

Business CLASS

CLASSE *Affaires*



by/par  **Blueline®**

A9008.ASX

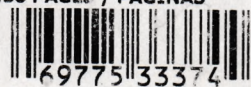
EXECUTIVE JOURNAL

JOURNAL EXÉCUTIF

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156 PAGES / PAGINAS



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1439e 2010-08-27/28 20:30-~~20~~²⁰40 EDT Fox med W deck 8 10x50b ne
Views - Mars - Spica: in conjunction. Needed 10x50b to see
 Mars & Spica at first, but then could see them n.e.

1440n 2010-08-27/28 21:30-00:40 EDT Fox med POD & S deck 8 28cm sc 8cm r
Variables:

| Name | YYYYMMDD | HHMM | Mag | < | Un | Co1 | Co2 | Co3 | Ccodes | Codesexp | Sky | Aper | Mag |
|---------|----------|------|------|------|----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|-----|---------|-----|
| R OPH | 2010 | 0828 | 0153 | 12.7 | < | 123 | 127 | | | | 8 | 28cm sc | 175 |
| RS OPH | 2010 | 0828 | 0201 | 11.2 | | 110 | 115 | | | | 8 | 28cm sc | 70 |
| EM CYG | 2010 | 0828 | 0211 | 13.4 | < | 134 | | | | | 8 | 28cm sc | 175 |
| CHI CYG | 2010 | 0828 | 0223 | 13.2 | | 130 | 135 | | | | 8 | 28cm sc | 175 |
| SS CYG | 2010 | 0828 | 0244 | 11.7 | | 109 | 119 | | | | 8 | 28cm sc | 70 |
| RU PEG | 2010 | 0828 | 0251 | 12.6 | | 125 | 127 | | | | 8 | 28cm sc | 255 |
| R PEG | 2010 | 0828 | 0254 | 13.3 | < | 133 | | | | | 8 | 28cm sc | 175 |
| DX AND | 2010 | 0828 | 0308 | 13.3 | < | 133 | | | | | 8 | 28cm sc | 175 |
| Z AND | 2010 | 0828 | 0312 | 9.2 | | 91 | 92 | | | | 8 | 28cm sc | 70 |
| X AND | 2010 | 0828 | 0321 | 13.4 | < | 134 | | | | | 8 | 28cm sc | 175 |

Jupiter: 175x & 255x, plus 225x in binoviewer. Detail is much
 easier to see in binoviewer. Watch in N edge NEB. STB
 is much darker following RS. RS looks small & lonely in
 the almost white SEB. EZs darker than SEB. Many fine
 belts N of NEB (about 3). Irregular drive makes it hard to see detail.
 Also observed Jupiter \bar{c} 80mm f/4.3 achromat "Go Scope".
 NEB easily visible @ 58x. RS not visible.

Moon: quick looks \bar{c} both 28cm sc & 8cm r

T = 10.7°C

1441e 2010/09/10-11 20:30-23:30 EDT Foxmed ^{10x50b ne} POD 8 28cm sc 10cm rr
Donald Macdonald - fine evening
Junk Run - a great evening.
Vilda Reis - wonderful learning experience +
gracious hosts.
Bob Michener your knowledge & experience was
shared thanks
Don Jenkins great evening

Moon, Mars, Venus, Jupiter (Cayman transit), ISS, M31, M32, slow
orange fireball in S. 8.4°C

1442e 2010/10/03-04 20:25-21:35 EDT Foxmed POD 9 28cm SC
Jupiter: seeing very poor 170x
Deep sky: M17, M16, M25, M30, M26, M27, Saturn neb., Helix
neb., Pegasus I cluster, Stephan's "Quartet" (only 2 galaxies
seen), M31, 32, 110, 33, 34, 76, NGC 7331 (Deadlick).
A = 2.5°C

1443e 2010/10/08-09 20:00-22:30 EDT Foxmed E deck 9 10x50b 7.6cm r l
Comet Hartley @ 10x50 @ 7.6cm r l @ 15x diffuse, no tail,
Jupiter @ 30x - also Uranus reminiscent of Holmes
Pleiades, M31, M33 @ 15x

1444e 2010/10/09-10 21:45-21:55 EDT Foxmed E deck 9 10x50b
Comet Hartley 10x50b just above η Persei. Very diffuse.

1445n 2010/11/15-16 23:40-23:45 EDT Foxmed E deck 9 10x50b
Comet Hartley half way between Mizar + Capella.

1446n 2000/10/17-18 23:15 EDT Foxmed E deck 10x50b
Corn + Hartley 103P - hard to spot tonight because of
moonlight & passing clouds

1447m 2010/11/6 06:30-07:30 EDT Foxmed E deck 8 10x50b no.
Saturn - close to Parrina, first view in morning sky this
year
Venus: 07:30 tiny thin crescent in 10x50b - first view
in morning sky this year
-4.7°C

1448m 2010/11/08 06:15 EST Foxmed E deck 8 10x50b no
Venus: tiny crescent in 10x50b.
-5.0°C

1449d 2010/11/09 13:15-14:00 EST Foxmed S deck 8 4cm ryl, Louise
Sun: several small prominences @ 8 o'clock, filament @
4 o'clock 30x
Pam King
+9.4°C

1450e 2010/11/08-09 17:15-17:25 EST Foxmed S deck 8 5cm ryl
Moon: thin crescent @ 25x
Jupiter: 25x tiny disk + moons

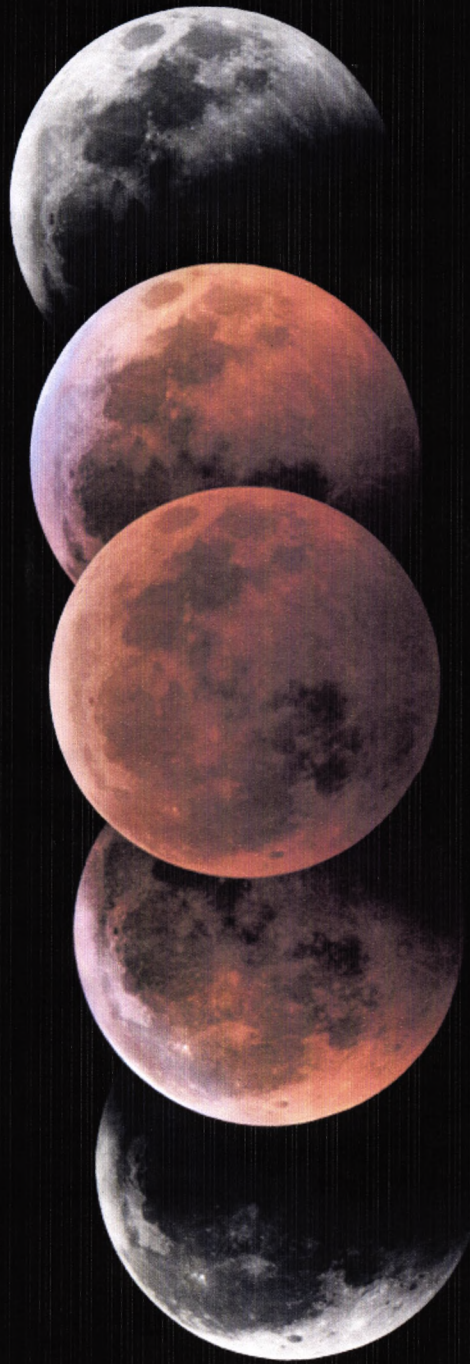
18:55-19:05 EST Foxmed S deck 8 5cm ryl
Jupiter: too tiny @ 25x to see anything on disk, Evansight
finder impossible to use in dark!

+1.9°C

2010/11/12 Moved NexStar 1100 out of POD for servicing, replaced with
MNB1 on Sirius mount.

Total Lunar Eclipse

~2010 December 21~



Photos by Michael Watson

1451d 2010/11/12 16:15-16:40 EST Foxmed POD 8 15cm mm
Moon: Viewed @ 22x, & 72x & 180x in binoviewer (TV)
+10°C

1452e 2010/11/12-13 18:00-18:25 EST Foxmed POD 8 15cm mm
Jupiter: Once again I'm blown away by how exquisite
Jupiter is in the MN61. The SEB is returning to
visibility, STB is a bit darker than the SEB. 180x binov.
Io & Europa were right on top of each other, like a close
double star. +6.1°C

1453n 2010/12/29-31 00:00-03:30 EST Foxmed living room 8 ne 8cm r1
Total Unareclipse -16.8°C Observing ne. through sun porch
windows & mirror on floor, then through living room windows
almost straight up.
02:21 about 3/4 in shadow - the stars are coming out!
02:50 completely immersed now. Colour is coppery bronze in
76mm FunScope @ 15x Messier 35 lovely above &
left of Moon.
03:30 fog rolling in, nothing visible below Sirius, Tras.
is dropping -18°C.

1454m 2011/01/30-31 05:55-06:30 EST Foxmed bathroom 8 ne 10x50b
Saturn, Spica, Antares & Venus in dawn sky arc, joined by
Moon at 06:22, 2 days away from New Moon (27.07 days old)
-29°C

1455e 2011/03/8-9 19:15-19:25 EST Foxmed W deck 5 ne 10x50b
Space shuttle Discovery (on its last voyage) & ISS
-2°C

1456e 2011/03/16-17 20:00-23:45 EDT Farned POD 8 15 cm mnl 10x56b
Moon ~ 20:00 terminator just past Cassini, 56x
M42 ~ 21:00 nebulosity faint in light from gibbous Moon 56x
Saturn ~ 23:40 N side of rings well displayed, Cassini division
clear. Titan just N of planet. 188x -1.9°C
Mercury & Jupiter just past conjunction ~ 20:10

2011/03/30 Installed Explore 127 dpa triplet on Sirius
mount & Vixen pedestal in POD. Scope clears the POD
dome in all positions at objective end and leaves ~ 15"
between diagonal & wall of POD. Because of the height
of the pedestal, the scope rides high in the POD and actually
feels less claustrophobic than CPC 1100! It also looks
really cool!

1457e 2011/04/1-2 20:40-22:25 EDT Farned POD 8 13cmrr
Saturn excellent at powers up to 238x. Titan, Rhea, Tethys &
Dione visible @ 238x
Porrima easy split @ 190x 2 equal white 1.73" (= 5.5")²¹⁹⁰
Algebra blue & gold
M65, 66, 95, 96, 104, 42
I could see the IC that forms the backdrop for the Horsehead
but couldn't be sure of the Horsehead itself. Need a good
map.
First light in Explore 127mm triplet APD. Pretty impressive
on double stars & galaxies. Quite a bit of vibration in
Sirius mount @ 190x plus. I'm going to try installing
vibration pads. -2.1°C
-earrings tract irritation causes constant dashes to the toilet!

