

Re: Astromart vrs. Cloudy Nights vrs. S.A.A. vrs. yahoo groups TT, SCT-user ect.

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2004-07/3707.html>

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Date: 07/25/04

Date: 25 Jul 2004 17:31:28 GMT

>Do you know the man are these just your impressions filtered by your being
>teed
>off that you were asked to follow the rules of the group you joined?
>
>Phil is a gentleman, an accomplished writer, and one of the best and nicest
>people it is my pleasure to know.

Rod,

This post in its entirety is only my opinion, the facts may or may not correlate to this said opinion, it is only what I think.

I've never met him personally. He was not one of the nicest people I've had the pleasure to know (nor was he a gentleman) in the several emails that we exchanged. On the contrary, he was basically a dictatorial, over-reacting, insecure and defensive Nerd with a capital "N." (My opinion).

So, thanks but no thanks to his group(s) (I've not been banned, but the whole idea of being moderated for posting at least relatively on topic on a group is silly).

I'm not teed off for being asked to follow the rules, I am disappointed that he apparently singled me out took issue with me as a person (felt threatened apparently), and then decided to use his rules to fit his purpose of shutting me down.

That's fine, no problem. After all it's his group (sandbox), and he can do what he wants with it. It also happens to be the reason that I don't care for moderated newsgroups. It is all too easy for someone like Phil to arbitrarily label someone like myself "riff-raff" and decide to keep me out.

Just because my nickname is rat, doesn't imply that I am not qualified to make a contribution to a hobby that I have invested a great deal of personal resources (both time and money) in order to develop some personal expertise in the subject of equipment.

His complaints were sophomoric and if he were more skilled socially, he would have simply let my equipment/observing report go, as it was just another post out of thousands.

Furthermore it contained a great deal of equipment review, as I was posting regarding a new telescope that I had acquired. I did give a list of objects that I observed and how they appeared as part of it both for reference and to make the report more interesting.

"Well, if you wanted to do a proper equipment review, you would have done this, and that, and this and that."

Poppycock! Why am I going to let some stuffed shirt dictate how I create my prose? To do that would be to sell my soul to the Devil!

I have seen him interact with others, and sure, if you are a good ass kisser, he will be nice to you and let you play with his sand bucket and spade. If you care to have a dissenting opinion, then he takes his toys and goes home.

This was expressed to me by more than one of his group members as personal favors in private email, admonishing me that if I wanted to remain a member of the group I had better start kissing his ass, and quick, because he is known to "86" members that openly disagree with him.

That's just ridiculous. He is an author and the emperor of a Yahoo group and nothing more. I'd rather sit around and clean my eyepieces, or just go out and look at stars than have to be a "yes man" to Phil so I could have to honor of being allowed to remain in his Holy Presence.

As far as the book goes, I agree that it lists pretty much all of the Northern objects that might be of interest to an binocular observer. But, it is a fact that it is difficult and awkward to use, as there is no simple way to reference it to a map of the actual objects in the night sky. It also falls short in the description category for many objects that are of interest. Don't get me wrong, however, I think the world is far better for having it than not. And I have so stated on more than one occasion in the past.

Star Ware is also a great resource, and if it weren't for the childish intentional omission of University Optics (another glaring example of his unskillful unwillingness to get past his social skill deficiencies), and included some better discussion of the high end producer TEC (who also appears to have done something to limit their potential for acquiring his highness' more detailed inclusion) it would be damned near perfect. As it is, I have read both books several times and I really like them both. He is an accomplished writer.

I like SAA because I am free to state my ****opinion****, which was the whole point of my post. You are free to disagree with it.

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In the case of Phil (and as you know, SCT's, too), you are unlikely to sway my opinion. I disrespect Phil for not being man enough to let a person be himself on his group. In my book he has not yet collected all the tools necessary to function as a mature adult in real society, so he has created a world within a world where he can feel more comfortable by controlling events from "on high." That's fine; it's his right to do so.

I am comfortable and confident that my opinion here will draw flames and be very unpopular and in the minority, but at least here I have the right to state it, and am not afraid to do so, because I am not here to win some sort of popularity contest, but to interact with this group from my own unique perspective. In my mind, Phil is a big baby.

And in the words of Dan Akroid, playing Tom Snyder, the old late night talk show host: "There...I've said it!"

For myself, SAA is far more interesting, and that was my original comment agreeing with Stephen Paul that Yahoo groups can be quite boring.

As I said above, this post in its entirety is only my opinion, reality may or may not correlate to said opinion of mine, it is only what I think.

rat

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