

Re: mars in a 4.5 inch scope

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On 2007-11-21 16:07:00 -0500, Chris L Peterson <clp@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> said:

On Wed, 21 Nov 2007 21:01:21 GMT, "Buffalo Gump" <buff@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

What I meant was why are people always having problems seeing Mars features?
Is there a minimum aperture that will work without any trouble?

Because Mars is far away, and people strive for the smallest features that a telescope is capable of resolving. Those features are generally going to be limited by seeing. The bigger the telescope, the more features you'll be able to see, but it will rarely be "without any trouble". The key to seeing fine features is to spend a lot of time at the eyepiece. This is true for all objects, not just Mars.

Chris L Peterson

I'll also add that unless you have developed your observing eyes you won't see as much either. It takes quite a while to train your eyes and brain to see detail. Over time you get better and better and better.