

SeeStar S30 observing - Galaxies in the Bear - Tuesday March 18th

1 message

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To: "ORAS@groups.io Notification" <oras@groups.io>, "KiskiAstronomers@groups.io" <KiskiAstronomers@groups.io>

Wed, Mar 19, 2025 at 9:53 PM

Hi all,

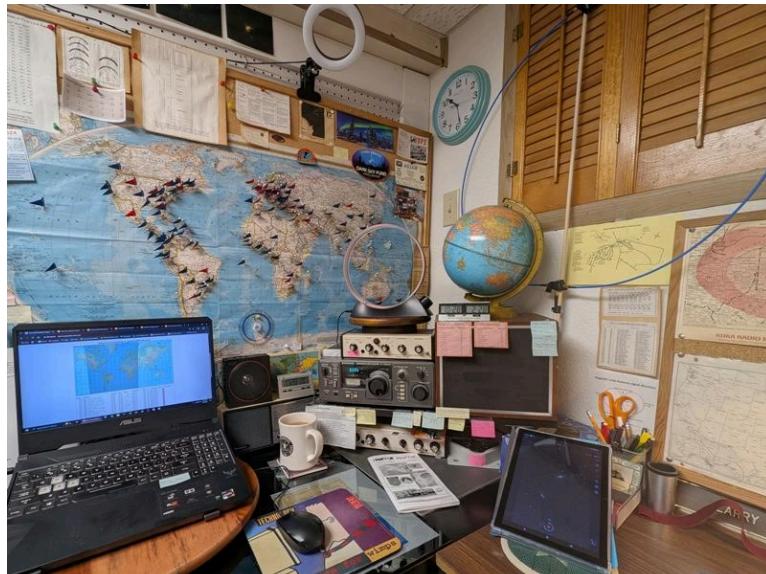
After last night's ORAS club presentation on nightscape imaging, I later made it outside to explore a few galaxies in/nearby Ursa Major - the Great Bear.
(I should say my SeeStar S30 was outside on the patio,, I was inside in my hobby-space... 😊)

Had to relocate the scope several times to find the sweet-spot of northern sky that wasn't blocked by houses.
Here's the first target of the night, M81 & M82 (Bodes Galaxy and the Cigar Galaxy), both in Ursa Major rising high above the pole-star.
At first I was only going to do a 30 minute livestack, but the view was so good I let it go deeper for a full hour to bring out more detail in M81's spiral arms.



(30 second exposures with the IR filter stacked for 60 minutes, then AI noise reduction applied in-app. Image cropped)

While keeping an eye on the tablet as the hour long livestack ticked-down, I multi-tasked with my other 'indoor' hobby - shortwave listening!
Here's pic of my 'listening post'. (what you usually don't see while I'm zoomed into an ORAS meeting using the same laptop).



I then slewed the scope down to the Bear's tail and crossed over the boundary line into Canes Venatici for the Whirlpool Galaxy - M51.

This time, I went with a shorter 30 minute livestack, saving the deeper dive for a dark sky location later this spring. That was just enough stack-time to really bring out the interacting pair's spiral arms. Finally, with the clock ticking past midnight and a 81% waning gibbous Moon rising, I went to the other side of the Bear Tail for the Pinwheel Galaxy - M101. Even with the bad influencing moonlight, I was still able to pull-in the multiple spiral arms coming of the galaxy's core.



Seestar S30

40°N, 79°W / 2025-03-19 00:01

30min



Seestar S30

40°N, 79°W / 2025-03-19 00:38

M 101

31min

(30 second exposures with the IR filter stacked for 30 minutes, then AI noise reduction applied in-app. Image cropped)

Another good Smartscope observing session!

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

Larry