

THE TEXAS STAR PARTY ***2016 TELESCOPE OBSERVING CLUB***

BY TED SAKER

COLUMBUS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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 20 showcase objects under the ideal conditions of these pristine West Texas skies, thus displaying them to their best advantage. The regular observing program is "**Spiralmania**", 22 of Ted Saker's favorite spiral galaxies. All you need to do is observe 20 of the 22 available to get your pin, but if you are using a smaller scope and have a little trouble with some of the objects, just mark it as "tried" and move on, and you will get credit for the object. We are also bringing back "**In Living Color**" from 2015. This is a list of 30 objects. Only **25 objects** need be observed.

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 9:00PM and 5:00AM 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

For those of you who missed previous TSP's, pins for the following programs are still available:

2012 – 2012 - 2011 – Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!

2010 – About Face, 2009 – Texas Star Party 5X5

2007 - Be A Sap (Shapley-Ames Person)

2006 – Eye in the Sky --- 2004 – Starlight, Starbright

2003 - The Great Celestial A.R.C. (Asterisms, Radio sources, & Clusters)

You can download these observing programs and others from the TSP website:

www.texasstarparty.org.

Pins for other programs may be available. Be sure to ask me so that I can verify it for you.

