

Re: M45 and Machholz on 8 January -- the Sky Cleared!!

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On Sun, 09 Jan 2005 10:16:03 -0500, Michael McCulloch
<michaelm@nospam.invalid.net> wrote:

>>Wow – no tail at ISO3200 for 400s! I'm quite surprised by that. What
>>optical arrangements were there on the front of the camera Michael?
>
>I am surprised as well. I'm still playing with my photos from last
>night taken Jan 9th around 4 UT (some 5 hours after your photo), but
>so far none of them show any ion tail in the vicinity of the comet
>head even in inverted grayscale.
>
>Here is the one shot at 3200 ASA for 400s. I only took it to attempt
>to discover the orientation of the ion tail in the frame so I could
>maximize coverage in the fov:
>
><http://gamesforone.com/stars/notail.jpg>
>
>There may be barely a hint of something at the 1 o'clock position but
>the brightness and contrast of that image has been pushed to an
>extreme.
>
>My setup is a 105mm apo at f/6.2. The camera was at prime focus.

My guess is that something's happened to turn the tail off Michael. A number of other posts on other forums from Stateside imagers suggests no tail either. My shot at 18h42m UT on the 8th,

<http://www.digitalsky.org.uk/comets/Machholz/2005-01-08-18h42m.jpg>

definitely shows a tail, albeit a faint one – which I've attributed to the layer of thin cloud I was imaging through.

I wonder if the aurora producing solar activity has had an effect?

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Pete

<http://www.digitalsky.org.uk>

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