

March Observation Report

Report from Hagan Stone Park in Pleasant Garden, NC. The Sky quality there is somewhere between residential Winston-Salem and the club field near Pilot Mountain, NC.

Deep-Sky Telescopic Objects:

All observations were made with an TV-102, a 4 inch ED Refractor telescope.

M44 an Open Cluster in Cancer with a 32mm eyepiece for 27x.

A large open cluster that is approximately 90 arc minutes in diameter, this is a large, bright cluster that covers a large range in magnitude and are loosely spread out

M48 an Open Cluster in Hydra with a 24mm eyepiece for 37x.

A very nice detached open cluster of stars that are dim to faint in magnitude. I counted 74+ stars in an area that is approximately 50 arc minutes in diameter.

M67 an Open Cluster in Cancer with a 24mm eyepiece for 37x.

An open cluster that is well detached. I counted 28+ stars in an area that is approximately 20 to 25 arc minutes in diameter.

M81 A Galaxy in Ursa Major with a 13mm eyepiece for 67x.

A fairly large oval haze with a bright core, the halo is approximately twice as long as wide and gradually dims as you go outward from the core.

M82 A Galaxy in Ursa Major with a 13mm eyepiece for 67x.

A long streak of light that is approximately 5 times longer than wide. The surface appears mottled, with a dark lane across it near the core of the galaxy. Both M81 & M82 appear in the same field-of-view.

NGC 2655 A Galaxy in Camelopardalis with a 13mm eyepiece for 67x.

A small dim oval galaxy best seen with averted vision.

NGC 2683 A Galaxy in Lynx with a 13mm eyepiece for 67x.

A faint galaxy that is approximately four times longer than wide. It is oriented in a northeast to southwest direction with an 11th magnitude star to the southeast of the galaxy approximately three to four arc minutes away from it.

NGC 2527 An Open Cluster in Puppis with a 24mm eyepiece for 37x.

This open cluster is very large and or not very well detached. It is very loose and sparse.

NGC 2841 A Galaxy in Ursa Major with a 13mm eyepiece for 67x.

A fairly bright Galaxy easily held with direct vision. It looks to be twice as long as wide and oriented in a north-south direction. It has what looks like a stellar core and has a faint star involved with the northwest end of the galaxy.

NGC 2903 A Galaxy in Leo with a 13mm eyepiece for 67x.

This is a fairly dim galaxy that is easily held with direct vision but is best seen with averted vision. It is oriented in a north-south direction and appears to be just an oval haze without a bright core. It has three 11th to 12th magnitude stars located around it also.

Deep-Sky Binocular Objects:

All observations were made with 10x50 Nikon Binoculars.

M44 an Open Cluster in Cancer.

The Beehive Cluster is a very large and loose open cluster that looks fully resolved in binoculars. This is a great binocular target.

M48 an Open Cluster in Hydra.

A large grainy gray spot that looks almost ready to resolve into stars.

M46 an Open Cluster in Puppis.

This open cluster is a large very dim gray spot that would be very easy to overlook if it were not so close to M47. It is best seen with averted vision.

M67 an Open Cluster in Cancer.

This open cluster is a large, grainy gray patch that appears faint.

M81 A Galaxy in Ursa Major.

This galaxy is a small faint gray oval patch that's fairly easy to see. Although it can be seen with direct vision, it is best seen with averted vision.

M82 A Galaxy in Ursa Major.

This galaxy is a faint gray line shape that appears fuzzy. Although it can be seen with direct vision, it is best seen with averted vision.

NGC 2571 an Open Cluster in Puppis.

This is an open cluster that appears as a dim knot of stars over a gray area.

NGC 2527 an Open Cluster in Puppis.

This is an open cluster that is almost invisible as a very faint unresolved gray patch. This cluster is much more spread out and fainter than the published magnitude would suggest.