

Messier Marathon 2020

BAS March Meeting

Fred Rains

Messier Marathon

- Search sequence
- Forms and record keeping
- Charts
- References
- What scope to use
- What else to bring

Sequences and Charts

- [SEDS, Students for the Exploration and Development of Space](#)
- [Messier Finder Chart](#)
- [Observation form](#)

M 102?

- Some folks don't believe in M102
- Most use NGC 5866 as M102
- Does not really matter
- Use NGC 5866 and don't look back... 😊

The Virgo Cluster

- Really large number of objects in a small area.
- There's a lot of objects there and, believe it or not the larger the aperture, the harder it is to identify them.
- Don't feel bad if you get lost a few times.
- [Finder Chart 1](#)
- [Finder Chart 2](#)

What Scope to use?

- A six inch scope or greater is best
- You can see a majority of the objects with a pair of binoculars
- I'm going to use an 89mm Cat and see just how many I can detect...
- Basically what ever you have

Does it matter how I find them?

- Nope!
- Starhop (takes longer but no batteries to go dead)
- Robo-Scope (really quick but the batteries go dead)
- Setting Circles (takes a little getting used to)
- We're there to have fun and see things

What else to bring?

- Coffee!
- Snacks
- Dress for the weather
- Red flashlight and extra batteries
- Be prepared for wind – charts will fly
- Remember – less is more
- Any other suggestions?

References

- SEDS
- Sky and Telescope Messier Card
- **The Observing Guide to the Messier Marathon: A Handbook and Atlas**
by Don Machholz
- **The Year-Round Messier Marathon Field Guide, H.C. Pennington**



Questions?