

Re: Messier Marathoning

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2005-02/3028.html>

From: Sketcher (*sketcher_at_strangeweb.net*)

Date: 02/28/05

Date: Sun, 27 Feb 2005 20:40:03 -0700

In answer to my own questions:

>*Who plans on bagging as many Messier objects as they can this month?*

Count me in -- if I can manage to stay awake!

>*What instrument(s) do you plan on using?*

My primary instrument will be a 13cm f/6 refractor. 25x100 binoculars may be used for those objects that hide behind trees, etc. from where the refractor is set up.

>*At what magnification(s)?*

A 30x eyepiece providing a 2.1 degree true field will be in the scope for most, if not all of the session.

>>*From what location (sky darkness, elevation, latitude)?*

I'll most likely make the attempt from my rural backyard (somewhere in the neighborhood of magnitude 6.0) at an elevation of 3,000 feet. My latitude is approximately 45 degrees north.

>*On what date(s)?*

Next weekend with the following two weekends as backups. Earlier clear evenings will be used to 'get the hang of' bagging those first few troublesome Messiers. If I get ambitious I'll even try for some morning preview sessions!

>*Alone or with others?*

As with most sessions, I'll be observing alone.

>*Have you attempted a Messier Marathon before? Outcome?*

I can recall only one attempt that started out seriously. I don't recall the year; but it wasn't too far back. IIRC, shortly after

sci.astro.amateur: Re: Messier Marathoning

checking off the Virgo galaxies a warm bed became too much to resist.

Sometimes the option of hitting different groups of objects on different nights seems to be the more reasonable approach; but then it wouldn't be a single, all-night marathon!

Sketcher

To sketch is to see.