

# TEXAS STAR PARTY

## JOHN WAGONER'S GENERAL OBSERVING CLUB

### JOHN WAGONER'S TSP 2023 TELESCOPE OBSERVING CHALLENGE FOR TSP 2023

BY GARY CARTER and MIKE HOTKA

In memory of John Wagoner, who supported the TSP Observing Programs for many years and whose passion for the night sky continues to guide us to observe and ponder its beauty today. Texas Star Party, Inc. has changed the name of the General Observing Challenges to the John Wagoner's General Observing Challenges Club.

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

Welcome to the 2023 Texas Star Party's John Wagoner's General Telescope Observing Club Challenge.

The purpose of this year's Telescope Observing Club will be to introduce you to the Astronomical League's Solar Neighborhood and Local Galaxy Group and Neighbors Observing Programs. More information about these two observing Programs can be found on the Astronomical League's website.

The “**OUR SOLAR NEIGHBORHOOD**” Club will have 10 stars that are within 10 parsecs (32.4 light years) from our sun (selected from the Solar Neighborhood Observing Program (<https://www.astroleague.org/content/solar-neighborhood-observing-program>)) and 15 galaxies from the local galaxy group that our Milky Way galaxy is part of (selected from the Local Galaxy Group and Neighbors Observing Program (<https://www.astroleague.org/node/412>)). You will need to observe all 25 objects to get your pin. If you are using a smaller scope and have a little trouble with some of the objects, mark it as “tried” and move on. You will still get credit for the object.

Any size telescope can be used. All observations must be made at the Texas Star Party to qualify. All objects are within range of an 8” or 10” telescope, and are available for observation between 10:00PM and 4:00AM any time during the TSP. “Go-To” telescopes are allowed to aid in finding these objects.

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 Gary Carter or Mike Hotka any time during the Texas Star Party. One of us 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 if I am not available to give you your pin, just mail your observations to me at 1425 Snowberry Lane, Broomfield, CO 80020 and I will see that you get a pin.

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

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 [mhotka@yahoo.com](mailto:mhotka@yahoo.com) .

You can download previous years' observing programs from the TSP website at [www.texasstarparty.org](http://www.texasstarparty.org) .

## "OUR SOLAR NEIGHBORHOOD"

The following table lists the 10 solar neighborhood stars you must observe.

Record the date and time of your observation and the color the star appears to be.

Star	RA	Dec	Magnitude	Date	Time	Color
AN Sex	10h 12m 17.4s	-03° 44' 50"	9.3			
Xi UMa	11h 18m 10.1s	+31° 31' 32"	4.4			
Beta Com	13h 11m 51.0s	+27° 53' 02"	4.3			
61 Vir	13h 18m 22.6s	-18° 19' 05"	4.7			
Xi Boo	14h 51m 23.6s	+19° 06' 00"	4.6			
36 Oph	17h 15m 19.9s	-26° 36' 33"	4.3			
Mu Her	17h 46m 27.0s	+27° 42' 57"	3.4			
70 Oph	18h 05m 27.5s	+02° 29' 38"	4.2			
Chi Dra	18h 21m 05.4s	+72° 43' 50"	3.6			
Altair (Aql)	19h 50m 47.8s	+08° 52' 15"	0.8			

The 15 galaxies you must observe that are within the local group of galaxies that our Milky Way galaxy is part of are listed in the table below. These galaxies were selected from the Astronomical League's Local Galaxy Group and Neighbors Observing Program's supplemental observing guide. The galaxies in this table were selected from the M51, M64, M66, M81, M83, M101 and M109 Galaxy Groups. Record the Date and Time of your observation.

Object	RA	Dec	Magnitude	Size	Date	Time
NGC 3077	10h 05m 09.3s	+68° 37' 10"	10.6	5.4' x 4.4'		
NGC 2976	09h 49m 08.7s	+67° 48' 23"	10.8	5.8' x 3.0'		
NGC 5102	13h 23m 14.5s	-36° 44' 46"	10.3	9.5' x 3.5'		
NGC 5253	13h 41m 12.8s	-31° 45' 10"	10.8	5.0' x 2.1'		
NGC 5128	13h 26m 47.3s	-43° 07' 58"	7.8	25.7' x 19.5'		
NGC 5023	13h 13m 12.2s	+43° 54' 49"	12.8	6.2' x 0.8'		
NGC 5204	13h 30m 27.0s	+58° 17' 50"	11.7	4.5' x 2.8'		
NGC 5474	14h 05m 49.2s	+53° 32' 58"	11.5	2.4' x 1.6'		
NGC 5585	14h 20m 30.5s	+56° 37' 16"	11.4	4.3' x 2.6'		
NGC 4144	12h 11m 07.2s	+46° 19' 36"	12.0	5.2' x 1.0'		
NGC 4490	12h 31m 42.7s	+41° 30' 52"	9.8	6.8' x 1.7'		
NGC 5195	13h 30m 56.3s	+47° 08' 41"	10.5	5.5' x 4.4'		
NGC 3593	11h 15m 48.5s	+12° 41' 34"	11.8	4.7' x 1.9'		
NGC 3628	11h 21m 28.4s	+13° 27' 47"	10.0	11.0' x 3.4'		
NGC 3631	11h 22m 20.3s	+53° 02' 28"	10.7	3.7' x 3.1'		