Constellation Tour Observations:

Subject: Constellation Tour
Date: Wed, 03 Mar 2010 21:44:54 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To: kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

Hi all,

Back last summer, I put together a webpage on Orion, displaying sketches and images of deep-sky objects within that constellation. Over the winter, I've expanded on that concept and have created a list of 27 constellations that visually detail observations that I've made, going back to 1983.
Each constellation webpage has a little star chart graphic, a mythological figure representation and a snippet of its story, along with sketches and images of the brighter deep-sky objects. (the ones that I have done so far).

I've added it as a link to my webportal, but here's the direct URL:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/constellationtour1.htm

I am looking forward to getting out to the dark sky conventions this year, so I can start collecting additional deep-sky objects for completing the constellations that I have started and bringing new constellation pages online.
Enjoy!!
Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: [AAAPgh] Saturday night Mingo Observations - 08/07/2010
Date: Mon, 09 Aug 2010 22:41:58 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To: AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com

Hi all,

Towed my portable observatory, "Little Woodchuck", down to Mingo Saturday evening to work on videoimaging some of the brighter clusters for my constellation survey. The SSP folks were quite impressed with the setup, particularly once I got all three video cameras running. They enjoyed views of the usual deep-sky showcase objects, the globular cluster M22, the Swan Nebula - M17, and the Lagoon Nebula - M8 in Sagittarius using my StellaCam-II on the 8" Meade LX200GPS SCT, and the Samsung on the 80mm BOSMA refractor piggybacked on the 8" SCT. That combination on two separate monitors gave them dual high-res and low-res images of the object at the same time. They were also impressed with the bright views of the Sagittarius / Scutum Milky-Way on the third monitor using my old StellaCam-EX with the Canon CCTV lens set to 5.5mm, which was also piggybacked on the 8" SCT.

I kinda missed observing the nice planetary conjunction in the west as my telescope alignment took longer than usual.
I was experimenting with a different field tripod / Meade wedge combination, and discovered that with the 8" installed on the wedge and loaded down with the 80mm refractor and other accessories, that the wedge altitude adjustment screw wouldn't budge. Too much weight for it to pivot. I ended up getting polar alignment by adjusting the field tripod leg height.
Think I'll go back to using my other Celestron wedge with the much better altitude and azimuth adjustments.

After the visitors and the haze thinned out toward midnight, I switched over to working on my constellation survey, focusing on the bright clusters in Serpens Cauda and Scutum. I videocaptured images of open clusters NGC6604, 6605, IC4756, and globular clusters NGC6535& 6539 in Serpens. Then moved on to Scutum, where I added another globular cluster - NGC6712, and open clusters NGC6631, 6639, 6649, 6664, and 6704.

While the dew was heavy on the table and telescope tube, my field battery kept the dew heaters warm, and the telescope optics nice and dry! My earlier polar alignment was good enough that only occasionally would you notice a little star bloating on the 8 second exposures. Eventually after a few minutes , the object would start to drift toward the field edge, so I just had to make sure that I captured my images to stack before the object had moved too far. Around 1:30am, being the last one still there, I decided to call it a night, packed up the telescope, and was on the road for home by 2:30am. Overall it was a productive evening of videoimaging!
You can find the finished images of the above objects on my Constellation Tour webpage under their respective constellation.
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/constellationtour1.htm

enjoy, Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] Deep Sky Constellation Survey
Date: Mon, 27 Dec 2010 21:21:09 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com

Hi all,

With the holiday season, I had a little 'free-time' to catch up on my constellation survey project.
I've completed processing the deep-sky images that I videocaptured this past fall at the Black Forest and Hidden Hollow conventions. There's around 106 objects scattered over 7 constellations.
(Cygnus, Delphinus, Capricornus, Pegasus, Andromeda, Perseus, and Cassiopeia)

Here's the URL for the main page:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/constellationtour1.htm
Then select the constellation that you would like to view the deep sky objects for.
Enjoy!

Larry
Astronomical webportal
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[kiskiastronomers] Deep Sky Constellation Survey
Date: Sun, 06 Mar 2011 20:49:59 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

Hi all,

I was able to get out in my backyard observatory last Tuesday evening and work a little on my constellation survey project.
Spent several hours video-capturing the small starclusters of Canis-Major using the StellaCam-3.
Most of the exposure times are at 8 seconds, but for the two galaxies and nebula, I pushed it to around 40 seconds.
Couldn't go much longer than that without the videocam hitting my 4th magnitude skyglow.
(considering I'm only about 5 miles from downtown, not as optimal as Cherry Springs,,,, ;))

The objects include the following starcluster: M41, Collinder-121, Haffner-4, NGC2204, 2345, 2354, 2360, 2362, 2367, 2374, 2383 & 2384. Galaxies NGC2207 & 2280, and nebula NGC2359
Here's the direct link to Canis-Major:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/Canismajor.htm

Also finally got to try out my new Celestron NextGuide autoguider with my 8" LX200.
It's self-contained, no laptop needed. Has a user friendly hand-controller and red-lighted video display.
I used an old University optics 80mm f3 refractor as the guidescope, piggybacked on the 8" LX200. Got the hang of it pretty quick, and after a few practice runs, was able to lock on a star and track the main scope.
Here it is ready for action on my **new** 6" Astro-Tech RC (with Celestron-CG5 mount, flip-mirror and StellaCam-3 on the RC, piggybacked 80mm Bosma f6 refractor with flip-mirror and StellaCam-2).
http://home.comcast.net/~lemastro/vidcap/images/RC-06.jpg
Also, another shot of the Celestron NexGuide autoguider showing the video display.
http://home.comcast.net/~lemastro/vidcap/images/NexG-02.jpg

Here's the URL for the main Constellation Tour page:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/constellationtour1.htm
Then select the constellation that you would like to view the deep sky objects for.
Enjoy!

Larry
Astronomical webportal
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] Observations from Wednesday and Thursday
Date: Fri, 01 Jul 2011 18:19:31 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com

Hi all,

I originally had plans to go up to Cherry Springs mid-week, but car troubles kept me home.
(van needs a new fuel pump, won't be ready till Saturday).
So Wednesday night, I decided to make lemonade and headed out to my backyard observatory - Big Woodchuck.
One of the nice things about having a backyard observatory, even when living within a few miles of downtown Pittsburgh, is that all you have to do is open the observatory roof, and turn on the electronics.
http://home.comcast.net/~lemsolar/Bwwso1.htm

Though I mainly use Big Woodchuck for Lunar,Planetary, & Solar observing, it was one of those rare really good nights for deep-sky. I could make out almost all of the stars in the Little Dipper's handle and even see hints of the Milky-Way! Using Bob Kepple's "Night Sky Observers" book as a guide, along with my 8" LX200 at f6.3, and Stellacam-3 camera, I was able to video-capture a bunch of open clusters (there were a lot!) in Scorpius and Sagittarius, as each constellation passed thru the meridian.
I was also using ECU planetarium program to control the telescopes GOTO, so it was a simple matter of point, click, and slew to the object. Because of the light-pollution, I had to keep the exposures under 30 seconds, and for the most part used an 8 second default time.
In Scorpius: open clusters - NGC6124, 6139, 6144, 6231, 6242, 6268, 6383, 6396, 6400, 6404, 6425, 6444, 6451, TR-25, 27, 28,29, 30, and CR-333.
In Sagittarius: open clusters - NGC6469, 6506, 6520, 6546, 6568, 6583, 6596, 6645, and 6716.
Around 2:00 am, I shutdown the camera and telescope, closed the roof, and went to bed.

I went back out again Thursday night to go after the globulars that I had been saving for Cherry Springs.
It wasn't as good as Wednesday evening, with there being more sky-glow visible. Still, it was an above average night for my location.
Turned on the telescope, computer and camera, slewed the telescope to Antaries, and waited for it to get dark.
I then picked up observing in Scorpius, capturing open cluster NGC6416, globular cluster NGC6441, and planetary nebula's NGC6302 & 6337.
The lower regions of the scorpion's tail was lost in the murk, so I had to let a number of objects there go.
Then I moved over to Sagittarius, which was still rising toward the meridian, and video observed/captured the planetary nebula NGC6818, and globular clusters NGC6558, 6569, 6642, 6652, 6717, and 6723.

My son, Kyle, decided to come out back and play with his new Canon DSLR camera.
Here's a few pictures he took of the observatory:
Observatory: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/observatory-at-night.jpg
Monitors: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/monitors-at-night.jpg
Telescope with green laser:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/sct-green-laser.jpg
(I'm gonna have to borrow that camera some night....)

As I had finished my observing list, I closed up around 12:30 am.
While my backyard sky doesn't begin to compare to Cherry Springs, I still had a productive two nights of observing.
I'll be adding these objects to the growing pile of video captures that I need to process, sometime this summer.....

Larry
Astronomical webportal
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] my constellation survey project - update
Date: Thu, 17 Nov 2011 22:56:00 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com

hi all,

Finally finished processing the deep-sky video capture images located in the constellation of Cepheus.
These were all taken up at the Black Forest Star Party back on 8/22 - 8/23, with my 6" Astro-Tech f9 RC on a Celestron CG-5 mount, using a StellaCam-3 & .5x focal reducer. Here's a picture of my setup:
http://home.comcast.net/~kiskiastronomers/images/conventions/BF2011-03.jpg

Galaxies NGC6946 & 6951, planetary nebula NGC40, 7139, 7354, nebula NGC7023, 7129, 7380, 7538, and open clusters NGC188, 6939, 7055, 7142, 7160, 7235, 7261, 7510, and 7762.