1458e 2011/05/08-9 21:00-22:10 EDT Focused POD 8 13cm rr
Moon: Theophilus, Katerina, Pitavius 87x
Saturn: Titan, Rhea, Tethys, ^{87x} Dione was behind Saturn!
Severe back pain making refractor very difficult, Time to
Swap in the CPC1100. ~~F1100~~

1459m 2011/05/09 05:45 EDT Focused bathroom 8 10x50b
Venus & Jupiter - sky too light to see Mercury or
Mars, I need to be up about 5:30 to see them.
T=0°C

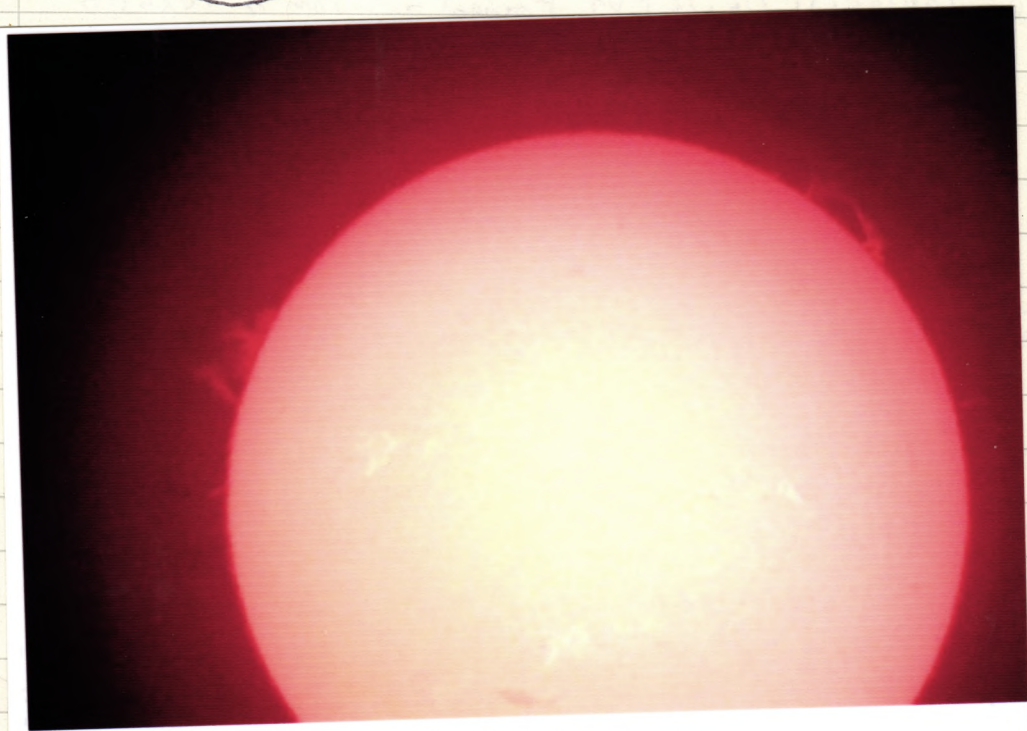
1460m 2011/05/11 05:25 EDT Focused bathroom 8 10x50b
Venus & Jupiter. Sky too light to see Mars & Mercury, ^{but}
Venus & Jupiter still in trees.

2011/05/11 Louise & I moved CPC1100 back into POD.

1461m 2011/05/12 05:20 EDT Focused bathroom 3-8 10x50b
Venus & Jupiter: not visible because of low cirrus clouds
near horizon.

1462d 2011/05/20 12:20-12:30 EDT Focused POD deck 8 4cm rr
Sun One tiny spot & a few tiny prominences 33x

1463e 2011/05/20-21 22:00-23:25 EDT Focused POD 8 28cm sc
Saturn 70x 175x 255x Titan, Rhea, Tethys, Dione, Iapetus
Double stars: Porrima 175x E Lyra, E Boo, Ras Algethi, 95 H_{II}
& Ser, Albireo
Deep sky: M 61, 49, 60, 59, 57, 3, 53, 91, 13, MGC 6207, M92, 27,
5, 12, 10, 14
2 mag mag meter @ 23:12 T_{air} = +12°C



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CPC 1100 mount is clicking again, but not as loudly as last summer. It was totally quiet while inside all winter. I guess those California girls don't, like, dig the cold.

1464d 2011/05/30-31 10:00-10:30 EDT Foxmed S deck 8-3 4cmrr 8cmrr
Sun: nice active region just coming into view on f limb.
- about 6 spots, bright plage in flux, & 3 flare prominences
4cmrr @ 33x + 8cmrr (achromat) @ 18x

1465d 2011/06/03 10:20-10:30 EDT Foxmed S deck 8 4cmrr
Sun: 2 active regions, both c̄ many small spots and bright plage. Nice arch prominence on p limb, flare prom. on Nf limb. 33x

1466d 2011/06/05 10:45-11:00 EDT Foxmed S deck 8 4cmrr
Sun: huge complex prom on f limb c̄ 2 loops, 1 long, 1 short. Fairly flares on f limb. Complex structure near centre c̄ sunspot plage, and huge filament. 33x

1467c 2011/06/05-06 21:15-23:45 EDT Foxmed Port 8 28cmssc 20x70b
Magn: 275x Mars Crisium + Pofavus
Saturn 175x

Double stars Polaris: 175x equal white stars, very close
Algerab: 175x: wide; bright blue, dim grey
54 Leo: 175x: wide, bright blue & dim blue
Algieba: 175x: bright gold, somewhat fainter gold
Saturn & Polaris in 20x70 mm binocular telescope - vertical collimation is off a bit. Elyra, 17 Cygni. Next star mount goto is off.

Friday, July 1, 2011

1470e 2011/06/29-30

1470e 2011/06/29-30 22:20-00:15 EDT Foxmead POD 8 28cmsc

[This is the first entry in my online observing blog. The line above is the same as I use in my paper log, and gives the basics of the particular session:

1470: number of session. Session 1 was on 1957/05/01.

e: evening (as opposed to n:night, m:morning, d:day)

2011/06/29-30: date

22:20-00:15 EDT: local time

Foxmead POD: location

8: sky conditions using Leo Enright's scale

28cmsc: instruments used: 28cm Schmidt-Cassegrain]

Saturn: 175x

Porrina: clean split at 175x

Antares: could not see Antares B at 175x

Variables:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|----|----|----|----|------|--|-----|-----|--|---------|---|--------|-----|
| R BOO | 2011 | 06 | 30 | 02 | 39 | 8.8 | | 90 | 94 | | | 8 | 28cmsc | 70 |
| S CRB | 2011 | 06 | 30 | 02 | 46 | 12.3 | | 123 | 125 | | | 8 | 28cmsc | 175 |
| R SER | 2011 | 06 | 30 | 02 | 56 | 11.6 | | 114 | 120 | | | 8 | 28cmsc | 70 |
| T CRB | 2011 | 06 | 30 | 03 | 02 | 10.5 | | 102 | 106 | | | 8 | 28cmsc | 70 |
| AH HER | 2011 | 06 | 30 | 03 | 09 | 12.6 | | 126 | 127 | | | 8 | 28cmsc | 175 |
| RS HER | 2011 | 06 | 30 | 03 | 18 | 11.3 | | 112 | 115 | | | 8 | 28cmsc | 70 |
| T HER | 2011 | 06 | 30 | 03 | 29 | 12.4 | | 122 | 129 | | | 8 | 28cmsc | 70 |
| W LYR | 2011 | 06 | 30 | 03 | 42 | 9.2 | | 89 | 92 | | | 8 | 28cmsc | 70 |
| X OPH | 2011 | 06 | 30 | 03 | 48 | 9.4 | | 94 | 102 | | | 8 | 28cmsc | 70 |
| RS OPH | 2011 | 06 | 30 | 03 | 55 | 10.3 | | 103 | 115 | | Deleted | 8 | 28cmsc | 70 |

[Observation of RS OPH was deleted because it was discrepant, probably because thin clouds moved in during observation.]

I saw at least 6 **satellites** less than 8th magnitude pass through 70x field of view while observing variables.

Deep sky: Messiers 51/NGC5195: observed briefly, but passed behind house while I was switching to higher magnification to observe supernova.

Doubles: Kappa Boo, Epsilon Boo, 35 Com.

Temperature: +12°C

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-------|-------|--|---------|----------|-------|
| 76 | BLM: | 02:28 | 11.0 11.0 | 109 111 | 1102 axi | 70x |
| 77 | Rlea | 02:33 | 5.6 | 56 - | 1102 axn | 70x |
| 78 | XLea | 02:39 | < 13.8 | 138 | 1102 fgm | 175x |
| 79 | TWVir | 02:44 | 12.4 | 121 125 | 1102 fgr | 175x |
| (81 | SSVir | 02:49 | > 8.4 | 84 | 1102 fqw | 70x > |
| 82 | RVir | 02:54 | 10.4 | 104 110 | 1102 frg | 70x |
| 85 | R Hya | 03:00 | 9.2 | 91 95 | 1102 frz | 70x |
| 87 | R CVn | 03:06 | 9.4 | 95 99 | 1102 gtz | 70x |
| | M51 | 03:11 | aperture partly covered by POD - try later | | | |
| 89 | VcrB | 03:23 | 11.0 | 108 114 | 4677za | 70x |
| 97 | RVHer | 03:30 | 11.1 | 114 117 | 1231cex | 70x |
| 98 | S Her | 03:36 | 9.1 | 90 103 | 1231cfd | 70x |

M57, 56, 27, 71, 29

Temp = 11.0°C

0468d 2011/06/08 10:30-10:40 EDT Foxmed Sdeck 8 4 cm rr
Sun: 33x Very little activity today. One tiny prom. on limb.

1469d 2011/06/15 10:55-11:00 EDT Foxmed Sdeck 8 4 cm rr
Sun: 33x nice flame on f limb, 2 nice filaments, 2 active areas

1470d 2011/06/29-30 22:20-00:15 Foxmed POD 8 28 cm sc

Saturn: 175x

Porrina: 175x clear split

Antares: 175x could not see Antares B.

Variables: PTO

- saw at least 6 satellites < mag 8 pass through 70x f.o.v. while observing variables

| Name | YYYYMMDDHHMM | Mag | Un | Co1 | Co2 | Co3 | Ccodes | Codesexp | SkyAper | Magn |
|--------|------------------|------|----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|---------|------------|
| R BOO | 2011 06 30 02 39 | 8.8 | | 90 | 94 | | | | 8 | 28cmSC 70 |
| S CRB | 2011 06 30 02 46 | 12.3 | | 123 | 125 | | | | 8 | 28cmSC 175 |
| R SER | 2011 06 30 02 56 | 11.6 | | 114 | 120 | | | | 8 | 28cmSC 70 |
| T CRB | 2011 06 30 03 02 | 10.5 | | 102 | 106 | | | | 8 | 28cmSC 70 |
| AH HER | 2011 06 30 03 09 | 12.6 | | 126 | 127 | | | | 8 | 28cmSC 175 |
| RS HER | 2011 06 30 03 18 | 11.3 | | 112 | 115 | | | | 8 | 28cmSC 70 |
| T HER | 2011 06 30 03 29 | 12.4 | | 122 | 129 | | | | 8 | 28cmSC 70 |
| W LYR | 2011 06 30 03 42 | 9.2 | | 89 | 92 | | | | 8 | 28cmSC 70 |
| X OPH | 2011 06 30 03 48 | 9.4 | | 94 | 102 | | | | 8 | 28cmSC 70 |
| RS OPH | 2011 06 30 03 55 | 10.3 | | 103 | 115 | | | deleted | 8 | 28cmSC 70 |

Thin clouds began to interfere.
 M51 ~~supernova~~: observed M51 @ 70x, then switched to
 175x to see supernova, but galaxy had moved behind
 the house!

