

## Friday, February 24, 2006

Arrived at Pawnee Grasslands about 3:30 PM and setup under clear, but very windy skies. Winds were from WNW and picked up after sunset. By 10 PM, the winds had died down a lot, where I could try to observe. They switched and came from the east and by midnight, were very calm.

I 418	7:00 PM	Nice bright round glow with central star easily seen. Better view in 19mm. w/o OIII, it is approximately the same view. OIII makes it a bit better. 10 mm makes it bigger and brighter but not any better.
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The sky is steady and the seeing is OK. Strong wind gusts making it tough to view. 10mm not showing object well.

NGC 1535	7:11 PM	19mm. A nice small glow, maybe round but doesn't look as round as I 418. w/OIII, middle is a hare brighter. 10mm makes it bigger and w/OIII can see middle is brighter. w/19mm thought I saw central star. Popped in once or twice. Wind is blowing scope a lot, so I cannot study it well.
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Going to pack it in for a while. Tried to block wind with motor home, but its now swirls the dust everywhere. Took a nap and woke up about 9:30 PM to find Dan LaFairve waiting in his truck for the wind to stop blowing.

Dodz 3	10:06 PM	32mm. 3 brighter stars form a line with 10 much fainter stars form this very loose and faint OC. It matches the picture in the Night Sky Observing Guide. Class III 2 p.
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Dodz 4	10:30 PM	32mm. In same FOV as Dodz 3. 15 stars, very bright, blue-white, with 1 much brighter than the rest makeup this very loose OC. Sort of Boxy in shape. 4-6 stars of a much fainter magnitude seen next to brighter stars. Class II 2 p.
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19 degrees. Light frost. Sky steady and is OK.

NGC 2438	11:19 PM	19mm. Nice, small round uniformly lit glow. Easier to see with OIII. No central star seen.
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<del>M47</del> M47	11:19 PM	32mm. Nice, large Bright OC. Lots of stars seen with all kinds of magnitudes. Basically round in shape. Class I 3 r. <u>Nice.</u> Nicely fills FOV of 32mm Eyepiece.
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Mel 71	11:28 PM	32mm. Nice, round glow of lots of fainter stars. Nicely fills center of FOV of eyepiece. 19mm. Nice. 50+ stars of many magnitudes makeup this fainter, yet easy to see the stars of this OC. There is a triangle of brighter blue-white stars at the top. Class I 2 m.
M48	12:05 AM	32mm. Nice. Fills whole FOV of eyepiece. Many bright, blue-white stars that form lines. The upper rhs is 2 lines that form a V. 2-3 magnitudes form this OC. Somewhat concentrated with stars streaming off right side. Class I 2 m.
M67	12:11 AM	32mm. Nice tight grouping of stars. Boxy, not round. Composed of bright blue-white stars and much dimmer other ones. Very bright field star to lower left but on stars of cluster. Nicely fills center of FOV. Class I 3 m.
M44	12:18 PM	32mm. Best seen in 8x50 finder scope. Fills 2 FOVs of 32 mm eyepiece. Some stars very bright, blue-white and others much dimmer. Concentrated, yet not strongly. Class II 2 m.
NGC 2765	12:40 AM	19mm. Very dim oval. Can tell its not circular with hare brighter nucleus. Almost stellar.

17 degrees. Seeing good, Sky steady. No wind.

NGC 3166 NGC 3169	1:00 AM	19mm. Nice fat ovals. Both in 19mm FOV. Brighter nucleus are seen and stellar points on both in center of nucleus glow.
NGC 3156	1:10 AM	19mm. A very faint, linear smudge of light at the end of a chain 3 stars. Hare brighter nucleus seen. Just a brighter glow.
NGC 3599 NGC 3605 NGC 3607 NGC 3608	1:34 AM	Very faint, round smudge of light with brighter nucleus glow and at time a stellar point on glow. Just to east are 3 circular glows, with the middle one the brightest (3607) the lower one 2 <sup>nd</sup> brightest (3608) and the top one the dimmest. Larger 2 have nice bright nucleus with a bit of halo around them seen. 3605 has a <sup>faintly</sup> dim, yet stellar nucleus seen on a very dim glow. All this seen with 19mm eyepiece.

3605

3



3607



3608

NGC 4361    2:10 AM    19mm. Larger oval (not circular) glow with central star easily seen with AV in center of glow. OIII shows elongated oval better and can see central star.

Sky is softening. Frost is heavy. Temp is 16 degrees. Can't find 12.0 mag galaxies in Leo anymore. Going to quit.

Noticed that the secondary mirror had frosted up. I looked at it with red light and it was 'textured'.