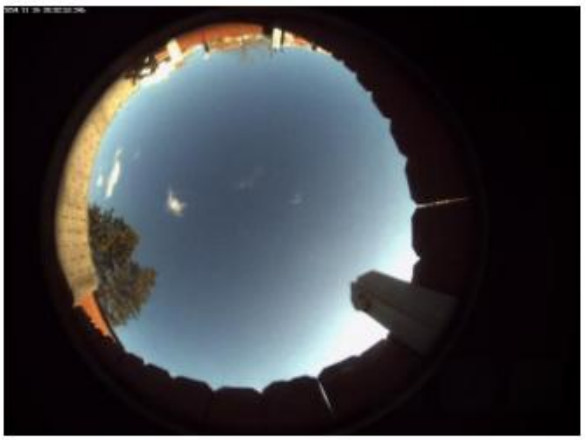
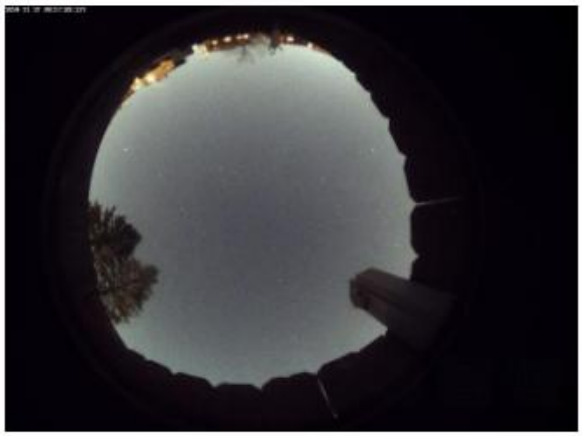
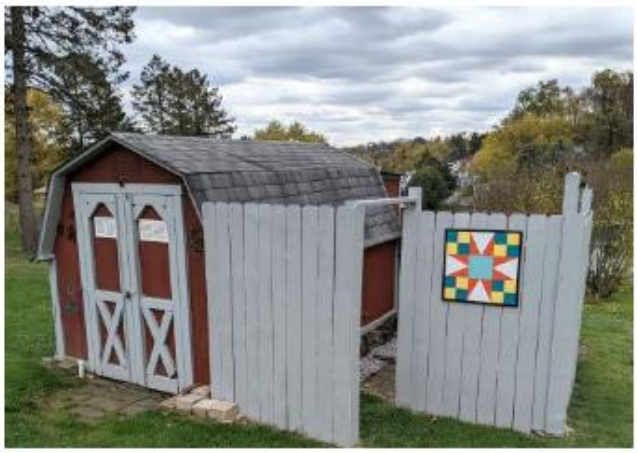
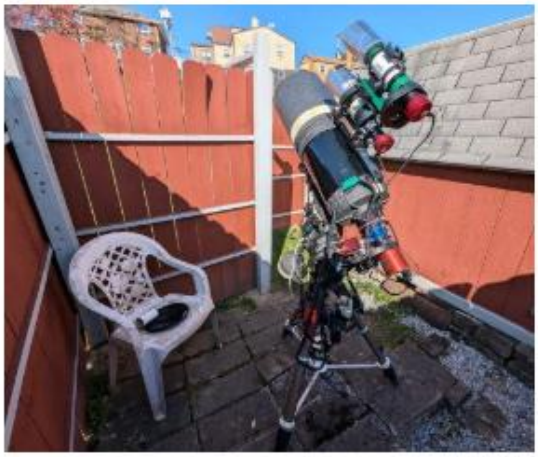
EAA observing – Tuesday 11/26/2024 @ Big WoodChuck Observatory

hi all,

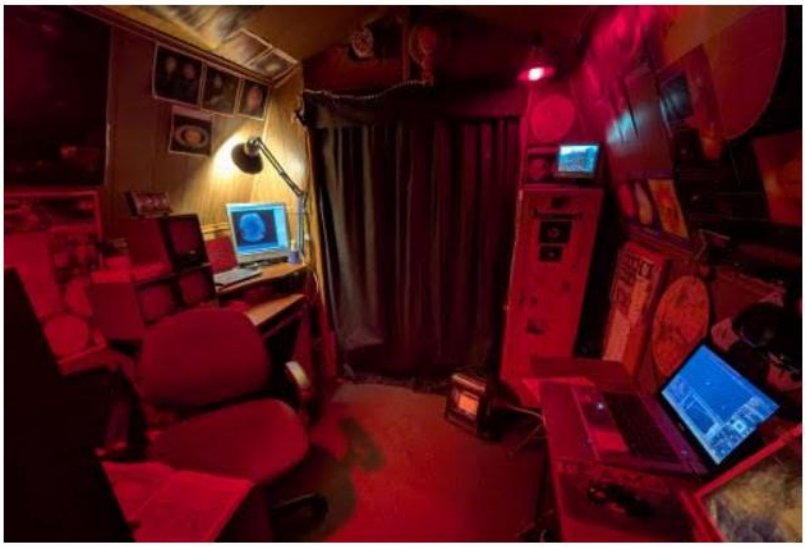
The beautiful clear skies this afternoon enticed me out this evening to my backyard observatory.
The sunny blue sky soon turned to dusk as darkness fell, and before long the stars came out to play.

