

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 26, 2020

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 6 days after new

Seeing: Avg

Transparency: Avg

Notes: Tried out my night vision device - MX-10160A/AVS-6. I stacked the device on a 2x barlow, then onto a Paracorr. The Paracorr has a 2" IR-685 filter that really darkens the background and brings out the galaxies. However, the view is similiar to a 17mm Nagler in my scope. To get it any better, I would have to get another TeleVue eyepiece and an adaptor for that eyepiece so I can attach the MX-10150A. That would get the magnification down to around 190x. Doing so however would increase the "noise". It may or may not work to get those very faint galaxies. As for planetaries, it doesn't help at all either alone or with a OIII or LP2 filter. I no doubt do not understand the process. At any rate, I think I am done with it.

Speaking of done with it, this will likely be my last entry. I have been considering selling the 12" and getting a simple 10" dob. In addition, I plan on selling off around 75% of my current eyepieces and just keeping three good ones. My reasons are that I only set up in the back yard, seen quite a bit of stuff up to the limits of a 12" in Bortle 5 skies to the point that everything is repeated, getting tired of hauling a bunch of stuff out and back and lastly, getting tired of writing everything down. I want to keep it simple, telescope, table, chair, eyepieces, charts and me. It's been fun for 17+ years and I've looked at over 6,400 objects. But the time has come. Adios.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 17, 2020

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 3 days before new

Seeing: Average

Transparency: Average

Notes: Weather was calling for above average transparency but that didn't happen. Also tried again for Comet Neowise but didn't have my binos. So I pulled out an observing list for Cepheus and spent most of the night there until late.

SQM: 20.12. 0100 hrs. 64 degrees.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 13, 2020

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 7 days before new

Seeing: Average

Transparency: Average

Notes: Nothing special tonight. Just looking around and chasing down some Messiers. SQM: 20.18. 0050 hrs. 60 degrees. Surprise object was Sh2-108. It's a bright nebula in Cygnus. Turns out it looks pretty nice with either an LP2 or OIII filter. IC-1311B, bright nebula in Cygnus was a winner tonight also with an LP2 filter. It's nickname is Gamma Cygnii Nebula.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 24, 2020

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 3 days after new

Seeing: Below Average

Transparency: Below Average

Notes: 1st object of the night was M4 at 2215 hours and I was able to resolve stars in the globular. However, seeing and transparency declined steadily even though the skies remained clear. Quit at 0100 hours with 22 objects logged. SQM: 20.12, 55 degrees at 0100 hours.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 19, 2020

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 2 days before new

Seeing: Avg

Transparency: Avg

Notes: This is a collection of observations that include the dates of 4/2/2020, 5/13/2020, 6/11/2020/ 6/16/2020 and 6/19/2020. Some of the early session ended abruptly for one reason or another. The latter two sessions were the longer with the last being the longest and most satisfying. That session was my "globular" session. I looked at 43 globs, 1 galaxy (M83) and 1 planetary (M27)

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 25, 2020

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 1 day after new.

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Decent

Notes: No Messier Marathon this year. The world is in the middle of a Corvid-19 pandemic. At our household, we're two weeks into our unofficial lockdown. Three days in a statewide lockdown. So we're allowed to go outside just no associating with other people. Everything is closed except for those businesses criticle for survival. So, there it is.

This was just a quick session on the driveway since the back field is pretty muddy. Streetlight about 25 yards away. Bonus was catching the comet C/2019 Y4 Atlas in Ursa Major.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Feb 21, 2020
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Bruce, Kim, Ron and myself.

Moon Phase: 2 days before new`
Seeing: 9
Transparency: Very Good

Notes: Was planning on spending some time looking through the 36" at Herschel's with Bruce and Kim. As luck would have it, I had jimmed up my shoulder (rotator cuff) several days before. Wasn't a real issue until I would reach for the focuser knob on the right side. So I gave it up after about 8 objects, left for home and stuck a heating pad on it.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 26, 2019
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Nine Observers & Guests

Moon Phase: 2 days before new
Seeing: Good+
Transparency: Good+

Notes: The night before Hidden Hollow 2019 is to start. This is a typical Thursday night before the party. Clear and very good skies. The forecast for the next three days is pathetic. Clouds and rain. As usual, this is the night to observe. Nine telescopes were set up along with a few more guests.

Saw two comets: C/2018 W2 (Africano) in Pegasus & 29P Schwassmann-Wachmann1. The first was easy and had a small tail. Estimated to be around 10th mag. The second is a 15th mag comet and the 36" was used. Not real bright even at that. Very small.

SQM: 20.75. Temp: 55 degrees at 2230 hours.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 02, 2019

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 3 days after new

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: I intended to look at some globulars tonight but only got a few in before getting shut down by fog. The temp was around 76 degrees when I set up at 2000 hours. By 2200 hours, it was down to 60 degrees. That's about the time the heavy fog appeared and shut me down. I figured something was up since the dew was extremely heavy. this is always a risk when setting up on grass I think.

For the night.

SQM: 20.02 at 2145 hours. 60 degrees.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 29, 2019

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 1 day before new

Seeing: Fair

Transparency: Average

Notes: Only observed for a few hours tonight since clouds were going to roll in around 0100 hours. Didn't have that long because I was shut down at 2315 hours.

That Orion power pack is a keeper. I used it for around 3+ hours to run the fan, dsc's and dew heaters and controller. Still had five bars left. No more extension cords!!

SQM: 20.02 @2250 hours. **Temperature:** 69 degrees.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 24, 2019
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mike, John, Mark and myself

Moon Phase: 6 days before new
Seeing: Fair
Transparency: Pretty good

Notes: After about a three week dry spell, I was able to observe at WRO. Seeing for the night wasn't that great. Saturn and Jupiter were boiling. Mark and I both redid our collimation to improve things but it didn't work out.

John brought along his Sky Quality Meter so we compared readings from his and mine throughout the evening. There appears to be a consistent .2 difference between them with his reading higher. Around midnight we took final readings. John's SQM: 20.91. My SQM: 20.71. At that time, temperature was around 54 degrees with heavy dew.

On another note, I recently purchased an Orion 155Wh Lithium battery. This was an attempt to make my dob more mobile to the extent that I wouldn't need 110v to run fan, BETI and dew heaters. Well after around four hours of use, I still had five bars on the meter. This thing is a beast.

Mike gave up the ghost first followed by Mark. John and I quit around 12:30a and gone by 1:00a.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 02, 2019

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 2 days after new

Seeing: 9

Transparency: 9

Notes: The forecast was for average seeing and transparency. Turned out to be better than average. Looked at Jupiter and Saturn at 2200 hours and detail was clearly visible on both - GRS on Jupiter and Cassini Division on Saturn.

The horizon was pretty good also. Looked at 2 globulars in Scorpius: NGC-6388 at -44 degrees and NGC-6441 at -37 degrees. Both looked nice and bright, I was surprised.

The hit for the night was M8, Lagoon Nebula. Observed it with both the OIII and the Narrowband. I preferred the Narrowband view. I could see just a little more detail in the knot on the west side.

I've been using the dew controller all the time since the start of the year. I have not been shut down yet because of the dew. Not even the filters in the filter slide. I have heaters on the secondary, eyepieces and the filter slide. Everything is working like a champ.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 26, 2019

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 5 days before new.

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: Decided to get out and work on some objects from Canes Venatici, Cassiopeia and Draco.

Although they lack the glamour of their DSO cousins, open clusters have provided some enjoyable views for me at times when galaxies were just not cooperating due to sky conditions. Tonight provided a good example of open clusters in Cassiopeia. Using a 17mm eyepiece, I looked at NGC-133, NGC-145 & King 14. All in the same field of view. Apart from each other, they would not have been much to look at. But all three in the same field of view, they provided some eye candy. Best open cluster of the night was M-52, aka NGC-7650. This is a very nice, full open cluster.

I completed an observing list for Draco this night. Again. It included all DSO's down to 13th mag. This list was generated a couple for years ago from the NGC/IC Project website. That website appears to now be under a rebuild. At any rate, most of those Draco galaxies were observed from my observatory (backyard/park).

I quit observing around 0115hours. SQM:19.99 and air temp was around 63 degrees.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 08, 2019

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 6 days after new

Seeing: About average

Transparency: Better than average - not transparent

Notes: Thought I would look at some open clusters, some planetaries and some galaxies. And I did. However, the big news is that tonight I observed M15 in Pegasus. This is my favorite globular cluster and one that I've looked at dozens of times. This night it was different. It was my 6,000 observation since I started astronomy in 2003!!

At 0019 hours, it was 61 degrees. SQM:19.73

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 01, 2019

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 1 day before new

Seeing: 9+

Transparency: 9

Notes: Clouds kept rolling in and out at the start. Finally cleared up pretty well. Spent a lot of time in Sagittarius, Scorpius and Draco. Sagittarius turned into the surprise with pretty good seeing and transparency so low on the horizon.

Split the Double-Double again tonight using an 11mm Nagler with a barlow for 278x. Clean and easy split.

SQM: 19.77 around 0030 hours. The other night at WRO I had a 20.50.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 28, 2019
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Les, Bruce and myself

Moon Phase: Four days before new
Seeing: Good
Transparency: About a 9 or so. Pretty good.

Notes: Hot and muggy all day with popup thunderstorms. Transparency improved as night wore on.

I worked on a Draco list. Before I packed up at 12:30a, I looked at some great objects in Cygnus: East/West Veil nebulas and the North America Nebula. I normally use a 35mm, 68 degree eyepiece and a Thousand Oaks LP-2 filter. Perfect way to end the night.

Night adaptation was outstanding tonight and easily maintained.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 03, 2019

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: New Moon

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: Unlike a couple of nights ago, I had far better skies tonight - even at home. All things considered, I would almost rather stay at home than make a one hour round trip drive to WRO. The sky at home isn't that much darker at WRO. Fewer bright lights at WRO. But I can observe proper dark adaptation procedure for my eyes here at home. And when I'm done, I've saved myself a half hour drive home.

At any rate, it was a pretty good night. I looked at 47 objects from around 2300 hours to 0100 hours. In comparison to Friday night, I easily saw Polaris at 2150 hours. I looked at 45 galaxies for the night and two globulars - M13 & M92. Just because.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 31, 2019

Location: Home

Observers: Mike, Rob, Bob and myself

Moon Phase: 3 days before new

Seeing: Fair

Transparency: Fair

Notes: First time at WRO with a telescope in about a year. First time out with a telescope this year. Rain has been abundant. The skies were not as good as expected so just looked at some brighter objects. Night adaptation for the eyes was hit or miss. Mostly a miss!!!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 09, 2018

Location: Hone

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: New

Seeing: Avg

Transparency: Avg

Notes: First night in about three months that I've had good weather around new moon. Haven't really used the new dob yet so it's still in the debugging phase. Tripped over the power cord four times tonight and had to realign. Also, don't like the Telrad in urban skies. Looked at some planetaries in Aquarius and Aquila. Other favorites in Pegasus and Cassiopeia. Decent night other than the telescope issues.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 08, 2018

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 4 days before new

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Pretty Good

Notes: Two nights in a row. Transparency wasn't as good as last night but still pretty good. Seeing was much better. SQM was 20.28 and that's the best I've every had in the back yard.

Looked at Ursae Majoris in Ursa Major. It's a very tight double but I was able to easily split it. Seperation is 0.3" Alberio looked great tonight also. Last nights comet 21P Giocobinni-Zinner hadn't changed in brightness either.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 07, 2018

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 5 days before new.

Seeing: Poor

Transparency: Very Good

Notes: Since the transparency was going to be so good, I tried for a couple of oddball objects from the back yard.

The first was 4 Vesta, an astroid. Interesting and bright. Could even see its motion through the stars over a period of 30 minutes or so.

Also checked out the planets: Saturn, Pluto, Mars and Jupiter. Seeing was trash so there was not detail to be seen.

The second object was 21P Giacobinni_Zenner in Cygnus. Estimated the magnitude at around 11-12 and around 8-12' in length. With averted vision, a bright head would sometimes appear.

Dew heaters on the secondary and eyepieces are working great. I only observed until about 0030 hours or so but dew was dripping off everything except the optics. That's outstanding considering everything is exposed to the elements.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 20, 2018

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Mike, Jason, Bob, Rob and myself

Moon Phase: 5 days after new

Seeing: Fair

Transparency: Fair

Notes: Moon is out so it was just some casual observing tonight.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jan 25, 2018

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 9 days after new

Seeing: Fair

Transparency: Fair

Notes: Tonight was "First Light" for my new three strut rebuild of my 12AD Apertura. I wanted a telescope that was lighter, easier to move and transportable. From the old steel tube dob to the new 3-Strut, it has arrived. The name is Phoenix. Shaved 35lbs from the old dob. Phoenix made its debut at WRO on 3/3/18.

