



City Lights Astronomical Society for Students C.L.A.S.S.

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The Wagoner 100

Welcome to the Wagoner 100. This is an advanced observing program for large telescopes. All you need to do is observe 100 NGC objects in consecutive number order. As an example, you can go from NGC 100 to NGC 199. But you don't need to start with an even number. You can start with any number in the NGC catalog and end with 100 consecutive objects later. That's all there is to it. But it may be harder than you think.

First, you will need a large telescope and dark skies since whatever sequence you choose will probably have galaxies down to 14th. and 15th. magnitude as well as Messier objects. I used a twenty inch Dobsonian.

Second, the NGC catalog is in Right Ascension order so the sequence of 100 objects that you pick in a catalog of 7840 objects will be very narrow in RA and long in Declination. That means that it will rise and it will set. You don't have all night to observe it, and your sequence will be seasonal. You will only have a short time to observe it. My sequence was a Spring sequence and was ten minutes wide and 110 degrees long.

Finally, again since the catalog is in RA order, you may have Southern Hemisphere objects as well as Northern Hemisphere objects in your sequence. If you are a Northern observer, you must pick a sequence that only has objects that can be observed from your location. But I won't rule out sequences with Southern Hemisphere objects since more and more amateur astronomers are traveling to dark skies in the Southern Hemisphere with large telescopes.

For our North American observers I have identified two sequences that can be viewed from anywhere in the United States as all objects are above minus thirty-nine degrees Declination. They are NGC 3779 – NGC 3881 and NGC 4231 – NGC 4336. Other sequences can be observed from the Southern part of the United States, and my stomping ground, the Texas Star Party.

This program can be done by anyone from any location in the world with any size telescope. There is no time limit on the program. There are a few objects in the NGC that are classified as "non-existent". If one of these objects is in your sequence, just mark it as non-existent and go to the next object. Most non-existent objects were found to be open clusters that were so loose that they couldn't be identified as such. But if you want to go to that part of the sky and look at the area, then by all means, do so.

I am including a blank template that you can use to record your observations. If you have a favorite observing log that has the same information that you would rather use, then that is permitted. Also, you can use a computer program or app that generates the same information if you wish. Those persons completing the program will receive a nice lapel pin to wear or display as well as an identical badge. You need only mail or email your observations to me at the above addresses. Email me with any questions. Now let's get out there and observe.