Doubles: K Boo, E Boo, 35 ~~Com~~

T = 12°C

1471n 2011/07/01-02

1471n 2011/07/01-02 Foxmead 3-8 ne

The sky was too hazy with thin bands of high clouds to bother with telescopic observations. Because there had been reports of aurora last night, I checked the northern sky several times during the night, but saw no signs of aurora.

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 5:40 AM

M O E f s +1 0

1471 n

1472e 2011/07/03-04

1472e 2011/07/03-04 22:30-01:30 EDT Foxmead POD 8 28cmsc

Saturn: Looked for Enceladus, which was at elongation, but couldn't see it. 175x

Variables:

| Name | YYYY MM DDHHMM | Mag | < Un | Co1 | Co2 | Co3 | Ccodes | Codesexp | SkyAper | Magn |
|---------|------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|---------|------------|
| RS OPH | 2011 07 04 03 09 | 11.5 | | 110 | 115 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| EM CYG | 2011 07 04 03 54 | 13.0 | | 128 | 134 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |
| R CYG | 2011 07 04 04 04 | 9.1 | | 92 | 97 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| CHI CYG | 2011 07 04 04 27 | 11.6 | | 116 | 120 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |
| SS CYG | 2011 07 04 04 36 | 8.5 | | 77 | 86 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| T CEP | 2011 07 04 04 41 | 9.8 | | 97 | 102 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| RU PEG | 2011 07 04 04 48 | 12.4 | | 120 | 125 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |
| R PEG | 2011 07 04 04 56 | 11.7 | | 117 | 119 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |

Pluto: Did not appear to be exactly in position shown in Starry Night, so I plotted what I thought was Pluto, and will check again in a night or two. 255x

Deep sky objects: mostly 70x

Deer Lick Galaxy NGC 7331

Blue Snowball 175x

Stephans Quintet 175x: could only see hint of fuzzies

M31/32/110 M76 M33 M57

Ghost of Almach NGC 404

Friday, July 8, 2011

1473e 2011/07/08-09

1473e 2011/07/08-09 23:00-01:30 EDT Foxmead POD 8 28cmsc David Gaherty

Moon: 70x, 175x: Just past 1st quarter.

Saturn: 175x: seeing very poor.

DSO: 70x: Butterfly Cluster, M15, M31 (for David)

Variables:

| Name | YYYY MM DD HH MM | Mag | < Un | Co1 | Co2 | Co3 | Ccodes | Codeexp | SkyAper | Magn |
|--------|------------------|-------|------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------|---------|------------|
| V CAS | 2011 07 09 03 32 | 11.0 | | 105 | 111 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| DX AND | 2011 07 09 03 41 | 13.3< | | 127 | 133 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |
| Z AND | 2011 07 09 03 57 | 10.1 | | 100 | 104 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| T CAS | 2011 07 09 04 09 | 10.4 | | 104 | 107 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| R AND | 2011 07 09 04 20 | 12.3< | | 119 | 123 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |
| RX AND | 2011 07 09 04 28 | 12.0 | | 120 | 122 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |
| S PER | 2011 07 09 04 34 | 11.4 | | 114 | 119 | | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |

DSO: Blue Snowball 175x, Blinking Planetary 175x, M103, M52, NGC457, M17, M1

With OIII filter: M16, M17, M8, M20

without OIII filter: M20, M8, M21, M28, M23, M11, M26

Temperature: +13°C

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 11:31 PM

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Friday, July 15, 2011

1474e 2011/07/15-16

1474e 2011/07/15-16 22:20-00:35 EDT Foxmead POD 8 28cmsc

Bright Full Moon low in SE.

Saturn: 175x

Variables:

| Name | YYYY MM DD HH MM | Mag | < Un | Co1 | Co2 | Co3 | Ccodes | Codeexp | SkyAper | Magn |
|--------|------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------|---------|------------|
| S BOO | 2011 07 16 02 45 | 10.5 | | 105 | 106 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| RU HER | 2011 07 16 02 54 | 11.7 | | 114 | 117 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| S HER | 2011 07 16 03 00 | 7.1 | | 65 | 83 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| V BOO | 2011 07 16 03 16 | 9.0 | | 92 | 99 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| R BOO | 2011 07 16 03 25 | 9.5 | | 94 | 105 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| S CRB | 2011 07 16 03 29 | 11.6 | | 116 | 121 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| R SER | 2011 07 16 03 34 | 10.8 | | 108 | 113 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| T CRB | 2011 07 16 03 38 | 9.8 | | 98 | 99 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| W HER | 2011 07 16 03 43 | 11.8 | | 113 | 124 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| AH HER | 2011 07 16 03 51 | 13.0 | | 127 | 137 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |
| RS HER | 2011 07 16 04 02 | 11.6 | | 115 | 121 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |
| T HER | 2011 07 16 04 12 | 12.5 | | 122 | 129 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |
| X OPH | 2011 07 16 04 20 | 8.2 | | 79 | 94 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| RS OPH | 2011 07 16 04 24 | 11.1 | | 110 | 115 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| W LYR | 2011 07 16 04 30 | 9.8 | | 94 | 100 | B | | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 11:08 PM

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1475e 2011/07/31-08/01

1475e 2011/07/31-08/01 22:15-23:45 EDT Foxmead POD 8 28cmsc 10x50b

[Translation: Session #1475 on the evening of 2011 July 31-August 1. Began observations at 10:15 pm and ended at 11:45 pm EDT. Made from Foxmead POD observatory, sky conditions dark, using 28cm Schmidt-Cassegrain and 10x50 binoculars.]

I've tended to become very terse in my observing log. Because others may be reading these blogs, I'm trying to be a bit more verbose here.

When I opened the POD I discovered a little praying mantis sitting on the hinge—very extraterrestrial! Taking the shroud off the telescope I was stung by a wasp lurking underneath it. So much for wildlife!

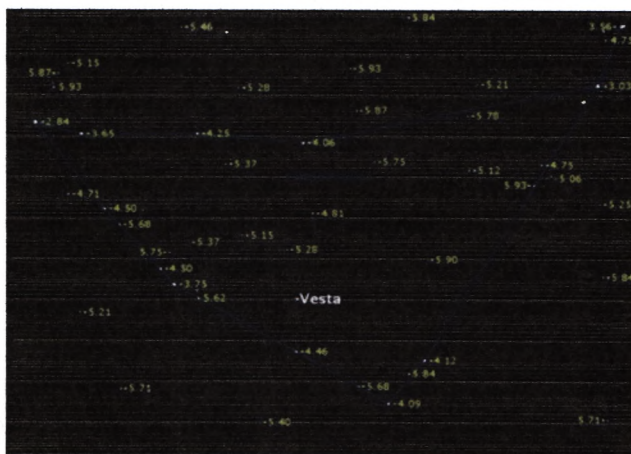
I woke the telescope from its "hibernate" mode and had it point to Albireo to make sure alignment was OK. It was very slightly off so I replaced M57 in previous alignment with Albireo. Telescope seemed to be running more smoothly this evening, with less clicking and jumping. Since I haven't had an observing session in two weeks, I concentrated on my variable star program, taking up where I left off last time. I have a list of about 30 variables that I cycle through.

Variables: [click on image to magnify]

| Name | YYYY MM DD | HH:MM | Mag | < | Un | Co1 | Co2 | Co3 | Ccodes | Codesexp | SkyAper | Magn |
|---------|------------|-------|-----|----|----|------|-----|-----|--------|----------|---------|------------|
| EM CYG | 2011 | 08 | 01 | 02 | 31 | 13.4 | < | 128 | 134 | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |
| R CYG | 2011 | 08 | 01 | 02 | 38 | 10.1 | | 99 | 107 | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |
| CHI CYG | 2011 | 08 | 01 | 02 | 50 | 12.1 | | 120 | 121 | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |
| R VUL | 2011 | 08 | 01 | 03 | 06 | 12.6 | | 123 | 126 | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| SS CYG | 2011 | 08 | 01 | 03 | 12 | 11.8 | | 114 | 119 | | 8 | 28cmsc 70 |
| RU PEG | 2011 | 08 | 01 | 03 | 17 | 12.7 | | 125 | 127 | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |
| R PEG | 2011 | 08 | 01 | 03 | 28 | 12.5 | | 123 | 131 | | 8 | 28cmsc 175 |

While observing next star (T Cep) thin clouds began to move in, making variable estimates impossible, so I packed it in for the evening.

Vesta: During the day, I'd written an article for Space.com on this week's opposition of Vesta, which has just been reached and is currently being orbited by the Dawn spacecraft, so I had a look for Vesta in my 10x50s. It is passing through an area of Capricornus devoid of bright stars, so is very easy to spot at around 6th magnitude.



This was a warm humid night, with sparkles of heat lightning around the horizon. When the clouds moved in, they were totally invisible, only detectable by stars in my observing field brightening and darkening. When I came in, the moist air was condensing on the outside of

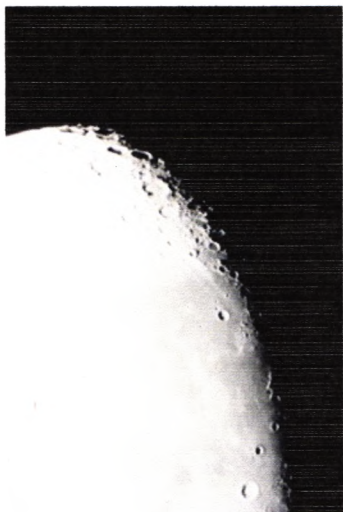
the sliding door.

