

Wednesday, March 7, 2021

Did some Alternate Constellation sketching last night at the Fairfield Inn in Amarillo, TX. The area was near the airport and seemed to have spotlights everywhere lighting up the ground. I used a parked semi-truck to block the light so I could see the brighter constellations. Sketched some of the Pacific Islanders and the other cultures constellations from there. It was clear and those constellations concentrated on the brighter stars in the sky.

There was a strong wind that kept my sketching papers flipping up, making it more difficult to sketch in a red light.

Thursday, March 8, 2021

Arrived at Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus about 1:00 PM.

Used Mike Roos's 16" f/4.5 telescope with my 13mm Ethos (141x) eyepiece all night.

There was a wind that persisted all night making it feel colder than the temperature was. Sky clear. Seeing good.

PGC 29300	11:28 PM	13 mm – A very faint fat oval with a uniformly lit glow.
NGC 3402	11:37 PM	13 mm – A small, dim oval with hare brighter core area.
NGC 3497	11:43 PM	13 mm – A small dim oval with brighter stellar core.
NGC 3571	11:46 PM	13 mm – A dim, long 3:1 glow with brighter stellar core.
NGC 3636 NGC 3637	11:53 PM	13 mm – 2 very small, brighter galaxies that are almost stellar. One to right of bright field star at 4 o'clock and second to left, closer to field star and at 8 o'clock..
NGC 3660	11:54 PM	13 mm – A larger, round, uniformly lit, dim glow.
NGC 3672	11:58 PM	13 mm – A long, slender, dim glow.

The seeing and transparency is still OK to good.

NGC 3693	12:03 AM	13 mm – A small, oval very faint glow.
NGC 3732	12:14 AM	13 mm – A small fat oval, <u>very faint</u> uniformly lit glow.
NGC 3724		Down below are 2 oval, extremely faint smudges of light.
PGC 35746		* - 2732

3724 - * - PGC 35746

NGC 3763	12:16 AM	13 mm – A very small, dim glow with hare brighter core.
NGC 3818	12:20 AM	13 mm – A round, small very dim halo glow with tiny, bright stellar core.
NGC 3865	12:28 AM	13mm – A very small, very faint uniformly lit oval.
NGC 3887	12:30 AM	13 mm – A larger, brighter tilted oval. A uniformly lit glow.

NGC 3892	12:33 AM	13 mm – A small, round dim glow with hare brighter core.
NGC 3952	12:34 AM	13 mm – A tiny very faint uniformly lit glow.
NGC 3957	12:35 AM	13 mm – A long, thin edge on with brighter core in central bulge.
NGC 3962	12:38 AM	13 mm – A small, round dim glow with larger, hare brighter core.
NGC 3981	12:45 AM	13 mm – A long, thin, <u>very faint</u> , uniformly lit galaxy.
PGC 37562	12:51 AM	13 mm – A long, slender edge on, <u>very faint</u> , uniformly lit.
NGC 4024	12:53 AM	13 mm – A small fat oval, <u>very faint</u> with hare brighter core.
NGC 4027	12:55 AM	13 mm – A small, roundish dim glow with hare brighter core.
NGC 4105 NGC 4106	1:11 AM	13 mm – A pair of bright oval galaxies with larger, brighter cores. Very close together. Both look the same.
IC 3005	1:19 AM	13 mm – A tiny, <u>very faint</u> , uniformly lit oval glow.
IC 2996	1:21 AM	13 mm – A tiny, <u>very faint</u> , smudge of light.
NGC 4304	1:36 AM	13 mm – A larger oval, <u>very faint</u> , uniformly lit glow.
Sky is going. Hazy clouds forming overhead and in the west and north. Wind calm.		
NGC 4292	1:50 AM	13 mm – A small 2:1 oval that has a larger hare brighter core.

I also spent the early evening sketching some Alternate Constellations.

Friday night was very windy. I sketched 6 more Alternate Constellations while panning the sky and looking at Messier objects with my 8x50 binoculars. Hung out with several people at 3RF in front of Richard Brown's cabin.

Saturday night I looked thru other people's scopes, especially Gary Carter's scope. Lloyd sowed me the boot over the Orion Nebula asterism he discovered. Then we swung the 15" in the dome around and looked at a lot of objects. Gary would slew to something and we would be surprised with the objects he found.

Sunday I left about 8 am and drove home. Got home about 5 pm Colorado time.