Here's the direct link to the constellation of Cepheus:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/cepheus.htm

That now brings me up to 26 constellations and around 525 deep-sky objects.
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/constellationtour1.htm
Still to come are the constellations Lacerta and Sculpter - also imaged from Cherry Springs,
and Aquarius, Aries, and Triangulum recently imaged from my Big Woodchuck Observatory in Baldwin.

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] Video Observations
Date: Fri, 25 Nov 2011 18:18:11 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com

hi all,

After finally reviving from yesterday's Turkey, Dressing and Pumpkin Pie, today I finished off the last of the images from the Black Forest Star Party. Added two new pages to my Constellation Tour project:
Lacerta: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/lacerta.htm
Sculptor: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/sculptor.htm

Also, got out Wednesday evening in my backyard observatory and bagged a bunch of little galaxies in Cetus.
Hoping to give Pisces a work over tonight!

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] Video Observations from Baldwin
Date: Tue, 06 Dec 2011 18:25:33 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com

hi all,
Now that I finished off the last of the images from the Black Forest Star Party, I've begun processing images from my little backyard observatory.
Unfortunately, being just a few miles from downtown Pittsburgh, nebulae and galaxies are a little difficult to video-capture.
Still, I was able to hunt them down and grab a identifying image using my 8" LX200GPS @ f6.3 with a StellaCam-3 peltier cooled video camera.
Open Clusters: NGC1647, 1746, 1802, 1807, 1817, 1996, DoDz-3, 4, and 14.
Galaxies: NGC1349, 1550, 1587, 1589, and 1642.
Planetary Neb: NGC1514, M1.
And Hind's Variable Nebulae - NGC1554-55.

Taurus: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/taurus.htm

That brings me up to 34 constellations covered, with a total of 548 deep-sky objects observed!
(detailed stats located at the bottom of the Constellation Tour page).

Have several new constellations to work on over the new month - Aquarius, Triangulum, Aries, Cetus, and Pisces.

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[kiskiastronomers] Constellation survey project - update
Date: Fri, 23 Dec 2011 23:37:56 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:<kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

hi all,
Had some free vacation time today, so I decided to start work on my backlog of observations from my home observatory.
Finished loading two new pages to my ***Constellation Tour*** project:
Aries: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/aries.htm
Triangulum: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/triangulum.htm

Video observed/imaged the following objects:
In ***Aries*** :
galaxies NGC678, 680, 691, 697, 772, 803, 821, 876, 877, 918, 972, 1024, 1029, 1134, 1156, and open cluster DODZ-1.
In ***Triangulum***:
galaxies NGC669, 672, 750, 751, 777, 778, 783, 784, 785, 890, 925, 949, IC1727, and open cluster CR-21.
These are mostly very faint smudges of galaxies, barely visible on the monitor, even with a 25 second exposure with my StellaCam-3 and my 8" SCT @ f6.3.
The only decent image is that of M33 (in Triangulum) taken up at the Black Forest Star Party last August.

That now brings me up to 36 constellations and around 578 deep-sky objects.
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/constellationtour1.htm
Have a few more constellations remanding from this year - Aquarius, Cetus, and parts of Pisces.
Hope to get those wrapped up before New Years.

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] Constellation survey project - Final update for 2011
Date: Sat, 31 Dec 2011 17:57:28 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com
hi all,
Wrapped up for the year my final video astronomy observations from my backyard observatory.
Loaded the following new pages to my "**Constellation Tour"** project:
Aquarius: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/aquarius.htm
Cetus: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/cetus.htm
Pisces: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/pisces.htm

Using my observatory's 8" LX200 SCT @ f6.3 and my peltier-cooled StellaCam-3 video camera, I video observed and imaged the below individually listed objects.
The majority of objects are small faint galaxies, with exposures running between 25 - 30 seconds.

In **Aquarius** (10-22-2011) - planetary nebulae NGC7009, globular clusters M2, M72 & NGC7492, and galaxies NGC6962, 6964, 7171, 7184, 7218, 7300, 7302, 7371, 7377, 7392, 7606, and 7727.

In **Cetus** (11-23-2011) - planetary nebulae NGC246, and galaxies M77, NGC157, 210, 227, 246, 255, 247, 274, 275, 584, 586, 596, 681, 720, 779, ARP318-(NGC833, 835, 838, 839), NGC908, 936, 958, 1022, 1035, 1042, 1048A&B, 1052, 1047, 1055, and 1073.

In **Pisces** (11-25-2011 & 12-28-2011) - galaxies M74, NGC7541, 7537, 7562, 7557, 7617, 7619, 7626, 7750, 128, 125, 127, 130, 194, 382, 383, 379, 380, 7782, 7778, 7779, 7781, 660, 311, 315, 467, 470, 488, 494, 504, 507, 508, 520, 516, 524, 693, 266, 741, and 742.
I originally imaged about half of these on 11/25, but the conditions were very hazy, so I re-did all of the observations on 12/28.

I also added some additional objects in **Auriga**: nebula NGC1985 & 1931, globular cluster Palomar-2, and open clusters NGC1983, Berkeley-19, Basel-4, and King-8 (also from 12/28).

That now brings me up to 39 constellations with 674 deep-sky objects.
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/constellationtour1.htm

I'm hoping for a clear night or two in January 2012 so I can continue work on Orion, Gemini, and Caner.
Happy New Year!

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] Video observations
Date: Sun, 29 Jan 2012 22:23:14 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com
hi all,

Back on January 18th, we had a partly clear evening, with scattered haze and cold temps.
Having worked straight thru the previous MLK holiday weekend, I needed a little stress release from the office, so I went out and opened up Big Woodchuck Observatory. (my backyard shed)
After firing up both propane heaters, raising the observatory flip-roof, initializing and aligning the telescope, and acquiring ECU planetarium control via the desk computer, I settled in to a relaxing video observing run using my 8" LX200GPS @ f6.3 with a StellaCam-3 attached, along with a piggybacked 80mm Bosma f6.3 refractor with a StellaCam-II video camera.

As Orion was rising high from the southeast and I needed more objects to finish out the constellation, I spent the evening following the great hunter as he jumped over the meridian and headed toward his western pursuits.

The sky conditions weren't so good for most of the faint nebula's in Orion, but I did manage to video-capture a few.
For the most part, it was a night of open clusters!!

Here's what I was able to 'hunt' down in Orion:

Open Clusters: NGC1662, 1663, 1980, 1981, 2039, 2112, 2141, 2143, 2169, 2180, 2194, 2175, 2175S, 2186, 2202, Basel-11B, CR69, Dolidze-17
Planetary Neb: NGC2022
Reflection Neb: NGC1788
Gaseous Neb: NGC1973, 1977, 1980, 20249(the Flame), 2174

Orion: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/orion.htm

That brings me up to a total of 698 deep-sky objects observed, covering 39 constellations.
Next up for image processing: the open clusters of Gemini and galaxies of Cancer, taken on 01/21/2012

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[kiskiastronomers] Video Observations - 01/21/2012
Date: Sun, 05 Feb 2012 22:57:19 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>
hi all,

Now that the Super Bowel is over, we can get back to more important matters, such as observing reports!

Back on Saturday, the 21st of January, we had another decent evening, clear and cold early on, but with scattered haze after midnight.Needing more objects to finish off the Constellations of Gemini and Cancer, I opened up Big Woodchuck Observatory.As the air temp was dipping into the low 20's, I immediately fired up the propane heaters, to buildup a little interior heat before opening the flip-roof. It had snowed several inches Friday evening thru Saturday morning, so I needed to pull out a ladder and brush off the roof before opening it.Once the roof was opened, and the telescope and cameras quietly humming, I quickly pulled the heavy curtain between the telescope room and the operator area. here's a few pics showing the interior:
http://home.comcast.net/~lemsolar/remod2.jpg
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/sct-green-laser.jpg
There's more observatory picture on my Big Woodchuck page: http://home.comcast.net/~lemsolar/Bwwso1.htm

With the observatory radio tuned to classical music, I settled in to my chair for a video observing run using my 8" LX200GPS @ f6.3 with a StellaCam-3 attached, along with a piggybacked 80mm Bosma f6.3 refractor with a StellaCam-II video camera.
The telescope is interfaced to the observatory computer using planetarium program Earth Centered Universe (ECU). Both cameras feed a bank of video monitors that connect to the computer for video capture.
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/monitors-at-night.jpg
This was the first night that I tried out my new wireless remote for the StellaCam 3 camera. I didn't really need it in the observatory, as the wired remote had enough length to run from the camera, thru the curtain seam to my desk. But I wanted to take it for a test drive before any trips to Cherry Springs later this year, where it would really come in handy as I usually setup the 6" RC about 15' from the back of the camper where the computer and video monitors are located.It will be nice to not have to constantly run back-n-forth between the telescope and computer whenever I need to adjust a camera setting.
For the most part, it was a night of open clusters, with a few galaxies and planetary nebula sprinkled in.
I started off with big, splashy M35 at the foot of Castor. Then I moved on to a number of dim faint NGC clusters that required the 8" for viewing.As usual, I made use of Kiski members Bob Kepple & Glen Sanner's excellent observing companion, "The Night Sky Observers Guide" for selecting and the objects that I wanted to video observe, and later for confirming the objects visible on the video monitors from the sketches and photographs in the book. Using the point-and-click/ GOTO ability of the ECU software and the LX200, I worked my way across each constellation, selecting which telescope/camera and exposure combination that best showed the object in my 4th mag sky conditions. Occasionally, I would pause to listen to a distant dog barking, or the nearby grunts from the local deer herd as they crunched thru the snow, making their nightly passage through my backyard to the field next door.

