

Date: 2006 November 01 & 02

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Time: ~19.00 -> 23.00

Location: Linköping, Sweden

Temperature: -5°C.

Observation report #17

Alright, been a while since I wrote a report. Pretty shameful as I've been out many times with the telescope, but not have the strength to write a report. Also been quite busy lately doing my masters thesis work at SAAB Aerotech in linköping. Yes, I have moved to linköping and I like this town very well. Not as busy and headaching as stockholm.

Anyway, these two nights were great. The sky was clear, though the winds were blowing and it was freezing cold. But it's just a matter of having the right cloths on when going out to observe. I had two pair of socks on me plus thick winter-boots, but still my toes got stiff!

Under these two nights were the first time I did precis polar alignment. This was done by the drift alignment method, which I've found a great guide for. I've always been a little "afraid" of doing the drift alignment method, as I thought it would be hard and time consuming. I could not have been more wrong. It was very easy to doo. The first night it took some while to get it right, but the second night it just went fluently. It is just like with everything else, it's all a matter of practice. After the drift alignment I aimed at M81 and did a focus with my own made "ugly" hartmann-mask. Tried to do some longer shots, but noticed that the almost full moon washed out pretty much the whole galaxy. It was not so funny considering that I've took exposures ranging over 20 minutes but that still only showed the central core and the arms very dimly. Then I thought of maybe trying out M82 (which I've never done before). It was nice to see the structure of the galaxy already showing in the "Live view" set at 1/2 second.

The result was a 18 minute long exposure, which I'm very proud of. It's always fun to get a picture that at least shows **some** colour, even though it is not much. And now that I have a good place to do my astro work from, I'm sure I will take every opportunity the skies allow to be out with the telescope!



M82

Captured with a DSI and a Meade LXD-75 6" newt. 18 minutes exposure consisting of 15 sec subs.