The mirrors were tested by a friend and measured out at better than 1/10th wave.

Has a heated secondary along with heated eyepieces and the finder.

Has six strings so the collimation is stable.

Has 10,000k encoders, BETI and runs on Sky Safari

Has a powered ground board to power everything.

Tonight I set it up to make sure everything worked and surprisingly enough, everything did. However, the original 3-Strut did not have any strings and I found out this night that the entire assembly wasn't close to being stable enough for me. When moving the dob from object to object, I could easily see the deflection in the struts through the eyepiece. In the days following the test run, I added the six strings. At WRO on 3/3/18, I was able to test the strings out and was more than happy with the result.

As a whole, I am well pleased with this telescope.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 25, 2017

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 3 days after new

Seeing: 8

Transparency: 8

Notes: Only about 72 degrees at 9:30p. Extremely humid - 96%
Transparency really suffered as the night wore on. Struggled to
see what I logged. Quit around 0015 hours.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 19, 2017

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 3 days before new

Seeing: 8-9

Transparency: 8-9

Notes: Primary target tonight were bright nebulas in Cygnus. I really like the Veil Nebula complex. Normally use an LP2 filter. This is a narrow band filter from Thousand Oaks. East Veil put on quite a show tonight and was easily the best view.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 02, 2017

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Nine days old

Seeing: 8

Transparency: 8

Notes: Moon is an issue. Just looked at some open clusters tonight.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 15, 2017

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Five days past full

Seeing: 8

Transparency: 8

Notes: This is the second of two nights. Should have been better than last night according to the clear sky clock. It didn't turn out that way. Some high, thin clouds moved in around 2300 hours. I packed things in around 2330. Ended with seventeen observations.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 14, 2017

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Four days after full

Seeing: 9

Transparency: 8

Notes: It's been over eight months since my last night out with a telescope. It's been forever since I've observed on a Sunday night. Times have changed. I'm retired now and tonight was a perfect night to start a new routine.

It was a nice day with clear, blue skies. I loaded around 18 some objects into Sky Safari on my tablet and set out. I was able to observe all of them and one bonus object - C/2015 V2 Johnson. It's a comet and currently in Bootes. It was nice and bright with a short tale. I estimate the magnitude to be around 9.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 05, 2016

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Four days after new.

Seeing: Fair

Transparency: Fair

Notes: Started up decent enough but some clouds rolled in after about two hours. Ended the night with 14 objects.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 24, 2016

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 6 days before new.

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: Very good night but chilly. Wore shorts, t-shirt and fleece top. Wasn't near enough warm clothing so I didn't last much beyond 2215 hours. At 2130 hours the air temp was 54 degrees, dew point was 52 degrees and my SQM reading for the night was 19.95.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 02, 2016

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 1 day after new

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: Clear sky around new moon. On vacation. Imagine that.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 07, 2016

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 5 days after new

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Fair

Notes: Out for just a bit tonight to look at some nebulas and planetaries

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 23, 2016

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 4 days after Full

Seeing: Fair

Transparency: Fair

Notes: The intent tonight was to look at some globulars in Ophiuchus and to take some measurements of new Sky Quali Meter.

Tested the sky in three directions around 2250 hours. North = 19.71, South = 19.70 and West = 19.24. Didn't check East since it was bright with the moon ready to rise in 45 minutes or so. I've seen the sky darker especially in the North.

Back to tonight. In the 90's all day. At sunset, temp was 74 degees and very humid. Had a minor issue with BETI that was quickly resolved. Finally started to observe. However, soon realized that I had to stop and let the eyepiece clear up after a few minutes. It wasn't dew. It was the heat coming from my head. I would back away and the eyepiece would clear up. Use it for a few minutes and it would fog over. At about 2300 hours it didn't matter anyhow. The "clear" sky that I had was now frosting over. Only a few stars visible. So I quit. Six observations and around 45 minutes after I had actually started. This is th great thing about observing at home. Teardown takes around 10 minutes and three trips to the shed. After the gear is stowed, I'm in the nice, cool house drinking a beer with no drive back from WRO.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 05, 2016

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 2 days after new

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: Cloudy most of the day but started clearing off around 1500 hours. Started observing around 2230 hours. Observed galaxies in Bootes since it was positioned so well. Followed up with globular clusters in Sagittarius. The night was going pretty well until around 0030 hours when dew got heavy and fog rolled in. The night ended shortly after that.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 01, 2016

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 2 days before new

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Fair

Notes: Warmed up with some galaxies. Worked on some globulars. Ended the night looking at bright nebulas in Cygnus. Those included the North American Nebula, East and West Veil Nebulas. Used my LP2 filter for all three. My back yard isn't great but these objects still responded well to the filter. By far these are among my favorite summertime objects.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 17, 2016

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 12 days old

Seeing: Fair

Transparency: Fair

Notes: Just a short night. In addition to those objects listed for the night, I observed four double stars.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 30, 2016

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 5 days before new

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Fair

Notes: Started the night with high thin, scattered clouds. Transparency was fair at best. 12th magnitude galaxies were troublesome tonight. The seeing was steady however. Wanted to look at some planets so I stuck a 2x barlow under my 7mm Nagler for 436x. I was surprised at how steady it was. Between Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, the best shot was of the Cassini Division on Saturn's rings. Easily visible. Wished I would have had some planetary filters. FYI, those minutes spent collimating at the beginning are very worthwhile.

Tried out a new Televue 8mm Ethos. It's great. Fits my eye and has better eye relief than the 8mm Delos. However, the Delos "seems" to go just a tad bit deeper. For the time being, I'm keeping both.

The object for the night was to re-observe those globular clusters already seen through my former 8" dob at WRO. Got a good start with 16 logged for the night. Secondly, I went through Sue French's Deep Sky Wonders for June. These objects were galaxies in Virgo. Wish I had her eyes. Overall, it was a good night. I ended it around 12:30am.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 14, 2016

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 8 Days after new

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: 2nd night out of three for observing. The first night was on 4/12/2016 and was spent on double stars. At this point I've completed the A.L. Urban Skies list and the Double Star list.

Tonight was spent strictly on DSO's from my back yard - orange zone. Surprisingly enough with the moon and light pollution I was able to see some galaxies up to 13+ magnitude. Others close to the horizon were merely smudges - NGC-4038/9 for example. Was still able to detect the dust lane in M104. 8mm Delos gave some good views but the best came from my 11mm Nagler T6.

The skies are supposed to be clear for the next 3-4 nights. However, the moon will grow ever larger as an issue.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jan 02, 2016

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown

Seeing: Unknown

Transparency: Clear

Notes: At 2130 hours I took out a pair of binoculars and looked at M41. This was the last DSO on the Astronomical League Urban Skies list. I have a few double stars to observe and the entire list will be complete.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 05, 2015

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 5 Days Before New

Seeing: Fair

Transparency: Fair

Notes: Took the 12" into the backyard to cruise some of the bright objects in Cassiopeia and Andromeda. This session includes the observation of comet C/2014 S2 Panstarrs and some double stars. These objects will not show up in this data base.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 10, 2015
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Members and guests

Moon Phase: 3 days before new
Seeing: Pretty good
Transparency: Pretty good

Notes: This was the 1st night (Thursday) of HH 2015. About a dozen scopes set up - members and guests. This was the first time my new 12AD Apertura had been set up at WRO. Since I was on vacation, I thought I would spend the next 6-7 hours observing quietly. Didn't happen. I got about two hours in when I had to shut mine down and provide a tour on the 36" for some guests.

Mark helped my fire up the 36" and left for the night. I provided a tour until about 3:00am or so. I then shut down and parked the 36". Then I went out, tore my setup down that I had planned on using and put it away. I finally got home around 4:00am.

Just so happened that Thursday night was the only clear observing night for H.H. 2015. It rained almost all of Friday, cloudy most of Saturday, then rain from sundown on.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 21, 2015
Location: Home
Observers: Dustin and Emily

Moon Phase: Seven days after new
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: My friend Dustin had expressed an interest in astronomy several times in the last couple of months. I invited he and Emily to swing by tonight after determining that it might be clear, earlier in the week. As Ohio luck would have it, we had a clear sky. Off to the Messier's we went. Looked at some Caldwell's, NGC galaxies and double stars as well. All in all, Dustin and Emily enjoyed the show.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 15, 2015

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: One day after new.

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: Been screwing around with the new DSC's sightseeing. Started out with some eye candy to warm up then off to Draco for some galaxies.

My observing sight is on the park fringe - actually about 15 yards into the part from my property line. The line is on a slight rise and blocks out street traffic and lights. Have some lights off to south on Park Ave and around the high school. Richland Mall to the east also provides a nice glow up to about 20 degrees. Most generally the overhead sky doesn't suffer too much.

It takes three trips and about 15 minutes to cart everything out and setup. Not too bad since I don't have to drive 30 minutes and 20 miles to WRO. There is some loss of sky though.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 15, 2015

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: New moon

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: First opportunity to observe on a new moon, in the middle of the week in quite a while. Vacation started today. On to N.C. in a couple of days. Set up in the back yard to look at Messier's and relax. Double star list is caught up until late fall.

This is also the first night out with the Moonlite filter slide installed. I have two filters in it now. Both are Thousand Oaks - LP2 and LP3. This setup makes using them a piece of cake. I simply grab the slide and pull until I hit the filter I want. With this addition, the telescope is finally complete after almost 11 months of use. I sat down the other day and took stock of equipment and realized that my list is complete. Televue Nagler and Delos eyepieces, Glatter collimation tools, DSC's, Excellent 2" filters. I'm finally good to go.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 23, 2015

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: six days after new

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: Two nights in a row at home. Super.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 22, 2015

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Five days after new

Seeing: Decent

Transparency: Fair

Notes: Not many opportunities to observe so far this year. Any clear nights around new moon are in the middle of the week if they exist at all. Mostly cloudy skies and rain.

This is the first night out with DSC's on the 12" Apertura. I had been using the manual setting circles that originally came with the telescope. The electronic setup uses the AstroSystems hardware with 10,000 tic encoders, BETI from AstroDevice and Sky Safari Pro on the tablet. Quick, easy and accurate.

Observations do not include double stars. Those are included in my Excel logging system.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 17, 2015
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Bruce, Mike Bryan and I

Moon Phase: One day before new
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: Last observations with the 18" Astrosystems. New owner is Tom. Issues with climbing up and down the ladder are starting to be bothersome with my back. Tom has the enthusiasm to use this thing.

Had guests again tonight. Was only able to make three outside observations before calling it a night.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 26, 2014

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Three Days After New

Seeing: 9+

Transparency: 9+

Notes: This is a compilation of two different nights at home. The first was on 9/26/14 (2 days after new) and 10/26/14 (3 days after new). It will not include 26 double star observations. It will include 21 dso's with a few of those being strictly eye candy.

Still trying to determine what I can and cannot see in the backyard versus the 20+ miles to WRO. While I don't have those dark skies, I am able to detect objects that are surprisingly faint. I decided to test myself against the galaxy trios listed in a recent S & T. I've been able to observe NGC-7463 and NGC-7770 for example in Pegasus. In Pisces, I've seen NGC-7778, NGC-7779 and NCG-7782. I don't think this is too bad from a semi-urban area and using manual setting circles.

I have my setup routine down pretty good. All in all, it takes three trips from the garage to setup. First trip includes rolling the dob out on the cart. Second trip includes my stool, observing table and extension cords. Finally I have a cart for the books, bags and eyepieces. At this point, I set up and arrange everything and this includes plugging in 200' of extension cord for the hair dryer (eyepieces) and I'm ready to go. Start to finish is about 20 minutes. Tear down is about five minutes longer and that's because I take my time moving stuff back to the garage very cautiously under flashlight power. What I don't need at 12:01am is to run into Brother Skunk while he's out prowling around. No problems so far.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 19, 2014
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mike, Mark, Scott and Bryan

Moon Phase: 5 days before new
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: Good night at WRO with friends. Five telescopes set up. Highlight was C/2014 E2/Jacques. It was aligned with the "Coathanger" in Vulpecula. Quite nice in 35mm.

Purchased a 12" Apertura for home. Observations will include DSO's made from home. Will not include Double stars. Comments will include actual dates and locations.

Using the 12" to observe A.L. Double Stars. Observing 50+ yards behind the house, in the park. Sky isn't too bad for semi-urban environment. The doubles are fun and the dso's are somewhat surprising.

Not all of my observations are in this database. I've kept an Excel file since day one of this hobby. To date, I've recorded 5,203 objects.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 30, 2014
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mike, Bruce, Bryan and Dan

Moon Phase: Two days after new.

Seeing: 9

Transparency: 9+

Notes: This is my third night for this observing period. This is remarkable considering the Ohio weather for the last couple of years.