After finishing up what I could observe in Gemini, and unfortunately having to leave a number of objects for a future darker location, I moved on to try my luck in Cancer. I have found that as long as I stay under 13th magnitude, I have a fair shot at video observing galaxies even from my urban backyard. Again, I started off with the two bright Messier open clusters M44 and M67, and then moved on to the faint fuzzies.After about 45 minutes of working my way thru a number of galaxies, out of which nine I was able to image, I suddenly noticed the 8 second image from the 80mm/StellaCam II camera going grey.
Pulling back the curtain, I looked out to confirm that the sky had mostly clouded over.
The video observing session was officially over for the night. I powered down the telescope, cameras, and computer, and closed the roof. After collecting my observing notes, I locked up and trudged thru the snow up the hill to the house.

Here's my results:

Gemini: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/gemini.htm
Open Clusters: M35, NGC2129, 2158, 2266, 2331, 2234, 2265, 2304, 2355, 2395, 2420, and IC2157.
Planetary Neb: NGC2371, 2392 (Eskimo), and PK194+2.1
Galaxies: NGC2341 & 2342, 2339, 2385 & 2389.

Cancer: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/cancer.htm
Open Clusters: M44 and M67
Galaxies: NGC2562 & 2563, 2672 & 2673, 2749, 2775, 2577, 2599, and 2608.

That brings me up to a total of 726 deep-sky objects observed, covering 39 constellations.
Have to wait for another clear dark of the Moon to continue the project.

Larry Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] Astro-Video Observations - 02/17/2012
Date: Sun, 19 Feb 2012 21:59:26 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com
hi all,

Friday night, 02/17, we had a clearing come thru for several hours, so I took advantage and opened up my home observatory for a little videoastronomy.
The outdoor temperature was relatively mild, so it was only a single propane heater night.
As usual, made use of my 8" LX200GPS @ f6.3 with a StellaCam-3 attached, and a piggybacked 80mm Bosma f6.3 refractor with a StellaCam-II video camera.
Spent the evening observing the terrestrial deer running back-n-forth in the yard, along with the hare and dove frolicking in the celestial fields above.

The Dove, as would be expected for a bird, was mostly low on the horizon, lost in the trees.
Most of the deep-sky offerings were galaxies that were too faint even for my video-enhanced optics, but I was able to pull a half-dozen galaxies out of the murk
The nice small spiral NGC2090 was the best of the lot.

Columba: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/columba.htm
Galaxies: NGC1800, 1812, 2049, 2090, 2188, and IC2158.

I had much better luck chasing the rabbit, as he was higher up in the southern sky.
Plus, he had several interesting objects besides galaxies, which included the nice small globular cluster - M79.
There's also a small open cluster/multiple star - NGC2017, and a bright planetary nebula - IC418.
The most interesting of the galaxies were the tiny pair NGC1888&1889. Both are classified as spirals, but the smaller 1889 is more elliptical in appearance.

Lepus: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/lepus.htm
Open Cluster: NGC2017
Globular Cluster: M79
Planetary Nebula: IC418
Galaxies: NGC1784, 1832, 1886, 1888&1889, 1964, 1979, 2106, 2139, 2179, and 2196.

Finally around 10:30pm, I moved over to take the 'little dog' Canis Minor for a walk, but the predicted cloud bank rolled in and quickly obscured the sky. So I had to let the little fella go for another evening, and closed up the observatory.

That brings me up to a total of 745 deep-sky objects observed, covering 42 constellations.
Have to wait for the next clear night (maybe Monday) to continue the project.

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] Astro-Video Observations - 02/20/2012
Date: Wed, 22 Feb 2012 22:08:12 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com
hi all,

Monday night, 02/20, started out as an exceptionally clear and dark night, at least from my location in Baldwin.
Opened up Big Woodchuck Observatory and began a video-astronomy run.
Tonight, I was out to take a stroll with the celestial water-dog and the unicorn. No deer to keep me company tonight, the neighbor's terrestrial dog was out.
Once again, made use of my 8" LX200GPS @ f6.3 with a StellaCam-3 attached, and a piggybacked 80mm Bosma f6.3 refractor with a StellaCam-II video camera.

Canis Minor was well placed, high in the south-east, climbing toward the meridian.
Other than a few obscure open clusters, most of the constellation's deep-sky objects were galaxies, also faint and obscure. If I had to

pick a 'favorite', it would probably be the open cluster NGC2394, which nicely filled the video monitor of the 80mm refractor. A runner-up would be Dolidze-26, also with the 80mm. Both clusters had a bright nearby foreground lucida. NGC2470 did show as a nice small edge-on spiral with the 8" SCT.

Around 8:15pm, I had to head into the house for a work related production support checkout (IT stuff - we had a program patch going in). Hoping it wouldn't take too long, I left the observatory roof opened and the telescope & cameras running.
After about two hours, we wrapped up and I was able to head back outside.
As my night-vision was adjusting on the stroll back to the observatory, I immediately noticed that the sky had gone soft, with the stars dimming. I quickly started my object list in Monoceros, but after a half-hour of deteriorating skies and having to skip over deep-sky objects, I called it quits.
Did manage to video capture a handful of open clusters, but none of them are really worth writing about.
I'll have to try the unicorn again on a clearer night.

Canis Minor & Monoceros: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/monoceros-canisminor.htm
Open Cluster: NGC2215, 2219, 2232, 2236, 2260, 2394, Berkeley-35 & 78, Dolidze-26, and King-23.
Galaxies: NGC2350, 2470, 2485, 2496, 2508, 2538.

That brings me up to a total of 764 deep-sky objects observed, covering 44 constellations.

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] tonight's observations
Date: Mon, 27 Feb 2012 00:21:07 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com
hi all,

What a difference 24 hours makes!
Just got back in from a long ride with the Unicorn! Lots, and lots, and lots of open clusters.
It's gonna take a few days to work those video observations.
Started out observing the planetary conjunction, then headed over to Orion to admire the jewel in his sword.
Wrapped up the evening with a short visit to Argo Navis's stern, have to come back when the ship is sailing higher on the meridian.
Larry

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: Re: [AAAPgh] tonight's observations
Date: Tue, 28 Feb 2012 21:49:13 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com
hi all,

Got back out last night and revisited the constellation of Puppis, the 'stern' of the obsolete constellation of Argo Navis. The wind was a bit of a problem, and limited the majority of the video exposures to under 20 seconds.
Still, that was enough to make it another night of 'clusters'.
Hope to start processing the 60+ observations from Monoceros & Puppis towards the weekend.
In the meantime, here's a wide-field image of the great planetary conjunction we had Sunday evening:
http://home.comcast.net/~lemastro/vidcap/images/Moon-Jupiter-Venus-02262012.jpg
(taken with a Samsung SDC435 videocamera & Canon CCTV lens set to 5.5 mm)
Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: Re: [AAAPgh] Astro-Video Observations - 02/26/2012
Date: Sat, 03 Mar 2012 23:50:33 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To: AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com

hi all,

Finished processing the video-capture images from last Sunday's (02/26) observing session from my backyard observatory.
It was a beautiful night, clear, calm, and cold, but inside the observatory, it was nice and warm! :)
I could hear the local deer heard crunching thru the frosted grass, and probably eating my shrubs again.
The audio highlight of the evening was the owl that settled in a nearby tree for awhile, giving out the occasional 'hoot'.
While I was out for deep-sky observing, the celestial naked-eye highlight of the evening was the conjunction in the western sky of the Moon, Jupiter, and Venus.
After admiring the solar system trio for a bit, I got busy and spent the evening slowly working thru Monoceros, the Unicorn.
As usual, made use of my 8" LX200GPS @ f6.3 with a StellaCam-3 attached, and a piggybacked 80mm Bosma f6.3 refractor with a StellaCam-II video camera.

Being located in the 'stream' of the Milky Way, Monoceros contains many, many open clusters.
Some are large and splashy, like M50, NGC2244 or Collinder-91, more suitable for the 80mm.
Others such as NGC2236, 2254, 2259, and Melotte-72 required the higher resolution and light-gathering of the 8" SCT.
There were also several interesting nebulosity, with my favorite being the comet shaped "Hubble's Variable Nebula" - NGC2261.

