Friday January 4, 2013

Arrived at Deer Trail, CO Dark Sky Site at 3:30 PM. At sunset, it was clear, calm and 44 degrees. Sky is good. Transparency good.

Worked on Asterism and Stellar Evolution Observing Programs tonight.

M45	5:43 PM	20x80 – Nice. Lots of blue-white stars of various magnitudes that fills center of FOV nicely.
Polaris	5:53 PM	32mm – Bright, white star.
Double Cluster 6:06 PM		20x80 – Two small, compact open clusters with lots of white stars of many magnitudes. Both OCs in FOV.
23 degrees.	Sky great.	
Alberio	6:15 PM	32mm – A yellow-orange star brighter than nice blue star very near it. One of my favorite objects to see.
61 Cyg	6:22 PM	15mm – It's a double. The brighter member is a pale white colored star.
Vega	6:24 PM	32mm – A bright white star.
δ Сер	6:27 PM	32mm – A double. Left star yellow-orange and much brighter than right star, which is a very dim, blue colored star.
β Сер	6:29 PM	32mm – A brighter, blue white star. Companion <u>very</u> dim and is a blue star.
VV Cep	6:34 PM	32mm – A dim, yellow-orange star.
Mu Cep	6:35 PM	32mm – A brighter orange star. Very pretty.
IC 1396	6:37 PM	15mm – The open cluster has lots of stars that fills FOV. All kinds of magnitudes. Very loose and open. Around brighter stars see nebulosity glow of nebula. With UHC, see a hint of a larger nebulous area.
ω Psc	6:45 PM	32mm – A brighter white star.
Scheat	6:47 PM	32mm – A bright yellow star.
Matar	6:49 PM	32mm – A bright pale white-yellowish star.

51 Peg	6:52 PM	32mm – A brighter, pale white star.		
Trapezium M42	6:56 PM	15mm – See 6 stars. A good night when that happens. Rest of nebula awesome. Lots of detail seen especially with OIII filter.		
Mu And	6:58 PM	15mm – Brighter white star.		
M31		15mm – Awesome. See galaxy extended beyond the one FOV. See dust lanes distinctly and M110 and M32.		
β And	7:00 PM	32mm – A bright orange-yellow star.		
19 degrees. Sky still great.				
107 Psc	7:02 PM	32mm – A dim pale white star.		
Eta Ari	7:05 PM	32mm – A dim, red-orange star.		
Iota Peg	7:07 PM	32mm – A brighter, pale white-yellow star.		
Tau Cet	7:15 PM	32mm – A brighter pale white-yellow star.		
δ Cet	7:17 PM	32mm – A dim, reddish colored star.		
ε Eri	7:19 PM	32mm – A brighter yellow star.		
Rigel	7:20 PM	32mm – A <u>very</u> bright blue white star.		
Bellatrix	7:22 PM	32mm – A bright mostly white with a hint of blue colored star.		
H92 NGC 7318A NGC 7318B NGC 7320 NGC 7319 NGC 7314	7:23 PM	200x with 22" f/3.6 scope-5 galaxies in FOV. Center three (NGC 7318A, NGC 7318B, NGC 7320) are small, round, dim uniformly lit glows. Then there is one on each side of these three (NGC 7319, NGC 7314) that are just a little oval smudge of light.		
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Betelgeus	7:24 PM	32mm – A <u>very</u> bright orange star.		
Alnitak	7:34 PM	32mm – A bright white star.		
16 degrees. Sky good.				
M78	7:36 PM	32mm – A nice fan shaped glow with 2 brighter field stars on right hand side and one fainter star on upper left of glow. It has been a long time since I have looked at this nebula.		
M37	7:40 PM	32mm – A nice compact open cluster with lots of stars of various magnitudes.		
Mini Orion	7:45 PM	32mm – A small grouping of dim, blue white stars with nebula glow around brighter stars.		
4 Aur	7:49 PM	32mm – A bright white star with a tiny white companion very near it.		
Aldebaran	7:51 PM	32mm – A <u>very</u> bright orange star.		
M1	7:52 PM	32mm – A nice, bright, larger oval that is uniformly lit.		
Temple's Nebula	7:54 PM	32mm – Around the brighter stars of M45 is a nebula glow that is very noticeable. Never really ever noticed this before.		
R Lep	8:54 PM	32mm – A dim, red star. Nice.		
Pollux	8:56 PM	32mm – A nice, bright pale white star.		
Eskimo Nebula	9:09 PM	15mm – A nice, large, bright oval glow with a bright central star that is easily seen in center of glow.		
Rosette Nebula	9:48 PM	15mm – See a distinct nebula glow around brighter central stars of the open cluster. Lots of blue white stars in area.		

10:26 PM. 8 degrees. Sky OK.

Looked at lots of asterisms of the Asterism program. It was pretty cold, so took lots of breaks in warming hut. At one point, my fingers were exposed and very quickly got cold and hurt. I went to the hut to warm them up.

At 11:11 PM, it is 7 degrees. The sky was good to great all night. Met Juan, Jeff and Dave tonight, along with Bruce there. Packing it in and heading home.