Mike had purchased a new camera and was working to understand it on his SCT. Bryan had requested opportunities to learn how to operate the 36". Dan was inside on the 36" and outside at our telescopes. I checked off a few more galaxies from the A.L. League Flat Galaxy list.

Given the sky conditions and position of M51, Bruce and Bryan pulled it up on the 36". Easily visible were the spiral arms on M51 and the bridge between it and the companion. However, when I pulled in M51 using the 8mm Delos, I was in for quite a surprise - more detail. The 18" provided a better view than the 36". Bruce confirmed it also. More detail in the spiral arms including some mottling. Wow.

Managed to locate and observe comet C/2012 K1 Panstarrs in Ursa Major. Magnitude is listed at 12 but I suggest it's more like 10. Pretty bright and complete in a 17mm AT. Very nice comet.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 25, 2014

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Mike and two granddaughters, Brian and myself

Moon Phase: 3 days before new

Seeing: Very Good

Transparency: Very Good

Notes: Two opportunities to observe in one month and both before new moon. Conditions are really good also. Just for kicks and giggles, I pointed the 18" at Saturn with the 8mm Delos installed. Saw Cassini's division pretty clearly. Saw it on 5/23/14 through Mark's new telescope. Super view.

Brian was there looking at anything he could point to. Mike turned his granddaughters loose with his 12" dob and they were pretty happy. All in all, a pretty good night.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 18, 2014
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 5 days after full
Seeing: Pretty good.
Transparency: Great

Notes: Thought I would give it a shot tonight before the moon came up. Glad I did. Seeing was fairly steady while transparency was really good. Not a 10 but very close.

Wanted to try out a new Televue Delos, 8mm. These things have incredible optics. The only downside is a 72 degree fov which only means moving the telescope a little more. The plus side is that I think it allows me to go a little deeper. After tonight, I'm not really sure if the transparency was that good or the eyepiece was that good. Like to think that both were that good.

Anyhow, I stuck around to around 12:30am - just before moon rise. It was fairly chilly when I left at 40 degrees. Ended with 33 objects not including some eye candy. Overall, a good couple of hours.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 30, 2014
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mike, Mark and myself

Moon Phase: New Moon
Seeing: 8+
Transparency: 9

Notes: Seeing wasn't so hot but the transparency was average to slightly better than average. Depended on where you looked. I spent time in Leo, Virgo and Sextans for a bit looking at flat galaxies. Also ticked off some galaxies in Leo. Some stuff seemed to be brighter than the rated magnitude while others appeared to be dimmer. It was hard to put a finger on it. I've guessing it's just the lack of observing time on my part. This was the first time I had the 18" fired up for some dim galaxies in almost 5 months. Besides, most of the stuff I want to look at is 13.5 magnitude or dimmer. Some I can see and others I can't.

Mark rolled out his 28" for the night. He couldn't get a connection with his netbook so he hunted Hershel galaxies with Argo Navis. In addition, he parked it on that super nova in M82 (fantastic object in itself by the way). The nova was neat but M82 was still quite incredible with star formation regions and dust lanes readily apparent last night.

Mike got their first and did some solar observing for a bit. He made some purchases for his SC's over the winter and was ironing out the bugs. If you're around when sparks start flying from his telescope, run for your life. He's got more cables and wires hanging off those things than any man ought to have!!

Mike baled out around 10:30p or so. Mark left around midnight and I followed around 12:45a. I picked up 30 objects with a few flat galaxies in the mix. I think the best galaxy last night may have been NGC-3044. Pretty bright and pretty large. Even surface brightness from one end to the other. Mark fired up his image intensifier on his 28" and it really was amazing. If you looked at it long enough you could see core definition fading in and out depending on the seeing. This was on a flat galaxy!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 03, 2013
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: New Moon
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: New moon and a clear sky. How odd for Ohio. It's been a putrid year for astronomy for me. Poor skies with little or no observing opportunities. So tonight was clear and I took the next day off.

Decided to use the new 36". It's been quite some time since I've used it by myself and it was great. Only stayed for 4 hours or so. Observed 60 objects. However, I passed 5,000 objects tonight. My personal total is 5,016 objects in 10 years at this hobby.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 27, 2013
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Fair
Transparency: Fair
Notes: Got clouded out.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 06, 2013

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Tim, Mike, Bryan and myself

Moon Phase: 1 day after new

Seeing: Fair

Transparency: Fair

Notes: Had guests early which disrupted me. Only logged two galaxies

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 13, 2013
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark, Tim and Myself. Mike and Kane arrived around midnight

Moon Phase: 5 days after new

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: Tonight marked the first time this year that I was able to actively observe new DSO's without interference from the weather. The observing conditions were good and stayed that way.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 08, 2013
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: A number of club members

Moon Phase: 4 days before new.
Seeing: 9
Transparency: 9

Notes: This was the club's Messier Marathon night and a large number of members arrived to setup and observe. We had clear skies, food to snack on, coffee to drink and around 7 or 8 telescopes to look through. However, I got hit with a sinus infection two days before and by Friday, I wasn't feeling real great. I went ahead anyhow thinking I could tough it out. By 9:30, I had enough and packed everything in. Next year!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 13, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mike, John K, Blase and myself

Moon Phase: New Moon
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: Two nights in a row in December. Really odd for December. Tonight wasn't as transparent as last night. I worked on some objects in Perseus and Taurus with the 18". I went pretty good for a couple of hours until my back started to ache. No Tylenol handy so I stuck it out for about another hour then called it quits. I couldn't concentrate. I was back home by 10:00pm

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 12, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark, Bruce and myself

Moon Phase: 1 day before new
Seeing: 9+
Transparency: 9++

Notes: One day before new moon in December with clear skies and very good transparency. How odd? Want to observe through the new glass so Bruce and I both worked on the A.L. Flat Galaxy list. Most of these are very thin with magnitudes ranging from 15 - 16. They'll all be very difficult to find and even harder to see.

Two showpieces ended the night for me. The first was B33 - The Horsehead Nebula. Bruce brought out his 31mm Nagler along with the hydrogen-beta filter. This object and this eyepiece and filter will stop you dead in your tracks. You can actually trace the dark nebula on either side of the horsehead. Outstanding. The second was Thor's Helmet - NGC-2359. Looked first with Bruce's 31mm and OIII filter. Next up was the same filter with the 17mm Nagler. This is the showstopper. You move the telescope to catch all the wisps and tendrils of the nebula. All three of us were absolutely blown away by the views these two objects presented. I can't think of a better way to end the night.

On the road by 1:30am.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 16, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself and others

Moon Phase: 3 days after new
Seeing: Fair
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 10, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Bryan, Lee, Doreen, Mike and myself

Moon Phase: 3 days before new
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 24, 2012

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 5 days before full

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: Just killing some time with the 8" f/6

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 21, 2012

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 6 days after new

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: I had brought home the ATM 8" dob that I had sold the club several years ago. I had cleaned it up about a year ago and to the best of my knowledge, no one had used it since. That being said, once I checked collimation, this telescope is still a very good instrument. Just isn't as classy I suppose as some of the other, larger telescopes the club owns. I'm going to keep it a secret since I'll keep it at home for the winter.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 12, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: John, Tim, Dean and family, Bruce & Myself

Moon Phase: 3 days before new
Seeing: 9
Transparency: 9+

Notes: Blue skies all day gave way to very transparent skies at sunset. I was planning to stay late to put the 18" through its paces. Luckily, things held up very well and I was able to see a number of galaxies in the 15 magnitude range. Tonight, I just decided to run a couple of lists regardless of listed magnitude. I chose Andromeda and Camelopardalis. Andromeda kept me on the ladder while Camelopardalis was feet on the ground. I ended up with 60+ objects which for me is a great night.

John arrived shortly after I had opened up the observatory. He set up his 20" and quietly worked away most of the night. We traded views of selected objects. One of those was of NGC-6888 - Crescent Nebula in Cygnus. It's a great shot with an OIII filter in his 20". However, we looked first in the 36" and that view was absolutely outstanding.

Back to the 36", Bruce had given us an incredible view of the Crescent Nebula. I don't recall seeing it before but it is quite impressive. Our debate was which is better - Crescent Nebula or Thor's Helmut. All I can say is that the debate continues.

John wanted to take a peek at Stephen's Quintet in Pegasus. When Bruce was able to go that direction, John got his look and I - mine. All I can say is that this was the first time in my limited observing experience that I had ever seen the nucleus of all five galaxies. That is to say that all five were easily identifiable and their cores were all bright! It was my highlight for the night.

Tim arrived after dark and set up his 8" SCT. we traded views during the night of a couple of objects. Most notably in his telescope was the Double Cluster in Perseus.

Dean was the last to arrive and quickly set up. He had brought

Observational Log Cover Sheet

his Sky Atlas and was quickly pointed to M31, M32 and M110.

In the end, Dean and Tim were the first to leave. John and I followed at 2:00am leaving Bruce to continue.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 10, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark and myse,f

Moon Phase: 5 days before new
Seeing: 8-9
Transparency: Very Good

Notes: Short but good night. Started clearing pretty good by 9:30 or so. By 10:00pm it was clear and Mark and I were ready to go. Seeing was slightly above average. Transparency? Well, I would say very good to excellent. I was working on Andromeda galaxies. Only a couple were seen with averted vision. Most were direct vision galaxies in the range of 14.3 - 15.3 mag. NGC-1000 was rated at 15.3 mag and was direct vision. I looked at 24 or so within that range and whenever I pointed the telescope, I could count on bagging the target.

Dew never became a problem. Frost was noticeable when we left at 1:45AM but not a big issue. Temperature was around 29 degrees or so and the coffee was great.

Mark put a huge dent in his Herschell list's for the night. In addition, he's got a tablet that runs Sky Safari and it's hooked up to his 28" dob. Imagine seeing him at the table and all at once, his telescope that's 10' away starts moving on its own. It's alive, it's alive. Eerie and almost appropriate for Halloween. What's great is that he can take that tablet up to the eyepiece and switch back and forth with the tablet. Super.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 14, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Bruce & guests, Tim, Mike, Ron and myself

Moon Phase: 1 day before new
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Fair

Notes: Day began with rain - tapering off around 3:00pm with clear skies to follow around 8:00pm. Even before dark, those of us outside knew that dew was going to be an issue. The hair dryer came out early and Tim and I made frequent use of it. For myself, dew was everywhere, eyepieces, coma corrector and I think even on the secondary.

Mike and Ron worked on Ron's 8" newtonian. Tonight marked the first night it had been used in about 20 years or so.

Just about everyone was gone by midnight except for Bruce and I. I had put the 18" away and decided to see what the new 36" mirror was like - I wasn't disappointed. The best was saved for last - two galaxies, NGC-7332 and NGC-7339. Both of them are edge on. NGC-7332 had a bright nucleus and NGC-7339 was just bright. Another object that was a surprise was NGC-7315. Nothing at all unusual about it however, PGC-69245 is almost attached to it visually. What made it unusual was that the PGC galaxy couldn't been seen with direct vision. Using averted vision however, this thing would jump at you. One second it wasn't there and boom, it hits you and there it is!

Pretty good introduction to 36" of aperature!!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 24, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mike, Bryan and myself

Moon Phase: 1st quarter
Seeing: 8-9
Transparency: 9+

Notes: Finally. The old power supply may have been part of the coating issue. I had been leaving the battery on charge for 2-3 weeks in between observing sessions. Who knows. The battery finally died 8/18/12. It was 2.3 amh and was replaced with a 3.8 amh battery. I mounted it with velcro on the outside of the mirror box so I could remove it and take it home with me. No more worries about outgassing. In addition, it has sufficient power to run the fans and the dsc's.

I wasn't motivated to look at Arps or Hicksons so I just pulled out my Herschel 2500 list and started there. Funny thing was that when I would find an NGC galaxy I might find one or two from another catalog. I observed a few PGC's and UGC's tonight. Andromeda was positioned pretty well and most of the objects came from there. Ended up with 42 for the night.

The past issues with the 18" seem to be behind me now. The mirror has been recoated, the structure was refinished, some wiring redone, new battery and new encoder interface. The telescope performed very well tonight. I knew that I could point it towards 15 mag or dimmer objects and have a fair chance at seeing them. The scope looks great, performs great and those motions are oh so sweet! Thanks Mark

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 17, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Hidden Hollow Star Party

Moon Phase: New
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: This was the second night of the star party. Thursday night was a bust as clouds rolled in early. Tonight was the best since Saturday night was also a bust. Stayed until about 1:00am then left.