Monoceros: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/monoceros-canisminor.htm
Open Clusters: M50, NGC2225, 2226, 2236, 2239, 2244, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2254, 2259, 2262, 2264, 2301, 2311, 2335, 2368, 2506, Basel-8, Collinder-91, 92, 96, Melotte-72, and Trumpler-5
Nebulas: NGC2149, 2182, 2245, 2261, and IC446

Started observing a little in Puppis, revisiting M46 & M47, and a few nearby NGC clusters.
But it was getting late, and I had to work the next day, so I shutdown the cameras and telescope and called it a night.
Larry Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: [AAAPgh] Astro-Video Observations - Monday 02/27/2012
Date: Sun, 04 Mar 2012 20:59:03 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To: AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com

hi all,

Here's the latest batch of video-capture images, some from from last Sunday (02/26), but most from Monday's (02/27) session.
Monday evening, while clear, was very windy. I carefully opened the flip-roof and made sure that the hand-crank was tightly ratcheted down. Even partly protected by the observatory sidewalls, the telescope was bounced around by the periodic wind gusts, which shook the building. For the most part, that limited me to around 8 - 15 seconds of exposure with the main instrument.
Tried for longer settings a number of times, but had to pitch a lot of those, as they were ruined by the wind.
Still, I managed to observe quite a large number of clusters in the constellation of Puppis, the stern of Argo Navis, as it sailed past the meridian. The low altitude of many of the objects, close to and within my local horizon light pollution, gave them a washed-out appearance. But the bright Messier clusters of M46, M47, & M93 made for fine viewing on both the low and high-res monitors.
There's too many NGC clusters to choose a favorite, but the best object of the night was the combined cluster & nebula NGC2467.
The little planetary NGC2438, hiding in M46, was also nice.

8" LX200GPS SCT @ f6.3 with a StellaCam-3 attached, and a piggybacked 80mm Bosma f6.3 refractor with a StellaCam-II video camera. This brings me up to a total of 820 deep-sky objects observed, covering 45 constellations.

Puppis: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/puppis.htm
Open Clusters: M46, M47, M93, NGC2396, 2401, 2414, 2423, 2439, 2451, 2453, 2455, 2477, 2482, 2483, 2489, 2509, 2539, 2567, 2571, Haffner-16, 18, & 19, Melotte-71, and Trumpler-7 & 9. Nebulas: NGC2467, and 2579. Planetary Nebula: NGC2438, 2440, and 2452. Globular Cluster: NGC2298
That wraps all of my observations for the February dark-of-moon period.
I'll pick it up again later in March, after Last Quarter, starting with the water snake - Hydra. Also need to revisit the Lion's.

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[kiskiastronomers] Astro-Video Observations - Tuesday 03/13/2012
Date: Tue, 27 Mar 2012 23:19:34 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>
Hi all,

Back earlier in the month, I took advantage of the great weather we were having and got a bit of observing in.
Opened up Big Woodchuck Observatory on Tuesday, March 13th, and continued my deep-sky constellation survey.
It was an unusually warm evening with the temperature in the mid-sixties, no need for the propane heater.
Didn't hear the deer tramping thru the yard tonight, the field was too soft.
The southern constellation Pyxis was hitting the meridian, and as high as it would get for our latitude, so I attempted to capture what objects I could in the Mariner's Compass.
It was a mixed bag of small open clusters and faint galaxies, all greatly dimmed by their low altitude and sky-glow.
The best objects was the spiral galaxy NGC2613 and the combined 'cluster-in-cluster' of Collinder-196 & 198.

After several attempts for objects that were just too low, I decided to head up to higher 'ground', and spent the rest of the evening with the little lion. It was all faint galaxies in Leo Minor, with the best of the lot being the interacting galaxies NGC3395 & 3396. The spindle shaped NGC3432 also looked good on the video monitors.

Here's the list of the night's bounty:

Pyxis: (included with the page for Puppis)
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/puppis.htm
Open Clusters: NGC2627, 2635, 2658, 2818, Collinder-196, 198.
Galaxies: NGC2613, 2663, 2818A, 2888.

Leo Minor: (included with the page for Leo)
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/leo.htm
Galaxies: NGC2859, 2942, 2955, 3003, 3021, 3152, 3158, 3159, 3160, 3163, 3245, 3254, 3277, 3294, 3395, 3396, 3414, 3424, 3430, 3432, 3486, 3504, 3510, 3512.

Next report - more galaxies in the water snake and the sextant!

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] Astro-Video Observations - from March
Date: Thu, 05 Apr 2012 22:16:41 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com
Hi all,

Back in mid-March, we had a run of several good dark-sky nights.
Opened up Big Woodchuck Observatory on Wednesday, March 14th, and continued my deep-sky constellation survey.
Once again, it was an unusually warm evening with the temperature in the mid-sixties, clear and calm.
I immediately began working the head of the water-snake, Hydra, and slowly following his serpentine body towards Hydra's one lone bright star - Alphard.
It was mostly small and faint, faint galaxies, with not a lot of stand outs. (except for the few Messier objects).
The best objects was the spiral galaxies NGC2781, and 2811 and the great lookin planetary nebula NGC3242, the 'Ghost of Jupiter'.
I continued following the snake eastward until I finally lost him in the trees. Will have to continue in April.

Headed back out again on Tuesday, March 20th for a try at the diminutive constellation of Sextans, lying to the east of Hydra's head. This evening, there were no clusters or planetary nebula to break up the monotony of small, faint, and fainter galaxies. The only decent object was the 'Spindle Galaxy' of NGC3115.

The following video-captured with my 8" LX200GPS @ f6.3 and StellaCam-3 attached, and a piggybacked 80mm Bosma f6.3 refractor with StellaCam-II video camera.

Hydra:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/hydra.htm
Open Clusters: M48.
Planetary Nebula: NGC2610, 3242.
Galaxies: NGC2642, 2713, 2718, 2781, 2784, 2811, 2815, 2835, 2848, 2851, 2855, 2889, 2935, 2983, 2986, 2992, 2993, 3078, 3081, 3091, 3308, 3309, 3311, 3312.

Sextans: (included with the page for Hydra)
Galaxies: NGC2967, 2974, 2978, 3044, 3055, 3090, 3115, 3166, 3156, 3169, 3246, 3375, 3423.

That wraps all of my observations for the March dark-of-moon period.
That brings me up to a total of 893 deep-sky objects observed, covering 49 constellations.
I'll pick it up again in April, heading back to wrestle with the water snake's eastern tail section, along with the crow and cup that are along for the ride.

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] Astro-Video Observations - from Friday the thirteenth! 4/13.
Date: Sat, 14 Apr 2012 21:01:47 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com

Hi all,

Got out last night to take advantage of the clear skies before the next storm system rolled in.
Wanted to continue my deep-sky constellation survey of Hydra, along with a few 'new' constellations.
It was a mild evening with the temperature in the mid-50's, clear and calm starting out, but periods of light haze would come and go.

I immediately went to work along the lower body of the water-snake, Hydra, to the east of Alphard. Once again, it was mostly small and faint galaxies. NGC3585 made for a pretty little spiral, and the close pair of galactic cores NGC4105 & 4106 were interesting. Like a pair of fuzzy 'eyes' looking back.
The trees along my southeastern horizon kept me from going much further in Hydra, so I headed up in elevation to Crater the Cup.

Crater was one small faint galaxy after another!
The pair of galaxies NGC3511 & 3513 showed a nice comparison of a somewhat edge-on and face-on spiral.
NGC3887 with it's stellar core was also another face-on spiral with good detail.

After emptying the cup, I headed over to the waiting bird, Corvus the crow.
Corvus was also mostly galaxies, with a small planetary nebula, NGC4361, to break up the monotony.
NGC4361 is a small round diffuse glow, with a star-light center. Almost looked like a small galaxy. ;)
For a little fun, I ducked over the northern boundary line of Corvus to grab a quick pic of M104 and it's prominent dark lane.
http://home.comcast.net/~lemastro/vidcap/images/m104-04132012.jpg
Corvus does have a nice interesting object, the 'Ring-Tail Galaxy', NGC4038 & 4039, a pair of interacting galaxies.
You can make out the connecting 'tail' between the two galaxies.
I'll have to come back to this object when I'm under the darker Cherry Springs skies!!
Didn't get too far in Corvus, when the drive on my 8" LX200 decided to go on a runaway slew.
It wouldn't respond to either the computer interface, or to the telescope hand-box, so I was forced to kill the power.
While doing the mount re-align, I noticed that the sky had noticeably hazed over, and it didn't take much longer for the whole sky to close down. So I decided that was a good of point as any to stop for the night.
Hopefully, in the next week, I'll get another good evening to catch more of that snake slithering out from the trees, and finish off the crow too!

The following video-captured with my 8" LX200GPS @ f6.3 and StellaCam-3 attached, and a piggybacked 80mm Bosma f6.3 refractor with StellaCam-II video camera.

Hydra:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/hydra.htm
Galaxies: NGC3585, 3621, 3717, 3904, 3923, 3936, 4105, and 4106.

Crater: (included with the page for Hydra)
Galaxies: NGC3511, 3513, 3571, 3636, 3637, 3660, 3672, 3865, 3866, 3887, 3892, 3955, 3957, 3962, and 3981

Corvus: (included with the page for Hydra)
Planetary Nebula: NGC4361
Galaxies: NGC4024, 4027, 4033, 4038, 4039, and 4462.

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] Astro-Video Observations - from the past week
Date: Sat, 21 Apr 2012 22:23:14 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com
Hi all,

Spent several nights this past week working on my constellation survey.

