

Wednesday March 18, 2015

Went to 3RF near Crowell, TX to help with their Messier Marathon event. The weather forecast for the end of the week was not looking good, but there was a chance to observe Wednesday night. I left Denver about 7AM and arrived at CSAC about 6:30 PM on Wednesday. It was cloudy until about 9 PM, when it looked like it would clear up. By 9:30 PM, it was clear.

Clouds formed and disappeared in areas of the sky the rest of the night. When clouds would form where I was observing, I would move to another part of the sky. By 1:30 AM, the sky was getting soft, and by 2 AM the clouds were everywhere. This lasted the rest of the week.

I had a few observing goals and that being to sketch the seasonal objects in CMa, Pup, Mon and Ori, which I did. Very nice sketches. Then looked at galaxies in the areas where no clouds were. One galaxy was 13.7, which I saw clearly and another was a 16th mag Herschel galaxy I observed the last time I was here but mistook it for it's brighter neighbor.

Clear, then patchy clouds would form and disappear here and there. In the part of the sky that were cloud free, the seeing and transparency were good. Warm. 58 degrees. Light breeze from SE.

Using the 20" tonight. 17mm eyepiece is 149x.

M51	11:07 PM	17mm – Looks nice.
NGC 5484	11:15 PM	17mm – To upper left of N5484 (which I mistook it for before) is N5486, which is a small, dim, round glow with brighter core and near is N5484, this smaller, extremely faint, round, uniformly lit glow.
NGC 2780 NGC 2778	11:15 PM	17mm – A small, thin oval. Dim. With brighter tiny core. And then above and to right and near is N2778, this <u>very</u> faint, round glow with a hint of a tiny, star core in center.
NGC 2719 NGC 2724	11:19 PM	17mm – A small, thin, <u>very faint</u> oval. Seen with AV. Has something a bit brighter down center of oval. Then above it and near is N2724, a <u>very</u> small, <u>extremely faint</u> smudge of light that is uniformly lit.

NGC 2746 11:26 PM 17mm – A small, extremely faint halo seen nicely with AV. Round face on. Has small, brighter core. To upper right, and halo touching of a bright field star.

NGC 2759 11:28 PM 17mm – A small, thin oval, very dim with brighter, larger core. Halo seen with AV.

58 degrees. Good transparency looking straight up. Light breeze from SE.

NGC 2838 11:31 PM 17mm – A very small, very dim round galaxy with larger, brighter core. Halo seen with AV around a tiny bit of core.

NGC 2852 11:35 PM 17mm – 2 galaxies on top of each other. A small lens
NGC 2853 shaped galaxy, very dim glow with 2 brighter, small cores on glow. One core in center and then off to right of this core and very close is a much dimmer, small core. Makes total cores look elongated yet 2 distinct glows seen.

NGC 2704 11:39 PM 17mm – A small, extremely faint round glow with tiny, very faint star core in center. Hard to see with AV.

NGC 2641 11:41 PM 17mm – A very small, thin oval. Very dim. Has brighter small core. To upper right and near a field star with same magnitude as core which makes galaxy look like an out of focus star.

NGC 2755 11:45 PM 17mm – A very small, extremely faint, thin oval. Uniformly lit. Barely seen with AV.

NGC 2332 11:48 PM 17mm – A very small, thin oval. Dim. With brighter core. Looks like an out of focus star in a star rich FOV.

NGC 2326 11:51 PM 17mm – A very small, round, dim glow with small, bright
NGC 2326A core. Then above and to right and a bit above is N2326A, a thin oval, dimmer with tiny, very faint core.

NGC 2322 11:54 PM 17mm – N2322 is to left of N2320 and near. A small, thin
NGC 2320 edge on with hare brighter core. Very faint. N2320 is a very small, round, extremely faint smudge of light. Both above and to right of a bright field star.

NGC 2426 11:57 PM 17mm – A small, thin oval. Very dim. Has tiny, hare brighter core.

NGC 6048 12:05 AM 17mm – A very small, extremely faint ghostly oval with maybe hare brighter core in center.

NGC 6079 12:08 AM 17mm – 2 very faint stars, very close together gives appearance of a *glow*.

Sky going. Seeing OK. 57 degrees. Still light breeze from SE.

IC 609 12:22 AM 17mm – A small, fat, longer oval. Extremely faint, uniformly lit glow.

NGC 3901 12:30 AM 17mm – A small, thin oval. Extremely faint, uniformly lit, ghostly glow. Seen with AV.

NGC 2505 12:39 AM 17mm – A very small, thin oval. Very dim. Has hare brighter core.

NGC 2534 12:42 AM 17mm – Under a bright field star and off to right is this faint halo glow. Lopsided with field star to left of major part of glow.

NGC 2488 12:44 AM 17mm – A very small, very dim oval glow with small, hare brighter core in center.

NGC 2497 12:47 AM 17mm – A small, almost round, extremely faint glow. Has tiny, hare brighter core in center.

NGC 2474 12:50 AM 17mm – Above and to right of bright field star is this longer, small, thin oval. Has 2 field stars on glow, one below center of glow and one above. Very dim.

NGC 2431 12:59 AM 17mm – A very small, extremely faint fat oval. Has hare brighter core. Very hard to see. Swept field a lot till I found it.

NGC 5342 1:03 AM 17mm – A small, fat, long oval. Uniformly lit. Extremely
NGC 5322 faint. To left and near is N5322, a brighter, tilted oval, small, with larger, brighter core.

NGC 5461 1:07 AM 17mm – An extremely faint, small, thin, uniformly lit ghostly smudge of light seen once in a while.

NGC 5751	1:09 AM	17mm – A very small, thin oval, uniformly lit, <u>very</u> faint.
NGC 5906	1:14 AM	17mm – Nice. A large, needle thin, long (3/4 FOV long) edge on. Has brighter core and dim arms. 2:30 – 8:30 o'clock. Has dust lane bisecting upper half and easily seen thru core bulge.
NGC 4648	1:19 AM	17mm – A very small, round, dim halo glow with larger, very bright core.
NGC 5819	1:22 AM	17mm – A small, <u>extremely faint</u> , found, uniformly lit glow.
NGC 4127	1:34 AM	17mm – A small thin oval. Uniformly lit. <u>Very</u> dim. Has <u>very</u> faint field star to lower left and near glow.

A really great night. Noticed my charts and log book a bit wet from dew. Galaxies disappeared after 1:30 AM and clouds moving in from south. Was supposed to be cloudy all evening but cleared for me to observe.

Was cloudy the rest of the weekend, but listened to some great talks, one from ISS astronaut Don Pettit.