This was the opening of Bigger Blue 36". On Friday night, the crowds were long as everyone wanted a shot. Saturday was decent for some Messiers early but by around 11:00pm, those were pretty well gone.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 22, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark, Mike and myself

Moon Phase: 3 days after new
Seeing: Fair
Transparency: Fair

Notes: A lot has happened since 5/23/12 - my last time out. At that time the mirror coating was very good. However just a few short days after 5/23/12, I opened up the mirror to find that the coating had failed around the perimeter of the mirror. After a number of emails and ignored phone calls by OWL, I have received my refund. The mirror was sent to Majestic for the new coating. But as of 6/22/12, that coating had pinholes in it along with a small void. I reviewed my installation with Mark and we can't draw any conclusions as to why this is occurring??

Anyhow, the transparency was only fair with large cloud masses rolling in and out for the first two hours. Up till midnight, we only had brief holes to peek through. After midnight the sky got better but only left us with an hour or two before we all tossed in the towel and headed for home.

The catch of the night was Hoag's Object. It's a ring galaxy that's supposed to be 14 magnitude or so. Try as we might, none of us could see the ring and the central part of the galaxy was very faint indeed. It was an averted vision object with brief periods of good seeing.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 23, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 2 days past new
Seeing: Average
Transparency: Average

Notes: 1st light with the new coatings from OWL on the 18". Also added a new re-finish job. Three coats of hand rubbed polyurethane. New flat black paint in the mirror box and bottom of the rocker. New 7x50 finder. Added Markless Astronomics counterweight system to the front and back of the mirror box to compensate for the finder. Too bad I can't add photos, this thing looks sharp.

A couple of years ago, Bruce handed me a book and said enjoy. It was the Arp Atlas of Peculiar Galaxies. Great book but most of those objects are pretty tough for small apertures. I also got hooked on the A.L. list of Flat Galaxies which turned out to be another toughie. Tonight, the tables were turned as I looked at and enjoyed some objects from both lists. Just to be able to do it. Nothing fancy but just to be able to point my telescope at a 15th mag galaxy and know that I'm going to get it means quite a bit.

I ended around midnight. Last objects were Messier's - M97, M57, M12 and M10. I was pretty satisfied with the way the 18" turned out. For me, this is quite a step up from the 8" that I started with 9 years ago.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 18, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 3 days before new
Seeing: Fair
Transparency: Fair

Notes: Thought I would try a couple of observations from home with the 18". Trouble is, moving everything out back to set up. Viewable sky is from zenith to the south and about 30 degrees above horizon from the east to 50 degrees above the horizon to the west. That and moving everything from the garage to the garden area. It isn't worth it except on rare occasions.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 16, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark, Mike and myself. Steve and his son arrived later for a visit.

Moon Phase: 6 days before new,
Seeing: 9+
Transparency: 8-9

Notes: Time for Messier Marathon 2012. When you get a day or so of clear skies after the full moon, you need to take full advantage since you may not have that opportunity later. So Mike, Mark and I did. However, I was the only one to stay for the entire night. Mike ran through his list. Mark caught up on some objects on both Herschel lists as well as the Messier list. I engaged some A.L. flat galaxies.

This was my first opportunity to fine tune the 18" Astrosystems. With help from Mark, we were able to get BETI and Megastar to cooperate then it was off to the races. Every Messier object I looked at was unique in the 18". Especially notable was M51 - Whirlpool Galaxy. The spiral arms were simply outstanding. M82 was exceptional as well. All of the Leo and Virgo Messiers looked great.

One of the issues on this night was the dew. Not only did it effect the eyepieces but the secondaries as well. Mark and Mike had issues early and mine didn't go south until around 4:30am. Luckily, blow dryers were handy and the issues were quickly resolved.

Now for the counts. This year I tabulated 106 objects. The first two were missed in the trees - M74 and M77. The last two were missing in the early morning glare of the coming sun - M2 and M30. Also, M72 & M73 were suspected. I did well and I'm pretty happy with the outcome of the night and the performance of the 18".

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Feb 17, 2012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mike and myself

Moon Phase: Four days before new
Seeing: Average
Transparency: Average

Notes: My last entry was 9/1/2011. Since that time there have been quite a few changes. During some focuser updates in the middle of September the 31" mirror was destroyed. The 12" Skywatcher has been sold and in its' place is a 18" f/4.5 AstroSystems dob courtesy of Mark.

As mentioned the 31" mirror was destroyed. Thanks to insurance the club has purchased a new 36" mirror that is currently being produced by Lockwood optics. Tentative assembly into the observatory around mid-summer 2012.

Since 9/1/2011, observations have been hit or miss. What observations have occurred have been mostly double stars at home. These were made on a variety of small dobs that the club owns. I brought them home one at a time, cleaned and collimated them and tested in my driveway.

I was able to acquire Mark's 18" AstroSystems and the observations made this night were the first for me. I was near blown away by the views versus the 12" Skywatcher. The dust lanes in NGC-2903 were visible. NGC-2359 - Thor's Helmet produced the finest view that I've seen outside the old 31". What is really new is the focuser on the right side. I have always used dobs with the focuser on the left side. I thought at first this would be a major issue but I'm guessing that after a few months I probably won't even notice. Also climbing up and down a step stool or ladder is very new. Up to this point, I've pretty much been able to sit while I observe. Those days are pretty well gone I believe.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 01, 2011
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Steve, Arlene and myself

Moon Phase: 4 days after new
Seeing: Average
Transparency: Average

Notes: Hot and muggy tonight. I wanted to use the 31" to catch some Arps and Hicksons in Pegasus but as it turned out, didn't. Pegasus will have to wait until it's higher in the sky. Especially during the week for me when I have to go to work the next day.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 25, 2011
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Steve, Arlene, Mark and Mike

Moon Phase: 3 days before new.

Seeing: Average - then poor

Transparency: Average - then poor

Notes: We arrived before dark and setup only to wait for the skies to clear. Finally around 9:30, the clouds passed and clear skies prevailed. This only lasted until midnight, when the sky quickly turned to trash. Mike had left at 2300 hours so Steve, Mark and I waited to see if the clouds would pass. Around 0045 hours, the sky opened back up but it was only temporary because at 0100 hours, they closed back up.

I struggled again tonight with observing. Not because of any telescope issue but because I'm stretching the capabilities of the 12" Skywatcher with my observing lists. The easy pickings - stuff below 13th magnitude are gone. This time of year, I'm left to find galaxies 14th magnitude and up. The Skywatcher does allow me to see the very dim stuff in the 13-14th magnitude range but it takes longer and transparency must be very good to do it. Need to use a bigger telescope.

On the very bright side however, I was able to observe NGC7507 in Sculptor tonight. This was my last object on the Herschel 400 II list. I observed it during that momentary bit of clarity around 0055 hours. Surprisingly, when the sky opened up for a bit, it cleared all the way to the horizon. To date, I've completed the Herschel 400 I & II and I've got around 1,200 objects left in the Herschel 2500.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 31, 2011
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Steve, Arlene and myself

Moon Phase: 1 day after new.

Seeing: 9

Transparency: 8-9

Notes: Steve fired up the 31" while I tried to eke out some PGC's with the 12" Skywatcher. These galaxies are mostly small and very faint. Transparency must be almost perfect but not tonight. For the night, I only recorded 5 objects. However, I had tried to find over 30 but the transparency wasn't there.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 25, 2011

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 10 days past full.

Seeing: 9

Transparency: 9+

Notes: Thought I would try to observe for a couple of hours. Picked up some UGC's in Cygnus. Threw on my 32mm and an LP-2 filter for some nebula. NGC-7000, NGC-6960 and NGC-6992 were all outstanding objects!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 19, 2011

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: A Bunch

Moon Phase: 4 days after new

Seeing: 8+

Transparency: 9

Notes: Starry Nights tonight at Hidden Hollow. After the kids left, I picked off my second to last Herschel II object. NGC-6526. One more to go. NGC-7507 in Sculptor

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 04, 2011
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Steve, Arlene and myself

Moon Phase: 3 days after new
Seeing: 9
Transparency: 9

Notes: Just wanted to get out and look at some globulars after this past holiday weekend. Steve and Arlene were there with their Orion 14" - great scope by the way. Packs up into a small, neat package. Anyhow, one object I wanted to look at was the supernova in M51. When the moon set, I plugged in my 11mm Nagler and took a look. Supernova spotted! Since it was a really good night to observe, the arm structure and detail in M51 was outstanding.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 05, 2011

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Four days after noon

Seeing: 9

Transparency: 9

Notes: New drive installed on the 31" so I took the opportunity to try it out. It's an outstanding piece of work. Holds position well and tracks very well. No groaning at all. Goodbye Mr. Hammer!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 30, 2011
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark, Mike

Moon Phase: Three days before ne
Seeing: 9
Transparency: 9
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 29, 2011

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Mark, Mike, John, Leroy and myself

Moon Phase: 5 days before new.

Seeing: 8+

Transparency: 8-9

Notes: Horizon poor, zenith good. Transparency should have been better.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 28, 2011
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Six days before new
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good - at times real good

Notes: Started out with the intention of working on the Herschel 400 II list. I had one object in Orion and another five or so in Monoceros that I really needed to observe. Both constellations are rapidly moving westward. I had a total of 34 objects on my list. I was able to observe all but three. NGC-6526 - Nebula in Sagittarius will have to wait until August. The next is NGC 7507 - Galaxy in Sculptor will be next in November or December. The third and last is NGC 2253 - an open cluster in Camelopardus. Searched high and low and it isn't in Megastar. Finally checked the NGC/IC Project website when I came home and found that it's non-existent. So that's where I currently stand - 397 objects and holding.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 01, 2011
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Bob, Mike, Kevin and myself

Moon Phase: 3 days before new
Seeing: Average
Transparency: Average

Notes: Arrived early to set up for a Messier Marathon. It's been three months since I've had a telescope out and the weather promised to be at least decent.

Bob was the first to arrive with his SCT, Mike followed with his Orion and Kevin came last. We all followed through the sequence until Mike left around 10:30. Kevin stayed a little longer. Bob gave up the ghost at 2:00AM leaving me.

I did well with the manual setting circles. I was ahead of the game at 5:15am and decided to take a short nap. Came back out shortly before 6:00am to find the sun was coming up far more quickly and sooner than I had expected. I attempted to get the last 8 objects on the list but it wasn't going to happen. Next year!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 28, 2010

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: John & Guest, Mark, Mike and myself

Moon Phase: Seven days before ne

Seeing: About a 9

Transparency: About a 9

Notes: Arrived early to get set up. Temperature was 32 degrees at start and dropped to 20 degrees at 2330 hours when I closed up and left.

Worked on the Herschel 2500 list. Picked off what I could in Cetus and around 4 or 5 more objects from Pisces. This area of the sky wasn't all that bad. At times - briefly, it was very good.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 08, 2010

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Mark, John and Myself. Steve dropped in later

Moon Phase: 2 Days after new

Seeing: 9

Transparency: 9

Notes: Used the 12" to pick off some Herschel II objects in Eridanus and Cetus. The horizon wasn't real great at sunset but it didn't matter since the objects I wanted to observe weren't coming up until around 2130.. At that time, the horizon was pretty good and I was able to knock them off. Finished up around 2300 and was on my way home.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 02, 2010

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 5 days before new

Seeing: 8

Transparency: 9

Notes: Conditions were not as good as Sunday night. The plan was to use the 31" to check some Herschels in Eridanus and Cetus. The horizon however, was trash. I checked off two galaxies in Aquarius then moved to Pegasus where I stayed. Objects close to or very near zenith provided a better view.

Counting comets, I passed the 4,000 mark in observations tonight!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 31, 2010

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 6 days before new

Seeing: 9+

Transparency: 9

Notes: Last day of October and cold. Found myself to be the only one observing so it was nice and quiet. Gloves and hat were needed. When I left at 2330 hours, the temperature had dropped to 26 degrees.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 07, 2010

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Hidden Hollow 2010

Moon Phase: New Moon

Seeing: Pretty Good all weekend

Transparency: Great on 10/7/10. Average on 10/8/10 & 10/9/10

Notes: Great weekend with good weather. Good crowd with telescopes everywhere.

Rather than log in entries for three different days, everything will get logged for 10/7/10. High point for targets was comet 103P Hartley. Looked good in the 12" Skywatcher. High point for me was winning the Celestron 25-125 x 80 binoculars. Wanted to check them out but the mount was pretty shaky for the bino's weight. I'll put them on my binocular mount.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 12, 2010

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Mark and myself

Moon Phase: 4 days after new

Seeing: Good but not great

Transparency: Good but not great

Notes: Arrived to observe a few objects more for this new moon period. Seemed to struggle all evening to see anything. Ended up logging 13 objects. Mark and I were both on the road around midnight.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 09, 2010

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Mike, John, Terry and his wife and myself

Moon Phase: New

Seeing: 9

Transparency: 9

Notes: High, thin clouds on arrival gave way to really good transparency at dark. Worked on couple of objects in Draco. Looked mostly at Pegasus and Andromeda

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 05, 2010
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark, Mike, Eric, John, Arlene, Steve and myself

Moon Phase: 3 days before new.