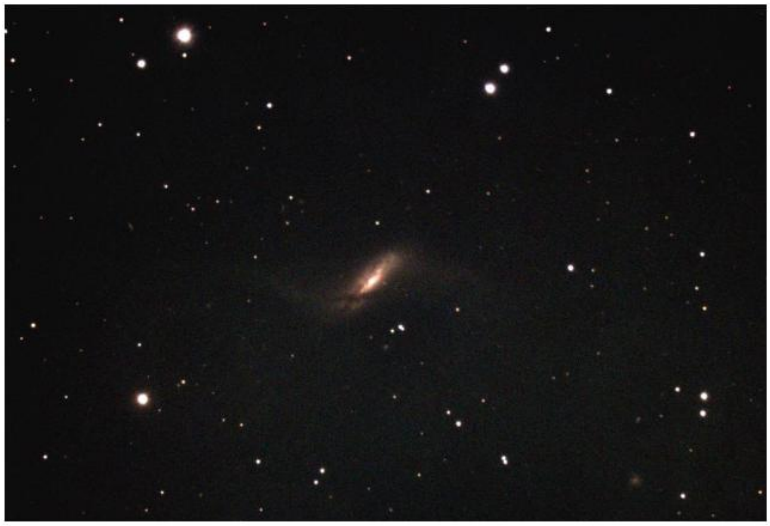
(at least what stars I can see from my light-polluted backyard, LOL)

I uncovered my travel telescope, now setup inside the open-air fenced pad located next to the observatory.
Soon I had the propane heater running and it was comfortable inside the warm-room controlling the telescope.

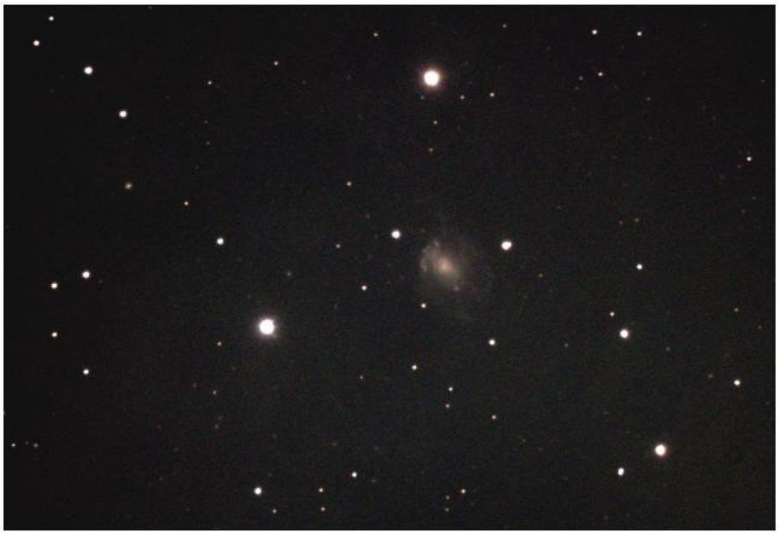


I had a list of galaxies to work so i started off in the constellations of Pisces & Cetus rising towards the meridian. First up was NGC660, a disturbed spiral with two faint arms coming off of either of the main disk, along with a number of dark lanes including one cutting across the disk.



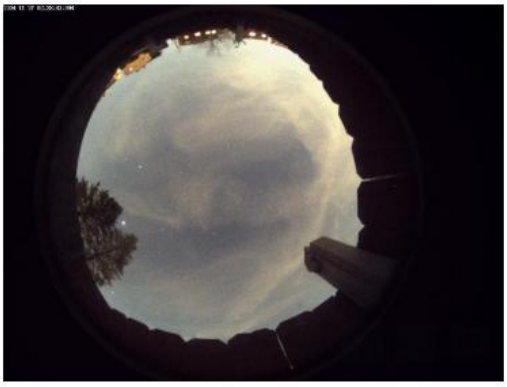
(8" f6.3 SCT optical tube on Atlas Gem, ZWO ASI294MC Pro camera & L-Pro broadband filter, 120 second subs livestacked in Sharpcap for 30 minutes).

