

Thursday, August 18, 2022

Arrived at the DSS near Deer Trail, CO about 5 pm. Going to use the 17.5" f/4 744 scope they have there to re-look at remaining H2500s around Arcturus.

The 744 scope was easy to setup. Brisk wind from north. Will need to ask how to collimate scope because it not like other scopes I've used.

The sky is deep blue overhead. Smoke predicted to be in the area. Light grey colored on map. The wind has moved the puffy white clouds to south. Clear everywhere except a dozen puffy clouds low in the south.

When I was flying to DC, I got seats at the window on both sides of the airplane so I could see this site from the air. Never saw it. I now know the planes fly directly overhead so it was impossible to see it out the side windows. Mystery solved.

Wind supposed to be less when it is dark. Sunset at 7:40 PM. It is clear overhead with hazy clouds 10 degrees above western horizon. Looks more like smoke.

As sun set, the wind is dying down a lot!!! Very light breeze from NE now. West haze is now high in SW but clear around Arcturus.

Haze in west now over Arcturus area.

I was able to collimate the 744 scope. A very elegant way. Found the tools to collimate it in a case labeled *Tools* in the telescope's storage shed

Thin, haze overtaking the sky from overhead to the south.

8:30 PM. Aligned Sky Commander and slewed to M5. It was in the FOV with the SC reading 0.0 and 0.0. Views thru the eyepiece are crisp.

The wind feels cool so I had to put on a long sleeved shirt to be comfortable. The I got too hot and had to roll up the sleeves.

Seeing and Transparency is OK. Still getting dark.

NGC 5621	9:02 PM	13mm – 3 very close stars. It is hard to see because the stars are so faint. It has a <i>glow</i> to it.
NGC 5661	9:15 PM	13mm – A medium sized, round, <u>extremely faint</u> , uniformly lit glow.
NGC 5770	9:17 PM	13mm – A small, dim oval with larger, brighter core. Most of what is seen is core.

NGC 5157 9:19 PM 13mm – A small, extremely faint, fat oval, uniformly lit glow.

Seeing and transparency are good now. An impressive sky despite the smoke in the area.

NGC 5913 9:23 PM 13mm – A small, round, very faint, uniformly lit glow.

NGC 5107 9:26 PM 13mm – A medium sized, fat oval that is extremely faint and uniformly lit.

NGC 5375 9:28 PM 13mm – A small, tilted oval with brighter core area and even brighter central core.

NGC 5228 9:31 PM 13mm – A small, very faint oval glow with an extremely faint stellar core.

NGC 5214 9:33 PM 13mm – A medium sized round, extremely faint glow with hair brighter larger core on glow.

NGC 5149 9:35 PM 13mm – A small, very faint tilted oval with hint of a brighter core area on glow.

NGC 5462 9:38 PM 13mm – A larger, dim tilted oval with brighter, complex core area.

NGC 5362 9:39 PM 13mm – A small, very faint, uniformly lit tilted oval.

NGC 5771 9:43 PM 13mm – A very small, round, very faint glow. With AV see a very faint stellar core in center of glow.

NGC 5773 To upper right of N5771 is this larger, yet very small, very faint oval glow with bit brighter core. Both are close together.

NGC 5675 9:47 PM 13mm – A small, very faint, thin, 2:1 oval. Has a bit brighter linear core down the center of the glow.

NGC 5622 9:50 PM 13mm – A small, extremely faint, linear shaped, 3:1 glow. Has a hint of a linear core area.

NGC 5789 9:52 PM 13mm – A small, almost round, extremely faint, uniformly lit glow.

Seeing and transparency are good. SC puts the galaxies in the center of the FOV with the readout reading 0.0 and 0.0. I have never seen this kind of accuracy on a SC before.

NGC 5893	9:54 PM	13mm – A small, almost round, <u>very faint</u> glow with bit brighter, larger core in center of glow.
NGC 5922	9:57 PM	13mm – A small to medium sized fat oval that is an <u>extremely faint</u> , uniformly lit glow.
NGC 5888	9:59 PM	13mm – A small, tilted oval that is very faint. Has a hair brighter speckled core area at center of glow.
NGC 5886		Above, to left and near N5888 is this very small, <u>very faint</u> oval glow with 2 stars/cores on it. Neither one is at the center of the halo glow.
NGC 6073	10:05 PM	13mm – A small, <u>extremely faint</u> , 3:1 longer oval that is a uniformly lit glow.
NGC 6021	10:08 PM	13mm – A very small, extremely faint edge-on with a hair brighter stellar core.
NGC 6018		Above, to left and near N6021 is this tiny, very faint glow with brighter stellar core.
NGC 6023		Below these two and beyond a brighter field star is this very small, <u>extremely faint</u> glow with a hint of a core.
NGC 6022		Above N6023 and a bit left and very near is this tiny, almost not seen smudge of light.
NGC 5407	10:19 PM	13mm – A very small, <u>very faint</u> , linear, uniformly lit glow.
NGC 5406		Above a bright field star and in same FOV (N5407 is below this field star) is this small to medium sized tilted oval that is <u>very faint</u> and a uniformly lit glow.
NGC 5336	10:23 PM	13mm – A small, <u>extremely faint</u> , uniformly lit fat oval glow.
NGC 5238	10:25 PM	13mm – A small, <u>very faint</u> fat oval with hair brighter, larger core area in center of glow.
NGC 5225	10:26 PM	13mm – A very small oval that is an extremely faint glow with a hint of a bit brighter core area.
NGC 5433	10:30 PM	13mm – This is very low in the NW. A small, <u>extremely faint</u> linear looking, uniformly lit smudge of light.

The rest of the H2500s on my list are just too low in the NW to see well. Seeing was good this low in the sky. Switching lists.

NGC 4121	10:38 PM	13mm – Above the large and bright N4125 is this tiny, <u>very faint</u> spot of a glow with a bit brighter stellar core in center.
NGC 6574	10:46 PM	13mm – A medium sized, dim fat oval. Has a large, hair brighter core that is offset to the lower side of the halo glow and a very faint field star on upper part of halo glow.

Time to head home. I need to work tomorrow.

The 744-scope worked beyond any scope other than my own that I have used in the field. It was centering galaxies in the FOV and the readouts always read 0.0 and 0.0. After finding the collimation tools, it was easy to collimate. There is a lot of engineering built into this scope.

The sky revealed 14.5 galaxies despite the smoke. The thought will be to go out if there is predicted smoke. The wind was not a factor tonight.

Sky Tools 4 worked great. If I use my prescription glasses, I can use dimmer red light to write my notes in the log and can see the text on the PC and the ST4 display.

I had a lot of fun tonight. I have not had this much fun for a while. With this scope and it's performance tonight, I will not drive to 3RF in Texas just to use the 20" scope anymore. This scope is far superior, and I believe it can find 15.0 galaxies on a night with a bit better sky. Tonight's sky was good and I enjoyed finding the faint fuzz balls.