

Sunday July 28, 2024

Arrived at the DSS about 8:20 PM, about the time the sun set. Light smoke haze along southern horizon where I'll be observing tonight. Clear overhead. Brisk breeze from east. Used my truck to block most of it.

Thicker smoke haze along western horizon. Made it reddish at sunset. Wind is less as it gets darker.

Setup near gate where Joe Gafford sets up his scope. Need to bring gloves next time to pull the tall weeds around the level telescope platform.

Seeing and transparency Good. Seems hazy this low in the southern sky. Using my 8" f/6 telescope tonight. 15mm – 81x. 10mm – 122x. 6mm – 203x.

9:12 PM – Noticed ISS high in northwest sky. A bit less than 60 degrees max high and disappeared in southeast.

M22	9:31 PM	15mm – Awesome. Sky Commander is aligned.
HR 6693	9:34 PM	10mm – A star is orange and dim. B star is <u>very close</u> and much dimmer. 6mm – Easier to split. B star might be yellow or orange in color.
B87	9:54 PM	15mm – There are a line of stars to upper left edge of FOV and a tight asterism at lower right edge of FOV. In between is a lack of stars in a star rich area of Milky Way. Almost fills entire FOV. See 10-15 very faint stars sprinkled on this void.
NGC 6590	10:02 PM	6mm – A dim star has a hint of a <u>very faint</u> , small round glow around it.
Bernes 157	10:09 PM	6mm – A dim white star has a bit of a circular, <u>extremely faint</u> glow around it. Barely there. This is very low in the southeast.
Gamma CrA	10:12 PM	6mm – A bright, yellowish star.
Beta 1 Sgr	10:20 PM	6mm – A dim, white star. Near it and close is a much dimmer white star. Very low in southeast, just above the horizon.

The predicted smoke from wildfires in California and Canada was not present. It was good seeing this low in the south, which surprised me.

I had my laptop in the front seat of my truck and my notebook in the back seat. This worked out well to protect both from the persistent wind from the east. I took my reading glasses which made note taking much easier to see and get legible notes to re-read.

Left for home about 10:35 PM. 4 others were setup down on the pads. I never went down there to see them.