objects now unobserved that rise from New Zealand. The Messier galaxies M106 and M51 are just too low to attempt a search. NGC4244 was a highlight...a really long skinny galaxy unlike NGC4945.

Another curious object was NGC6164-65 a emission/planetary nebula in Norma. A definite revisit needed to examine this unusual object.

NGC5129 was also interesting. A galaxy grouped with two equally bright close stars. Tiny in size, it just looked like a fuzzy star.

Memorable objects ; NGC4244 Galaxy in Canes Venatici

Cheers.

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

-- The Southern Sentinel --



NGC4244 in Canes Venatici