

**Date:** 2006 Mars 7

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**Time:** ~21.00 -> 00.30

**Location:** Ekerö, Sweden

**Temperature:** -15°C.

## Observation report #14

So, tonight I really should not go out with the telescope as I had an exam in “IP-routing” the day after, but how could I not when the weather was clear and I had great expectations of acquiring a better picture of the one the before. However, after going out I felt that it was really cold! Just after a few minutes I felt that my feet were stiff blocks of ice! Not just that, it was impossible to correctly polar-align the scope as the scope has no bubble-level and I had problems just finding polaris in the small reticle scope inside the mount. After doing a coarse polar-alignment and 2-star alignment I started to look at Caldwell 14 (the double cluster). At the same time Leif said that the views were very bad this night, which I too saw. The starparty before gave a lot better views, but it didn't matter, I just wanted to grab a good shot of M13. So, I slewed to M13 and started setting up the CCD camera. As the DSI was -15°C worth cold metal, my fingers were not enjoying the night as I did. This time I thought that the camera should work a lot better, as it was really cool and thus should prevent noise. Why use expensive peltier active cooling when you can live in Sweden and have it for free? ☺

Anyhow, after focusing (with the very handy homemade hartmann mask) and making darks the camera started making 15 seconds exposures. After a short while I noticed how bad the polar alignment was because the reference star was drifting a lot. So I only took a 7,5 minute exposure (with 15 seconds subs) total. The result? Surely our (my and Leifs) really first good DSO-image. This image is stretched and with a slight unsharp mask.

Hooray!



**M13**

Captured with a DSI and a LX75 6 inch newtonian. 7,5 minute exposure consisting of 15 sec subs