

2022 November Observations from Big Woodchuck Observatory

----- Original Message -----

Solar Observation from Tuesday 11/08/2022

hi Solar Observers!

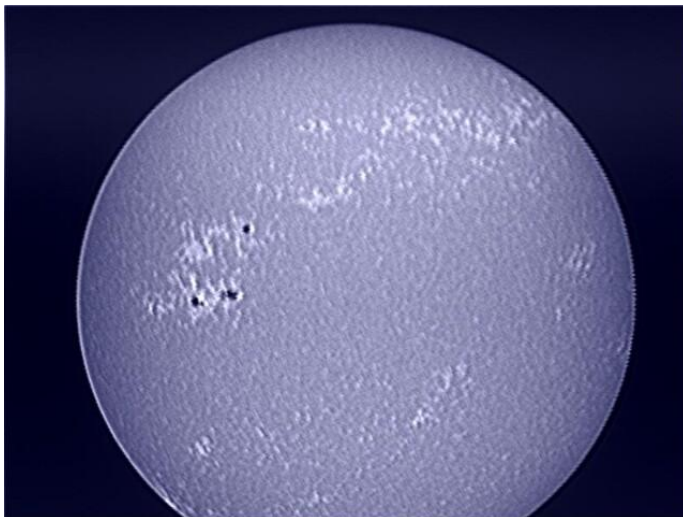
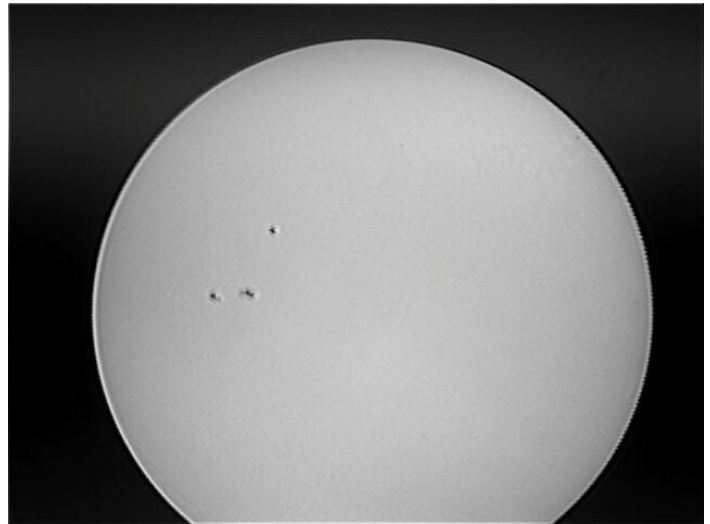
Activity has once again picked-up this week on the Sun. A large Active Region, AR3141, has rotated into view and heading towards center disk. AR3141 a complex magnetic region with the potential for producing solar flares. Space weather <https://www.spaceweather.com/>

This afternoon, I was out in the backyard observatory using its 8" LX200GPS SCT and analog cameras for solar observing. (a Daystar .7A T-Scanner Ha filter on the 8" SCT and Astrovid-2000 analog 1/2" CCD videocam, with piggybacked Coronado PST (40mm Ha scope), and a Coronado PST Cak scope (also 40mm), using a pair of old analog 1/3" CCD security videocams).

The large AR group displayed nicely on the monitors and the Daystar gave good visual views, though slight hazy from the afternoon sky. (the video feed from this filter was down).

Here's three views of the Sun using the PST's from Wednesday afternoon:

PST Ha, PST White-Light (using the PST HA scope de-tuned from the Ha band to show just sunspots), and the PST Cak:



The large sunspot group on the center left is AR3141. (AR3140 is slightly above and to the right).

You can see more past PST views on my webpage at: <http://www.stellar-journeys.org/lemsolar/Bwwso3.htm>

Larry

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----- Original Message -----

