

THE TEXAS STAR PARTY

2007 TELESCOPE OBSERVING CLUB

BY JOHN WAGONER
TEXAS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF DALLAS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Welcome to the Texas Star Party's Telescope Observing Club. The purpose of this club is not to test your observing skills by throwing the toughest objects at you that are hard to see under any conditions, but to give you an opportunity to observe 25 showcase objects under the ideal conditions of these pristine West Texas skies, thus displaying them to their best advantage. This year Clayton Jeter of the Houston Astronomical Society has brought back our daytime observing program, the Bright Sky Observing Program, and details are below. The regular observing program is “**Be A Sap (Shapley-Ames Person)**”. This is a list of 25 Shapley-Ames galaxies (out of 1200). To make life a little easier, I have concentrated them in a small portion of the sky. I think you will find this category of galaxy very enjoyable. So, just observe the 25 objects on the list.

That's it. Any size telescope can be used. All observations must be made at the Texas Star Party to qualify. All objects are within range of small (6”) to medium sized (10”) telescopes, and are available for observation between 10:00PM and 3:00AM any time during the TSP. Each person completing this list will receive an official Texas Star Party Telescope Observing Club lapel pin. These pins are not sold at the TSP and can only be acquired by completing the program, so wear them proudly.

To receive your pin, turn in your observations to ***John Wagoner - TSP Observing Chairman*** any time during the Texas Star Party. I will be at the outside door leading into the TSP Meeting Hall each day between 1:00 PM and 2:30 PM. If you finish the list the last night of TSP, or I am not available to give you your pin, just mail your observations to me at 1409 Sequoia Dr., Plano, Tx. 75023, and I will see that you get a pin.

Good luck and good observing. Now, let's get out there and **observe!!!**

P.S. If you would like to see some of your favorite objects on a future TSP program, or have any ideas for a new program, let me know during TSP or email me at john@wagoner.org

“Be A Sap (Shapley-Ames Person)”

| Object | Type | R.A. | Dec | Con | Size | Mag | Date | Time |
|----------|------|---------|--------|-----|------|------|------|------|
| NGC 2768 | Gal | 09 11.6 | +60 02 | Uma | 6.6 | 9.9 | | |
| NGC 2841 | Gal | 09 22.0 | +50 58 | Uma | 6.8 | 9.2 | | |
| NGC 2985 | Gal | 09 50.4 | +72 17 | Uma | 3.9 | 10.4 | | |
| NGC 3077 | Gal | 10 03.3 | +68 44 | Uma | 5.5 | 9.8 | | |
| NGC 3079 | Gal | 10 02.0 | +55 41 | Uma | 8.0 | 10.9 | | |
| NGC 3184 | Gal | 10 18.3 | +41 25 | Uma | 7.8 | 9.8 | | |
| NGC 3198 | Gal | 10 19.9 | +45 33 | Uma | 9.2 | 10.3 | | |
| NGC 3310 | Gal | 10 38.7 | +53 30 | Uma | 3.5 | 10.8 | | |
| NGC 3610 | Gal | 11 18.4 | +58 47 | Uma | 3.2 | 10.8 | | |
| NGC 3631 | Gal | 11 21.0 | +53 10 | Uma | 5.5 | 10.4 | | |
| NGC 3675 | Gal | 11 26.1 | +43 35 | Uma | 6.2 | 10.2 | | |
| NGC 3726 | Gal | 11 33.3 | +47 02 | Uma | 5.6 | 10.4 | | |
| NGC 3877 | Gal | 11 46.1 | +47 30 | Uma | 5.1 | 11.0 | | |
| NGC 3941 | Gal | 11 52.9 | +36 59 | Uma | 3.7 | 10.3 | | |
| NGC 3953 | Gal | 11 53.8 | +52 20 | Uma | 6.0 | 10.1 | | |
| NGC 4026 | Gal | 11 59.4 | +50 58 | Uma | 4.6 | 10.8 | | |
| NGC 4036 | Gal | 12 01.4 | +61 54 | Uma | 3.8 | 10.7 | | |
| NGC 4051 | Gal | 12 03.2 | +44 32 | Uma | 5.5 | 10.2 | | |
| NGC 4088 | Gal | 12 05.6 | +50 33 | Uma | 5.4 | 10.6 | | |
| NGC 4096 | Gal | 12 06.0 | +47 29 | Uma | 6.6 | 10.8 | | |
| NGC 4605 | Gal | 12 40.0 | +61 37 | Uma | 6.4 | 10.3 | | |
| NGC 4414 | Gal | 12 26.4 | +31 13 | Com | 4.4 | 10.1 | | |
| NGC 4494 | Gal | 12 31.4 | +25 47 | Com | 4.6 | 9.8 | | |
| NGC 4559 | Gal | 12 36.0 | +27 58 | Com | 12.0 | 10.0 | | |
| NGC 4565 | Gal | 12 36.3 | +25 59 | Com | 14.0 | 9.6 | | |

