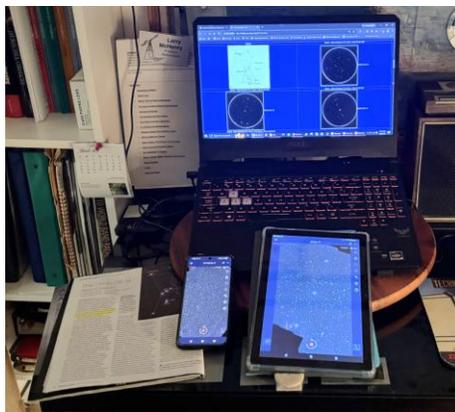
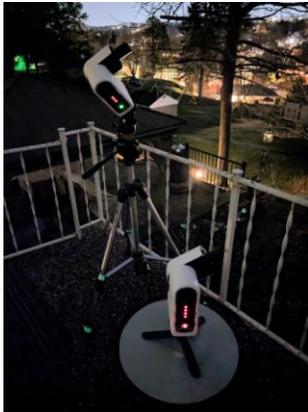


## SeeStar S30 OB Association Observing. March, 2026

One of the reasons I enjoy reading "Sky & Telescope" magazine are the interesting observational related articles that are in nearly every issue. For the March 2026 issue, on page 12 is a fine report by Stephen James O'Meara on the OB Associations of Orion. OB Associations are a very large, loose form of open star clusters suitable for visually observing using small Rich-Field Telescopes. Reading this article resulted in a trip down memory lane to when I first visually observed and sketched these wide-field objects back in January 1993 using a 80mm University Optics f3 Refractor with a 32mm Konig Eyepiece, giving 10x magnification & about a 3.5 deg FOV. (My sketch observations of the Orion OB Associations were featured in the June 2025 AL's "Reflector" magazine. For all of my visual OB Sketches using the 80mm refractor see: <http://stellar-journeys.org/OB-Tour.htm>)

I had recently acquired the new ZWO SeeStar S30-Pro smart telescope back in mid-February, but the weather wasn't very cooperative in putting it to use. Now though, we had several good clear nights in early March where I was able to utilize both the new S30-Pro and the older S30. The wide-field capabilities of the S30-Pro would be ideal in capturing the large OB Associations of Orion. Here's my EAA style observations of the Orion OB Associations made on the nights of March 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>, using both telescopes.

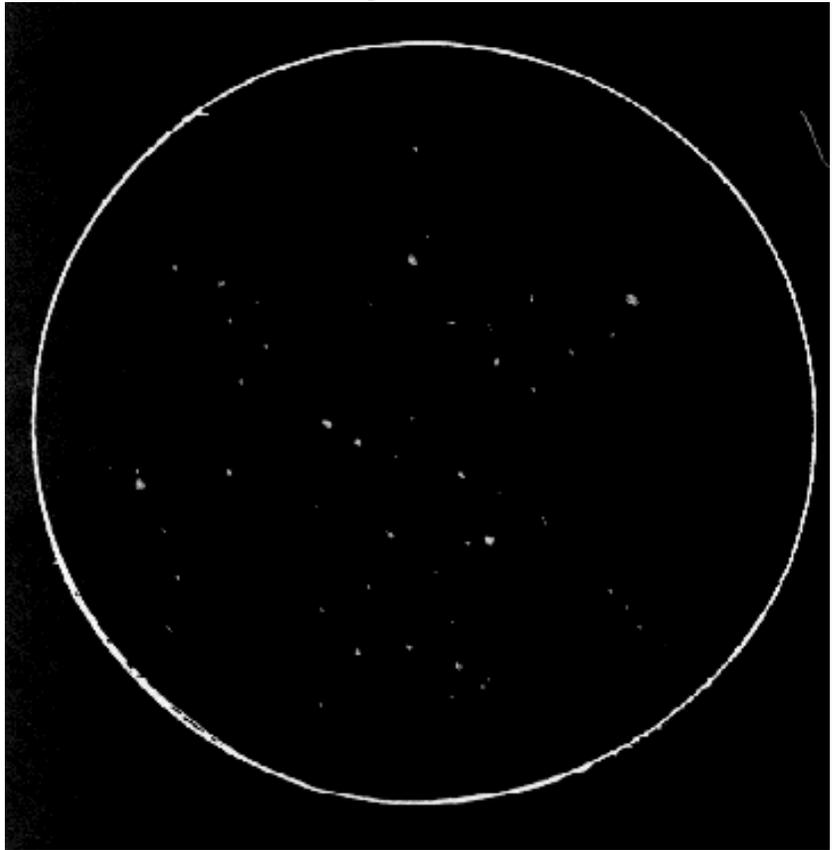
Both scopes were setup on the small balcony off my house's sunroom. (Notice all the backyard lights! ☹️) Once the scopes were operational and connected, I moved down to my hobby desk where I controlled the scopes via cellphone and tablet while I used my laptop to review my old 1993 sketches and O'Meara's magazine article.



Here's a couple of Orion constellation images using the S30-Pro 3mm wide-field lens. These constellation observations will be much more fun from a dark sky location.

