

THE TEXAS STAR PARTY

2019 TELESCOPE OBSERVING CLUB

BY MIKE HOTKA
LONGMONT 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 26 showcase objects under the ideal conditions of these pristine West Texas skies, thus displaying them to their best advantage. The regular observing program is “**SMOKE AND MIRRORS**”. Smoke would be nebula of all sorts, while mirrors would be pairs of galaxies. With pairs of galaxies, you observe two objects at a time. You need to observe **26 objects** of the 45 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. Pins for previous years’ lists are becoming scarce. If you want to complete a list for a pin, download the list from the TSP archive and then contact me to see if pins are available. Good news. The pin for 2004 is back.

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.

More good news. This year’s program, was put together by my dear friend and expert observer, Mike Hotka, of the Longmont Astronomical Society and formerly of the Texas Astronomical Society of Dallas. The program has something for everyone from naked eye, to binocular to small telescope to large telescope. While you are at it, check out Mike’s new book “Exploring Amateur Astronomy, Goal Oriented Observing”, available from Amazon both in paperback and Kindle.

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

You can download previous years’ observing programs from the TSP website at www.texasstarparty.org

"SMOKE AND MIRRORS"

Object	Type	Con	Date	Time
Great Rift	Dk Nb	Cyg -> Sgr		
M20/B85	Br&Dk Nb	Sgr		
Lagoon in M8	Dk Nb	Sgr		
Swan's Neck M17	Dk Nb	Sgr		
IC 4604	Br Nb	Oph		
NGC 6960	SNR	Cyg		
NGC 6888	Br Nb	Cyg		
Benard's E B142/143	Dk Nb	Aql		
Bowl of Pipe and Stem B78, B59, B65-7	Dk Nb	Oph		
NGC 7023	Br Nb	Cep		
B64	Dk Nb	Oph		
B86	Dk Nb	Sgr		
B114-118	Dk Nb	Sct		
IC 444	Br Nb	Gem		
NGC 4038/4039	Gx/Gx	Crv		
M81/M82	Gx/Gx	Uma		
M95/M96	Gx/Gx	Leo		
M65/M66	Gx/Gx	Leo		
NGC 4490/4485	Gx/Gx	Cvn		
M51/NGC 5195	Gx/Gx	Cvn		
NGC 4627/4631	Gx/Gx	Cvn		
NGC 4567/4568	Gx/Gx	Vir		
M84/M86	Gx/Gx	Vir		
NGC 3226/3227	Gx/Gx	Leo		
NGC 3193/3190	Gx/Gx	Leo		
NGC 3166/3169	Gx/Gx	Sex		
M60/NGC 4647	Gx/Gx	Vir		
NGC 4754/4762	Gx/Gx	Vir		
NGC 5560/5566	Gx/Gx	Vir		
NGC 5850/5846	Gx/Gx	Vir		
M106/NGC 4248	Gx/Gx	Cvn		
M101/NGC 5474	Gx/Gx	Uma		
NGC 5356/5363	Gx/Gx	Vir		
NGC 5676/5660	Gx/Gx	Boo		
NGC 2985/3027	Gx/Gx	Uma		
NGC 2715/2655	Gx/Gx	Cam		
NGC 3893/3928	Gx/Gx	Uma		