Sunday evening, 4/15, looked like it was going to be very promising, but ended-up being rather hazy.
So I stayed up high in Leo, chasing after larger less vaporous regions, in search of much smaller fuzzies.
In spite of the sky conditions, and with my drive's GOTO now being dead-on, I was able to capture a number of faint galaxies.
A couple of partly edge-on spirals were the best catch: NGC3377 and NGC3626.
Didn't spend too much time on the survey, as I wanted to experiment a little with my auto-guider that I plan on putting to better use this summer. It's one of those self contained Celestron NexGuide's. I wanted to see if I could get it to work with an unused 50mm finder that I had.

Leo:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/leo.htm
Galaxies: NGC2911, 2914, 3377, 3384, 3389, 3412, 3605, 3607, 3608, 3626, 3705, 3810, and 3900.

Wednesday night, 4/18, turned into an incredibly clear evening!
I wanted to continue my imaging in Corvus, but had some time to kill for the bird to fly higher toward the meridian.
So I made another pass thru the golden tresses of Coma Berenices. There I observed a number of small faint galaxies, with my favorites being the small spirals NGC4251 and the pair NGC4240 & 4250.
After about an hour, Corvus was finally nearing the mid-point of my southern sky area, so I turned back to the crow.
The galaxies were much fainter, probably I thought, due to the lower altitude.
Among the showcase objects, (as such as Corvus offered), are several 'pairs' of galaxies.
NGC4724 & 4727, NGC4782 & 4783, and the best: NGC4038 & 4039 - the 'Ring Tail Galaxy'.

Coma Berenices:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/comaberenices.htm
Galaxies: NGC4203, 4245, 4251, 4278, 4283, 4340, 4350, 4448, 4450, 4459, 4468, and 4474.

Corvus: (included with the page for Hydra)
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/hydra.htm
Galaxies: NGC4038, 4039, 4050, 4094, 4724, 4727, 4756, 4763, 4782, 4783, and 4802.

Here's a cautionary lesson for all imagers:
As I was closing up the observatory, and putting the telescope to bed,
I realized that I had left my three-hole focusing mask on the 8" SCT's dew shield during the entire night.
No wonder those faint fuzzies looked faint!! I then realized that I had blown a great evening of video-imaging. :(
While I ended up throwing out all of the Corvus images, I was able to make a little lemonade and salvaged about half of the brighter Coma galaxies. I guess it could have been worse!

So on Thursday night, 4/19, while not as great an evening as the night before, I was determined to re-image what I had goofed the night before. While up in Leo calibrating my alignment, I dropped in on the Messiers, M65, M66, M95 and M96.
Then, once again I went to work in Coma Berenices, where I added a number of new galaxies, the best being the edge-on spiral NGC4710. I also visited an old friend M64, the 'Blackeye Galaxy':
http://home.comcast.net/~lemastro/vidcap/images/m64-04192012.jpg
The best part of the evening was exploring the Coma Galaxy Cluster. The brighter members - NGC4874 & 4889 were easy to pick out, but all around were numerous smaller galactic glows. The next day, I stitched together the two separate frames of the areas around 4874 & 4889. Then using the finder chart on page 101 of Vol2 - "The Night Sky Observers Guide", by George Kepple & Glen Sanner, I was able to identify another 10 individual galaxies: NGC4864, 4865, 4867, 4869, 4871, 4872, 4876, 4886, 4894, AND 4898. here's the pic: http://home.comcast.net/~lemastro/vidcap/images/Coma-Galaxy-Cluster-04192012.jpg

I then moved back to Corvus, where I re-imaged everything from the night before, previously listed.

Coma Berenices:
Galaxies: NGC4312, 4559, 4651, 4689, 4710, 4725, and the above Coma Cluster members.

All of the above video-captured In Big Woodchuck Observatory with my 8" LX200GPS @ f6.3 and StellaCam-3 attached, and a piggybacked 80mm Bosma f6.3 refractor with StellaCam-II video camera.

That brings me up to a total of 980 deep-sky objects observed, covering 51 constellations.
One or two more good nights and I should break 1000!

Larry Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: [AAAPgh] Great evening last night.
Date: Fri, 18 May 2012 07:44:39 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To: AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com, kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

Hi all,

Last night, Thursday May17th 2012,was a great evening for local observing!
Considering how good the seeing was from my backyard observatory in Baldwin, the folks who went to Cherry Springs must have had a fantastic evening. After setting up the StellaCam cameras, I did some casual video-observing of M104 in Virgo, waiting for the end of astronomical twilight.
Once dark, I was finally was able to grab the water snake by the tail and finished up the constellation of Hydra.
(that took a good three month effort, waiting for each section to hit my local meridian).
Knocked off around 8 new galaxies, along with the little globular cluster NGC5694.
Also spent some time with M83, seeing how long of an unguided image I could capture with serious star trailing. (around 35 seconds).

I then slewed the telescope over to the southwest, and grabbed the lion by his tail.
Added another 20+ galaxies from the region in Leo around Denebola.
These included several great looking spirals and the Abell-1367 galaxy cluster.

Throughout the evening, my 8" Meade LX200GPS's GOTO consistently and accurately placed the objects on the CCD chip's 1/2" field-of-view. That made for a very enjoyable observing session.
Happy to say that I went over the 1000 mark of objects observed!
I'll have the full observation list & images out after I get back from a little trip.

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] sketch of omega centauri
Date: Mon, 28 May 2012 00:30:43 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com

hi all,

While down in South Florida this past week, on Anna Maria Island, I was able to observe the globular cluster Omega Centauri with my 8x60 binoculars on multiple nights.
The place that we were staying is on the Gulf beach side of the island, and with a southerly latitude of about +27.5, the constellation of Centaurus stands out high above the horizon. As the island slants to the south-east, it didn't take long for the stars of Centaurus to head out over the water, away from the bright lights along the coast. Using a starchart that I had printed using my ECU planetarium program, I quickly identified the constellation, and using averted vision, spotted the location of Omega.
I then turned my 8x60 binocs on the soft smudge, and it revealed a large cotton-ball glow of a globular cluster showing hints of resolved stars.
The view that I was seeing was comparable to observing M13 with a 6" - 8" reflector, except I was using binoculars!
Here's a sketch I made on 05/20: (original and a negative view)
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/omega-centauri-05202012.jpg
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/ECU-Images/omega-centauri-05202012S.gif
Larry

-------- Original Message --------
Subject:[AAAPgh] Re: Great evening last night - Video Observations from 05/17/2012
Date: Mon, 28 May 2012 18:41:00 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:AAAPgh@yahoogroups.com, kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

hi all,

I've processing the video-capture images from May 17th, and updated my Constellation Tour website.
As I previously mentioned, I was finally able to finish up the Constellation of Hydra.
Hydra is the longest of the constellations, covering close to 100 degrees, so it took took several months for all of it to pass thru my meridian. From the batch of galaxies in this session, NGC5150, 5152, & 5153 made for a nice trio in the same field of view. IC4351 also is a good looking barred spiral. While NGC5626 isn't really much to write home about, having a jet fly thru the view while imaging it boosted it's interest! I wrapped up the constellation with the tiny globular cluster NGC5694.

I then slewed the telescope over to the Lion's tail and video-observed a good number of faint galaxies that I had missed in my last visit to Leo. Among the more notable: NGC3501 - a nice edge-on spindle, and NGC3521 - a miniature M31!
NGC3686 - a face-on spiral, the interacting pair NGC3799 & 3800, and finally the galaxy cluster Abell-1367 with numerous spindles & spirals.

Hydra:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/hydra.htm
Galaxies: NGC5150, 5152, 5153, 5135, 5328, 5592, 5626, and IC4351. Globular Cluster: NGC5694

Leo:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/leo.htm
Galaxies: NGC3501, 3507, 3521, 3596, 3630, 3655, 3681, 3684, 3686, 3691, 3773, 3799, 3800, 3872, 3883,
and Abell-1367 containing the following: NGC3837, 3840, 3841, 3842, 3844, 3845, 3851, U6697, CGCG097-90, and M+3-30-88.

All of the above video-captured In Big Woodchuck Observatory with my 8" LX200GPS @ f6.3 and StellaCam-3 attached, and a piggybacked 80mm Bosma f6.3 refractor with StellaCam-II video camera.

That brings me up to a total of 1014 deep-sky objects observed, covering 51 constellations. In a few weeks, I'll be heading up to Cherry Springs for the convention, where I hope to measure the 'Scales', the 'Little Bear', and the 'Dragon'.
;)

Larry
Constellation Tour: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/constellationtour1.htm
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: Re: [kiskiastronomers] Cherry Springs Star Party 2012 - report
Date: Sun, 08 Jul 2012 22:13:52 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To: kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com

hi all,

Finished processing the pics from last month's trip to Cherry Springs and I've updated my Constellation Tour page.
As I previously mentioned in my trip report, Wednesday night, June 13th, was the best night.
I began weighing the balance of the night's work in Libra, "the Scales". Libra has a number of nice small galaxies,
with my favorites being the pair of spirals NGC5595 and 5597. There's also a fine globular cluster, NGC5897.