The "Bright Sky" Observing Program by Clayton Jeter, Houston Astronomical Society

Here we go again for our next annual daytime hunt...

With the new telescope mount designs like go-to systems, digital setting circles, etc., that are available for amateurs; it's now easy to observe during the daylight hours. With these systems, it's possible to locate stars and planets during the day. Many go-to scopes have a "hibernate mode" that allows the observer to "wake up" the telescope and use the setup that was made during the previous night to observe objects during daylight hours.

Here is a challenge list of 25 objects (stars, Moon, and planets) that are observable at TSP-2007 during the daylight hours. You'll notice that it is much easier to observe away from the sun to find these elusive objects because of the sun's glare. If the sun is in the western quadrant when you are observing, then observe to the east for your object. A good focus is extremely critical. It's best to keep the same focus from your observing session that was used earlier during the night. When the telescope is correctly pointed to the desired object, let your eyes move around the field of view in the eyepiece for several seconds and soon the object will pop into view. An observer can usually even see star color to some extent. The light blue color of the daylight background sky helps add contrast for viewing these objects.

Locate and log 20 of the 25 objects listed for a beautiful badge given at TSP-2007 from the observing program coordinator. Good luck.

CAUTION:

When the telescope slews (or you manually move it), cap the tube assembly and finder scope to prevent eye and telescope damage from the bright and dangerous sun.

| Object | Constellation | RA. | Dec. | Mag | Date | Time | Comments |
|------------|------------------|--------|---------------|---------------|------|------|----------|
| Mars | Pisces | | | 0.93 | | | |
| Moon | Pisces / Gemini | | | -10.81 | | | |
| Polaris | Ursa Minor | 2h39m | 89.17 | 1.96 | | | |
| Mirfak | Perseus | 3h24m | 49.53 | 1.78 | | | |
| Rigel | Orion | 5h14m | -8.11 | 0.15 | | | |
| Capella | Auriga | 5h17m | 46 | 0.06 | | | |
| Betelgeuse | Orion | 5h55m | 7.2 | 0.43 | | | |
| Menkalinan | Auriga | 6h00m | 44.56 | 1.87 | | | |
| Sirius | Canis Major | 6h45m | -16.4 | -1.47 | | | |
| Adhara | Canis Major | 6h58m | -28 | 1.5 | | | |
| Venus | Gemini | | | -4.15 | | | |
| Castor | Gemini | 7h35m | 31.5 | 1.56 | | | |
| Procyon | Canis Minor | 7h39m | 5.12 | 0.37 | | | |
| Pollux | Gemini | 7h45m | 28.1 | 1.15 | | | |
| Dubhe | Ursa Major | 11h4m | 61.4 | 1.78 | | | |
| Denebola | Leo | 11h49m | 14.3 | 2.12 | | | |
| Alioth | Ursa Major | 12h54m | 55.5 | 1.75 | | | |
| Saturn | Leo | | | 0.44 | | | |
| Spica | Virgo | 13h25m | -11.1 | 0.96 | | | |
| Arcturus | Bootes | 14h16m | 19.8 | -0.07 | | | |
| Rasalhague | Ophiuchus | 17h35m | 12.3 | 2.06 | | | |
| Vega | Lyra | 18h37m | 38.4 | 0 | | | |
| Altair | Aquila | 19h51m | 8.53 | 0.75 | | | |
| Deneb | Cygnus | 20h41m | 45.1 | 1.25 | | | |
| Fomalhaut | Piscis Austrinus | 22h58m | -29.34 | 1.15 | | | |

NOTE: All objects are in RA order