

THE TEXAS STAR PARTY
2021 VIRTUAL TEXAS STAR PARTY EVENT
GENERAL OBSERVING CHALLENGE

“SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE”

Edited by Karl S. Baltz, Sr.

This observing challenge is a salute to John Wagoner.

John has managed the general observing challenge list from many decades.

I have chosen objects from various lists of John's to honor him and his commitment to Texas Star Party and amateur astronomers, young and old. He has been a friend and mentor to many amateur astronomers, novice as well as advanced.

Thank you John for all you have done to promote amateur astronomy. And for being a friend

RULES ARE SIMPLE

Observe any 20 objects from both lists. Any size telescope can be used. 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 Virtual Texas Star Party Event. Starting at the end of Twilight June 5th, 2021 and ending Midnight the night of June 13th, 2021. All times are specific to your local time. No need to use UTC. Just mark the time and the date in the space provided. This is a word document. Just fill the dates and times save the file use your name and the Observing Challenge Name in the file name. Try to observe the object at least 3 times. Seeing conditions change rapidly making it easier and difficult to observe those faint pesky deep space objects. Be persistent. Use a black piece of cloth to block out extraneous light and sky glow to improve your contrast. Wear an eye patch over your non observing eye to provide eye strain relief. Use various light pollution filters to help improve contrast. Remember that filters make the objects look more dim than without, but they increase the contrast between background sky and the object. And let us not forget our friend, off axis viewing. Our eyes are more sensitive when we use indirect viewing to observe. Remember, while observing, you might just get an impression that something is there. That is all you need to see to make an entry. But if after 3 or even more attempts you are not able to observe the object, mark "TRIED" in the date and time and you are good. You will qualify for your Certificate. The purpose of these challenges is to get you to focus on specific targets and develop your observing and hunting skills. For a even better challenge, don't use your setting circles or GOTO controls. Go back to Star Hopping! It is a great way to learn the night sky. And after a while.....you might be faster at finding objects than if you used setting circles and GOTO. My friends, Steve and Amelia Goldberg and Larry Mitchell swear by Star Hopping! Try observing from home, even if you live in a city. Go to a dark site and observe. The main point is have fun!

SO! Good Luck and Good Hunting!

Each person completing this list will receive an official Virtual Texas Star Party Telescope Observing Challenge Certificate. The Certificate will be made available either by a provided

A MORE CHALLENGING LIST Input date and time where the x's are.

Object	R.A.	DEC	Mag	Type	Size	Const	Urn	SA	Date	Time
NGC4569	12 36.8	+13 10	9.5	Glxy	9.5'	Vir	194	13	x	x
NGC4552	12 35.7	+12 33	9.8	Glxy	4.2'	Vir1	94	13	x	x
NGC4579	12 37.7	+11 49	9.8	Glxy	5.4'	Vir	194	13	x	x
NGC4621	12 42.0	+11 39	9.8	Glxy	5.1'	Vir	194	13	x	x
NGC4647	12 43.5	+11 35	11.3	Glxy	3.0'	Vir	194	13	x	x
NGC4649	12 43.7	+11 33	8.8	Glxy	7.2'	Vir	194	13	x	x
NGC4564	12 36.4	+11 26	10.9	Glxy	3.1'	Vir	194	13	x	x
NGC 4568	12 36.6	+11 14	10.8	Glxy	4.6'	Vir	194	13	x	x
NGC 4503	12 32.1	+11 11	11.1	Glxy	3.5'	Vir	194	13	x	x
NGC 6229	16 47.0	+47 32	9.4	GbCl	4.5'	Her	80	8	x	x
NGC 6341	17 17.1	+43 08	6.4	GbCl	11.0'	Her	81	8	x	x
NGC 6205	16 41.7	+36 28	5.7	GbCl	17.0'	Her	114	8	x	x
NGC 6058	16 04.4	+40 41	13.0	Pneb	25.0"	Her	79	8	x	x
NGC 6913	20 23.9	+38 32	6.6	OpCl	6.0'	Cyg	84	9	x	x
NGC 6871	20 05.9	+35 47	5.2	OpCl	20.0'	Cyg	119	9	x	x
NGC 6819	19 41.3	+40 11	7.3	OpCl	5.0'	Cyg	84	8	x	x
NGC 6866	20 03.7	+44 00	7.6	OpCl	6.0'	Cyg	84	9	x	x
NGC 6273	17 02.6	-26 16	6.7	GbCl	14.0	Oph	337	22	x	x
NGC 6266	17 01.2	-30 07	6.7	GbCl	14.0'	Oph	376	22	x	x