

Monday November 17, 2014

Went to the Little Thompson Observatory tonight to use the 24". 38 degrees. Clear and calm at sunset.

Tried to find galaxies tonight but they were not showing themselves, so switched to open clusters.

The seeing and transparency were OK.

IC 1590	5:51 PM	160x – A brighter, close double and 6 dimmer stars outline a box and 1 star above and to right. Small in size.
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NGC 7094	6:09 PM	281x – A brighter white star. With O3 see a tiny bit of dim halo around this star.
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Seeing and transparency OK. No 12.8 magnitude galaxy. 32 degrees.

NGC 7762	6:19 PM	160x – 16 dim stars of approx. the same magnitude makeup this large, loose, wedge shaped cluster.
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NGC 110	6:24 PM	160x – 10 dim stars of 2 magnitudes (fainter ones on left hand side) form a roughly circular, loose open cluster.
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NGC 136	6:27 PM	160x – 12 stars, 5 brighter form a 5 on a dice and rest above and off to lower left.
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Stock 2	6:34 PM	104x – Overwhelms the FOV. 50+ blue white stars and a few of a couple of lesser magnitudes form a roughly circular, large, fairly compact open cluster.
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Berk 6	6:38 PM	160x – A small, box shaped open cluster of 8 stars of a dim, dimmer and very dim magnitudes.
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Berk 60	6:42 PM	160x – 10 stars form a wrapped candy. Very dim, small, compact. All stars of same magnitude.
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Several students from Berthoud High School showed up for their telescope time, so I showed them the brighter Messier objects, Alberio, Uranus and Neptune.

Berk 61	7:38 PM	160x – 8 dim stars form the outline of a house like Cepheus. Close together. Small.
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Berk 63	7:48 PM	160x – 3 stars, then 6 stars behind it forms 2 arcs. A brighter star in each arc and rest very dim.
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Berk 64	7:51 PM	160x – 2 chains of dim stars. 6 form an arc with 1 off to right at bottom of arc. 4 form a line with 1 st star closest to arc chain much brighter than rest.
Berk 66	7:54 PM	160x – 2 bright and 3 dim stars form a hat.
Stock 20	7:57 PM	160x – 50+ blue white stars overwhelms FOV with a loose association of several magnitudes.
Stock 21	8:00 PM	160x – 15-20 very dim stars forms a small, somewhat circular but compact open cluster.
Berk 7	8:04 PM	160x – 5-6 <u>very</u> faint stars forms a long, zig-zag chain. Almost not there the sky is so bad here.
NGC 7226	8:12 PM	160x – 9 very dim stars forms a small circlet with 3-4 more stars with group. All of same magnitude. Inside circlet is a glow of maybe fainter, unseen stars.
NGC 7261	8:14 PM	160x – 15 or so dim stars of 3 magnitudes makeup this tight group of stars that looks like a human heart.
NGC 7281	8:16 PM	160x – 3 brighter stars across top and 15 fainter stars form a long, thin arrow head going from 11 – 5 o'clock.
NGC 7380	8:19 PM	160x – 21 stars of 2 magnitudes forms a Christmas tree with 1 really bright star at top of tree at 3 o'clock direction. Small and compact.
King 11	8:22 PM	160x – 4 lines of stars with 2, 2, 3, and 2 stars in each line move radially away from a point if you traced the lines of stars to the right.
Berk 92	8:26 PM	160x – 8 stars forms 2 groups of stars in a small, loose association.

27 degrees. Seeing and transparency OK.

Berk 93	8:30 PM	160x – 4 stars, 1 brighter and 3 fainter. Forms a square.
Berk 95	8:32 PM	160x – 7 brighter stars outline a small gum drop with 4 fainter stars on outline also. Top points at 1 o'clock.

Berk 97	8:36 PM	160x – 11 stars of same magnitude makeup this loose, larger open cluster. 1 much brighter in upper right part of cluster.
NGC 7772	8:39 PM	160x – 5 very dim stars and 1 much brighter star makeup this long, flat triangular shape.
NGC 957	8:43 PM	160x – 18 stars forms a chain that snakes around and then back under the start. Larger cluster. Stars approx. all of same magnitude.
NGC 1220	8:47 PM	160x – 6 <u>very</u> faint stars form a very tight group with 4 stars above this group just as faint and close to the tight group.
NGC 744	8:50 PM	160x – 14 brighter and 7 much dimmer stars forms a small, compact triangular shaped cluster.

Had a great night. Sky was OK but not good. Clear all night.

When I went to park the 24" the dome quite rotating. Found the main sprocket from the motor to the drive gear had fallen off.

Then, when I tried to close the dome, the wind screen almost closed and the shutter wouldn't close. The next day, Meinte found the battery on the dome was dead.