Seeing: 9+ - Got better later.

Transparency: 9++ - not a 10 but real, real close

Notes: Had a crowd tonight. Mike with his 8" Orion, Mark with his 28" f/3.6, Steve with his Meade CAT, John with his 20" Obsession, Eric on the 31 and me and the 12" Skywatcher. That's five telescopes on the pad and Big Blue going strong. Started out strong until about 1:15am when junk started rolling in from the North. John was the first to go followed by Mike, myself (1:45am) and Eric. Probably should have stayed since the skies were clearing when I left.

Tried something different tonight. Plugged my 11mm Nagler into my Televue 2x barlow for 5.5mm and 272x. I saw NGC-6742 in Draco - planetary nebula that Megastar lists as 15.0 magnitude. Also saw the pair NGC-6307 and NGC-6306. The former is 13.9 and the latter is 14.4. Almost perfect skies helped but this is a sampling of the stuff I was able to observe tonight. Ended the night with 36 objects. A lot of these I doubt I would have seen even with my 7mm Nagler.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 31, 2010

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 7 days after full

Seeing: 9

Transparency: 9

Notes: No much differrent than the other night. More Draco galaxies..

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 29, 2010

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 5 days after full.

Seeing: 8

Transparency: 9

Notes: Moon rise at 22:45 hours. Horizon sloppy. Zenith decent

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 18, 2010
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 9 days after new
Seeing: 9+
Transparency: 9+

Notes: Arrived with the intentions to play with double stars instead, knocked off some oddball open clusters. Tried out the shroud Mark make for the Skywatcher. Works like a champ.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 13, 2010
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark & myself. A former member from the 80's - Brian joined us shortly before dark.

Moon Phase: 3 Days after new.
Seeing: 8
Transparency: 8

Notes: Another hot & muggy night. Same issue with the eyepieces only this time, I was on the 31" and inside the dome. There was no breeze at all in there.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 12, 2010
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark, Kevin & myself

Moon Phase: 2 Days after new
Seeing: 8
Transparency: 8

Notes: I arrived first, then Mark and Kevin. Kevin wanted to set up the Lightbridge so Mark & I assisted. We set him up with a red flashlight, the Sky Atlas and a 26mm Meade eyepiece and turned him loose. He ended up finding some Messiers but the first - M13, I think was the best. He's dedicated and thoroughly enjoyed the hunt.

As for me, I only found 4 objects. It was hot and muggy even after the sun went down. Every time I put my eye to the eyepiece, it would fog over. By midnight, I was on my way back home for some welcome sleep.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 06, 2010
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark, Mike & myself

Moon Phase: 5 days before new
Seeing: 9+
Transparency: 9+

Notes: I arrived early to double check the alignment of the new Moonlite focuser on the 12" Skywatcher. My concerns were put to rest in short order as the collimation of the optical train proceeded without a hitch. Mark arrived next followed by Mike with his new Orion 10" Intelliscope. Let the night begin.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 14, 2010

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Bruce and myself

Moon Phase: 3 days after new

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: Conditions looked good at the start. However, by 11:30pm, clouds rolled in and sent us home. Clear Sky clock lied again.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 06, 2010

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 5 Days before new.

Seeing: Very good

Transparency: Very good

Notes: Hot - 88 degrees when I arrived. I put the fan on the 12" Skywatcher to cool down for a bit. At 2215 hours I picked up my first object. That fan makes a difference.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 07, 2010
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 1st Quarter
Seeing: Very Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: Talked with Mark a couple of weeks ago and he remarked on how well his mirror performed prior to cooling. I had always thought that just taking a telescope out an hour or two beforehand was sufficient. I stand corrected. I brought a cheap 8" fan down and ran it on the mirror for about a good hour and a half before dark. It made a world of difference.

About 2145 hours, Saturn was staring down nicely. I popped in my 11mm Nagler and gave it a shot. The ring is edge on and was pretty well tack sharp and stable. For kicks and giggles, I plugged in my 5mm Takahashi. Just about the same but with a more magnified image. The ring was still sharp and the orb itself bounced just a tad every now and again. However, I felt it was great and the best I had seen from this setup.

Later in the evening, I hunted down comet C/2009 K5 McNaught in Camelopardus. Found it with a nice, bright coma. I like comets and hunt for them just about every chance out. This one was particularly nice.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 19, 2010
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark and myself

Moon Phase: 1st Quarter
Seeing: 9+
Transparency: 9+ at the start not quite as good around 12:30am

Notes: Knocked off the balance of the Herschel II list in Virgo. Picked up some additional 13.7 mag galaxies in spite of the moon. Wanted to take a peek at Hickson 61 but it was in the general direction of the moon. Not this night. Mark and I were both on the road at 12:45am.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 14, 2010
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Terry, Mike, Bob, Steve & Arlene, Mark, Kim & Ron, Bruce & myself.

Moon Phase: New
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: This was the first night of the members only weekend and the weather has cooperated so far. Six telescopes were step up by dark. I've not seen this much activity by club members. This club is far different than the club I joined seven years ago. This one has fun!!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 14, 2010
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Bruce & myself

Moon Phase: New
Seeing: 6-7
Transparency: 7-8

Notes: It was supposed to clear this morning with excellent skies. Didn't happen. Had a steady band of vapor from the north. Bruce stayed long enough to work on the 31" computer, look at some stuff through the Lightbridge, then he left. I followed about an hour later. Got six objects but not real proud.

Speaking of the Lightbridge, this was the first night out with the new coatings. Excellent job by OMI. Great shots and Bruce's collimation made the stars tack sharp. Didn't use the Orion finder though. It's heavy and the nose has a tendency to take a dive. Still need some additional weight behind the mirrors. Wasn't a deal because I removed the finder and used the Telrad. Things were pretty even then and motions were smooth throughout.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 09, 2010

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: 5 days before new

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good. Better than 4/6/10

Notes: Overcast until mid afternoon than finally clear at 2030 hours. Spent some time in Ursa Major and Virgo. Big thrill was hitting those galaxies around M86. Everywhere I looked I could see a galaxy in my 11mm Nagler.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 06, 2010
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark & myself

Moon Phase: 5 days before new
Seeing: Average
Transparency: 6-8 at start 8-9 later

Notes: Arrived around 7:00pm to set up. Mark arrived later and set up his hand crafted 10" dob. His finger joints in the mirror box are outstanding and the entire telescope in general is very well done.

Had clear skies all day, then the sky started to haze over about the time I left the house. I wasn't real impressed by dark and wasn't really expecting much. However, things did improve as the evening wore on. By 2115 hours, the sky within 20 degrees of zenith was looking pretty good. Around 2215 hours, I decided to try for Pal 4, a globular cluster in Ursa Major. Megastar put me in the field, lo' and behold, after a few seconds of looking, I could see it with averted vision. There's about a 13th mag. star just to the west. I asked Mark to take a look for verification. He reported the same results. Dim star to the west of a fuzz patch. This was my last object since some serious clouds started rolling in around 2230 hours.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 17, 2010
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: A crowd

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency:
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 16, 2010
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself and others

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency:
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 08, 2010
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Bruce, Mike, Leroy and myself

Moon Phase: Last Quarter
Seeing: 9+
Transparency: 9+

Notes: I knew the moon might be an issue but I wanted to pursue a Messier Marathon at the first opportunity. As it turned out, I bagged 103 objects for the night using the manual setting circles on the 12" Skywatcher. I missed M22 because it was directly behind the moon. The others that I missed were M54, M55, M72, M73, M2 and M30. Except for the last two, the others never got above the horizon. If I had only waited one more week!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 16, 2009
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark and Myself

Moon Phase: New
Seeing: Average
Transparency: Average

Notes: New moon and cold - around 20°. Mark set up his dob and image intensifier. His goal for the night was quasar 3C 454.3 at 7.2 billion light years. It had brightened recently to around 13th mag. Normally Megastar lists it at 16th mag. Mark put his scope on it and there it was - a nice bright dot. Imagine 7.2 billion light years away!

I played with the Skywatcher. Still keep forgetting to set up the circles with 90° pointed to the north. One of these days I'll get it right off the bat and won't have to play with it. Logged 5 NGC's before I put it away and got out the new Sky Atlas. I wanted to keep in tune for the Messier Marathon coming up in March. Located M1, M36, M37, M38, M35, M78, M42, M43, M31, M32 and M110. One object that got me excited during the night was M38. Looked like some nebulosity to the southwest side of it. Checked Megastar when I got home and the only thing it could have been is NGC 1907. That being the case NGC 1907 looks like it may have some nebulosity associated with it?

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 11, 2009
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Bruce, Mark, John and myself

Moon Phase: 5 days before new
Seeing: 9
Transparency: 9

Notes: Forecast was for transparent skies. Pretty good but not quite transparent. First look at B33 - Horsehead Nebula courtesy of Mark's optics. Mark attached his image intensifier and the Horsehead was outstanding.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 25, 2009
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Mark and myself

Moon Phase: 7 Days past new.
Seeing: 9+
Transparency: 9+

Notes: Fine tuning of the manual setting circles continued tonight. Leveling the ground board is extremely critical for performance. I spent the time before I started observing to get it right and it paid off in a big way. Found 15 objects total - 3 with an 11mm T6 and 12 with a Speers-Waller 7.5mm. Both have 82° fov. The objects ranged from IC-10 mag 11.8 to NGC-1053 & NGC-1175 both at 13.9 mag and direct vision. What's more incredible was the fact that almost all objects were in or very very close to the fov when I moved the Skywatcher.

Back to the Speers-Waller. The moon was an issue early. Especially for any object in the south or to the west. So I went to Perseus but I still felt that the moon was an issue, even with the Nagler. At the Speers-Waller 200x, I thought that I could grab the smaller galaxies and the Speers-Waller seemed to offer more contrast. As luck would have it, things turned out swell. However, close to transparent skies made a big difference the later the night got. Speaking of steady, Jupiter was steady in the 11mm Nagler.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 18, 2009

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Mark, Eric, Mike, Scott and myself

Moon Phase: New

Seeing: 7

Transparency: 8

Notes: Blue skies promised for a good night. Didn't really pan out. Swung a telescope onto Jupiter and it was pretty much swimming. Left around 12:30am. Still fine tuning the 12" Skywatcher. The highlight was comet C/2006 Christenseon. Still bright and looking good.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 19, 2009

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: HH 2009 Attendees and many RAS Members

Moon Phase: New Moon

Seeing: Good - 8

Transparency: Great - 9 High Pressure still in control

Notes: Hidden Hollow 2009. Looking for 4 excellent nights in a row.
Completed my observation Database.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 13, 2009
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Mark, Bruce

Moon Phase: 5 days from new
Seeing: 9+
Transparency: 9+

Notes: First light at Hidden Hollow with the 12" Skywatcher. In addition, manual setting circles have been installed. Works like a champ. For a test looked up a number of Messier's and planetaries. For fun found comet C/2006 W3 Christensen - looked great.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 25, 2009

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown

Seeing: Fair to Good

Transparency: Fair to Good

Notes: Warm & Clear. Humidity around 66% at 73°

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 16, 2009

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown

Seeing: 9+

Transparency: 9+

Notes: Arrived before dark. Good and hot all day. The temperature was 85° when I started and around 80° when I left around midnight.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 27, 2009
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 16, 2009

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown

Seeing: 9+

Transparency: 9+

Notes: Good until around 2245 hours. Clouds that weren't supposed to show up until 0200 hours, arrived around 2245 hours.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 21, 2009
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Exc
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 18, 2009
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Exc
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 26, 2009
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 16, 2009
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Bruce

Moon Phase: Unknwo
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: Bluebird skies all day led to dark skies tonight. I arrived early to dig out the 16" Lightbridge and laptop. Since Argo Navis is running relatively well, I wanted to see if MegaStar would as well. So I set things up, plugged the laptop into the Argo Navis (in this mode, Argo Navis just sends encoder signals to the laptop) and gave it a go at dark. At 2110 hours, I did a two star alignment – Procyon and Arcturus. Got a warp of 1.3 but there's a lot of separation between the two. First object of the night was comet C/2006 T2 Cardinal in Auriga. I hadn't updated the comet data for MegaStar in months so I winged it. I put the Telrad on M36 and bumped the Lightbridge just a bit – about 1° to the north and there it was. Extremely bright, pretty small and slightly elongated – no large beautiful tail. I was still pretty well impressed so I called Bruce out from the dome to take a peek. His impression was pretty much the same. That being said, it was time to check out MegaStar.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 26, 2009
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Fair
Transparency: Fair

Notes: Argo Navis – Last Round. Last Sunday, I found myself with nothing better to do and still bugged over this thing, I drove to the observatory and put a positive stop between the tube and base. This means that when you first start up Argo Navis and put the tube in a 90° position prior to alignment, all you have to do is push the tube up until it stops. Bruce and I had gone over the installation of the Argo Navis hardware last Friday. We both concluded that everything else was pretty much in order. The only question mark was the vertical alignment of the tube prior to Mode Fix Alt Ref. I had used levels – one on the base and one on the tube but I really didn't have a lot of faith since all the parameters of Argo and all the hardware installs all checked out.