I then headed north to hit several constellations that I cannot observe from my home observatory.
I started off with chasing the little bear, Ursa Minor. Again, it was again mostly small galaxies, the best of the lot being
the small spiral NGC6217. One lone open cluster, NGC5385 provided a bit of a break.

After dipping thru Ursa Minor's deep-sky offerings, I spent the rest of the evening attacking the Dragon.
The constellation Draco contains numerous galaxies, quite a few interesting ones.
Some of my favorites are the edge-on spirals NGC3735, 4256, and 5963.
The best being the large narrow spindle NGC5907, which showed a prominent dark lane.
The trio of NGC5981, 5982, and 5985 made for an interesting video observation, as you had all three visible on the monitor screen at the same time - a spindle, a elliptical, and a spiral.
Other large bright galaxies included NGC4236, 6015, 6503, and of course M102.
I also added a new Quasar to my list - Markarian-205.

As Thursday evening, June 14th, was nearly as good as Wednesday,
I went after the wolf and the centaur very low in the southern sky.
I hadn't initially planned on making any observations in either Lupus or Centaurus, thinking they were too low.
But, a number of their far northern deep-sky objects were observable above the horizon at Cherry Springs!
These were all about 10 - 12 degrees or less in elevation, and I think I could have gone all the way to the horizon if the
tree line hadn't interfered. The best object in Lupus was a globular cluster - NGC5986.
Centaurus offered a number of small galaxies, extra faint by the elevation, with the spirals NGC5102 5253 and 5494 holding up the best.

That wraps up the survey project work for this trip, 91 new objects in 5 constellations video-observed.

Libra:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/libra.htm
Galaxies: NGC5595, 5597, 5728, 5757, 5791 & ESO581-7, 5792, 5793 & 5796, 5812, 5858 & 5861, 5878, 5898 & 5903 & ESO514-3, 5915 & 5916 & 5916A.
Globular Cluster: NGC5897

Ursa Minor:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/draco-ursaminor.htm
Galaxies: NGC5452, 5547 & IC4404, 6068 & 6068A, 6048, 6079, 6217, 6251 & 6252, 6324.
Open Cluster: NGC5385
Stars: Polaris

Draco:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/draco-ursaminor.htm
Galaxies: NGC3147, 3183, 3403, 3735, 4121 & 4125, 4128, 4236, 4250, 4256, 4291 & 4319, 4386, 4522 & 4589, 4648, 4750, 5678, 5879, 5905, 5907, 5908, 5963 & 5965, 5981 & 5982 & 5985, 6015, 6140, 6232 & 6236, 6395, 6412, 6503, 6643, 6654, 6667, 6690.
Planetary Nebula: NGC6543
Quasar: Markarian-205

Lupus:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/centaurus-lupus.htm
Galaxies: NGC5843, 5968.
Globular Clusters: 5824, 5986.

Centaurus:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/centaurus-lupus.htm
Galaxies: NGC5102, 5161, 5188, 5193, 5253, 5292, 5302 & 5291 & IC4329 & IC4329A, 5304, 5357, 5419, 5488, 5494.

All of the above video-captured using my 6" Astro Tech RC with the StellaCam-3 and a Antares .5x focal reducer at prime focus, and a piggybacked 80mm University Optics f3 refractor with the StellaCam-II camera.
That brings me up to a total of 1105 deep-sky objects observed, covering 55 constellations.

Larry
Constellation Tour: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/constellationtour1.htm
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------

Subject:	[kiskiastronomers] Re: backyard consolation (observing report for 7/21 & 7/22 2012)
Date:	Mon, 23 Jul 2012 21:58:29 -0400
From:	Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
Reply-To:	kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com
To:	kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

hi all,

I've processed and updated my Constellation Tour website with the images of several new objects that I captured Saturday & Sunday evenings. (Sunday, 7/22, was a much better evening for observing)
Open cluster NGC6540 and planetary nebula NGC6629 in Sagittarius. Open clusters NGC6756 in Aquila and NGC6866 in Cygnus.
And globular cluster NGC6541 and planetary nebula IC1297 in Corona Australis.
Both of these were very low, even had a shrub limb in the pic with NGC6541.
Everything else in Corona A was either too low or lost in the light polluted glare.

The most interesting object of the night was the nova in Sagittarius - "Nova Sagittarii 2012 #4".
Here's the direct link:
http://home.comcast.net/~lemastro/vidcap/images/nova-sagittarri-07212012.jpg

As I mentioned below, I also imaged the following globular clusters in Ophiuchus / Serpens:
M5, M9, M10, M12, M14, M19, M62, M107, NGC6235, 6284, 6287, 6293, 6304, 6316, 6325, 6342, 6356, 6401, 6517,
and planetary nebula NGC6572.
The Messier globulars almost always make for nice bright targets that displays well on the video monitors.

All of the above video-captured In Big Woodchuck Observatory with my 8" LX200GPS @ f6.3 and StellaCam-3 attached, and a piggybacked 80mm Bosma f6.3 refractor with StellaCam-II video camera.

That brings me up to a total of 1112 deep-sky objects observed, covering 56 constellations.

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

On 7/22/2012 12:59 AM, Larry McHenry wrote:
> hi,
>
> Well, I got out for a couple of hours in my backyard observatory
> Started out looking like it was going to be an decent evening, but
> between the occasional cloud bank, fog, and heavy dew, it wasn't so good.
> Did manage to pickup a few new objects, along with imaging a bunch of
> globulars that I had sketched in previous years.
> I guess any observing is better than none! Let's hope for better
> weather at the next new moon.
>
> Larry

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: [kiskiastronomers] Hidden Hollow 2012 report
Date: Sun, 19 Aug 2012 20:49:54 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
Reply-To: kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com
To: kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

hi all,

Spent the weekend at the Warren Rupp Observatory over near Mansfield Ohio for the Hidden Hollow 2012 convention.
Met up with Bob Kalan, Bob Novack, and Fred Klein from the Kiski Astronomers.
Friday night was decent, but Saturday was a haze out. here's the full report:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/sp-reports/spr2012-HH.pdf

and also a video: http://youtu.be/hAZa13Ibhas

Larry

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: [kiskiastronomers] Dark Nebula Observations
Date: Sun, 26 Aug 2012 21:07:56 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
Reply-To: kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com
To: kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com

hi all,

Just finished uploading a new webpage for my Dark Nebula observations.
You can get to it from the contents frame of my astro webportal, or from the Constellation Tour page.
Here's the direct link: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/darknebula.htm

Most of the current images were made using my Stellacam-3 with the Canon 5.5mm -- 50mm lens on a tripod while at Hidden Hollow last week. But a few were made using my 6"RC or 8" SCT up at Cherry Springs.
The images are a bit over-processed, in order to bring out the dark nebula. I also made a 'finder image' for each one.

Larry

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: [kiskiastronomers] Video observation from 8/15
Date: Sat, 01 Sep 2012 22:34:15 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
Reply-To: kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com
To: kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

Hi all,

Finished getting caught-up on some observations from last month. I spent the evening of Wednesday 8/15, prior to going to Hidden Hollow, doing a little observing from my backyard.

Started off in Scorpius, where I visited the Messier globulars M4 & M80, around the heart of the scorpion, resolving them with the 8" SCT. Then I moved over to the stinger where open clusters M6 & M7 floats along the Milky-Way.
Both clusters filled the monitor, even with the 80mm Bosma refractor.

As I was loosing Scorpius to the treeline, I slewed over and a bit higher to the centaur.
There in Sagittarius, I chased down a pair of galaxies - NGC6835 & 6836, along with clusters NGC6440 & 6603.
NGC6440 is a tightly packed globular, mostly unresolved in the 8" SCT, while open cluster 6603 resolved beautifully in the 80mm Bosma. Particularly interesting in 6603 is a string of faint stars bi-secting the cluster giving it a resemblance to M4 in Scorpius.
I usually don't think of looking for galaxies in Sagittarius, but NGC6835 made for a nice little spiral.

To escape the local light pollution, I decided to go higher up in the Milky-Way, so I made my way up to Scutum the Shield.
There I went after a number of faint, sparse, Dolidze and Ruprecht open clusters - Dodz-28, 29, 30, 31 & 32, and Rup-141, 142, 143 & 144. Also picked up Trumpler-34 & 35, along with Basel-1, and NGC6682 & 6728.
A lot of these were close to blending in with the general background stars, but thanks to Bob Kepple's book, I was able to ID all of them.

All of the above video-captured In Big Woodchuck Observatory with my 8" LX200GPS @ f6.3 and StellaCam-3 attached,
and piggybacked 80mm Bosma f6.3 refractor with StellaCam-II video camera.

That brings me up to a total of 1157 deep-sky objects observed. I hope to add several more new constellations and their deep-sky objects in a few weeks while up at Black Forest!
Also plan on going after more dark nebula, and capture a few time-lapse videos.

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: [kiskiastronomers] Black Forest Star Party report
Date: Wed, 19 Sep 2012 16:38:57 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
Reply-To: kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com
To: kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

hi,

Here's the link to my BFSP-2012 convention report.
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/sp-reports/spr2012-BF.pdf

It was five good-to-great nights of observing and video-imaging!
This year, we had a big turnout of Kiski members, with at one point 9 members being on the observing field.
It was good spending time with our friends from around the US & Canada.
Here's a couple of pics from the report:
http://home.comcast.net/~lemastro/conventions/BF2012-01.jpg
http://home.comcast.net/~lemastro/conventions/BF2012-03.jpg
http://home.comcast.net/~lemastro/conventions/BF2012-06.jpg

Also, I spent a couple of nights making time-lapse videos using a Samsung SDC435 video camera with a 3mm CCTV lens.