Monday, August 8, 2011

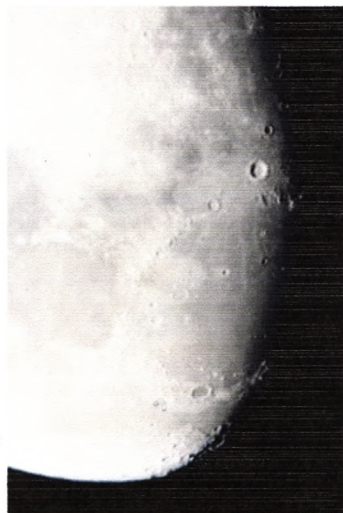
1476e 2011/08/08-09

1476e 2011/08/08-09 21:30-22:35 EDT Foxmead POD 8-3 28cmsc

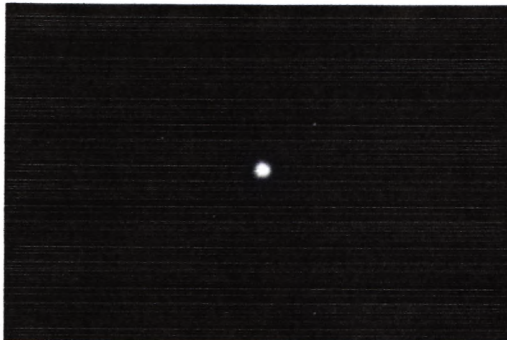
Tonight was my first attempt at astrophotography in many years using my Celestron 28-cm Schmidt-Cassegrain at Cassegrain focus, Canon Digital Rebel XT, 2-inch T-adapter, remote release, and angle finder, set to aperture priority (Av) and mirror lockup enabled. Otherwise all default settings on automatic. First the southern half of the Moon:



Then the northern half:



Then I made an image of Altair with the same settings:



Comparing this image to Starry Night, I find I've reached down to magnitude 15 with a 15 second exposure. The stars have trailed, probably due to the jumpiness of the drives on the CPC1100.

I was going to try to image Albireo, but clouds moved in and I called it a night.

I haven't tried any adjustments of these images other than shrinking them to 650 pixels wide and rotating the Moon images. Not bad for what my goal is: to make images to show what normal astronomical objects look like to the human eye through amateur telescopes.

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 9:09 PM

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Thursday, August 11, 2011

1477m 2011/08/10-11

1477m 2011/08/10-11 04:00-05:30 EDT Foxmead bathroom window 8-3 ne

Observing naked eye out upstairs bathroom window facing east. Observed 04:00-04:15 looking for Perseids. This is two mornings before the peak, but there will be a Full Moon coinciding with the peak which will dim the meteors. This morning there is a small window of dark between moonset and the beginning of morning twilight. My view includes most of the eastern sky below Jupiter, including Taurus, Orion, Gemini and Mars. No meteors seen.

One of the advantages of living in a house with large windows is that I don't have to get dressed and go outside to observe. This is especially handy on cold winter nights (or cold summer mornings—it was only 12°C at 4 a.m. this morning!)

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 5:23 AM 0 comments

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Saturday, August 13, 2011

1478n 2011/08/12-13

1478n 2011/08/12-13 11:00-02:30 EDT Foxmead E deck 3 ne

Meteors: I checked the sky from time to time, but the combination of high clouds, poor transparency and Full Moon kept the limiting magnitude around 2. No meteors seen.

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 6:50 AM 0 comments

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2011-08-24

Sold ~~the~~ Orion Eon 120mm ED refractor on Vixen GPDx mount to Gord Michener for \$1550.

2011-08-26

Last Saturday night (Aug 20), there was a severe thunderstorm. I was working in my office and heard a loud bang just south of the house, and the lights went out. During the week, I installed a clock in the POD & noticed that the telescope didn't light up. I swapped the AC adapter & tried running it off the battery. It lit up so I thought it was OK. Tonight I tried running it off another AC adapter. The pilot light lit, but neither ~~the~~ alt nor az motors would run. I'll have to see whether there's a fuse inside tomorrow in daylight.



1479e 2011/08/26-27

1479e 2011/08/26-27 22:40-22:55 EDT Foxmead S deck 9-3 8cmrr 10x50b ne

I discovered tonight that a lightning strike last week has knocked out the motors in my Celestron CPC1100. I'll have to have a look inside tomorrow in daylight, but for now I've set up my little Orion 80mm GoScope achromatic refractor.

Comet Garradd (C2009 P1) in Sagitta @ 18x. Right next to **M71**, and almost identical in brightness. M71 is slightly "twinkly" and the comet has a slight tail, but otherwise the two are almost identical at low power.

Deep sky: Besides **M71**, I observed **M27** and **M11** with the GoScope. Clouds had moved into Andromeda and Triangulum, but earlier I had observed **M31** and **M33** with 10x50 binoculars. In binoculars, **M71** and **Comet Garradd** formed one indistinct blur.

Once again, the GoScope has proven to be a delightful little telescope, quite amazing for \$100. I now have it mounted on my Manfrotto tripod which is very handy because I can crank it up and down to match my sitting eye position. All the DSOs were bright and clear in the stock 20mm eyepiece, and the mini-Dob mount and red dot finder make it really easy to use.

Temperature: 15°C

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 8:21 PM

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2011-08-27

There don't seem to be any fuses in the CPC1100 base. The controller lights up & the GPS returns location, date, & time, but the direction keys don't work. I've emailed Celestron tech support. I installed Sirius mount on concrete pad on SE corner of house, & garbage can to protect it.

Sunday, August 28, 2011

1480e 2011/08/28-29

1480e 2011/08/28-29 21:00-00:35 EDT Foxmead E deck & E pad 8 ne 13cmrr

ISS: I noticed in Starry Night that the ISS was currently in the W, went out on the deck, and there it was!

Observing with 127mm Explore triplet apo on Sirius GoTo mount, 38x:

Deep sky objects: M71. From here slewed to:

Comet Garradd: Tiny wisp of fuzziness.

DSOs: M27, M31, M32, M110, M8, M16, M17.

Double stars: Albireo, Epsilon Lyrae, Eta Cassiopeia, Polaris, SS Cygni.

Neptune: Tiny blue green spot.

The Sirius mount is really cool, how it moves in RA and Dec to get from one object to another!

Back out again a few minutes before midnight for my first look at Jupiter for the year. **Jupiter** @ 190x; is crystal clear and contrasty. The SEB is back in spades.

DSOs: Had a look at M31/32/110 @ 24x and 60x. The latter was most impressive (Nagler 16): all three galaxies nicely framed, and M31 stretching right across the field of view. M33 huge @ 60x. **Double cluster** magnificent @ 24x. Also looked at M34 and M76.

Setting up and taking down the refractor is a real pain—I've been spoiled by the POD! Since I suspect it will be a while before the CPC1100 is back in action, I think I'll install the 127mm apo in the POD tomorrow.

Temperature: 8.1°C

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 6:12 PM

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2011/08/29

Moved CPC1100 into house & installed 127mm Explore apo on Sirius mount in POD.

Tuesday, August 30, 2011

1481e 2011/08/29-30

1481e 2011/08/29-30 20:30-22:30 EDT Foxmead POD 8 ne 13cmrr Maria, Derek,
Connor & Madeleine Friesen

Visit by the Friesen family. Maria is one of my dialysis nurses at Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.

I had a bit of a problem aligning the mount, but once aligned we observed double stars **Albireo** (gold and blue) and **Epsilon Lyrae** (the Double Double), the **Lagoon Nebula**, the **Andromeda Galaxy**, and the **Owl Cluster** (E.T.) We also watched a nice pass of the **International Space Station**, and spotted several other satellites, especially with Connor's keen eyes. I gave them a laser tour of the late summer sky, including the **Summer Triangle** (**Vega** in **Lyra**, **Deneb** in **Cygnus**, and **Altair** in **Aquila**), **Sagittarius**, **Delphinus**, **Sagitta**, **Cassiopeia**, and the **Big** and **Little Dippers**. Then we came inside to warm up and Louise showed the kids her spinning wheel.

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 7:06 AM

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2011/09/16 Bought Celestron CGEM mount from Dave Rabbitaille
for \$1400 cash.

Friday, September 9, 2011

1482e 2011/09/09-10

1482e 2011/09/09-10 20:30-22:00 EDT Foxmead POD 8 13cmrr

Aligned Sirius mount on Altair and Alpheratz. Alignment was quite a bit off, probably because polar axis isn't pointing exactly at north celestial pole. I will try adjusting the mount in daylight,

as it's too heavy and awkward to do in the dark. I left the scope pointing at Polaris at the end of the session.

Moon: **Gassendi** and **Artistarchus** well placed, just as described in my article this week on Space.com:

<http://www.space.com/12878-september-full-moon-harvest-moon-monday.html>

Observed with new 13mm Tele Vue Ethos (73x), and with Orion binoviewer with two 25mm Plössls and 2x Shorty Barlow in cell attached directly to nosepiece (~150x).

Double stars: **Almach:** Blue secondary just barely visible at 38x, very nice with binoviewer (~150x).

Observations discontinued due to bright Moon, poor seeing, and rising fog.

Temperature: 13°C

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 7:25 PM 0 comments

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Sunday, September 11, 2011

1483e 2011/09/11-12

1483e 2011/09/11-12 20:30-21:10 EDT Foxmead POD 8 13cmrr

Aligned on Altair and Alpheratz. Could just barely see Alpheratz because of Full Moon and hazy atmosphere. Confirmed alignment by returning to Altair, then viewed:

Double stars: **Albireo @ 38x.**

Moon: @38x.

DSO: **M11 @ 38x.**

Pointed to Polaris: still clearly off pole, but at least GoTo is working well.

22:30-23:40 EDT Foxmead POD 8 13cmrr 8cmrr

Resumed observations at 22:30.

Jupiter @ 190x (10mm+TV bino), **115x** (25mm+Orion bino), **230x** (12.5mm+Orion bino). Trying various binoviewers (Tele Vue BinoVue and Orion) on Jupiter. Surprisingly, the nicest image was with the Pocono 12.5mm orthoscopes and the Orion Shorty Barlow screwed into the Orion binoviewer. This combo was also much lighter than the TV combo. I began observations of Jupiter around 22:40 when it was still below 15° altitude: lots of colour

fringing! As it rose, the fringing diminished and the seeing improved. Initially the image looked "gritty" but then finer detail came into view. There was a transit of Io's shadow beginning at 22:56. I first could see the shadow definitely at 23:08, appearing like a condensation in the SEB.

Also looked at **Jupiter** and the **Moon** with 80mm GoScope @ 18x and 58x. View of Moon was spectacular. Jupiter's moons were clear and 2 main belts visible.

Star test: I did a star test on **Alpheratz** using the 10mm+TV. Bright outer ring on both sides of focus, but inner rings are very round and even, just a hint of diffraction in focus. I then looked at **Aimach** with 10mm+TV: beautiful colour contrast of bright gold and pale blue.

I parked the scope at the end of the evening. We'll see how the alignment holds up next time.

This is probably a good example of what to do on a hazy Full Moon night: tinkering with mounts, eyepieces, and binoviewers.

Temperature: 13°C. Hazy but not damp, no dew.

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 6:20 PM 0 comments

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Sunday, September 25, 2011

2011 September 25

I performed surgery on my CPC1100 today, removing the optical tube assembly from the fork mount because the motors have ceased operating after a nearby lightning strike a few weeks ago. I removed the cover plate from one arm, sprung the arm, and removed the tube. I've asked Blake Nancarrow to take a look at the CPC1100 mount to see if he can troubleshoot it.

