

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

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redbelly98@yahoo.com:

- > *I notice that your photo did capture the point-like nucleus. With*
- > *enough exposure time to capture the tail, that would have been much*
- > *over-exposed (as seen in other photos that do show the tail).*

Indeed. I should have noted in my post that I did capture some faint tail detail in a couple of longer exposures, but the resulting images, whether taken individually or stacked, were not visually pleasing to me.

The most important thing that I should have mentioned is that I am a hobbyist, not a researcher. My sole objective is to produce visually-pleasing images, whether I am making astrophotographs, photographing nature, or making portraits.

With the above in mind, insofar as astrophotography is concerned, I have to keep my expectations realistic because of my location. I believe that I can improve my skill at processing astrophotographs, as I have considerable experience in producing both commercial and fine-art images in Photoshop. I live almost exactly half-way between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., however, and at present I have some doubts as to how deep I can go with an astrophotograph -- again keeping in mind my sole objective of producing visually pleasing images. Whether or not my object is achieved is, of course, in the eye of the beholder.

I listen to constructive criticism, and I appreciate the fact that people take time to visit my web site and criticize my work. Now I gotta go and re-examine last night's comet images in "light" of the criticism in this thread!

Thanks to all,

Davoud

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