Last night it was clear so I drove down to check out the Lightbridge. When I got there, I rolled it out, turned on Argo Navis and waited for dark. When dark arrived I did a Mode Fix Alt Ref. That done, I did Mode Align Stars. I picked Rigel in Orion and Regulus in Leo. By the way, I use a 10mm illuminated reticule eyepiece for alignment purposes. After alignment, I pulled that eyepiece and installed the 17mm Nagler then picked Mode Catalog. I then picked NGC for the catalog and typed 2903. Things got real interesting here. I pushed the scope until I had zero offset and looked. Lo' and behold, there at the edge of the eyepiece field was a nice edge on galaxy NGC 2903. Not satisfied, I started chasing Messiers in Leo and Ursa Major. Same thing every time. If an object wasn't on the edge of the f.o.v. it was in the f.o.v. Feeling rather confident at this time, I pulled out Uranometria and chased down some Herschel II objects in Canes Venatici. No problem.

At this point, I consider the 16" Lightbridge & Argo Navis to be a working combination. Next up is to fine tune Megastar!!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 21, 2009
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 20, 2009
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Bruce, Tim, Seth

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: The club's Messier Marathon is scheduled for the next weekend but I wasn't going to make it so I decided to try my hand at it tonight. The skies were clear when I arrived and things looked promising. I had about an hour to set up before dark and by that time Bruce had arrived.

Just before dark, I decided to grab my binoculars and head for the lodge to give myself the best chance of getting the first few objects. Worked pretty well although I wasn't able to bag M74 or M77. When I got back to the observatory 2 of Bruce's guests had arrived along with Tim and Seth. They were setting up a couple of telescopes to familiarize themselves with the operation. I continued on my merry way. I wasn't interested in actually observing/recording since that is not the intent of the marathon. The intent is to concentrate on finding as many as you can.

At any rate it was back to navigating the southern horizon for globular and open clusters. This is normally difficult since you really can't count on a clear horizon around here. What had been good around 3:00am or so was starting to trash up around 3:30. I located a few, missed a bunch and finally quit around 5:00am when the moon was starting to come up and the skies were definitely getting cloudy. For the night, I had managed to located 93 Messier objects. I was shooting for 100+. But, I'll settle for the 93!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jan 24, 2009

Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS

Observers: Myself, Bruce

Moon Phase: Unknown

Seeing: Fair

Transparency: Fair

Notes: Cold and only six objects after a slow start: Bruce stuck in drive, broken pipe in restroom, frozen dome and finally cloudy skies. Temperature at start was 6° and dropped to 0° when we left.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 28, 2008
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: F>G
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 30, 2008
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: F>G
Transparency: F>G
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 29, 2008
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: F>G
Transparency: F>G

Notes: The sky had been overcast much of the day with clearing, starting around 1700 hours. I arrived around 2000 hours to a transparency of 7-8 and temperature of around 33°. When I departed around 2300 hours, the transparency had improved to about 8-9 or slightly better and a temperature of 27°. Getting colder folks.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 23, 2008
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: 9+
Transparency: 9+

Notes: I arrived at the observatory with no real list to observe with. However, I decided on Pegasus before dark. The weather people predicted good skies until after midnight and that was fine with me since I had planned on leaving before then. Once darkness had arrived I ran into a minor glitch. The Telrad had been left in the on position from its last use and the batteries had died. While holding a red flashlight with my teeth, one of the wires broke off while I was swapping out the batteries. I removed it, brought it home and will repair it before I go back. So, I had to use the old method – finder scope to get my alignment star centered. I didn't take long and in minutes I was up and running.

My observing list is composed of NGC's and IC's from the NGC/IC website. I took one page to the lift because what normally happens is that I get distracted by other objects (MAC's, PGC's, UGC's & CGCG's) and that one page is good for quite a while. That's exactly what happened. Out of the 60 galaxies that I observed, 33 were NGC's and the balance in the other catalogs. The horizon was sloppy but the overhead skies were excellent. Any object around 15th magnitude was readily observable with only a few averted vision objects. I hadn't really dressed for the cool night air so I disregarded any thoughts of taking the next day off and staying the night. I started observing objects at 22 hours of right ascension and pretty much kept it there for the time I observed. This allowed for little movement of the dome and just small lift adjustments for compensation. End result is more time observing and less time screwing around with the dome.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 28, 2008
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Bob Kocar

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: 8-9
Transparency: 8-9

Notes: I wanted to observe a bit so I headed out for an evening at WRO. When I got there a new member – Bob Kocar had already arrived and was setting up to do some imaging. During the evening, I stopped observing long enough to check on his projects and found that Bob is an accomplished astrophotographer. His image of the Andromeda Galaxy is very, very nice indeed with pinpoint stars. Well done.

As for myself, I had a short list for Capricornus that included objects from the NGC and IC catalogs. At the end of the night, I had observed all NGC & IC objects up to 17.0 magnitude on the 31". For the record, two of them were classified as non-existent by MegaStar, they were NGC-6993 & NGC-7105. I ended up observing 34 objects and as luck would have it, the sky was starting to go south when I left at 2335 hours. Not too bad for as infrequently as I use the 31"

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 01, 2008
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: This morning, I logged my observations into my file and noticed that I was short of 3,000 observations by 1! I also checked out IC 5006 on the NGC/IC Project website and found little information. I'm of the opinion that it's non-existent and that's the way I have it labeled. On the other hand, other astronomers have IC 1298 listed as an open cluster. Again, there is little information on the NGC/IC website.

Back to the observatory I went. I didn't bother looking for IC 5006, however, I did look for and find some stars in the given location for IC 1298. I have it listed in my log as an open cluster. With that, all NGC/IC objects in Aquila to 17th magnitude have been observed. In addition, I have observed all NGC/IC objects to 17th magnitude in Vulpecula. One more item of note, I have observed 3,009 objects to date.

One trick that assisted my in my search for IC 1298 can be found in MegaStar. Instead of using the readout bar in R.A./Dec offset, I changed it to R.A./Dec mode. This way, I could move the telescope to the exact coordinates and look around. Worked like a champ.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 31, 2008
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unkown
Seeing: V.G
Transparency: V.G.

Notes: It has been awhile since I had driven the 31" so the night was clear and I gave it a shot. I needed to complete the NGC's and IC's in Aquila so that's where I started. In the end, I didn't get IC 5006 & IC 1298. Both were missing in MegaStar's database. I did observe some objects in Delphinus and ended the night with 32 observations

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 03, 2008
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 30, 2008
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Fair
Transparency: Fair

Notes: I connected the cable from Argo Navis to my laptop and fired up the laptop. There were only a few parameters in MegaStar that needed adjustment: encoders and polling rate. I made those and proceeded to the 2-star alignment. I found very quickly that there wasn't enough in-focus for my illuminated cross hair eyepiece so I gave it the best shot. Well, after the alignment, I had a warp of 16.0 which wasn't good at all. As luck would have it, I pulled out a 9mm long eye relief with about a 52° fov and gave that a shot. As carefully as I could, I centered the stars in the eyepiece and ended up with a satisfying warp of 0.2.

It's time for show and tell. I put the club's 17mm Nagler in the focuser and did a Locate for M57. Success, there it was on the edge. Next target was M56 and again, there right on the edge. I shot for a couple of galaxies and that's where some troubles started until I remembered "Set Zenith", "Invert Field" and "Field Rotation." Once those were set, it got easier. However, I noticed that the altitude encoder falls behind the displayed values when moved. I'm not sure if that can be attributed to the values going through Argo Navis first or if it's the mechanical connection between the encoder and the Lightbridge bearing. The encoder is a press fit into a rubber gasket on the bearing. I would have preferred a more secure connection but for the time being it will do.

For the most part, I would call this test run a success. I was able to use MegaStar to locate objects and with some finer tuning, we'll be able to realize the same accuracy that MegaStar provides for the 31".

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 26, 2008
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 09, 2008
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Bruce

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: VG
Transparency: VG

Notes: Cloudy, rainy skies in the morning paved the way for bluebird skies this evening. Things looked pretty promising so I decided to observe as did Bruce. When I arrived, the skies for transparency & seeing were judged to be very good to excellent. Quite a change from what we've had. The temperature when I got there was around 60°F. When I left around 12:30am, it was around 47°F. There was a bit of a wind from the north and I hadn't really dressed for the weather. Had I been properly attired, I would most likely have stayed for the night – the sky was that good. At any rate, it felt a lot colder than it actually was.

I wanted to setup my 8" Dobson to pare down the Herschel II list and Bruce setup on the 31" to work on ARPs and galaxy clusters. I had a pretty good star alignment so I set to work on that list. As usual, MegaStar is worth its weight in gold. Once set for the night, MegaStar assisted me in finding 11th to 12th magnitude galaxies with an 8" mirror. It also helped that the sky was in excellent condition. I ended the night with 40 less objects on my Herschel II to do list. Only 170 more to go.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 07, 2008
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: Another night when it didn't look real promising when I arrived with high thin clouds popping in and out. By the time I had opened up the dome, fired up the 31" and did my star alignment things had improved. I would estimate "good" for both seeing and transparency.

About 2100 hours, I started working Leo. To check the conditions, I was able to log a couple of MAC galaxies. As a general rule, these are very small and faint galaxies. One of them was listed by Megastar as around 16.5 magnitude. Bruce arrived around 2300 hours or so and we shifted our efforts to Corvus. I decided to leave around 2400 hours when the clouds came back. Just like earlier in the evening for me, they were scattered and high.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 02, 2008
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Kim, Ron, Dan

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Fair
Transparency: Fair

Notes: It's been a long, hard winter. The skies didn't look promising when I arrived but by sundown, things were looking up. I would judge the skies and seeing to hover around a 7 or so.

I didn't have a real plan for the night other than to just screw around with the 8" Dobson. It was a good thing since the batteries died in my illuminated eyepiece. This means that my 2-star alignment wasn't quite up to snuff. Anyhow, it was fun and I was joined by Dan, Kim and her husband Ron.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 28, 2008

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 13, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Ken, Barb

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Fair
Transparency: Fair

Notes: I had started out with high hopes when I arrived at W.R.O. The weather however, lasted only until 9:30pm or so. Barb & Ken arrived around 9:00pm so they didn't get much observing time in either.

When I started observing about 7:15pm, the seeing was fair but the transparency was good. The Herschel II 400 list is tough but when the transparency is good to excellent a number of the objects are within range of my 8" Dobson with MegaStar. I'm going to do what I can with this telescope since it's easier to move around than the 31".

On a side note I had a chance to observe comet 17P Holmes with my telescope for the first time. I was using an 11mm T5 Nagler and this comet filled the field of view. It had a distinct coma with a growing tail. It's still very large and appears to me as though it's getting bigger!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 10, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Fair
Transparency: Fair

Notes: Came down to the observatory to work on the Herschel II 400 list. Started out at around 9:20pm and ended around 11:30 when the skies turned to trash. Ended up logging 30 objects, mostly Herschels with a couple of odds and ends thrown in. Skies were about a "9" with transparency around 8. Wasn't too bad for the Hershel objects. Magnitude was limited to around 15 on the 31".

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 04, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 03, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: This was the last public night of the year. Some real light clouds rolled in around 5:30pm but didn't last too long. Around 7:30pm or so, the 31" was ready to go and the first object happened to be M15 in Pegasus. Instead of the 17mm Nagler that I normally use, I opted for my 32mm, 70 degree generic. It's not too bad of an ocular and gives a decent, bright image to the edge of the field. Tonight's choice of M15 for a target brought out a "WOW" to everyone who saw it. People normally don't say much until this particular object comes into focus, then "WOW." I targeted this one until everyone had a look and the 31" was past the meridian. Next up Comet 17P Holmes.

This was an easy object. The hard part was maneuvering the lift around to the eyepiece. Once that was done it was 1, 2, and 3. 1. Locate 17P Holmes in the telrad. 2. Locate 17P Holmes in the finder scope. 3. Locate 17P Holmes in the eyepiece. At that point I was in trouble. This comet is too big for 32mm eyepiece. Among the first guests to come aboard and take a look was Tammy so I asked her to grab a 55mm from the case. WOW! This comet filled the eyepiece and then some. Large, bright and growing a tail. I took a peek in my binoculars later tonight and found that it had just about doubled in size since I first took a look 5 or 6 days ago. If it isn't already, it ought to be the comet of 2007.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 30, 2007

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown

Seeing: Good

Transparency: Good

Notes: I took another peek at 17P Holmes tonight and was just as impressed, if not more so, by this object. I set up my parallelogram binocular mount to stabilize the binoculars and the resulting image was extraordinary. It still looks like a very large, bright planetary. The bright core and outer disk are quite sharp and defined. Still no tail. This is a fine comet.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 28, 2007

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: V.G.