I recently bought a Celestron CGEM mount to carry the 28-cm optical tube, and am awaiting a Celestron dovetail plate so that I can attach the 28-cm tube to the CGEM. The plate is on its way from Astronomics in Oklahoma, who had one in stock. I've also ordered a "wide-to-narrow" adapter plate from Orion so that I can use my Vixen dovetail scopes on the CGEM. This one mount should be able to carry all my various telescopes.

The CGEM has an interesting feature I was unaware of: you can polar align the mount accurately on any star in the sky. This will be handy since I can't see Polaris from my POD's location. The CGEM also has the same basic interface as the NexStar and CPC, which I find more versatile than the hand controller on the Orion Sirius mount. It has more user-definable objects and a wider variety of named objects. I also really like the Celestron's "identify" feature which lets me explore the area I'm pointing at. The Sirius will identify a single object, but doesn't generate a list of the five nearest objects.

My main reservation about using the CGEM in the POD is that it will take up significantly more room, which is limited to start with. I've been finding with the Explore 13-cm on the Sirius that the POD is cramped. The 28-cm SCT tube will be a lot shorter, but a lot fatter and somewhat heavier, requiring more counterweights. We shall see how well it works.

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 4:42 PM 0 comments

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2011 September 28

The dovetail plate to attach the Celestron 28-cm SCT to the Celestron CGEM mount arrived from Astronometrics this morning. I tried it out in the CGEM's saddle then installed it on the tube with the supplied bolts. I was glad to see that it installed with four bolts, not the three I had thought. With two bolts snugged down on both front and rear cell, it seems very solid, and much better than a Vixen dovetail would have been.

I then went on to Step 1 of the Great Telescope Transformation: removing of the Explore 127-mm triplet apo from the mount, and storing it in its case. Though the case looks very nice, the scope must be in a very specific orientation and configuration to fit in the case, not the same as on the mount at all. I also removed the two 11-pound counterweights. I'm now recuperating before tackling the next steps:

2. Removal of the Orion Sirius mount.
3. Installation of the Celestron CGEM mount and counterweights.
4. Installation of the Celestron 28-cm SCT.
5. Balancing and testing.
6. (After dark): Alignment of mount.

Steps 2 through 5 were accomplished in stages this afternoon. The scope is now riding on its new mount, balanced and ready for the next clear night. The CGEM came with a 17 pound weight and this, along with an 11-pound weight from the Sirius, almost exactly balances the 27.5 pound tube plus finder, dew shield, William focuser and 2" diagonal, and Tele Vue 22mm Nagler eyepiece. If I add camera or binoviewer, I may need an additional

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

1484e 2011/09/28-29

1484e 2011/09/28-29 22:05-22:50 EDT Foxmead POD 8-3 28cmsc

First light of 28cmsc on Celestron CGEM, Clearing was quite unexpected, but I decided to give it a try. It soon became very hazy again, but I managed a few observations.

Jupiter: 127x and 254x Seeing poor.

Deep sky: M45 @ 127x

Double stars: Almach @ 127x

The whole mount needs to be rotated to the right to get closer to Polaris. I also need to loosen the azimuth motion so that I can fine tune the alignment, which needs to be done in daylight when I can see what I'm doing. Things are a bit cramped in the POD with the GEM. The mount is absolutely silent when tracking, but fairly noisy when slewing. I also need to adjust the William focuser, as it is slipping under the weight of the big Nagler eyepieces.

Temperature = 14° C

Sunday, October 2, 2011

2011 October 2

Moved CGEM mount slightly to the east and loosened azimuth so that adjustments work. Reading the manual I found that, during alignment pressing "Menu" switches to stars on the other side of the meridian. I also learned how to do a polar alignment using any bright star, not Polaris. I tried these out in daylight, and await a clear night so that I can try them for real.

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 12:47 PM 0 comments

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Tuesday, October 4, 2011

1485m 2011/10/03-04

1485m 2011/10/03-04 04:30-06:30 EDT Foxmead upstairs E window 8 7x50b ne

Looking for **Comet Elenin**. This comet was hit by a CME on August 19 and passed perihelion on September 10, both of which appeared to cause it to disintegrate. It was not visible when in the field of SOHO's LASCO C3 camera last week. This morning was the first chance for a visual observation. I woke up at 4:30, before the comet would have risen. When I next woke up at 6:30, the sky was too bright; all I could see were the second magnitude stars in the triangle of Leo, but not the fourth magnitude stars (Iota and Sigma) below it which bracketed Elenin's position. I'll try again tomorrow morning.

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 7:18 AM 0 comments

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1486m 2011/10/04-05

1486m 2011/10/04-05 05:30-05:35 EDT Foxmead upstairs E window 8 7x50b ne

Looking for **Comet Elenin** again. This morning the time was right, but the transparency close to the horizon was poor. I could see Iota Leonis, but no sign of the comet. Later when the Sun rose I saw what the problem was: very heavy ground fog.

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 6:39 AM 0 comments

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Wednesday, October 5, 2011

1487e 2011/10/05-06

1487e 2011/10/05-06 19:40-20:35 EDT Foxmead POD 8 28cmsc

Polar alignment of CGEM. I first aligned mount on **Enif** and **Alpheratz**, and then used the Polar Align feature to polar align in Enif. This was a good choice, since it was right on the meridian. Checked by finding **M31** and **M15**, both of which were dead centre. Then I went to **Jupiter** which was a little off, but probably because it is near the horizon. **Callisto** right over S pole of Jupiter. Came in to warm up at 20:35. Temperature 5°C.

-- 22:00-22:50 EDT

Jupiter still well within field after 1.5 hours away. 255x was too much magnification; better at 127x. Much detail within NEB.

Uranus: Tiny disk at 127x.

Neptune: Even tinier at 127x.

DSOs: **M31**, **M32**, **M110** (very faint), **M33** (very faint), and **M77** @127x.

Double stars: **γ Ari**, **30 Ari**, **λ Ari**, and **ζ Ari** @127x

The **Moon**: Plato, Straight Wall, Tycho and Clavius well placed, 127x.

Temperature: 2°C.

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 5:50 PM 0 comments

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Thursday, October 6, 2011

1488m 2011/10/05-06

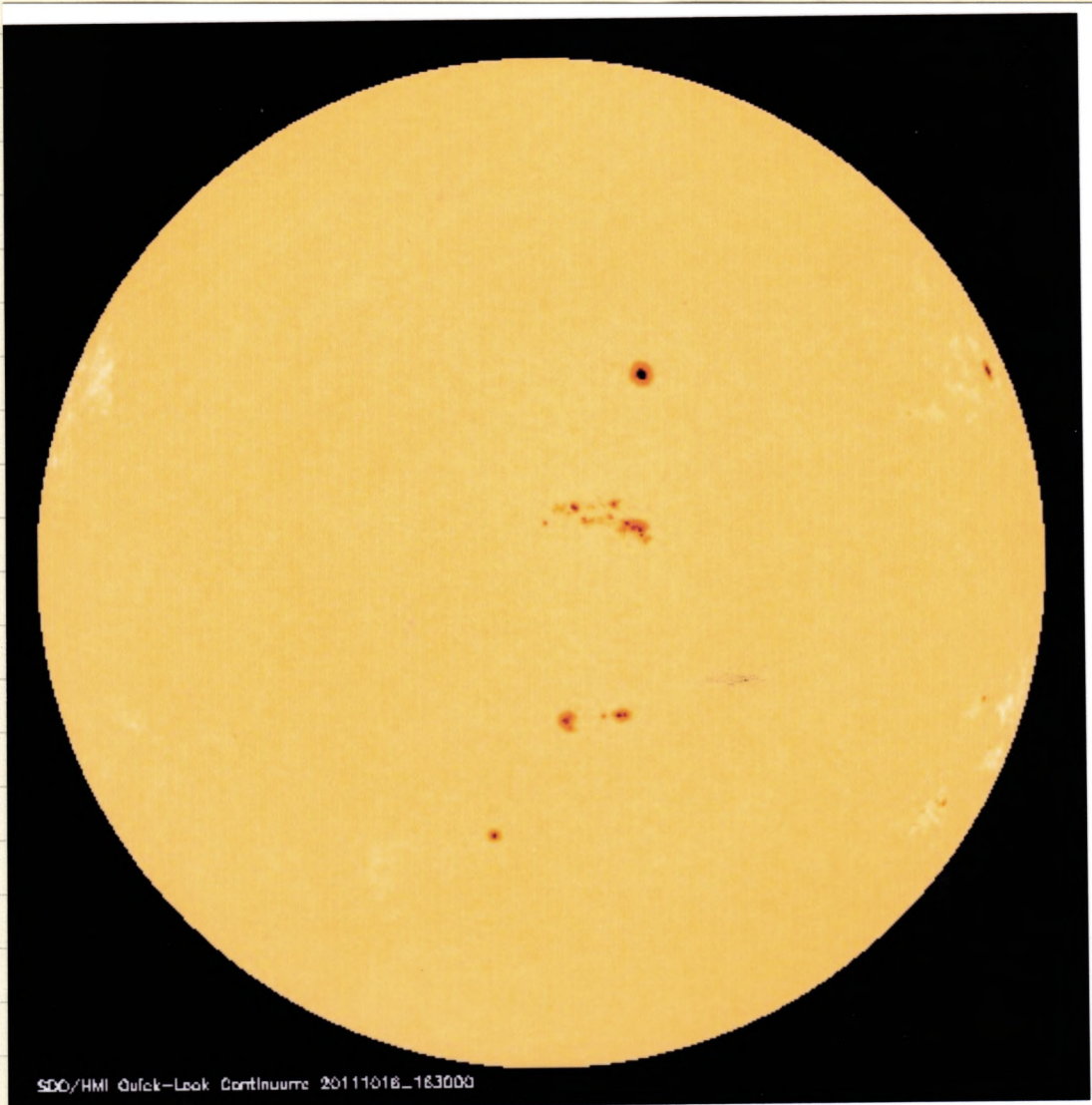
1488m 2011/10/05-06 05:25-06:00 EDT Foxmead E window and deck 8 7x50b

Another unsuccessful search for **Comet Elenin**. Between twilight and horizon haze, the faintest star I can see in the area is HIP53737, magnitude 6.5. Starry Night is estimating the comet's brightness at 6.07, but Mattiazzo's observations suggest it's at least 2 magnitudes fainter. Probably undetectable visually, but perhaps might show up on a CCD image.

Temperature: -2.1°C

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 3:27 AM 0 comments

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SDO/HMI Quick-Look Continuum 20111018_183000

Monday, October 10, 2011

1489m 2011/10/09-10

1489m 2011/10/09-10 04:30 EDT Foxmead E window 8 10x50b

Searching for **Comet Elenin**. Once again no sign of it. I could see 5.4 magnitude star 37 Leonis close to its expected position, but no sign of the comet.

Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 6:47 PM [0 comments](#)

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Sunday, October 16, 2011

1490d 2011/10/16

1490d 2011/10/16 12:28-12:45 EDT Foxmead POD 8-3 28cmsc

Sun: 70x with new Kendrick solar filter. Counted 36 sunspots in 4 groups for a sunspot number of 76. The view was amazingly detailed using the full 28cm aperture. High gusty winds, temperature 13°C.



Posted by Geoff Gaherty at 9:59 AM [0 comments](#)

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Sunday, November 6, 2011

1491e 2011/11/04-05

1491e 2011/11/04-05 20:36:55 EDT Foxmead W window 8 ne

Meteor: Sitting watching TV in the living room, I saw a beautiful fireball out the window:

I just saw a bright fireball, at least -5 magnitude, out my west-facing window at 08:36:55 EDT. Time is within 5 seconds, as I just synched my watch with my computer. It came down very steadily, slightly angled from left to right as it fell, and disappeared behind distant hills to the west. It was pure white in colour, and seemed a little bit larger than point-sized to my naked eye.

After posting this report online, I received several replies:

Subject: Re: [RASCals] Bright fireball
Date: Fri, 04 Nov 2011 23:18:36 -0400
From: Rob Weryk <rjweryk@uwo.ca>
Reply-To: RASCals Discussion List <rascals@lists.rasc.ca>
To: RASCals Discussion List <rascals@lists.rasc.ca>

Hi Geoff,

This was recorded by my software which runs the Southern Ontario Meteor Network. You can view video clips from three of the stations here:

http://meteor.uwo.ca/~weryk/allsky/ev_20111105_003638A_04A.avi
http://meteor.uwo.ca/~weryk/allsky/ev_20111105_003638A_06A.avi
http://meteor.uwo.ca/~weryk/allsky/ev_20111105_003638A_07A.avi

The event was travelling at about 14.5 km/s, ended at a height of 44 km, and reached a peak magnitude of at least -4.5.

Rob Weryk

Subject: Re: [RASC Toronto List] Re: Bright fireball
Date: Sat, 05 Nov 2011 11:40:38 -0400
From: Denis J Grey <denisjgrey@gmail.com>
Reply-To: rasctoronto@yahoogroups.com
To: rasctoronto@yahoogroups.com

Hi Geoff,

We also saw it up at the CAO last night. Very bright and also on the western horizon so it's probably in Lake Huron.

It would definitely be on the All-Sky Camera network so let's keep our fingers crossed.

Sunday, November 6, 2011

1492e 2011/11/05-06

1492e 2011/11/05-06 18:30-03:30 EDT Foxmead W window 8 ne 7x50b

Venus: Observed Venus for the first time this year as an evening star. Could not see Mercury just below it with 7x50s.

Later during the night observed **Mars** making an "S" of the sickle in Leo from E window..

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 10:05 AM

Sunday, November 6, 2011

1493d 2011/11/06

1493d 2011/11/06 12:20-12:50 EST Foxmead POD 8 ne 28cmsc 4cmrr

Sun: Counted 33 spots in 7 groups for a sunspot number of 103. 70x in 28cmsc.

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 10:08 AM

Monday, November 21, 2011

1494m 2011/11/21

1494m 2011/11/21 05:00-07:00 EST Foxmead upstairs E window 8 ne

Recorded out of sequence.

Mars and **Regulus:** Mars is now slightly brighter than Regulus.

Saturn and **Spica:** Saturn is now slightly brighter than Spica.

Moon: Waning crescent in between the two groups.

This session inspired me to write about "Solstice Observing" for this week's Space.com article.

Temperature: -8.7°C

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 2:45 PM

Monday, November 21, 2011

1495e 2011/11/21-22

1495e 2011/11/21-22 17:20 EST Foxmead W window 8 ne 7x50b

Venus and Mercury: spotted Mercury about 4° below and to the right of Venus.

Jupiter: rising in the east. All 5 naked eye planets in one day!

[Accidentally logged before this morning's session, 1494m.]

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 2:34 PM

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

1496m 2011/11/22

1496m 2011/11/22 05:35-06:50 EST Foxmead upstairs E window 8-5 ne

Mars and Regulus: Mars now slightly brighter than Regulus.

Saturn, Spica, and the Moon: Nice tight grouping. Light cirrus clouds moving in.

Temperature: -7°C

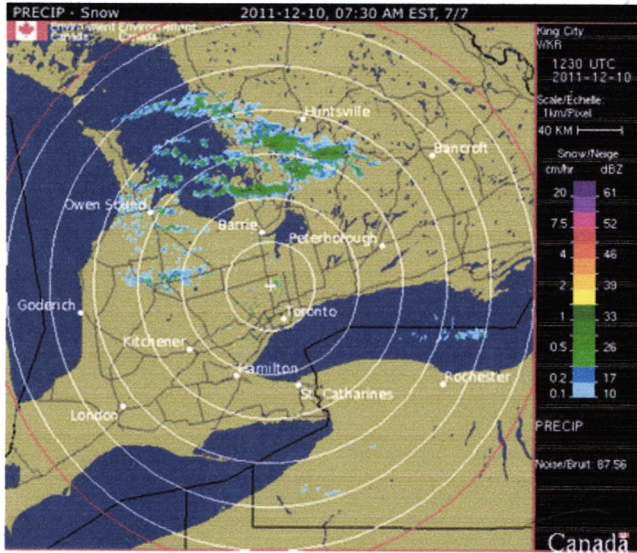
Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 4:59 AM

Saturday, December 10, 2011

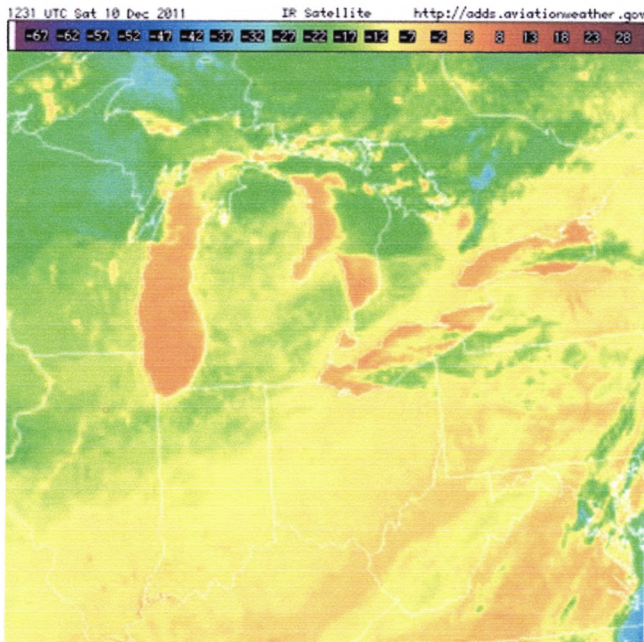
1497m 2011/12/10

1497m 2011/12/10 07:00-07:45 EST Foxmead W window 0 ne

Partial lunar eclipse: snowed out! Radar:



GEOS satellite:



Monday, December 19, 2011

2011/12/19

As today is mild and dry, I decided to bring the 11-inch SCT OTA in from the POD to keep it warm and dry for the winter. I'll probably use the 127mm apo or the 150mm SCT on the CGEM for any serious winter observing I might do.

Temperature = 4.7°C

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 11:43 AM

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

1498n 2012/02/21-22

1498n 2012/02/21-22 21:00-22:30 Australian EDT Warrumbungle 9-3 ne 10x50b 36cmrl 64cmrl

Reacquainting myself with the southern skies at the OzSky Star Party at Warrumbungle NSW Australia. Mostly using 10x50 binoculars and naked eye, locating landmarks like Crux, Centaurus, Carina, the Magellanic Clouds, Canopus, and Achernar. Observed the Coal Sack, Tarantula, Eta Carinae, Jewel Box, Southern Pleiades, 47 Tucanae, Omega Centauri, and Centaurus A in 10x50s. Also observed "eye candy" in 14" and 25" Dobs: Eta Carinae, Orion Nebula, Jupiter, etc.

I'm finding it hard to negotiate the grounds with my poor balance, and hard to hold my eye steady at the eyepiece while standing, so I was happiest while sitting down and using binoculars. The southern Milky Way is absolutely glorious!

Temperature: 18C

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 9:28 PM

Thursday, February 23, 2012

1499n 2012/02/22-23

1499n 2012/02/22-23 21:30-23:25 Australian EDT Warrumbungle 8-9 ne 10x50b 36cmrl
76cmrl

For my second night in Warrumbungle, I used a 14-inch (356-mm) Newtonian with an f/4.5 mirror by Carl Zambuto, focal length 1600 mm. With Paracorr installed, the effective focal length is 1840 mm. I used 22 mm (84x) and 12 mm (153x) Naglers. It had Argo Navis and Servocat installed, but I decided to use its 8x50 straight-through finder and my Sky & Telescope Pocket Sky Atlas instead, because I wanted to find stuff myself. Nice hardware!

I used Alan Whitman's "Southern Hemisphere Splendours" list from the RASC Observer's Handbook as my working list. My first target was the very red star DY Crucis or Ruby Crucis, a tiny red speck located right next to brilliant Beta Crucis.

Centaurus was rising in the southeast so I caught three of its showpieces. First was Alpha Centauri, closest star to the Sun and a fine double, visible by its elongation at 84x. Next was Omega Centauri, the brightest globular cluster in the sky, or perhaps the stripped core of a dwarf galaxy. It filled the Nagler 22's 82 degree field with brilliant stars, resolved to the core. Nearby was one of my personal favourites, NGC 5128. This is a pair of galaxies in collision, the dust of one galaxy backlit by the light of the other. It is one of the brightest radio sources in the sky, Centaurus A. In the 14-inch it resembled its Australian popular name, the Hamburger Galaxy. John Bambury stopped by and remarked how the "lettuce" in the hamburger was visible.

The Small Magellanic Cloud was sinking in the southwest, so I checked out that area. Only in the southern hemisphere do you use naked eye galaxies to aid in star hopping. Just below the SMC is my very favourite southern object, 47 Tucanae, a globular cluster so brilliant and concentrated that it was mistaken for a star by early astronomers. It beats our more famous Omega Centauri for the title of "most beautiful globular cluster." Once again, the 14-inch resolved it to the core. The major difference between these two clusters is the degree of concentration of the core: 47 Tuc has a far more concentrated core, making it a more brilliant sight.

The Small Magellanic Cloud, as one of the Milky Way's satellite galaxies, is chock full of deep sky objects. Along its eastern edge I observed two brilliant diffuse nebulae, NGC 460 and IC 1660, and a globular cluster NGC 419. Just to the west of these three is a beautiful little globular, NGC 362, a companion of the Milky Way rather than the SMC.

