Thursday February 20, 2014

Went to Little Thompson Observatory to host an open house for a local elementary school. It was predicted to be cloudy, but at sunset it was clear. After the group left, I took advantage of the clear skies.

Seeing OK. Transparency OK.

HD 22878	6:15 PM	70x on 24 " – A nice pale white brighter star and away at 10 o'clock is a dim blue star.
SAO 76571	6:27 PM	70x on 24 " – A bright orange star and at 9:30 o'clock and near is a much fainter blue star.
LBN 991	6:34 PM	70x on 24" – Around 2 brighter stars is a tiny bit of halo glow. Lynd Brightness 3. Then above these two and in a void of stars is a hint of a larger, ghostly oval glow. Lynd Brightness 6. Only seen with Orion UltraBlock Filter (UBF).

Lost communications between PC and 24" scope. Will use the 18 and 6 inch scopes to complete observing these Bright Nebulae.

Sh 2-185	8:27 PM	62x on 6" – Around a bright blue white star is a nice, large halo glow. Easy to see in both scopes. Lynd Brightness 3. UBF in 6" shows it the best.
LBN 945	8:30 PM	62x on 6" – An extremely faint glow seen with UBF. Lynd Brightness 6.
Sh 2-249	8:37 PM	62x on 6" with UBF – Underneath several star is this boxy glow. Faint, yet easy to see. Lynd Brightness 4. Without UBF see a hint of it under 6-8 brighter stars.
LBN 943	8:44 PM	62x on 6" with DSF – Underneath 6-8 dim stars in center of FOV is this hint of a glow using my new Deepsky Filter (DSF). Very subtle. Lynd Brightness 6.

Sky Fair. Transparency Fair. 39 degrees.

IC 2169	8:49 PM	62x on 6" with DSF – Around a dim star is this tiny bit of a
		halo glow. Very small. Lynd Brightness 5. Only seen with
		DSF. Very near LBN 943 which is in the same FOV.

Sh 2-280	8:53 PM	62x on 6" with DSF – Underneath a chain of 3 stars is this glow. Hare brighter near stars (Lynd Brightness 5) yet in between see a glow (Lynd Brightness 6).
Sh 2-304	8:57 PM	62x on 6" with DSF – Under 3 close stars is a hint of a glow. Lynd Brightness 5.
NGC 2296	9:01 PM	62x on 6" with DSF – Around a brighter pale white stars and a blue white stars that is a bit away and to the left, is this dim, small halo glow around each star. Can see a hint of halo glow around stars without DSF. Lynd Brightness 5.
IC 468	9:06 PM	62x on 6" with DSF – Under 3 stars that are near each other, 1 brighter than other 2 is this <u>hint</u> of a glow. Lynd Brightness 6.
LBN 1064	9:09 PM	62x on 6" with DSF – Around a bright, blue white star is this medium sized halo glow. Seen without DSF but better seen with filter. Lynd Brightness 3.

38 degrees in dome when I left. Was a good night using the LTO scopes and filters to look at faint, cool stuff.