



# Southern Sentinel Observing Session Notes

Observing Session - Thursday 25th September 2003

Date: 25 September 2003 (Local)  
Time: 2015-2200 NZDT (UT +12)  
Location: Symes Rd, Maramarua Forest, North Waikato.  
60 Minutes From Home.  
Weather: Cool & Calm with a High Haze and Occasional Cloud.  
Seeing: Limiting Magnitude 5.0, transparency 3.5/5, seeing 3.5/5  
Moon: No Moon (New Moon)  
Equipment: 13.1" F5 Dob, TeleVue Eyepieces, UHC & OIII Filters

Well after a 4 week break from observing, due to weather and a trip to Australia, I decided to attempt to get some observing in despite the hazy conditions. Waharau Deepsky Weekend was 4 weeks ago and I really needed to get out at least once this month.

Dave Moorhouse called me and said he was going to the North Waikato regardless. The haze was quite bad, not a condition that is common in Auckland, but the haze was only around the horizon and not so much at the zenith. I decided to go.

It took just over 60 minutes to drive, just on the limit of being too far, but the skies at Symes Rd are very good. Dave and Guy Thornley were already there, setting up the truss tube 12.5 Inch Dob. Setting up was a little slow and the battery would not fire the dew heaters and fan into life, something I need to make sure works and is on the ready before I go out. If you can call 10 minutes slow! I aligned the Stellarvue 80mm Finder and away I went.

I had combined the Herschel 400 and the Herschel II target list together to form one combined list. Along with this I had planned to have another incursion into the SMC.

Objects seen were;

Object	Type	Altitude	Magnification	Eyepiece
NGC 7156	Galaxy	43.7°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 6772	Planetary Nebula	53.2°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 16	Open Cluster	53.8°	98x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 6604	Open Cluster	51.0°	98x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 6596	Open Cluster	53.2°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 18	Open Cluster	53.9°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 17	Bright Nebula	53.4°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 6507	Open Cluster	47.8°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 6814	Galaxy	58.5°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 6907	Galaxy	75.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 6530	Open Cluster	48.4°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 6526	Bright Nebula	48.4°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 8	Bright Nebula	47.7°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
M 20	Bright Nebula	46.8°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 362	Globular Cluster	46.2°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 361	Open Cluster	46.0°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 371	Open Cluster	45.9°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
N76	Bright Nebula	45.9°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
NGC 395	Open Cluster	46.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
N78	Bright Nebula	46.3°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4
IC 1624	Open Cluster	46.2°	114x	TeleVue 17mm Nagler Type 4

The observing was good for the first hour or so, then the cloud punctuated the

proceedings. Despite not having the dew heaters on, the dew was not too much of a problem.

The haze did knock back the transparency some, but not to the effect that I would have thought. The nebulosity in the region observed was outstanding.

The hot swapping of the Filterslide makes comparison of objects with and without the UHC and the OIII extremely convenient.

The cloud rolled in for good at about 9:50 PM, so I called it a night and packed up and drove home. About 2 hours observing in superb skies and in bed by 11:30 PM.

The Objects that were worth mentioning were again the nebulosity and clusters surrounding NGC361 & NGC395. The nebulosity and detail is just a southern treasure.

Also a small PN NGC3772, in Aquila was very nice, along with a fairly interesting small galaxy NGC6907 in Capricornus.

Cheers.

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

-- The Southern Sentinel --