Then on to NGC428, another disrupted spiral that is also undergoing starburst similar to M82. Hints of several spiral arms along the right side, and the thick starburst arm on the left.



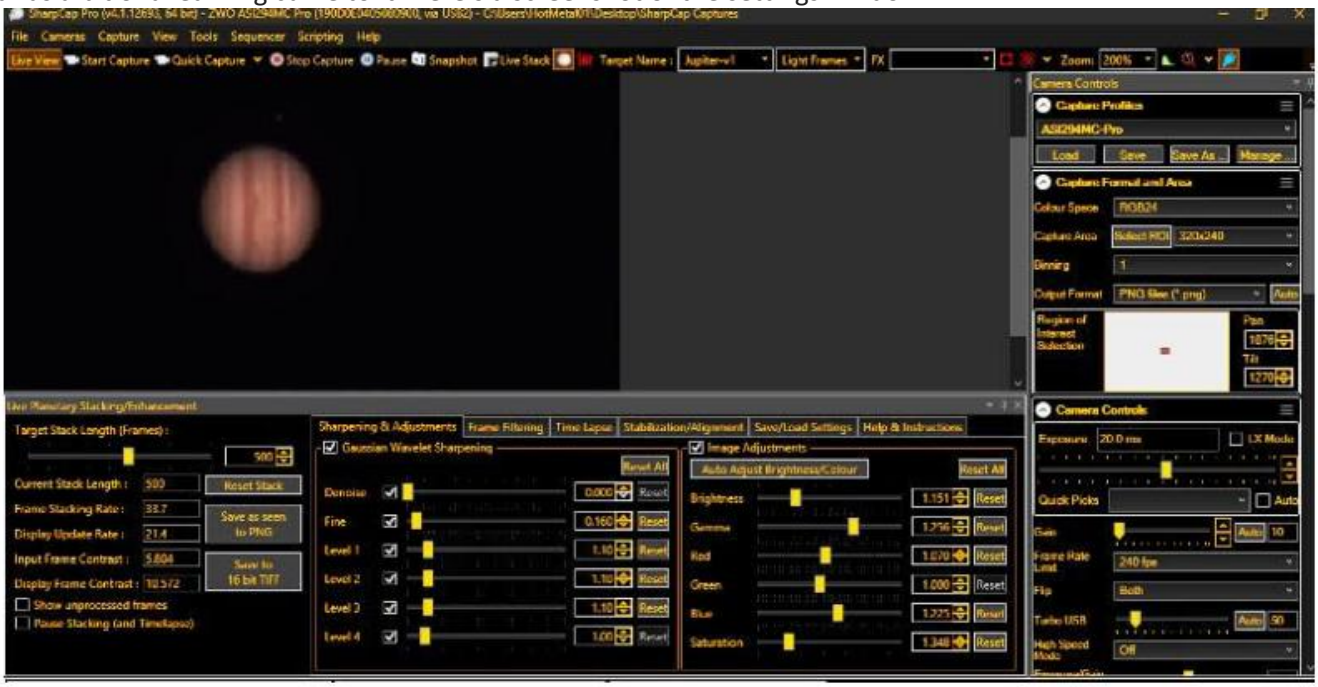
(8" f6.3 SCT - same details as above)

Just as I was finishing up the last galaxy and preparing to slew to the next, the AllSky camera caught my eye.



That wasn't suppose to happen for several more hours!!! Arghhh!!

It was too early to call it a night, so I decided to try using the Sharpcap 'planetary livestacking tool', an enhancement that had been release last year that i never got around to trying.
It has a bit of a learning curve to it. Here's a screenshot of the settings window:



It looks & feels similar to running a previously saved AVI clip thru Registax, but this is in realtime!

I was able to get a half-decent stack of Saturn (like what Galileo observed 414 years ago), thru the hazy sky, and did much better with bright Jupiter:

(Saturn - camera ROI=320x240, 155ms exposure, 500 frames stacked. Jupiter = 37ms for 500 frames)

I'm looking forward to trying Sharpcap's planetary livestack on Mars in a couple of months!
Larry