Topic: Observing Special Interest Group

Time: Nov 10, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Wed, until Jun 8, 2022, 8 occurrence(s)
Nov 10, 2021 07:00 PM
Dec 8, 2021 07:00 PM
Jan 12, 2022 07:00 PM
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ObSig Meeting Notes Nov. 10, 2021

- Welcome to the November Observer's Special Interest Meeting. I hope all are doing well. We had an abbreviated Ghost Hunt event the night of October 30th. I'm sorry that more of you did not attend but with the COVID 19 still around I understand your caution. We really anticipate normal conditions next year, so we expect there to be a fall picnic and a much larger turn out for the Ghost Hunt.

- Let's talk about who did come to this year's event and find out what they may have observed.

Hopping Around Andromeda

- Let's do some easy star hopping to a very interesting star.

  Almach is a beautiful double star that has a yellow primary and a blue secondary. It is well placed in Andromeda this time of year and it is pretty easy to split with almost any telescope. David Fuller will fully explain this star in this version of Eyes on the Sky video. From there I will show you how to find more objects close to this star.

- **NGC891** is a surface brightness 13th magnitude galaxy in Andromeda, often called the UFO galaxy. Being that dim 891 is hard to see in small scopes. The trick is not to over magnify. Keep this one at low power.

- **Abell 347** is a galaxy cluster of smaller but slightly brighter galaxies that is right next to **NGC891**. Try your luck with these guys. My guess is it will take a 10" scope to see any of these and 891.

- Now let's retreat to Almach again. About 4 ½ ° south west of Almach lies the huge open cluster **NGC752**. It would be easiest to find this guy with a good pair of 10x50 binoculars. Once you have done that, NGC752 will be much easier to find in scope. Did you notice that NGC752 is part of a binocular asterism known as the putter and golfball. It's really quite striking once you look for it.

- **M31 – Andromeda Galaxy** lies off the other arm of the Andromeda asterism. This galaxy is so large and so bright you can see it naked eye from our dark site in Atoka County. It is the furthest object that most people can see at about 2.3 million lys. To find it start at the NE corner of the great square in Pegasus. Then extend NE to 4th mag Pi, next to Mu and finally back NW to the galaxy. You will see a faint haze sitting next to the star Nu And. That's it, you are looking at the great Andromeda galaxy naked eye. Try binoculars on it first. It will look great I assure you.

  Once you do put it in your scope, I'm sure you will be amazed. But here is one last challenge for you. Do you have a wide enough field to see all three galaxies at once? Yes, **M32** and **M110 (NGC205)** can all fit in the eyepiece at once if you have an eyepiece that is low enough in power and that has a wide enough field. How many of you have managed to do this little trick?