

**Date:** 2004 December 11

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**Time:** ~21.00 → 00.00 Local time

**Location:** Ekerö  
Stockholm

**Temperature:** About 2°C.



## Observation report #8

So here we got another chance of nice weather. The snow had melted and the weather forecast told of a not so cloudy sky. I went to Ekerö with my girlfriend directly after school (a Saturday, not so funny), and after one and a half hour of travel I was not surprised to find myself standing under a completely cloud-filled sky. When I got in, Leif told me he had picked out a telescope from his job for evaluation. The telescope was a Meade LXD75 6 inch refractor, a telescope that was HUGE! Well, at least a lot bigger than I expected. A nice thing with this scope was that a CCD camera was included, the LPI (Lunar Planetary Imager). This is one of the cheaper cameras on the market, but I thought it might be nice to try it out. So, the weather finally cleared up and we were able to set up my LX50 and the 6 inch refractor. I knew that I would not have the time to observe a lot, as my primarily intent of this day was to do some astrophotography. However, I had to at least watch the Orion Nebula as I had the chance, and with the 17mm Nagler it was as always a stunning object to watch. Malin (my girlfriend) too enjoyed watching the Orion Nebula. It was actually her first time looking thru a “real” telescope and not just a toy. At the same time, Leif was observing Saturn, which looked very nice thru the 6 inch refractor. Unfortunately both objects were pretty low on the sky, so turbulence was disturbing. Anyhow, I decided to go for some piggyback photos with a 135mm lens. I took a long exposure (about 25 minutes, had no clock to time) with a red filter, and some various short (1 to 10 min) exposures without a filter. The filter is good for blocking out the worst light pollution (which is pretty much even out on Ekerö which is about 20-30km from Stockholm City).

Even though I was well dressed up for cold weather, I almost froze my fingers of when guiding the telescope. Guess if it was nice to warm up for a while eating gingerbread biscuits! After the session was finished, I still had about half the roll of film left so I could not develop it. As usually clouds moved in so we decided to pack our stuff. Unfortunately we didn't have enough time to do any CCD astrophotography, but now we will have something to do the next time.