*LodeStar:*
http://youtu.be/hBbfhpTmdg4
Taken at the 2012 Black Forest Star Party on Monday 9/10/2012.
Captured using a Samsung SDC435 video camera using a 3mm CCTV lens.
Time-lapse 1 frame every 30 seconds over 11 hours dust to dawn, -
exposure up to 8 seconds.

*Partly-Cloudy at Black Forest Star Party: *
http://youtu.be/i3y41g2Py90
Taken at the 2012 Black Forest Star Party on Thursday 9/13/2012.
Captured using a Samsung SDC435 video camera using a 3mm CCTV lens.
Time-lapse 1 frame every 30 seconds over 6 hours - exposure up to 8 seconds.

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: Re: [kiskiastronomers] Black Forest Star Party report
Date: Tue, 02 Oct 2012 18:07:28 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To: kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com

hi all,

Finished updating my Constellation Tour webpage with the various deep-sky objects that I imaged at Black Forest.
Includes three new constellations: Microscopium, Piscis Austrinus, and Camelopardalis, with 79 new video-captured deep sky objects.
Also updated my new 'Dark Nebula' page with over a dozen new objects, the best being B33 - the Horsehead Nebula.
Here's the direct link: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/constellationtour1.htm

That brings me up to a total of 1236 deep-sky objects sketched or video-observed, covering 60 constellations.
At this point, I only have 3 constellations left of my survey that are favorably placed above the horizon for our latitude: Fornax, Eridanus, and Lynx. (may also be able to get parts of Caelum, and Antilia, depending on where I observe from).
I hope to video-observe these three - five constellations by year-end, wrapping up the three years it's taken to make my first pass thru those visible from the Northern Hemisphere. Next year, I plan to start a second pass thru to pick up the objects that I missed. (lots of galaxies - probably take another couple of years).
I'm also going to begin using my auto-guider to take longer exposures of the showcase objects. Might even dabble in tri-color imaging. So many objects, not enough time,,,,,, :)

Larry
Astronomical webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

On 9/19/2012 4:38 PM, Larry McHenry wrote:

hi,
Here's the link to my BFSP-2012 convention report.
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/sp-reports/spr2012-BF.pdf

-------- Original Message --------

Subject:	[kiskiastronomers] Constellation Survey Observations
Date:	Wed, 12 Dec 2012 17:50:52 -0500
From:	Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
Reply-To:	kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com
To:	kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

hi all,

Finished processing the vidcap images from last month's trip to Calhoun Park in WV, and I've updated my 'Constellation Tour' page with 90 new objects in 3 new constellations. This about wraps up my constellation survey project that I started almost 3 years ago.
I think there is only 1 constellation left that I can get from our 40 degree latitude - Antilia.
It's a southerly constellation, so I'll have to wait for when it's hitting the meridian, which will be in the Spring.

Of the deep-sky objects that I video-observed while at Calhoun, the vast majority where faint, small galaxies.
A number of these were nice, such as NGC2537 'the Bear Paw galaxy' in Lynx, along with the lenticular galaxies NGC2549 & NGC2683. Lynx also contains a small globular NGC2419 that is resolvable. The fun part was chasing down all the small galaxies of the Abel-779 galaxy cluster. (the chart in Bob Kepple's "Night Sky Observers Guide" was a big help!!)

In the great river of Eridanus, NGC1232 made a fine face-on spiral along with the barred spiral NGC1300.
The lenticular NGC1531 shows great detail in knots and streaks, along with a companion galaxy.
NGC1637 also has a nice dark-lane that is easily visible.

Nearby in Fornax, there's a couple more great looking barred spirals - NGC1097 and NGC1365.
Several bright lenticulars can also be found in the area - NGC1316, and NGC1380.

Lynx:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/lynx.htm

Eridanus & Fornax:
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/eridanus-fornax.htm

All of the above video-captured using my 6" Astro Tech RC with the StellaCam-3 and a Antares .5x focal reducer at prime focus, and a piggybacked 80mm University Optics f3 refractor with the StellaCam-II camera.

That brings me up to a total of 1381 deep-sky objects observed, covering 63 constellations.

Larry
Constellation Tour:http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/constellationtour1.htm
Astronomical webportal:http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: [kiskiastronomers] Video Observations from Tuesday 02/12/2013
Date: Fri, 15 Feb 2013 13:27:48 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
Reply-To: kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com
To: kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

Hi all,

Tuesday night was 'Cluster Night'!
The high-pressure system that went thru during the afternoon cleared out the sky nicely for Tuesday evening.
With the winds going calm, it was a perfect evening to explore the numerous little open clusters scattered thru the winter Milky-Way constellations of Canis Major, Monoceros, and Puppis. Having switched the observatory's 8" SCT f10 visual back to deep-sky f6.3 the previous day, all I had to do was plug-in the StellaCam video camera.
Soon, I had the computer, video monitors and propane heater humming along as I began the night's video observing.
I started off In Puppis, as I wanted to make sure I got several clusters needed for my Herschel-400 project.
Then I slewed over to the big dog to pick up a few there along with a small planetary, but spent the major portion of the night's observing with the unicorn.

Here's the night's observations:

Puppis: NGC-2421, 2425, 2432, 2479, and 2527.
Canis Major: NGC-2243, Ruprecht-1, and planetary nebula IC-2165.
Monoceros: NGC-2269, 2279, 2299, 2302, 2306, 2309, 2312, 2319, 2351, and 2364.

You can find the above deep-sky objects on my individual constellation pages at the link below.
So that brings me up to 346 open clusters and 50 planetary nebula out of a total 1443 deep-sky objects observed.

Larry
Constellation Tour:http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/constellationtour1.htm
Astronomical webportal:http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: Herschel Objects
Date: Thu, 21 Feb 2013 19:05:37 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To:kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

Hi all,

Just completed a new webpage on video-capture/sketch observations of the Herschel-400 objects.
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/herschel-tour.htm

Back in the fall, As I was closing in on finishing my Constellation Survey, I realized it would include the Herschel objects.
(after all, that's where the NGC originated)
I planned to create a page, similar to what I did for the Messier's. Finally found time this past month to write the code.
While I haven't actually completed observing all 400 objects, I do have 308 of them.
You would think that after logging over 1400 deep-sky objects that I would have bagged all of the Herschel's, rather than having still close to a hundred left! As it turns out, most of the remaining are small galaxies in Virgo & Ursa Major.
I can get some of these from my backyard, but others will have to wait for Calhoun or Cherry Springs.
It's been interesting going thru the list. As I was coding each table entry, I had to test the picture link.
While there's a number of nice large, bright objects such as the Sculptor Galaxy - NGC253, Or NGC891, along with a fair number of open and globular clusters & planetary nebulae, the majority of objects are small, dim, nondescript smudges of galaxies.
It gives you an appreciation for the brighter, splashy Messier Objects!
Still, there are a number of cool shaped galaxies, such as NGC2403, 2683, 3432, 4038, 4565, 5907, 6946, 7331, 7479, 7814, and was a real eye-opener of the wide variety of shapes they come in.
There's a link on my portal in the contents called 'Herschel Tour'. (along with the direct link above).
Enjoy!!! Larry
Astronomical webportal:http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: [kiskiastronomers] Messier and OB Association webpages
Date: Mon, 25 Feb 2013 19:21:50 -0500
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
Reply-To: kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com
To: kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

hi all,

With the recent addition of my new page on the Herschel Objects, I decided to go back and redesign my Messier and OB Association Tour pages. That gives them the same general theme 'look' as the Herschel Objects,
Barnards Dark Nebula, and all the individual Constellation pages.

Messier Tour: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/messierobj-f.htm
OB Associations: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/OB-Tour.htm

Enjoy!!!

Larry
Astronomical webportal:http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: [kiskiastronomers] Collinder Cluster Tour
Date: Tue, 12 Mar 2013 22:48:45 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
Reply-To: kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com
To: kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

hi all,

Back in the Dec 2012 'Sky & Tel', there was a neat article about odd-named star clusters. (see page 36).
After reading thru it, I got to thinking that I had already observed a number of these clusters - Stock, Trumpler, and Collinder.
I followed the link in the magazine article to a website on 'cloudy nights' about the Collinder Catalog:
http://www.cloudynights.com/item.php?item_id=2544 that perked my interest in creating a new webpage.

Here it is: the 'Collinder Cluster Tour': http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/collinder-tour.htm
This is my personal observations, either visual sketches or video capture, of the 'Collinder Objects' over a 25 year period using various telescopes or cameras. Of the 471 star clusters & asterisms listed in the catalog, I have a total of 268 out of a possible 353 CR objects visible from +40 latitude. (the other 118 objects are not visible from our location).
While going thru my CR observations, I found that the Collinder Catalog is much like a number of other lists, there's a number of duplicate entries. Also, a good majority of the CR objects are already discovered NGC or Messier objects.
(Collinder's objective wasn't necessarily to find new objects, but to create a list of star clusters from photographs for a graduate study that he was doing back in 1931).

