

SeeStar S30 observing - Clusters and Galaxies - Monday March 17th

1 message

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Hi all,

With the Luck of the Irish, it was a beautifully clear sunset on St Patty's Day, and Moonrise not till 11:05pm, I sat the little SeeStar S30 out on the patio table. First up was a couple of Winter Star Clusters that I missed on the last outing. M48 in Hydra and M93 in Puppis:



(S30, 10 second exposures with the IR filter stacked for 15 minutes, then AI noise reduction applied in-app)

Then, with Leo the Lion rising high in the eastern sky, it was time for a little galaxy hunting, starting with the 'other' Leo Triplet - M95, M96, and M107! (M96 is center left, M95 is lower right, M107 (including its smaller companions - NGC3371 & NGC3373, it's own tiny triplet! 😊) is to the upper left. For this observation, I bumped the exposure up to 30 seconds, still using the IR filter, and stacked for 40 minutes, then AI tweaked in-app.

I then slewed over to the real "Leo Triplet" - M665, M66, and NGC3628. (M66 is in the center FOV, M65 to the upper right, NGC3628 to the upper left). With the Moon now above the horizon, I let the 30 second exposures stack for one hour, which brought out nicely the dust lane in NGC3628.



Shortly afterwards, I called it a night and walked out to the patio and carried the little scope back inside to download the images and shutdown. Tonight should be another good night. Think I'll check-out galaxies in the Great Bear.

You can find all my previous SeeStar S30 observations here: <https://www.stellar-journeys.org/S30-Widefield-Tour.htm>
Larry