

Thursday, April 20, 2006


High thin clouds overhead at sunset. Light wind from NE. Setup motor home to block it. 52 degrees. Clouds on western and southern horizon.

Spent time finding Comet 73P/Schwassmann-Walchmann fragments C and B. Didn't find fragment G.

NGC 3646	9:58 PM	134x (19mm)- Nice, large, flat oval. Uniformly lit with maybe a hint of a tiny nucleus. w/AV, see something of a brighter nucleus. Very large though. Stands right out in FOV.
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The sky is steady, clear, nice and the seeing is good. 39 degrees now.

NGC 3507	10:11 PM	134x (19mm) – Nice, bright star like core surrounded by dim halo that tapers off to points on top and bottom. Halo very dim and most of what is seen is oval about nucleus.
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NGC 3501	10:11 PM	134x (19mm) – Then above 3507 and to the right but in same FOV is a thin, dim sliver of light. Mag. 13.6.
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NGC 3681	10:23 PM	134x (19mm) - It's the first one from a bright field star.
NGC 3684		Small, round glow with brighter nucleus region. All 3
NGC 3686		galaxies are easy to see, Next to 3684 and 3686.

NGC 3659	10:30 PM	134x (19mm) – Small, round, dim uniformly lit glow. No brighter nucleus area seen.
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NGC 3547	11:02 PM	134x (19mm) – Small, very dim round uniformly lit smudge of light.
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NGC 3524	11:04 PM	134x (19mm) – Small, round, easy to see glow with hare brighter, maybe stellar nucleus. But nucleus is very dim.
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I went back to the comet and now can see Fragment G. I saw it before, but it was SO stellar looking that is looked like a field star. But, I noted something had moved and this was the comet fragment. It has a tiny tail. Cute...

NGC 3254	11:36 PM	134x (19mm) – Nice. Large oval with larger, hare brighter nucleus region. At first glance, looked like a mini and dimmer M104.
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NGC 3274	11:41 PM	134x (19mm) – Small, dim flat oval shape. Uniformly lit. No nucleus glow seen.
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35 degrees now and the sky is great.

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| NGC 3689 | 11:48 PM | 134x (19mm) – Nice round glow. Dim. w/AV see small, hare brighter stellar nucleus. |
| NGC 3158 | 11:59 PM | 134x (19mm) – A dim round glow with much brighter nucleus that is larger than stellar. It IS nestled in the middle of a triangle of 3 faint stars. Nucleus best seen w/AV. |

Went back to the comet and tried to find fragment R. Didn't see it. I drew the star field earlier and when I went back, nothing had moved.

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| NGC 3652 | 12:26 AM | 134x (19mm) – Small, dim oval. Uniformly lit. No nucleus brightening seen. |
| NGC 3067 | 12:47 AM | 134x (19mm) – Long, flat oval. Uniformly lit. Maybe a hint of a hare brighter nucleus w/AV otherwise, its uniformly lit. |
| NGC 3319 | 12:59 AM | 134x (19mm) – Large, very dim oval that is uniformly lit. |
| NGC 3756 | 1:09 AM | 134x (19mm) – Another large oval but this one is brighter than 3319. Dim. Uniformly lit. |
| NGC 3683 | 1:16 AM | 134x (19mm) – Small, dim uniformly lit oval. |
| NGC 3669 | 1:19 AM | 134x (19mm) – Dim, linear sliver of uniformly lit light. |
| NGC 4036 | 1:27 AM | 134x (19mm) – A bright, flat oval with nice bright large nucleus that dims evenly into halo. |
| NGC 4041 | 1:27 AM | 134x (19mm) – 4041 is a bit beyond 4036. Its round with nice bright nucleus and dims evenly into halo. 4041 a bit dimmer than 4036 but both nice and bright. |
| NGC 3642 | 1:42 AM | 134x (19mm) – Very bright stellar nucleus surrounded by a dim halo. Circular in shape. |
| NGC 4284 | 1:52 AM | 134x (19mm) – Small, round dim glow. Uniformly lit. |
| NGC 4290 | 1:52 AM | 134x (19mm) – Small, round glow with larger, brighter nucleus seen in center. |
| NGC 4271 | 1:58 AM | 134x (19mm) – A long, slender sliver of dim light with tiny, hare brighter nucleus seen. |

NGC 5204	2:04 AM	134x (19mm) – Large, dim oval to circular shaped glow. Looks like large area of center a hare brighter than edges. So most of what can be seen is nucleus glow.
NGC 5308	2:15 AM	134x (19mm) – Nice, bright large nucleus surrounded by a hare fainter, slightly oval halo.
NGC 4605	2:31 AM	134x (19mm) – Nice, short, fat edge on. Bright. Nice central bulge that flattens into short arms. Nicest I've seen all night.

35 degrees. Sky steady. Seeing good-great.

NGC 5791	2:45 AM	134x (19mm) – Small, oval glow with larger, bit brighter nucleus seen on glow.
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Looked at several favorites throughout the night/ M42, Saturn, M44, 4565, Mel 111, M13 and M51. Found 3 comet pieces of 73P/SW3. Looked for fragment R but never saw it./ It turned out to be one of the better evenings on the Pawnee Grasslands. Went in at moonrise at 3:08 AM.