Notes: Comet 17P Holmes has been making the news of late. It's gone from a 17th magnitude object to a very bright 2.6 magnitude comet at the moment as reported by Sky & Telescope. I took my binoculars out tonight around 2045 hours to give it a peek and what a surprise. It's extremely bright, pretty large, bright core with a round, sharp disk. With my 12x50 binoculars it resembled a pretty large & bright planetary nebula. This was from home under urban skies no less. This was my 11th comet and is quite simply, the most impressive that I've seen in binoculars. The experts predict that it will grow in brightness and size in the coming days. If the weather holds up, I'll keep my eye on it.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 09, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Ken, Barb

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: It's been close to 90° the last couple of days. Odd for October and the temperature was supposed to drop tonight. It did, when I left the observatory it was around 57°. The skies were good to very good with good transparency from horizon to horizon. Around 11:00pm or so, company arrived in the persons of Ken & Barb. Barb wanted to work on the Astronomical League Messier list and Ken coached.

I had two goals tonight. One was to complete all of the NGC/IC objects in Pisces to 13th magnitude. It happened – not easily but it's completed none the less. The second and most important was to complete the Herschel 400 List. That's why I noted the transparency. Two of my objects – NGC 288 a globular cluster and NGC 613 a galaxy are both located in Sculptor and very low on the horizon. With my 8" Dobson, NGC 288 was nothing more than a large smudge with unresolved stars. NGC 613 however, was surprisingly bright with a very faint nucleus. At any rate, those were the last and the end of an odyssey that started June 19, 2004. Next up is the Herschel II list. I have 134 observed with 266 to go!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 13, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: VG
Transparency: VG

Notes: Tonight looked pretty good so I thought I would try my hand at the 31”.

When I arrived the sky looked pretty good – nice and blue. When I left at midnight, I would have judged it to be very good. However, seeing probably wasn’t that great. I wanted galaxies so I was pretty much unaffected by the seeing.

I focused my attention in Aquarius and logged 59 observations. I made a boo-boo and longed one observation in Pegasus. Not too bad for a little over three hours at the telescope. I would have liked to stay but morning and work come early for me.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 11, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 05, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Bruce, Ken, Barb

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: I had an opportunity tonight to observe, the skies were good and I made the most of it. Bruce thought so as well as did Ken & Barb who arrived later.

I wanted to use my 8" Dobson for this session. I was able to close out a few more constellations. By that I mean that I have observed all NGC/IC objects up to and including 13th magnitude. Tonight those constellations included Aquarius, Aquila, Capricornus, Cassiopeia, Serpens Caput & Serpens Cauda. They've been added to those constellations previously closed: Andromeda, Aries, Auriga, Cancer, Canis Major, Cygnus, Delphinus, Gemini, Hercules, Leo, Leo Minor, Lepus, Ophiuchus, Orion, Pegasus, Taurus, Triangulum and Vulpecula.

Quite a list for not quite 4 years at this hobby. Down the road, I can see a Newtonian reflector – Dobson, in the 14" to 18" range. I want to keep my feet on the ground. However, in the meantime, I have the use of a 31" reflector to use and binoculars have proven to be a lot of fun. We'll see what the future brings.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 13, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 23, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: G>VG
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 21, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: V.G.
Transparency: V.G.

Notes: I had a few objects on my binocular list that I wanted to hit and tonight was going to be the night. Those objects were mostly open clusters and globular clusters in Ophiuchus and Sagittarius. The skies were pretty good and the seeing was excellent. As a matter of fact, Jupiter shone well as did 4 of its moons. Admittedly, 2 of them were pretty small and bounced in and out of view.

Sky & Telescope reported that comet C/2006 VZ13 Linear was going to pass very close to M3 in Canes Venatici on 7/22/07 at 23:30 UT. While I was 18 hours early on my time, I wanted to see what I could see. First off was to find M3. No problem. Adjust to the NW some and the comet should be there. I looked and didn't see it. I observed and found it right where it was supposed to be according to the MegaStar plot. I found it with averted vision first but after observing it I could see it directly although it's very faint with no tail. With my 12x50's, M3 is placed at 7 o'clock and C/2006 VZ13 Linear at about 1 o'clock in the same FOV. Not too bad and M3 looked pretty good. As for magnitude, if M3 is around a magnitude 6 or so, I would guesstimate that C/2006 VZ13 Linear is around 9. Whatever, it was still a good show.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 16, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 13, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Ken, Barb, Terry

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: I arrived at the observatory to find Ken, Barb and Terry setting up. When I had completed my setup, we had these scopes ready for use: 12.5" dob, 12" dob, 4.24" dob and my 8" dob. Not too bad of a variety if only the skies would cooperate. We had patchy clouds with deep blue skies behind. However, by 10:15pm or so, things were pretty clear (transparency/seeing were about 9+) so away we went.

Since the skies looked good and I had a clean mirror, I attempted to get some fainter objects – globular clusters. These included HP 1 and Pal 6. Of the two, Pal 6 was the toughest. One surprise was B 326, a dark nebula in Aquila. Surprisingly enough, I could see it. I asked Ken to take a look for verification and he did so. This was an unusual and unexpected bonus for the night. Another neat object was comet C/2006 VZ1 Linear. Pretty big, pretty bright with a very, very faint tail. It resembles a large faint globular cluster. It's worth a look.

Some clouds started filling the sky around 11:30pm so we sat and talked for a bit until they cleared around midnight. At that point, I thought that the skies looked better than they had earlier. I decided to unplug MegaStar and go it alone with Sky Atlas. While my skills aren't up to snuff against Terry and Ken, I didn't do too bad. I located globular clusters in Sagittarius and Ophiuchus. I hit the Messiers and even located some NGC's. With that, I gave up the ghost around 1:45am and headed home.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 20, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: I went to the observatory to do some work on the Binocular DSO list and the Binocular 250. The skies were about an 8-9, not super but pretty good.

I was reminded that working with binoculars takes a little more effort at the map table. Back and forth, to and fro'. However, with the parallelogram mount, I could just leave them parked. For the record, I only observed 10 objects in Cygnus, Serpens and Vulpecula. Those are ten off my list.

Today – 6/21/07, is the first day of summer. Sadly, the days start getting shorter again.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 14, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: G

Notes: I arrived at the observatory around 8:00pm and setup. I wasn't real keen on the collimation that I had done at home so I spent about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour centering the primary, focuser and the secondary. I went back through the collimation without a hitch and was pretty pleased with the results. I use a Cheshire since I don't have a laser collimator and close looked pretty good to me.

My first target once dark arrived was comet C/2007 E2 Lovejoy. It's listed on some websites as a magnitude 11.7. Megastar however, lists the magnitude around 13.0 or so. I spent at least 30 minutes looking and I'm pretty positive it was in my field of view but I wasn't able to catch it. This thing is very faint and my 8" Dobson wasn't up to the task which leads me to believe that Megastar is pretty much right on the money for the magnitude of this comet. However, the clean optics did make a considerable difference. I was very much pleased with the contrast and improved views. Since I wanted to leave around midnight, I unplugged the laptop, got out the Sky Atlas and did some cruising in Scorpius, Sagittarius and Ophiuchus for Messier objects (I like globular clusters). Although I didn't see the comet, the night was a success with the clean optics, collimated sight train and tuned dobsonian.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 09, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: V.G.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 18, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Bruce

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: V.G.
Transparency: V.G.

Notes: The sky was clear with low temperatures in what will probably be the last session for May. Bruce was going to spend the night observing so by the time he arrived, I had the 31" ready and aligned in Virgo.

I didn't have anything in particular to observe other than NGC's (there's a bunch in Virgo) so whatever Bruce wanted to observe was pretty much ok with me. His hit list for the night included Hickson galaxy groups and ARP galaxies. I don't want to take the spotlight away from Bruce so all I'll say is that Hickson 62 is very much worth a look.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 14, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: V.G.

Notes: I spent a couple of hours at Warren Rupp Observatory with the 31" in Virgo. At dark, the skies were about an 8 or so and when I left around midnight they were a 9+. Temperatures were in the low 60's. I wish I could have stayed.

I wouldn't venture to guess how many galaxies are in Virgo. I do know however, that there's a wide variety. These NGC's are nice and bright: NGC 4473, NGC 4503 and NGC 4526. IC 3446 made a respectable showing also. Then you get to the dim and faint MAC's, PGC's etc., etc. So much to pick from.

About 11:15pm or so, I walked out the door to take a look at the sky and what I saw just about floored me. There was a pretty big aurora in the North. At first I thought clouds but there was about a 10-12 mph wind from the South and this thing didn't change location – just shape. It extended low in the Northeast and arose high in the Northwest. It was almost like a living thing the way it shape-shifted. I sent an e-mail to Tammi when I got back home asking if she had seen it. She missed it but said that an aurora alert had been issued.

One more thing. For the record and my own pleasure more than anything else, I've made 2,544 observations since

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 13, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Fair
Transparency: Fair

Notes: I wanted to finish up some NGC's (≤ 13.0 magnitude) with my 8" Dobson, in Leo tonight. For awhile I wasn't sure that would happen. At sunset, some high thin clouds rolled in. The skies were about a 7 to 8 sometimes better. I observed for a bit, waited then observed some more. I finally got what I needed so I left around midnight. At that time, I would guess they were around a 9 or so.

The objects I observe with my Dobson at this point are all difficult. Since I built it in 2003, I've hit a lot of the 8th, 9th and so on magnitude objects. Those that are left are around 12 to 13th magnitude. This is where Megastar comes in. I can match what I see in the eyepiece to the Megastar atlas. Once I have the star pattern in both, I can pick out the object. I can push the envelope of what an 8" mirror can see. Surprisingly enough, on good nights, 13th magnitude galaxies can be seen. On very pristine nights, the reach can be extended to 13.5th magnitude with averted vision. Those nights don't happen often. Tonight for example, I had about 2 hours of observing in. I logged around 20 or so objects with the 8" Dobson. Had I used the 31", I would most likely have had at least double that. However, now that I think about it, I may be trying to talk myself into a 16" to 18" mirror! I built this one, I can build one bigger. It's in the stars.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 07, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Exc.
Transparency: Exc.

Notes: The skies were predicted to be really good tonight so I spent some time at Warren Rupp Observatory on the 31". However, exceptional is probably a better word. When I left at midnight, the sky was pristine. Most of the objects that I looked at in Leo just kind of jumped out at you. I only observed a few with averted vision and I observed objects from the NGC, CGCG, PGC, IC and MAC catalogues.

Speaking of Leo, of the 331 objects observed so far this year, 184 (55%) have been in Leo. While I'm on the subject of statistics, 178 (54%) of those objects have been observed with the 31".

While I'm no expert on the 31", the more I observe with it, the easier it gets. Bruce has repeatedly said that you pick 1 or 2 hours of right ascension to the east of the meridian and work that area of the sky until the telescope approaches the meridian. This way you don't have to stop and adjust the slit and you just move the beast in declination. On really good nights you can bang out objects with very little telescope and lift movement. I like that.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 06, 2007

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown

Seeing: Fair

Transparency: Fair

Notes: I decided to sit at home and play with the binoculars tonight. Skies were about an 8-9 and I needed to get some binocular Messier objects observed. I looked at 12 more objects and called it a night. At this time I have observed 102 Messier objects with binoculars. I have more than enough for the Astronomical Society Binocular Messier Club so I submitted my results. If a certain party reads this, she'll be glad to hear that.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 21, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: I observed 2 more nights since 4/15/07 – 4/19/07 & 4/21/07. The skies were pretty good both nights but the night of 4/19 may have been a tad better.

Both nights were spent in Leo observing galaxies from the typical catalogues. I quit around midnight both nights – I'm an early riser. On 4/19/07 I couldn't resist looking at M104 in Virgo. Most remarkable object. I added the Antenna galaxies in Corvus. Those would be NGC 4038/9. They're pretty neat to and worth a look this time of year.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 19, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: I observed 2 more nights since 4/15/07 – 4/19/07 & 4/21/07. The skies were pretty good both nights but the night of 4/19 may have been a tad better.