Solar Observation from Thursday 11/10/2022

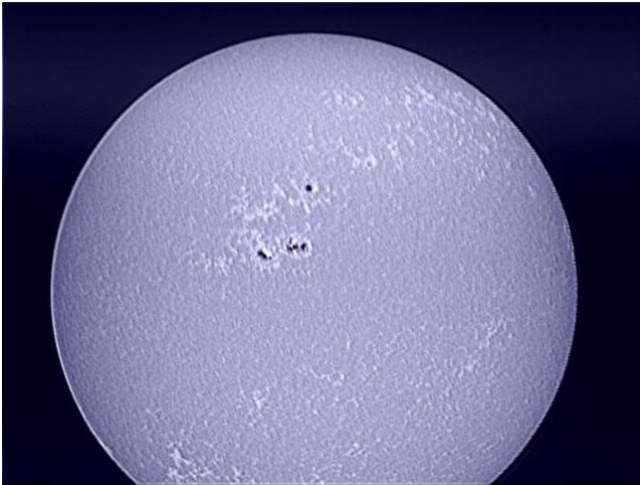
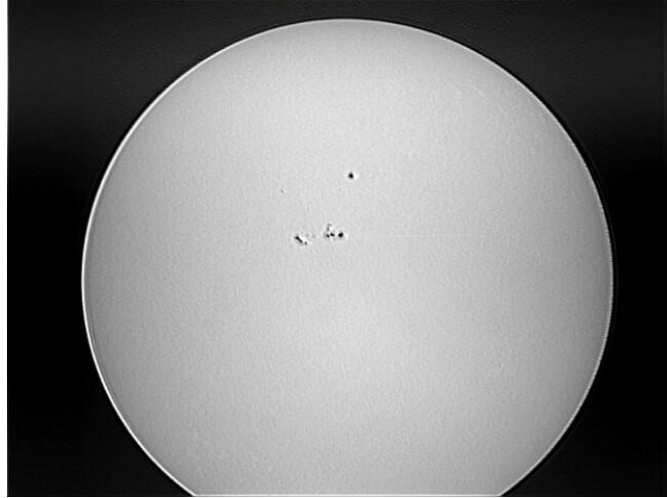
hey Solar Observers,

Was out with the solar equipment today, around 12:30pm. AR3141 continues to grow in complexity, and is now moved to the center disk. (in prime position to launch a solar flare in our direction, lol)

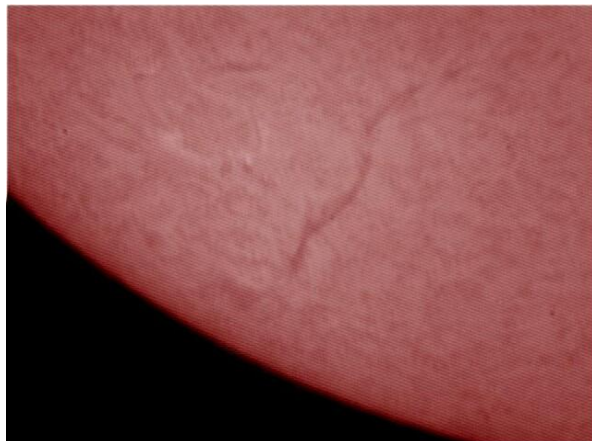
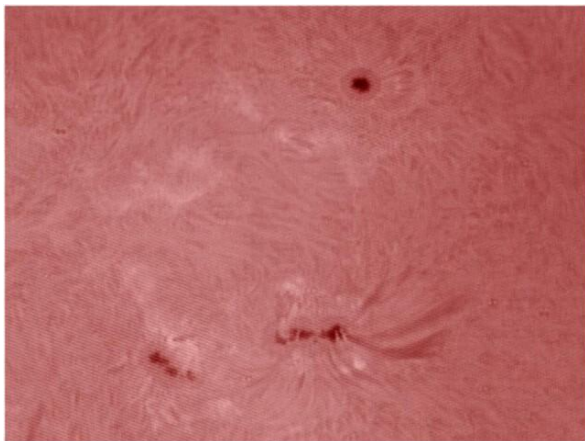
Was able to video-observe in all three solar wavelengths using the PST's, and also resolved the video cable issue with the Daystar .63 A Ha filter and captured several observations, including the big sunspot, a large disk filament, and a limb prominence. (captured a short 20 second clip from each filter which I processed this evening).

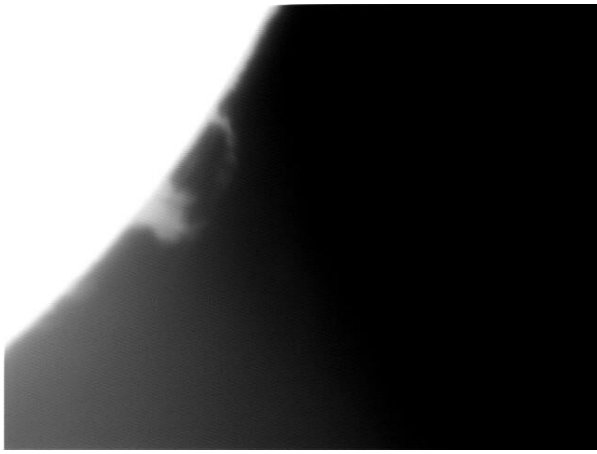
Here's three views of the Sun using the PST's from Wednesday afternoon:

PST Ha, PST White-Light (using the PST HA scope de-tuned from the Ha band to show just sunspots), and the PST Cak:



And here's the view of AR3141 (lower two spots) and it's friend AR3140 (upper spot) with the Daystar .63A filter on the 8" SCT @ f10. (Also the filament and limb prom)





