

Saturday, February 25, 2006

Moved from Pawnee Grasslands about 3:30 PM to the Crow Valley Campgrounds, about 7 miles east of Pawnee.

It has pull in camping for the RV. Nice view of sky. 21 degrees at sunset. Calm. Clear.

NGC 1360	7:19 PM	19mm. Low in SW with some sky glow there. See larger, faint oval glow with central star easily seen. With OIII, see oval glow better.
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NGC 2022	7:26 PM	19mm. Small, round, not uniformly lit, maybe a ring shape. Stands right out in the star field. Central stars seen with AV. w/OIII, easier to see. Central star better seen and can tell not uniformly lit, maybe ring with edges brighter than center. 10mm not a good view. Sky a bit soft and won't take the higher power. Makes it larger.
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Sky steady. Seeing Good. 14 degrees.

PK 190-17.1 J 320	7:44 PM	19mm. A bright, like out of focus star. Kind of blueish in color. OIII shows it bright also.
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NGC 1342	7:54 PM	19mm. Bright, semi compact. Nicely fills center of FOV. 20 or so brighter and 30 or so dimmer stars (much dimmer magnitude) makeup this loose, yet compact OC. More boxy in shape than round. Class II 2 m.
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NGC 2346	8:50 PM	19mm. With OIII see a small oval, almost round glow with brighter central star on glow. w/o OIII, can see central star with a hint of halo around it.
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NGC 1514	9:27 PM	19mm. Best with OIII. Soft round maybe slightly oval glow with brighter central star in middle of glow. w/o OIII, see central star and a hint of a glow around it. Nice.
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Sky soft to OK. Frost setting in. 11 degrees. Calm. Sky steady. Eyepiece fogs up a lot when I get near it.

NGC 2452	9:37 PM	19mm. Best with OIII. Very small, dim round glow. Central star seen sometimes with AV. w/o OIII, see a hint of a glow in a star rich area of the winter Milky Way. w/o OIII, see central star in the middle of this glow.
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NGC 2438	9:53 PM	19mm. Small, round glow seen as part of M46. East to see w/o OIII and with OIII, looks better and brighter.
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NGC 2440 9:56 PM 19mm. Small, yet very bright glow. Very oval, linear with a hint of fainter nebulosity up and down from brighter central glow. w/OIII see it better and the hint of the extended glow. No central star seen. Easy to spot in the FOV.

NGC 2610 10:17 PM 19mm. Very dim, round glow to upper left of very bright, blue-white field star. Best seen with OIII. Nice round uniformly lit glow. w/o OIII, can see glow, but not as good. Se a couple of very dim field stars on lower part of glow that are not seen with OIII filter.

7 degrees now. Light frost. Seeing good.

I 2149 11:21 PM 19mm. Very small, almost stellar, yet like out of focus star. Very blue-green in color. Like a tiny blinking PN. Look right at it and see central star on a very faint glow. Look at it with AV see oval glow. OIII shows glow very good also and hi not blinking nature. w/o OIII, gives best view. Nice.

NGC 2371 11:37 PM 19mm. Flattened oval. Bright. Maybe lobbed. OIII shows it nice but best view is without filter. On left and right side of lobe, its either much brighter or there are 2 nicely spaced field stars on glow. I tend to think its brighter PN regions because of the symmetry. No central star seen.

PK 194-2.1 11:52 PM 19mm. Very bright. Gray (very off white), stellar looking Jonckheere 900 PN. Very bright with OIII also. Can see its like a large, out of focus star because other blue-white stars in same FOV are pin points.

PK 189-7.1 11:56 PM 19mm. Not as bright as PK 194-2.1 yet similar. Same gray M1-7 (very off white) color, bright, almost stellar yet like out of focus star. Bright in the OIII filter also.

M97 12:06 AM 19mm. Nice, larger round glow. Not uniformly lit. Can see it well with OIII but best view is without filter. No central star seen. Edges soft, not sharply defined. Can't see clearly the 'eyes' but can tell nebulosity. Not uniformly like and has darker regions on glow.

Looked at Saturn both nights. Incredible views of it. Can see some of the planets' disk below the ring now. Jupiter was boiling but nice. Mercury at sunset was boiling, but could tell it was mostly gibbous phase and not completely round. Looked at other favorites, some thru Gary's 30 inch. M51 was incredible thru Gary's scope tonight. I looked at M13, M42 and in OIII filter, it looks a lot different, NGC 4565, M104, Flame nebula but couldn't see Horsehead in my scope, even with H-Beta filter. I did see it though in Dave Dunn's scope.

The motor home worked out nice for the weekend. Was warm sleeping and the bathroom facilities beats digging a hole...