Both nights were spent in Leo observing galaxies from the typical catalogues. I quit around midnight both nights – I'm an early riser. On 4/19/07 I couldn't resist looking at M104 in Virgo. Most remarkable object. I added the Antenna galaxies in Corvus. Those would be NGC 4038/9. They're pretty neat to and worth a look this time of year.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 15, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: Talk about odd weather - snow just about every day for the last week with about $\frac{1}{2}$ " this morning. The skies started to clear this afternoon so I decided to give it a shot and observe. I arrived at the observatory about 8:15pm to passing clouds. The sky finally cleared about 9:20pm or so and away I went.

I wanted to re-acquaint myself with running the 31" solo. It's been quite some time since that's happened. Fortunately, once the alignment was complete, things went pretty smooth. The alignment was great with all objects in the field of view of the 17mm Nagler. I tried out a new 32mm – 70° eyepiece that I had picked up last fall, on M65 & M66. It isn't a Nagler but the images are crisp just about to the edges where they start to fade somewhat.

I spent a couple of hours in Leo working mostly on NGC's. In addition I picked up some CGCG's, MAC's and one IC. I observed Hickson 44 again with the 17mm – couldn't get four of the galaxies in the same field of view. I should have tried the 32mm but to be honest, the thought never crossed my mind.

The skies were still good when I left at midnight. The temperature was around 30° or so. Had I dressed properly, I might have considered staying longer.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 20, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Bruce

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Fair
Transparency: Fair

Notes: What started out as a decent, clear night with promise didn't last long. Transparency was about a 7-8 at 9:00pm or so and the skies were completely trashed by 11:00. I was outside with my 8" Dobson watching all of this while Bruce was inside focused on a very small part of the sky. I called for him to come outside the dome for a second and when he stepped out he was taken aback by the sky. We closed up and were gone by 11:30pm.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 18, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 17, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Bruce

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: My intentions tonight were to run the Messier List. However, the early cloud cover doomed those intentions. By the time that Bruce had arrived, I had only seen seven of the first 20 objects. Six of those were with binoculars and one, lone telescope object for my 8" Dobson. I decided at that time that this was going to be a bust so I fired up Megastar and worked on the Herschel 400. For the night, I had observed all that I needed in Ursa Major but I'm still lacking the two Sculptor objects and it looks like there're several months away. Bruce was knocking faint galaxies & galaxy clusters off with the 31" and ended up with 6 pages of observations.

For the weather this night, the cloud cover was around 35-40%. I observed what I could in the clear spots. When those spots came, they were very clear. The night cleared up for good around 2:30 or 3:00am (somewhere thereabouts, I was napping on the couch at that time). We called it a night at 6:25am and left. The temperature was a cool 17° F.

G

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 13, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Fair
Transparency: Fair

Notes: How refreshing it was to finally get the 8" Dobson out for a bit at the observatory. Winter has been too long and too cold. I had a few hours tonight with fair skies and balmy temperatures and I wanted to shorten up the Herschel list so that's what I worked on. I am 33 away from completing the Herschel 400. Most of them are in Ursa Major which is getting nice and high in the sky. That's good. The bad part is I have a galaxy in Hydra & Sculptor, a globular cluster in Sculptor and an open cluster in Scutum. Methinks they'll be tough.

This is the time of year for a Messier Marathon. Unfortunately, the site is Ohio in March. The weather is currently trashy and doesn't look good for the next week. Miracles occur sometimes

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 10, 2007
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 08, 2007

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jan 11, 2007

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 28, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase: Unknown

Seeing: Fair

Transparency: Fair

Notes: Not a very good night but then I wasn't really planning on long session anyhow. The waxing moon had passed the meridian when I started and temperatures were in the mid thirties.

I had completed the binocular mount a couple of days ago and I was itching to give it a go. It works pretty slick. This design is a good, solid design. Once I had the binoculars correctly balanced, they held their position wherever there were moved – in all directions. What a nice feeling it is to be able to observe through binoculars without having to hold them.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 20, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Exc.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 19, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Bruce

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Exc.
Transparency: Exc.

Notes: The evening started out clear then improved to excellent. Temperatures in the low 20's. The 31" got a workout.

I logged in 63 objects – Triangulum, Canis Major, Camelopardalis and Orion. Of those objects, most were galaxies, one open cluster, a dark nebula and one bright nebula all following Bruce's lead.

Bruce owns several items, among them: 31mm Nagler T5, 2" Hydrogen Beta and OIII filters. I mention this because they were used this night with outstanding results on two objects: B33 – Horsehead Nebula and NGC-2359.

Barnard 33 is a dark nebula in Orion and the 31mm Nagler provides a wide field. The 2" Hydrogen Beta filter is needed to observe it. Because of the exceptionally clear, dark skies, we were able to resolve the nebula with nothing left to the imagination. Photographs of this object are impressive and I agree. However, personal observation, to actually see this with one's own eyes is more preferable and rewarding.

The second object was NGC 2359 – Thor's Helmet, in Canis Major, a large, bright nebula. The 31mm reveals a large hazy patch with nothing exceptional to observe. Add an OIII filter and see what happens. The OIII filter unleashes bright nebulosity that fills the field of the 31mm Nagler. It's a giant pinwheel with streamers on the ends. The filaments of nebulosity weave broad and narrow through stars and space. Bruce had the first look and left the eyepiece speechless. I took a look and added my silence to his. Thor's Helmet.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 18, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair

Notes: Decently clear, transparency about an 8. Temperatures in high 20's. I didn't want to stay late because tomorrow night is supposed to be much better.

I logged around 19 objects – 18 with the 31” and 1 with binoculars. The constellations were pretty much split between Perseus and Taurus. Scattered clouds rolled in around 2215 hours so I closed up the dome. When I loaded the truck up, I noticed the skies had cleared up. So out came the binoculars and Sky Atlas. But after using the 31” telescope, my heart wasn't in 12x50 binoculars! So I packed it in and left.

Speaking of binoculars, I just finished up a parallelogram binocular mount based on a design by Dale Keller.

<http://home.att.net/~dale.keller/atm/binoculars/keller/kellerbino.htm>

The mount's pretty slick and wasn't too difficult to build. However, with the binoculars and the mount, the weight is somewhere around 9-10 pounds including the counterweight. The weak link in my particular system is the tripod. What I have is suited for a camera and “light use.” Putting this contraption on it really stresses the plastic of the mount. I'm either going to have to cough up the bucks for a more solid mount or build one. Cheap that I am, I'll more than likely build a tripod dedicated to the binocular mount. More to come on this later.

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 27, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Fair

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 26, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Fair

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 25, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 24, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Bruce & his guests

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Good

Notes: Clear, transparent night. Temperature in the mid 30's or so. A number of personal issues during the night.

The dome had been repaired during the day and I was itching to use the 31". So much so, that I had forgotten that in order to start, one must do a proper alignment for Megastar. I did it twice before realizing that I was using the wrong star. Whoops! Well, I got that mess straightened out and went on a tear for about an hour. Then I hit the wrong button on the keyboard and shut Megastar off. Back to the alignment procedure again. I cleaned up my mess again, then turned the 31" over to Bruce and his guests, went outside and set up my 8" Dobson. That's where I ended the night.

I saw about 47 or so objects and closed up Gemini. Picked up a lot of open clusters in Monoceros. Forgot to get the ones that I needed for the Herschel List. But like I said at the start – I had some issues throughout the night. But I saw stuff!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 23, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 22, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself, Bruce

Moon Phase: Unknown
Seeing: 9
Transparency: 10

Notes: Starting on this date, I've decided to start posting any updates to this web or any other activities of note.

My last observing session was on the night of 11/21/06 at the Warren Rupp Observatory with Bruce Scodova. On a scale of 1-10 the transparency was a 10. Temperatures were in the low 20's. Since the 31" was down for repair, I observed with my 8" Dobson and Bruce with his 12.5" Meade R.G.

I observed 75 objects this night. Among those objects were 27 from the Herschel 400 list. This gives me 327 objects observed with 73 objects to go. A few constellations were closed out. By closed out, I mean that all NGC/IC objects have been observed. In this case, all NGC/IC objects at ≤ 13.0 magnitude. Those constellations are: Andromeda, Aries, Auriga, Lepus, Orion and Pegasus. They are added to these constellations that have been closed out in the past: Cygnus, Delphinus, Ophiuchus, Vulpecula and Triangulum. All told, I had made over 2000+ observations since 2003 at the end of this observing session.

I mentioned above that the skies were at about a 10 for transparency. I neglected to mention that this was almost horizon to horizon. I observed NGC-1808 in Columba. This is a 10.7 magnitude galaxy at R.A. 05 07 42.8, D.E.C. -37 30 51. I had to shoot between some trees to see it but it was observed by Bruce and me. It has a near neighbor – NGC-1792 at 10.9 magnitude that I couldn't see, however.

The night ended for me around 2:00am. I drove home, tired but with a sense of accomplishment for the nights observations. The whole point of all this from my perspective is to see stuff!

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 21, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: V.G
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 14, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Fair

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 09, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Fair

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 29, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 25, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: V.G
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 21, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 15, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 13, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 08, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 02, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 01, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 25, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 08, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: F>G

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 07, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: F>G

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 20, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 16, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: VG

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 12, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: VG

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 01, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 24, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: G-VG
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 23, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: G>VG
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 16, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 15, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 29, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 28, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 22, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 29, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 28, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 26, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Exc
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 19, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 17, 2006

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 29, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 27, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 26, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 19, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 04, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Exc.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Feb 23, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Exc.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Feb 20, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jan 26, 2006
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: F>G
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 07, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 02, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: F>G
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 30, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: F>G
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 05, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 27, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Exc.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 07, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 04, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 01, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 24, 2005

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Fair

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 12, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: F>G
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 09, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 02, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 31, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 09, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: VG
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 03, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: F>G
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 04, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 03, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: F. to P.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 17, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: F. to P.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 12, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 10, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 04, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 13, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 08, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: V.G.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 05, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair/Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 04, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 15, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 06, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Feb 10, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Feb 03, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: F-G
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Feb 01, 2005
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: V.G.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 15, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 04, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 01, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 09, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 06, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 03, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 31, 2004

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Fair

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 27, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 17, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 10, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 06, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: V.G.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 23, 2004

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 19, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 15, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 12, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: V.G.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Sep 04, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 23, 2004

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Fair

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 21, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Aug 14, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 21, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 16, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jul 08, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Gd. - Exc
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 26, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 23, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 19, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Jun 14, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 24, 2004

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Fair

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 22, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 16, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: May 12, 2004

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Fair

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 16, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 14, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: V.G.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Apr 05, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Poor
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 23, 2004

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Fair

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 19, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 13, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Avg.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 10, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Mar 09, 2004

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Fair

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Feb 28, 2004

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Feb 25, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Feb 16, 2004
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 31, 2003

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Fair

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 30, 2003
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Fair
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 28, 2003

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Dec 26, 2003
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: Good
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Nov 08, 2003
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:
Seeing:
Transparency: V.G.
Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 10, 2003

Location: Home

Observers: Myself

Moon Phase:

Seeing:

Transparency: Good

Notes:

Observational Log Cover Sheet

Observation Date: Oct 12, 0012
Location: Hidden Hollow - RAS
Observers: John, Bruce, Tim, Dean and family and myself

Moon Phase: 3 days before new
Seeing: Good
Transparency: Very Good

Notes: Blue skies all day gave way to very transparent skies at sunset. I was planning to stay late to put the 18" through its paces. Luckily, things held up very well and I was able to see a number of galaxies in the 15 magnitude range. Tonight, I just decided to run a couple of lists regardless of listed magnitude. I chose Andromeda and Camelopardalis. Andromeda kept me on the ladder while Camelopardalis was feet on the ground. I ended up with 60+ objects which for me is a great night.

John arrived shortly after I had opened up the observatory. He set up his 20" and quietly worked away most of the night. We traded views of selected objects. One of those was of NGC-6888 - Crescent Nebula in Cygnus. It's a great shot with an OIII filter in his 20". However, we looked first in the 36" and that view was absolutely outstanding.

Back to the 36", Bruce had given us an incredible view of the Crescent Nebula. I don't recall seeing it before but it is quite impressive. Our debate was which is better - Crescent Nebula or Thor's Helmut. All I can say is that the debate continues.

John wanted to take a peek at Stephen's Quintet in Pegasus. When Bruce was able to go that direction, John got his look and I - mine. All I can say is that this was the first time in my limited observing experience that I had ever seen the nucleus of all five galaxies. That is to say that all five were easily identifiable and their cores were all bright! It was my highlight for the night.

Tim arrived after dark and set up his 8" SCT. we traded views during the night of a couple of objects. Most notably in his telescope was the Double Cluster in Perseus.

Dean was the last to arrive and quickly set up. He had brought

Observational Log Cover Sheet

his Sky Atlas and was quickly pointed to M31, M32 and M110.

In the end, Dean and Tim were the first to leave. John and I followed at 2:00am leaving Bruce to continue.