With the old analog cameras and monitors still functioning adequately for solar video-astronomy, I think I'll stick with them for now and not upgrade to new ZWO cameras.
Using analog video cameras is a fun and safe way to observe our closest star. With the weather forecast looking damp, this will probably be the last solar observation for this week.
Until the next time the Sun shines,,,,,

Larry

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----- Original Message -----

A pair of small comets 11/26/2022)

hi all,

Got in several good nights from my backyard prior to turkey day. Most of the time was spent on hunting small, faint galaxies in Fornax, Eridanus, Pisces, and Orion.
(who knew that Orion contains galaxies! :-))

But I also EAA observed a pair of small comets currently visible in the evening sky.
The first was +11.5 mag Comet ZTF (C/2020 V2) in Ursa Major. (in a line from the dipper 'pointer stars', heading towards Polaris).
Here's a 3 minute EAA observation of the comet using my 8" SCT @ f6.3 and L-Pro broadband filter:



The small comet has a bright oval shaped coma with a stellar core, and hints of a short stubby tail.
Comet ZTF is expected to become a naked-eye object in mid to late January.

Then the interesting cryovolcanic comet 29P - Schwassmann-Wachmann-1 in the constellation of Gemini.
(see the article about this comet on spaceweather: <https://spaceweather.com/archive.php?view=1&day=24&month=11&year=2022>)

A recent eruption on the comet has brought it within range of amateur telescopes.
Here's a 9 minute EAA observation of the comet using my 8" SCT @ f6.3 and L-Pro broadband filter:



The still +11th mag comet has a small bright circular coma. But is expected to continue to brighten.

Larry

----- Original Message -----

November observations (posted on 12/14/2022)

hi All,

So, following up on my 'pair of small comets' note last month, pre-Thanksgiving I got in four good nights from my backyard observatory, from Sunday 11/2 thru Wednesday 11/23.

Most of the time was spent on hunting small, faint Arp galaxies in Fornax, Eridanus, Pisces, and Orion using my 8" SCT @ f6.3, ASI294MC color camera, and filter wheel with the L-Pro broadband and L-eNhanse narrowband filters. The best EAA observations were galaxies NGC1232 in Eridanus, IC162 & friends in Pisces, and NGC1888 & 1889 in Lepus.



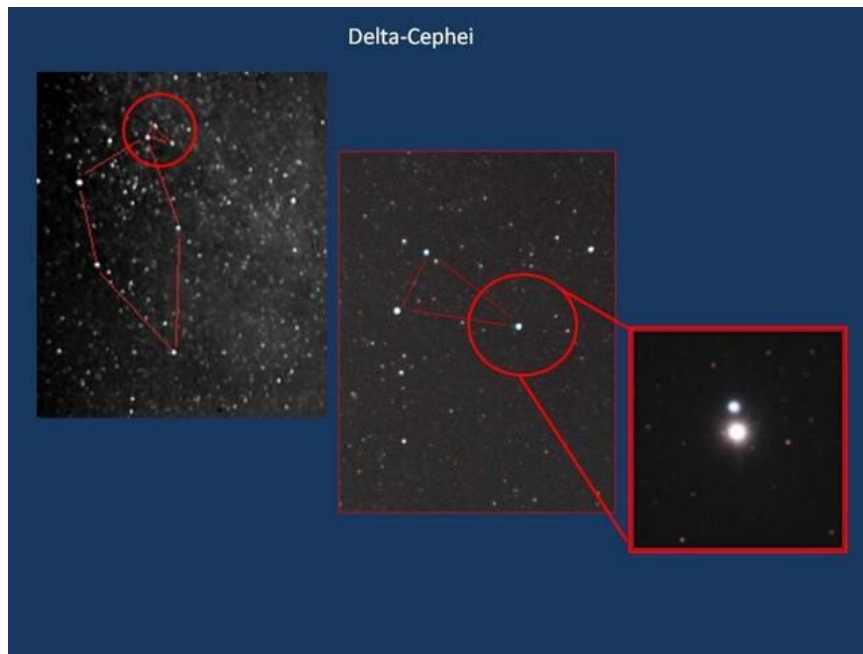


(all 180 second exposures, livestacked for 30 minutes each, using the L-Pro filter)

Also made additional observations of open cluster M34 (15 second exposure stacked for 5 minutes), and planetary nebula M76 (180 seconds stacked for 15 minutes using the L-eNhance filter), in Perseus, and the Great Orion Nebula, M42/M43 in Orion. (5 second exposure stacked for 10 minutes using the L-eNhance filter)



Finally, a fun observation of variable & double star Delta Cephei in the constellation of Cepheus.
This will be for a new presentation on Edwin Hubble that I am writing,,,, :-)



It was a good run of backyard observing!
Larry