

Date: 2006 Mars 13

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Time: ~18.00 -> 22.00

Location: Ekerö, Sweden

Temperature: -10°C.

Observation report #15

This time I actually had no time for going out with the telescope, but the weather was so great so I felt I just had to. After going to Ekerö (by boat from Fittja) Leif and I started to set up the 12" LX-200 and the 6" LXD-75. This time I spent about 1½ hour before I could get the GOTO to work accurately (let us just say that finding things without a finderscope is not the easiest thing to do). Felt pretty annoying. After that I thought that I just had to capture my first galaxy. However, Leif had (via the "Tonights best" function) found a nice open cluster that I had to tryout first which was M37. The result can be seen to the right. I was impressed of how much stars could be seen by just a 6 minute exposure! This picture is slightly histogram adjusted and unsharp masked. The object itself is not as exciting to capture as M13, but it is still interesting to see how many stars can be captured under such relatively short exposure time.



M37

Captured with a DSI and a LXD75 6 inch newtonian. 6 minute exposure consisting of 15 sec subs

After getting this image the time started to run out (as we had to finish soon, because I had to last-minute-study to an philosophy exam I had the day after). But I felt I just had to get a short exposure of a galaxy. I slewed the telescope to M81 and started. After just 6,5 minutes the guiding was pretty much off so I stopped the exposure. The result is pretty ok considering how short the exposure was. If you look really carefully you can see the spiral arms, somewhere there behind the sky glow ☺ Next time I'll try to polar align much more carefully, so I can at least grab a half hour exposure of a galaxy. I'm happy I've started to do some work with the DSI! After the M81 image we tried to image M81 thru the 12" LX200, but as we even could not center the object (the sky was too bright thanks to the full moon so it was very hard even finding it) we gave that up and packed our stuff down.



M81

Captured with a DSI and a LXD75 6 inch newtonian. 6,5 minute exposure consisting of 15 sec subs