To finish up the night, I explored the incredibly rich area of the Milky Way in the constellation Carina. Just to the west of the Southern Cross, it includes two outstanding open clusters, the Football Cluster (NGC 3532) to the north and the Southern Pleiades (IC 2602) to the south. The Football has, as its name implies, an elliptical shape, and is considered by some the finest open cluster in the sky because of its large number of bright yellow stars, very unusual for an open cluster. The Southern Pleiades are fully worthy of their name.

Just west of these open clusters is the amazing Eta Carinae nebula. A wreath of brilliant nebulosity encloses an intensely dark nebula known as the Keyhole. Finally, right next to the bright star that gives this area its name, is the Homunculus. In Hubble images it looks like a tiny brain; in the 14-inch it is a remarkable brown colour. This is one of the few deep sky objects to show any colour. A rapidly evolving area, it actually looks different than it did the last time I saw it three years ago. This is the only time I have ever witnessed a change in a

deep sky object in a lifetime of observing.

While exploring Carina, I was called over to take a look at the remarkable Spiral Planetary Nebula, NGC 5189 in Musca, which had been located in the 30-inch Obsession. This looked like a Hubble image: a swirl of overlapping arcs. Even in my "little" 14-inch, the multiple spirals were visible.

By this time the dew was becoming heavy, and I knew I had to get to dialysis first thing in the morning, so I called it a night. Very satisfying!

Temperature: 19C

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 4:24 AM

Thursday, February 23, 2012

1500m 2012/02/23–24

1500m 2012/02/23–24 05:20–05:25 Australian EDT Warrumbungle 8 ne

Some "doorstep astronomy." I went out the front door of our motel room in my pajamas to have a quick look at the Milky Way overhead. Unfortunately, the transparency was poor. Scorpius was fully visible but Sagittarius was nothing but stars, no Milky Way visible at all.

This is my 1500th logged observing session!

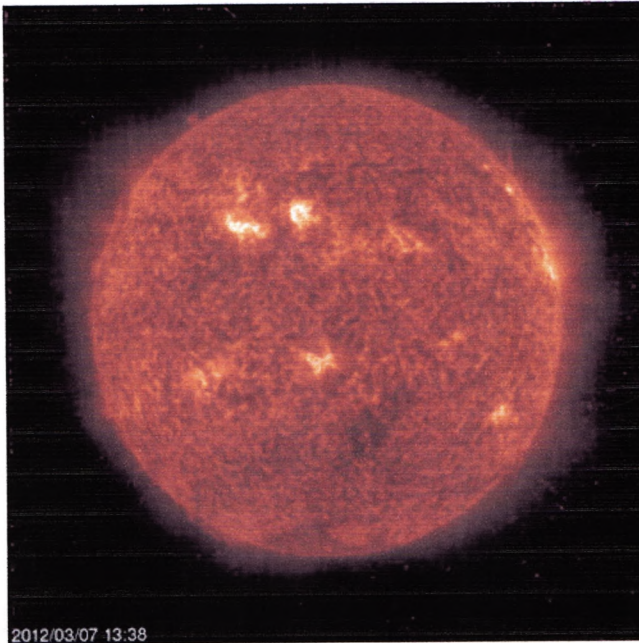
Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 7:50 PM

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

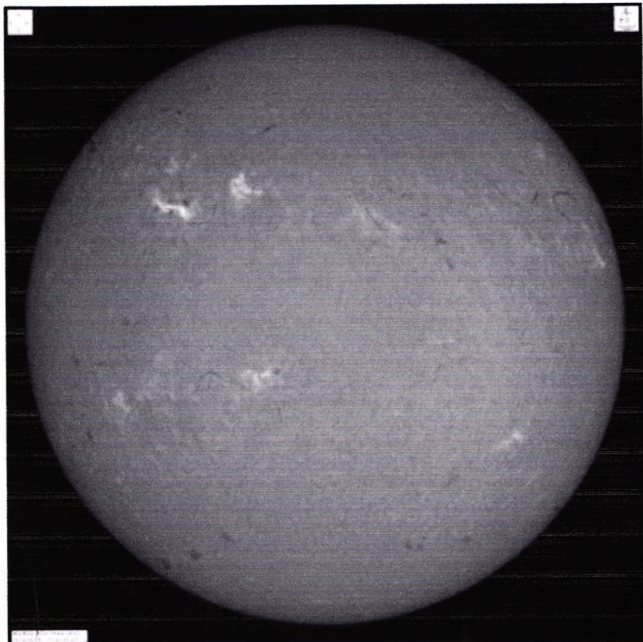
1501d 2012/03/07

1501d 2012/03/07 12:05–12:10 EST Foxmead S deck 8 4cmrr

There is an brilliant extended flare winding like a snake through a sunspot group in H α at 33x. Also a hedgerow prominence at 6 o'clock. Here is the most recent SOHO EIT 304 image:



This H α image from Big Bear yesterday is actually closer to what I saw today. You can see the sinusoidal flare and the prominence just off the disk in the same direction:



Temperature = 11°C, gusty winds

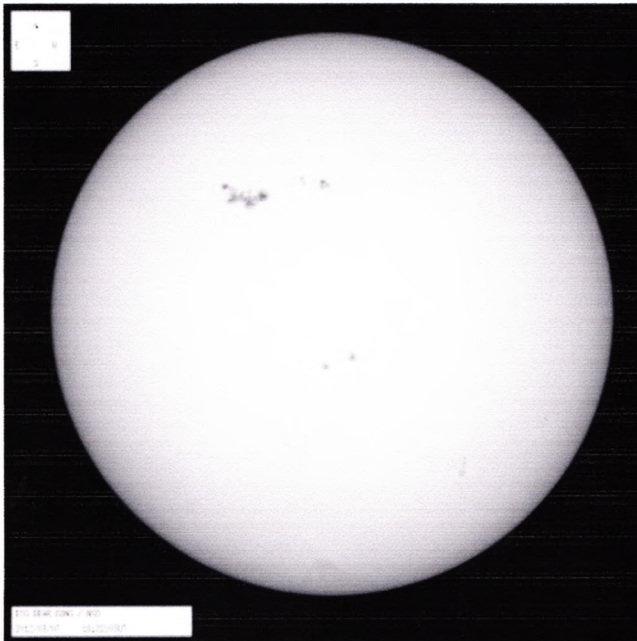
Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 9:53 AM

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

1502d 2012/03/07

1502d 2012/03/07 13:30–13:45 EST Foxmead POD 8 13cmrr

As a birthday present to myself, I mounted the 127mm Explore triplet apo on the CGEM in the POD and observed the Sun in white light using my Kendrick Baader solar filter. There were 22 sunspots in 3 groups, for a sunspot number of 53. using the 25mm 70° Explore eyepiece, magnification of 38x. Image was crisp and colour-free when sharply in focus. Here's a white light image from Big Bear:



If the sky stays clear and the temperature warm, I hope to observe the cornucopia of planets which will be in the sky tonight.

Acronyms explained:

apo = apochromatic refractor

CGEM = Celestron German Equatorial Mount

POD = SkyShed Personal Observatory Dome

Temperature: 11.4°C

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 11:01 AM

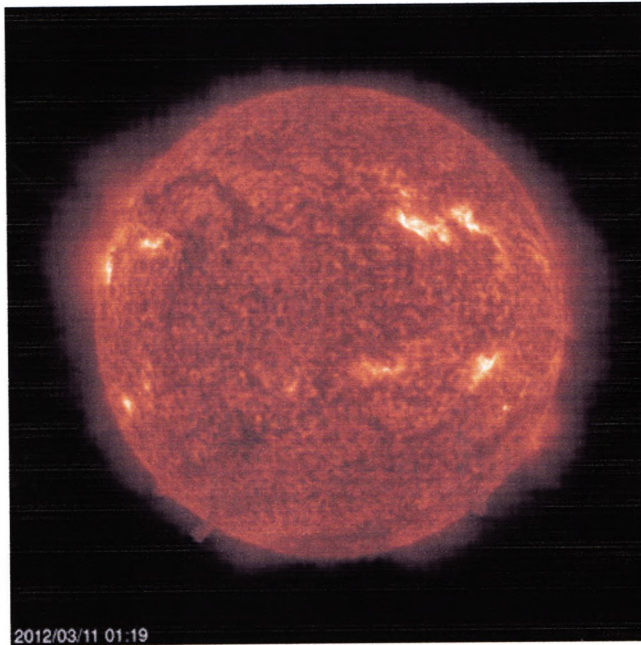
Sunday, March 11, 2012

1503d 2012/03/11

1503d 2012/03/11 10:15–10:30 EDT Foxmead S deck 8 4cmrr

Sun: large loop at 1 o'clock, large hedgerow at 5 o'clock, small hedgerow at 7 o'clock. No flares, but main sunspot group looks to be in turmoil. Two new groups coming into view on f edge of Sun. Long twisting filament associated with these new groups and the hedgerow prominence at 5 o'clock. 33x.

Here's the latest SOHO image, inverted relative to PST:



Temperature = 7.1°C

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 7:39 AM

Sunday, March 11, 2012

1504e 2012/03/11-12

1504e 2012/03/11-12 19:10-20:20 EDT Foxmead POD 8 13cmrr

Four planets in eight minutes! I observed **Mercury**, **Venus**, **Jupiter**, and **Mars** between 19:45 and 19:53, using the 8.8mm Meade Ultrawide in the 127mm triplet apo (108x). **Mercury** was a tiny crescent (9" 19%), **Venus** a larger slightly gibbous disk (20" 59%), **Jupiter** a large ovoid (35" 99%), and **Mars** a tiny disk (14" 100%). Seeing was poor; I'll recheck Mars later when it's higher.

The images in the apo are exquisite: perfectly sharp and with not superfluous colour.

Temperature = 6.0°C

I wasn't able to resist the temptation for another look at **Mars**, so I went back out with my 5mm Radian eyepiece (190x) at 20:10. Mars had risen a bit and the seeing had steadied, but unfortunately the "boring side" of Mars was towards Earth. The polar cap was quite distinct, and I could see hints of shadings on the disk, but it wasn't very inspiring. The temperature is dropping really fast!

Temperature = 4.7°C

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 5:10 PM

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

1505e 2012/03/14-15

1505e 2012/03/14-15 20:10-22:00 EDT Foxmead POD 8 13cmrr

Mars: 190x: Boring side again.

Venus: 108x: getting close to half-Venus (57%).

Jupiter 190x: 3 moons on one side, 1 on the other.

Deep sky: **M42-3** @ 38x and 108x: Beautiful as always.

B33, **Horsehead Nebula**, seen at 38x with H-beta filter and averted vision. I located a pentagonal pattern of stars and navigate from that to find a faint darkening on a very very faint nebula. Occasionally the "head" would jump out at me, but I think that was "averted imagination"!

Also **M78** (bright after the Horsehead!); **Rosette**, **Christmas Tree**, and **Hubble's Variable Nebulae** with OIII filter (faint wisps of nebulosity); **M50**, **M46**, **M47**, **M41**. Mostly at 38x

Back to **Mars**: still boring.

