

Wednesday July 3, 2013

Arrived at the DSS about 6:30 PM. Oil platform has 6 new storage tanks and burn off stack installed. No other activity around it. It was dark all night.

Brisk wind from East. Clear overhead. Few puffy white clouds scattered around northern horizon. Cirrus to the east and cloud finger low in west. Seems to be dry overhead though.

Have 8" f/6 scope tonight. 6mm is 203x. 10mm is 121x. 15mm is 81x. 26mm is 47x. Use the new Sky Commander on it for the first time.

After sunset, wind died down but still persists from the south. Seeing is good and transparency is good. 70 degrees.

Venus	8:34 PM	Almost a round disc. No gibbous shape seen.
M13	9:32 PM	10mm – Nice.
M57	9:41 PM	10mm – Nice.
Alberio	9:42 PM	10mm – Nice. Gold and blue with a bit of separation.
M27	9:44 PM	10mm – Nice bowtie shaped glow. No central star seen.
NGC 5422	10:10 PM	10mm – Nice small edge on with brighter core.
Antares	10:23 PM	10mm – Split it with OIII filter. Antares is now green and its companion is red and very close, bright and at 1 o'clock from Antares. Mark gave me this idea.
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M20	10:26 PM	10mm – A nice, larger, roundish glow with bisecting dust lanes and making it into 3 pieces.
M8	10:20 PM	10mm – A nice, bright glow. Fills field of view nicely. Glow is bisected by a dust lane. Brightest and largest part of glow below lane and dimmer and smaller part is above.
M16	10:32 PM	10mm – A larger, roundish dim glow with lots of stars sprinkled below and above center of glow, yet on glow.
M17	10:34 PM	10mm – A nice, long, fat bright glow with hook on left hand side to form neck and head of swan. Nice.

B68	10:43 PM	26mm – A small oval patch void of stars in a star right field of view. Fills center of FOV nicely.
NGC 7000	10:50 PM	26mm with UHC filter – Seen easily. 2 FOVs long. Left FOV shows the “Mexico” and “Gulf” of the nebula. Right FOV is very dim and subtle and fills entire FOV with nebula glow with lots of stars on glow.
IC 5076	10:52 PM	26mm with UHC filter – Large. Fills FOV completely. A dim curved, roundish glow with top and right the brightest parts.
NGC 6960	10:56 PM	26mm with OIII filter – 52 Cyg on glow. Below 52 Cyg is brightest part, thin and curved. Shorter than what is above 52 Cyg which is dimmer, longer and fatter.

69 degrees at 11:00 PM. Seeing and transparency good. Brisk wind from south.

Eta Aql	11:03 PM	10mm – an off colored star. Dim. Pale white or light yellow in color.
R Aql	11:08 PM	10mm – A brighter pale white or yellowish colored star.
NGC 6520 B86	11:26 PM	A nice open cluster with lots of blue-white stars. B86 is just to the left of it.
DJ2	11:52 PM	10mm – Nice. Round, small knot of lots of stars. Members easily seen on top of 2 brighter field stars of an orange color. Two strings of stars are on left and right side of main knot of stars and extends upwards. Reminds me of the Galaxa creature you shot at in the video game from years ago.
NGC 6540 (DJ3)	11:52 PM	10mm – To the right of DJ2. A very small, dim, roundish knot of very faint stars. Member stars seen.
DJ1	11:57 PM	10mm – A larger, round glow with hint of stars seen on glow.
56 Her	12:16 AM	10mm – A brighter blue white star and to right and a bit away is a very faint companion.
69 Oph	12:23 AM	10mm – A brighter blue white star and a bit away and at 3:30 o'clock is a very faint companion.

Mu Sgr	12:26 AM	10mm – A brighter orange star and a bit away at at 9:30 o'clock is a much dimmer companion.
NGC 7009	12:42 AM	15mm – A nice, bright, small, blue-green colored oval. Responds well to OIII filter. No central star seen. Uniformly lit.
NGC 7293	1:07 AM	15mm – Low in southeast. Cannot see it without the OIII filter. Nice. Dim. Larger in FOV. A circular glow. Can see some circular ring detail on glow.

It was a nice night on the prairie. Tim, Mark and Becky and Justin were there. I slept in the Prius and in the morning, I was going to lock up the warming hut. I stepped onto the plywood landing and heard the rattle of a rattlesnake. I jumped back to find a bigger rattlesnake all coiled up on the ground, to the south of the plywood landing. First snake I have seen on the prairie. I did notice that there were no mouse droppings in the warming hut. I now know why.