

Date: 2004 November 09

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Time: ~21.00 → 00.00 Local time

Location: Ekerö
Stockholm

Temperature: About 5°C.



Observation report #7

It's been a while since I wrote my last report, and I think it's time again. I've been out observing a few times with Leif, but mostly I've been too busy to do anything on this front. About 3 or 4 times we did actually go out to Ekerö for observing, but clouds stopped us. This time it was great weather the whole day, so we thought we might give it a chance. We got there around 19.00, and started setting up the telescope immediately. When we were finished we were not surprised that we started to see clouds coming in from the horizon. After a while the whole sky was filled with thick clouds, so typical.

A little later, we got out to check whether the clouds had disappeared or not. Ahead of us were still the boring clouds and I got a little frustrated over the bad luck we had all the time. Then Leif said "Wait a moment! The clouds are green, it's the northern lights!" and I thought "Woohoo!" and just couldn't believe it. The 10 minutes after that were the most beautiful in my life. Leif called out his parents, while I was watching the show. It was just so wonderful, firstly the horizon seemed to be "lasered" with green lights, and after a while the sky just above us was filled with green "curtains" that faded in and out. After a while, the horizon got red, adding another touché to the show. After another while, it only left big green "clouds" all over the sky. Without doubt these northern lights were more beautiful than the last time I saw northern lights, about two years ago. This was just a great beginning of the night. So, we got inside again to cloth up for the observing session, and as we got out we were again disappointed to see that clouds were incoming. So, we decided we should be satisfied for the night and packed our things down.

It's pretty sad that it is impossible to describe these feelings and sights with words. Words are just not enough in situations like these. My camera at that point had only black and white film inserted, which meant that it would be pretty meaningless to try to get any shot. I can only hope I'll get another chance to get it on film. I'm sure that if I only had colour film I could grab some great shots that I could send to some local news paper for posting. The rest of the night we spent talking about astro stuff and things alike, it pretty much turns out that way on cloudy nights!