Temperature = 4.7°C

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 7:23 PM

Sunday, March 18, 2012

1506d 2012/03/16

1506d 2012/03/16 19:00 Foxmead W deck 8 ne

Sundog:



Uploaded to the Weather Network, who posted it to their web page.

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 4:09 PM

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

1507e 2012/03/19-20

1507e 2012/03/19-20 21:00-22:15 Huronia Airport 8 ne 10cmrr 28cmsc

Observing with members of the Midland Astronomy Club after giving a talk on my visit to Australia, and the upcoming annular eclipse and transit of Venus. Had a nice look at Jupiter through a 105mm refractor with a Vixen-spec objective, and helped a member set up and star test his 280mm Celestron HD on CGEM mount. Shirtsleeve weather, amazing for March!

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 8:38 PM

Monday, March 26, 2012

1508d 2012/03/26

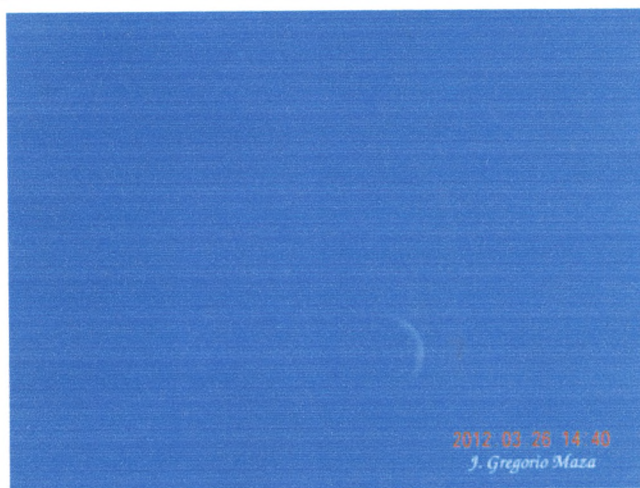
1508d 2012/03/26 15:30–16:00 Foxmead E deck 8 ne 10x50b

Venus and crescent **Moon** in daylight. Venus is just 2 degrees above the narrow crescent Moon in full daylight. My article on Space.com has been picked up by Google and the Christian Science Monitor:

<http://www.space.com/15036-venus-daylight-skywatching-tips.html>

<http://news.google.com/news/section?pz=1&cf=all&ned=us&topic=snc>

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2012/0326/Bright-Venus-to-show-in-daytime-sky>



Temperature: 2.7°C

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 1:25 PM

Monday, April 2, 2012

2012/04/02

Yesterday, I had a visit from Katrina Ince-Lum, Sharmin Chowdhury, Phil Chow, and Blake Nancarrow. Blake returned my CPC 1100 mount which he had fixed. Today I reassembled the telescope, which was a bit of a challenge because I didn't bother to reread the disassembly instructions, with the result that I had to tear it all apart again and start over. It's now completely reassembled; the next step is to dismantle and remove the Explore triplet apo and CGEM mount currently in the POD.

Stage 2 of the transplant is now complete. I've packed the 127mm triplet away in its case, moved the CGEM into the house, and moved the CPC 1100's tripod out into the POD. Now all that remains to be done is to get Louise's help to carry the CPC 1100 tube and mount out into the POD, and heave its weight onto the tripod. However, she has injured her shoulder, so it looks like that's not going to happen today. It's probably going to be too cold to observe tonight anyway.

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 9:24 AM

Wednesday, April 4, 2012

1509e 2012/04/04-05

1509e 2012/04/04-05 20:15-21:05 EDT Foxmead POD 8 28cmsc

Louise and I lifted the CPC1100 up onto the tripod just before supper.

Moon: nearly full, 70x

Venus: obviously less than 50% illuminated, 70x

Jupiter: just a glimpse before cloud moved in, 70x

It's great to have the CPC1100 back in operation!

Mars: north polar cap and some albedo features in south visible, but seeing very poor.

Temperature = 3.2°C

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 5:32 PM

Friday, April 6, 2012

1510d 2012/04/06

1510d 2012/04/06 15:30–16:00 EDT Foxmead POD 9 28cmsc

I found that the electrical problem was that my power bar was full of rain water from a recent storm! I switched to battery power, took the scope out of hibernation and had it go to:

Venus: slightly less than 50% illuminated, 70x.

Jupiter: pale in the blue sky, but belts visible, 70x.

Since I was on a roll, I then went to:

Sirius and **Procyon**, both clearly visible in a blue sky. Rigel, however, was not. 70x. This is the first time in my life I have ever observed stars in full daylight! Finally, I put on my Kendrick Baader filter and went to:

Sun: 4 spots in one group, for a sunspot number of 14, 70x. There's something quite terrifying about gazing into the face of Sol with a full 28 cm of aperture!

Temperature: 9.1°C

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 1:22 PM

Sunday, May 13, 2012

1511d 2012/05/13

1511d 2012/05/13 15:25–15:30 EDT Foxmead S deck 8cmrr

Sun: In white light 18x. 3 groups with at least 8 spots in telescope, sunspot number = 38. With naked eye could see no spots either with Baader filter or "eclipse shades."

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 12:35 PM

Sunday, May 13, 2012

1512e 2012/05/13-14

1512e 2012/05/13-14 20:40-23:30 EDT Foxmead POD 28cmsc

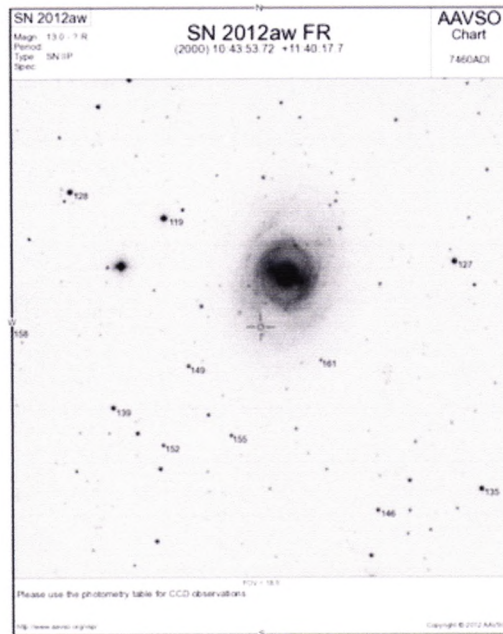
Venus: Just disappearing behind the house. Nice little crescent at 70x.

Back out at 22:30:

Mars: Seeing very poor.

Saturn: Titan, Rhea, and Iapetus are forming a perfect equilateral triangle. Best at 127x.

Supernova 2012aw in Messier 95 in AAVSO chart:



Has faded from its first appearance, now down around magnitude 13.5. 127x.

Spent most of the evening **galaxy hunting**, mostly old favourites in Leo and Virgo: M65, 66, 95, 96, 105, 104, 87, 91, 88, 90, 89, 98, 99, 100, 64, 49, NGC4567, 4568, 4564, 4038, 4039. Then I rotated the POD to the east to catch M13, 57, and M56, and ended up with some **double stars**: Albireo, 17 Cygni, Zeta Lyrae, and Epsilon Lyrae.

Temperature = 7.5°C

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 9:00 PM

Sunday, May 20, 2012

1513e 2012/05/20-21

1513e 2012/05/20-21 18:30-21:30 EDT Foxmead POD 8 28cmsc & SW field 8 4cmrr

Observing the **partial eclipse of the Sun** at sunset with members of the Midland and Orillia astronomy clubs: Rick Crane, Jayne Evans, Geoff Gaherty, Louise Gervais, Gary Hains, Donald McDonald, Gord Michener, Marilyn Morris, and Peter Ridout.

We gathered out in the field to the southwest of our house so that we could see the setting sun with a relatively uncluttered horizon. We had two Coronado PSTs (Personal Solar Telescopes) equipped with hydrogen alpha filters, and everyone had eclipse shades. First contact with the Moon was observed just after 20:18 in the two telescopes, and almost immediately in the eclipse shades. We followed the eclipsed Sun down into the trees on the horizon, and some of our number walked out further into the field to get the last glimpse. Our observations were accompanied by bird songs and deer in the adjacent field to the south. We also all observed **Venus** and **Mars** with the 28cm Schmidt-Cassegrain at 127x. Afterwards we retired to the house for coffee and cookies.

Temperature: 29°C

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 7:06 PM

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

1514d 2012/06/05

1514d 2012/06/05 16:00–20:00 EDT Foxmead POD & SW field 8–3 28cmsc ne

Transit of Venus



40 members of the Barrie, Midland, and Orillia astronomy clubs gathered in the field southwest of the observatory to observe the transit of Venus:

While most of the observers were out in the field, I stayed in the POD with the 28cm SCT at 70x, with the Kendrick full aperture solar filter in place. I concentrated on Venus' appearance between first and second contacts. I missed first contact because I was concentrating on the wrong limb. After I detected first contact, I tried to see Venus off the solar disk, but without success. Venus was extremely sharp, with fairly good seeing. I could see no trace of any atmosphere. Clouds obscured second contact, so I could not see whether the Black Drop was visible. Once Venus was fully on the disk, I went down to the field where François van Heerden and Dave Robitaille had set up a hydrogen alpha scope and Mallincam to record the transit and display it on a monitor for the people gathered. There were several other telescopes set up by those present.

Shortly after second contact the clouds closed in for good, except for a brief instant around 20:00, when the Sun peeped through with Venus still in transit.

Posted by [Geoff Gaherty](#) at 9:45 AM 0 comments

2012 June 5

TRANSIT OF VENUS

Elgin Dumaselle

Nicole Dumaselle

MARLYN MORRIS

Holly Pattenden

FRANCOIS VAN HEERDEN

LEN MORRIS

Axel Michener

Peter Fildes

Greg Rottwell

Donald and Dorothy Marsden

Mumit + Alex Sinclair

JACK & VILDA REID

PAUL CORNISH GMR (HAWKESTONE)

Rupert Grey

Paul Robitaille

Jordan Robitaille

Bryce Spurrin

Alma Cruise

Louise Benjamin

David Hyndman

Graig Welbourn

Doreen Holmes & Keiran

Mary Katters

Wendy Renand

VICKI SHERWOOD + Bill
Mary Maxine
Robert Strachan
Dale Langfield

ALEXANDER MARCH
Burr + Adam
Kinga March
Adam March
Jayne Gray
Lyell Graham

127mm r.r. 279mm
952mm f.l. 280mm f.l.

| | | |
|-----|--------------------|------|
| 40 | 24x | 70x |
| 31 | 31x | 90x |
| 25 | 38x | 112x |
| 22 | 43x | 127x |
| 16 | 60x | 175x |
| 11 | 87x | 255x |
| 8.8 | 87 108x | 318x |
| 6 | 159x | |
| 5 | 190x | |
| 4 | 238x | |