I encourage everyone to read the articles and then take a look at my page.
You'll find a number of your favorite objects, such as CR399 - the Coathanger, CR42 - Pleiades, CR50 -Hyades, CR70 - Orion's Belt, CR256 - Melotte-111(Coma Cluster), and even CR285 - the Big Dipper!
In addition to the above link, you can find this new 'tour' listed on my website.
Enjoy!!!

Larry
Astronomical Webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: Observing Report from Calhoun Park WV - 04/05/2013
Date: Fri, 12 Apr 2013 17:08:10 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To: kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

hi all,

After having kept an eye on the weather for several days, it finally looked like a half-decent weekend was coming up.
So on Friday, 04/05, Bob K and I journeyed down to Calhoun Cty Park in WV, arriving mid-afternoon.
Bob got there first and found the spot up on the ridge by the pavilion with electric. I arrived while Bob was getting out his telescope and pulled in next to him. We ended up being the only astronomers there for the weekend.

After an afternoon nap and dinner, we took a stroll down to the barn and looked at the small camping area beyond.
We both came to a consensus that while the campground's individual electrical hookups would be nice, the area really isn't a good spot for observing. The best location with electricity was up on the ridge where we were at, the same spot where I setup in November, and Bob N in December.

During the afternoon, while the sky was clear, the wind was a bit gusty. After sunset, the breeze died down, but toward midnight, began to pick up again, making it difficult for long exposures. I kept all my video-capture work to 25 seconds.
As soon as it was dark enough, I tried for Comet PanStarr with a wide-field CCTV lens on my Samsung video-camera, but the comet being such a horizon hugger, it had already dived into the tree line along the north.
So I gave that up and proceeded to mechanically align my CG-5 mount & 6" RC. When I powered on the mount, it was still in hibernate mode. I remembered that I had not used the CG-5 since I was there at Calhoun back in November, so I just woke up the mount, entered the current date & time and told it to slew to M42. Amazingly the Orion Nebula was in the corner of the 30mm eyepiece that I had in the 6"!! As I was going to switch to my StellaCam-3 for video-imaging, I went ahead and redid the alignment routine, but that was quite interesting!

Once it was dark enough, I commenced working on my Herschel-400 list. Over the course of the evening I added another 8 galaxies in Canes Venatici, and another 19 faint fuzzies over in Virgo. Along the way I took a few breaks to image M3, M13, and M104:
http://home.comcast.net/~lemastro/vidcap/images/m3-04052013.jpg
http://home.comcast.net/~lemastro/vidcap/images/m13-04052013.jpg
http://home.comcast.net/~lemastro/vidcap/images/m104-04052013.jpg
These were all using the 6"Astrotech RC at f9 and my StellaCam-3 at 25 seconds. (I had forgot to install the focal reducer)

You can find the images of the below galaxies on their constellation page, or on the Herschel page.
Canes Venatici: NGC-4143, 4151, 4346, 4656, 4627, 4800, 5033, and 5273.
Virgo: NGC-4030, 4179, 4261, 4273, 4281, 4365, 4371, 4429, 4435, 4478, 4526, 4527, 4535, 4546, 4550, 4570, 4509, and 4636.
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/canesvenatici.htm
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/virgo.htm
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/herschel-tour.htm

Bob also spent the evening going after galaxies over in Virgo, including the Markarian Chain.
Both of us decided around 1:30am that we were getting cold and tired, so we covered up the scopes and called it a night.

On Saturday, 04/06, the morning sky started to turn milky from the jet contrails. the NOAA radio forecast for that night didn't sound good. We took a stroll around the park and noted a number of great secluded observing sites back along the eastern section of the park, but you would have to bring your own generator for electricity. It would be great for visual observers!
We also walked over to the little historical village and peeked in the windows as it wasn't open. Interesting place!

After we got back to camp, we called Denny H to get the detailed weather forecast. He gave us the bad news, so we decided to pack up and head home. I was back home and unpacked by 5:30pm. Not a bad drive.

So even though Bob and I only got one night of observing, It was still good to get out to a dark-sky!
I brought my herschel-400 tally up to 344, and my combined number of deep-sky objects observed to 1502, 898 of which are galaxies.
Larry
Astronomical Webportal; http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: [kiskiastronomers] Herschel-400 observations from May 1st, 2013.
Date: Fri, 24 May 2013 19:50:43 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
Reply-To: kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com
To: kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

hi all,

Back on May 1st, we had an exceptionally clear night here in Pittsburgh.
I got out in my Big Woodchuck backyard observatory in Baldwin and worked on the Herschel-400 list.
Spent the evening video-capturing another 21 faint fuzzies over in Virgo, using the observatory's 8" SCT LX200GPS at f6.3 and my StellaCam-3 set at 25 seconds. My favorite one was spindle galaxy NGC-5746, which has a nice dust-lane.
You can find the images of the below galaxies on their constellation page, or on the Herschel page.
Virgo: NGC-4643, 4654, 4660, 4665, 4666, 4697, 4698, 4699, 4781, 4845, 4856, 4900, 4958, 4995, 5054, 5363, 5364, 5566, 5576, 5746, and 5846.
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/virgo.htm
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/herschel-tour.htm
That brings me up to 365 Herschel-400 objects, with the remaining 35 located in Ursa Major, which I can't see from my observatory. I need a couple of good nights at Cherry Springs!!!

Larry
Astronomical Webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: Herschel-400 finished!!
Date: Sun, 30 Jun 2013 18:03:11 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To: kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

hi all,

I spent the 1st full week of June up at Cherry Springs State Park for the CSSP-2013 convention.
While there, I worked on my last 34 missing Herschel-400 Objects located in Ursa Major, which I can't see from my backyard observatory. On Monday evening, June 3rd, after setting up the 6" RC on the CG5 mount, polar aligning, and installing the StellaCam-3 on the 6" and the StellaCam-II on the 50mm, had a very good evening of video observing / capturing all those faint fuzzies. As I wasn't auto-guiding, I kept the exposure on the StellaCam-3 set at 20 seconds to minimize tracking errors.

Bagged the following galaxies: NGC-2742, 2841, 2950, 2976, 2985, 3077, 3079, 3184, 3198, 3310, 3610, 3619, 3675, 3729, 3813, 3877, 3898, 3941, 3938, 3945, 3949, 3953, 3982, and 3998.
As it was getting past 3:00am and the weather for Tuesday was also suppose to be good, I left the last few objects for later.
After full darkness had set in Tuesday evening, (06/04), with the as Great Bear strolling high over the Pole Star, I wrapped up the Herschel-400 project! Captured the remaining galaxies left on the list: NGC-4026, 4036, 4041, 4085, 4088, 4102, 5322, 5473, 5474, and 5631.

Today, I finally processed the images and updated my website with the results.
Some of my favorites include the spindle galaxies NGC-3079 and 3877 showing dark lanes, and the face-on spirals NGC-3184, 3198 and 4085 with faintly visible spiral arms. You can find all the images on the 'Ursa Major' constellation page, or on the Herschel-400 page. http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/constellationtour1.htm http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/herschel-tour.htm

In retrospect of doing the Herschel-400 project, the idea for it all started back in the fall of 2012, as I was closing in on finishing my Constellation Survey. I realized as the survey would include many of the Herschel Objects, I should create a page, similar to what I did for the Messier Objects. With New-years, I proceeded to build the page and after going thru all 1400+ deep sky objects that I have sketched or video-captured over the years, I was still missing 92 of the Herschel-400 objects. So after several dark-sky trips and a few nights in my backyard observatory, I finished it off in about 6 months. Over the course of the project, I learned a lot about William and Caroline Herschel, along with the objects they observed. While there's a number of nice large, bright objects such as the Sculptor Galaxy - NGC-253, Or NGC-891, along with a fair number of open and globular clusters & planetary nebulae, the majority of Hershel's objects are small, dim, nondescript smudges of galaxies. It gives you an appreciation for the brighter, splashy Messier Objects! Still, there are a number of cool shaped galaxies, and was a real eye-opener of the wide variety of shapes they come in. I now have a much greater appreciation for all those faint fuzzies, and the work of the Herschel's!
Larry
Astronomical Webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/

-------- Original Message --------

Subject: [kiskiastronomers] the Webb Society Globular Clusters
Date: Thu, 17 Oct 2013 21:47:25 -0400
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
To: kiski astronomers Yahoo list <kiskiastronomers@yahoogroups.com>

hi all,

Thanks to the weather, I haven't been able to get much observing in this past six weeks. (or most of the summer).
So I put all that free time to use in creating a new webpage on the Webb Society Globular Clusters.
Over the years, I've sketched or video-captured my way thru the Webb list of 63 globulars from Volume-3 of their observer's handbook. I took an old webpage that I had started over 13 years ago, re-designed it, and added additional info on T.W. Webb and globular clusters in general. You can find it in the 'contents' of my webportal, but here is the direct link;
http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/WebbGLOBF.HTM

I'm also working on a couple of additional Webb deep-sky object pages, and will have them up later this fall.
Enjoy!
Larry
Astronomical Webportal: http://home.comcast.net/~lsmch/