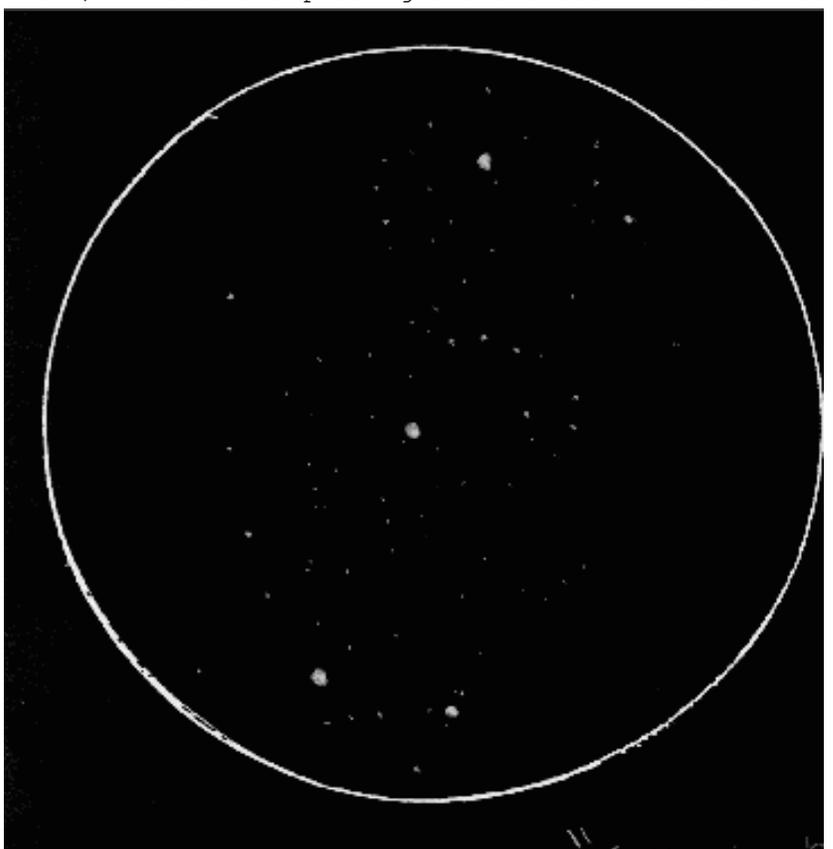


Here's the 'star' of the O'Meara article - Orion OB1a, using the S30-Pro 30mm tele lens in mosaic mode, along with the 1993 visual sketch for comparison:



(SeeStar S30-Pro: 20 second exposures in EQ mode with the IR filter, livestacked for 61 minutes, then AI noise reduction applied in-app)

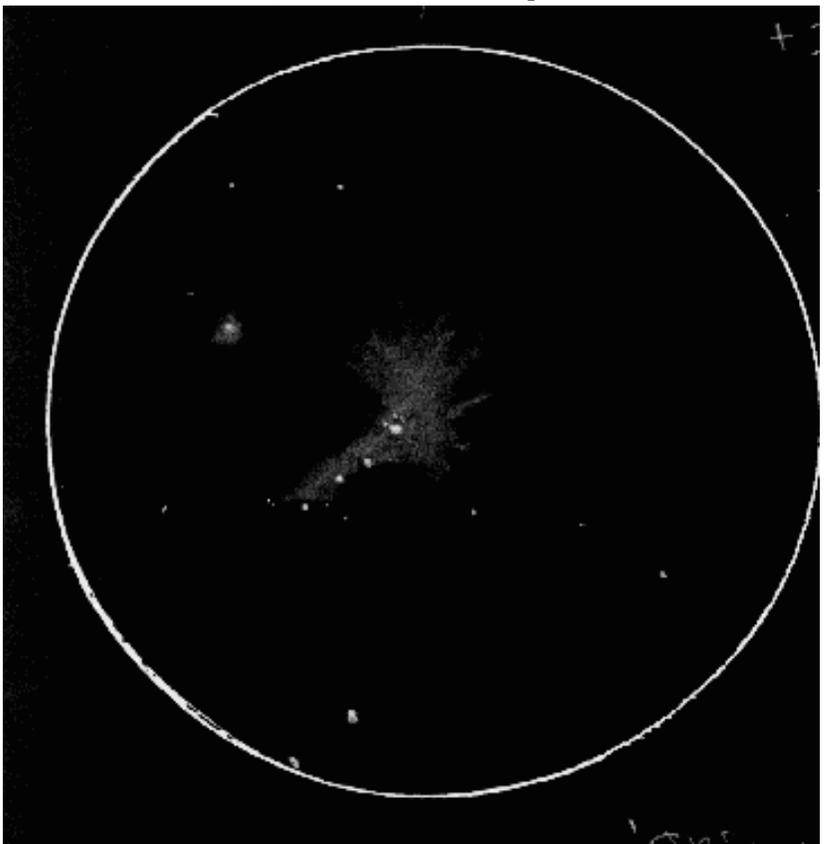
Next is Orion OB1b, the "Belt of Orion", 20 second exp using the old S30 in mosaic mode:



Then using the old S30, Orion OB1c which includes M42, M43, The Running Man Nebula, (NGC1973, 1975, 1977) and open clusters NGC1980 and 1981. (20 sec exp, NB filter)



Finally, with the S30, the last Orion OB Association, OB1d - the Trapezium core of M42:



(2 second exposure using the IR filter)

I could have EAA observed with the new S30-Pro all of these in Orion, but the old S30 is still fun. If there's time, I think I'll repeat these observations when I'm at the Staunton River Star party under much darker skies!

Larry McHenry

Astronomical Webportal: <http://www.stellar-journeys.org/>