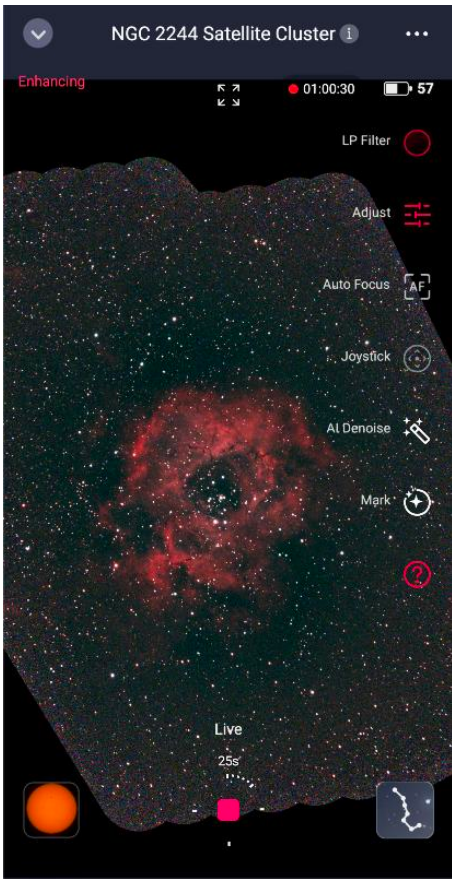
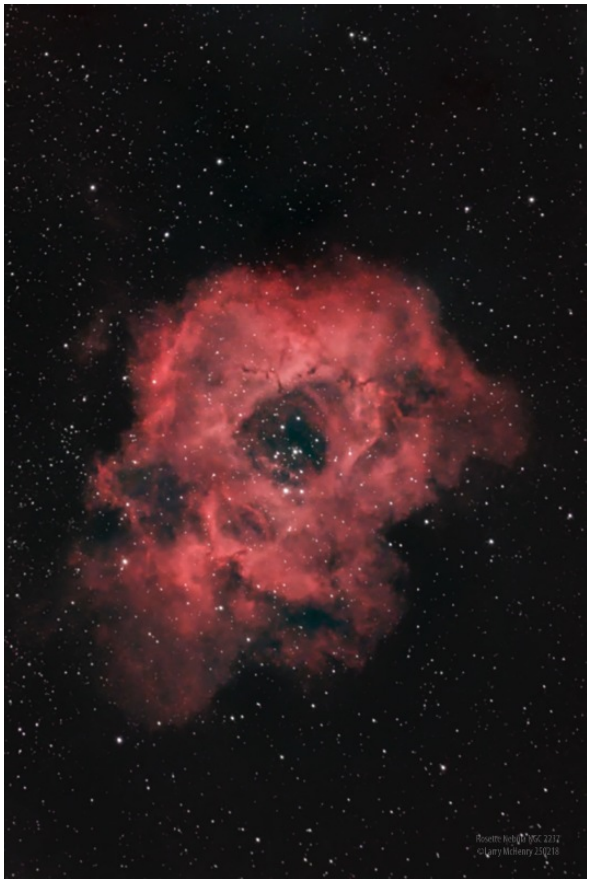
Subject: SeeStar S30 observing - Tuesday & Wednesday evenings, Feb 18th & 19th 2025
From: Larry McHenry <lsmch@comcast.net>
Date: 2/20/2025, 1:18 PM
To: oras io group <ORAS@groups.io>, "KiskiAstronomers@groups.io" <KiskiAstronomers@groups.io>

hi all,

Took advantage of Tuesday and Wednesday's very cold but partly clear nights.
For both nights, after powering up the S30 SeeStar, attaching its dew-shield, and running out on the patio and plopping it on a table, I settled in for a 'little' S30 indoor remote observing.
I was 'multi-tasking', selecting deep-sky targets and viewing the image build on my phone in-between binge watching reruns of "The Expanse" on the TeeVee. (one of the best SciFi shows ever! 😊)

Tuesday night was another attempt at doing a mosaic of the Rosette Nebula. While I made it much further this time, nearly completing the 'expanded' FOV over the course of 2 hours, unfortunately, I did not account for that section of the sky in Monoceros rotating into the limbs of a nearby tree. lol. I think I'll save doing long mosaics for when I am out at a wide-open site. Here's a screenshot of the attempt, (at the 1 hour mark), showing the phone controls along with the stacking mosaic.
Wondering what the final FOV would have been, I uploaded the image to Astrometry.net which was able to calculate a FOV = 2.4 x 4.7 degrees!
(I later shared my nearly complete EAA image with Dean S, who performed a bunch of pixel magic and generated the below processed image, which shows that the little S30 can also do traditional astrophotography)





(30 second subs, narrowband filter, brightness/contrast adjusted) (Dean's image on the right, using Xterminator to do a bunch of pixel stuff)

Wednesday night, I focused on clusters and bright nebula, starting off with M35 & NGC2158 in Gemini: (10 second exposure with IR filter for ~16 minutes).

Followed by the Xmas Tree Cluster - (NGC2264) with the Cone Nebula, and the SeaGull Nebula - (IC2177 & NGC2343), both in Monoceros: (30 second exp with Narrowband filter for ~30 minutes).

Shortly after finishing the SeaGull observation, clouds rolled-in from the west and ended the session. Closing-up was just a matter of walking out on the patio, picking up the S30 and bringing it indoors.
One thing that I've learned these last couple of nights is that the S30's dew heater really impacts its internal battery life. I think I'm going to have to get an additional external power supply for longer sessions.
Larry