

## Backyard observing, TV76, 7/19/2004

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Date: Tue, 20 Jul 2004 10:10:10 -0700

Date: Night of Monday, 19-July-2004

Location: Palm Springs, California

Equipment: Tele Vue 76 (3" f/6.3) refractor

Went out again late tonight with the TV76 after working night shift. Similar conditions to last night with brighter patches of the Milky Way visible overhead.

Open cluster M52 in Cassiopeia at first just a soft glow but with more study many faint stars start to resolve. Another Cass open is NGC 7789. Quite large but very faint. Almost not visible above the background skyglow. Hard to tell it's actually made of stars and not a nebula.

Revisiting the NGC 281 nebula tonight with the UHC filter. This is the Pacman nebula. Surprisingly easy to see with the 16mm Nagler. However not quite enough contrast to see the "bite" that gives the nebula its name. Definitely needs a visit from a darksky site.

An interesting pair from darksky sites are open cluster NGC 6939 in Cepheus and galaxy NGC 6946 just over the border in Cygnus. From dark sites the two are actually easy to see in 16x70mm binoculars. But tonight through city skies it's a different story. The cluster 6939 is just barely detectable and the galaxy 6946 is invisible.

Over in Andromeda M31 is of course bright and easy to spot. But to me it's always oddly uninteresting with no real details seen for all its brightness. Companion M32 easy to spot. However the other companion M110 took a bit of searching as it was farther from the main galaxy than i remembered and dimmer than i was expecting. Before going in i tried for the Pinwheel galaxy M33 but it was too low in skyglow to the east to bother with.

-Florian  
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