

A good 5 years ago, I started a thread here at CN on my observations of the “Classic Best NGC” objects, i.e., some of the brightest and most interesting objects (next after the *Messiers*), as seen from my suburban backyard with my small classic/vintage 3-4” refractors, often augmented by live video or night vision. This thread has now been archived, but it is still accessible in read-only mode via this link: <https://www.cloudynights.com/topic/547602-classic-best-ngc/?p=7390137>

After one year of rather random NGC object observations, I needed a more focused scope and a broader perspective for my astronomy hobby, whereafter I started my “Classic Rich Field” project, moving more systematically from our Local Bubble with stellar streams to surrounding interstellar supernova shells with molecular clouds and embedded young star forming OB-associations in our own and surrounding spiral arms, out to other galaxies in our Local Group and Local Sheet, further out to distant galaxy superclusters in UMa, Virgo and beyond.

Recently, in the “Classic Rich Field” project, I have embarked on a revisit of the *Messiers* from a cosmological perspective (which I plan to continue), but I also now feel the need to reboot my “Classic best NGC V.1” project, with new observations of these interesting objects. In this the “Classic Best NGC V.2” thread, I plan to move along at a leisurely pace, season by season, just picking and choosing from a “consolidated list” of the best NGCs according to my observing conditions. It will be a walk in the woods, many paths, and I look forward to see where this will take me!

*“And both that morning equally lay / In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day! / Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
/I doubted if I should ever come back.”*

As described in V.1 of this topic, my list of the “best” NGCs is compiled from the following sources:

R	RASC	Royal Astronomical Society, Canada
S	SAC	Saguaro Astronomy Club, Arizona
C	CALD	Patrick Moore's Caldwell list
H	HER-400	Subset-400 of William Herschel's Catalogue
T	O-HT	O'Meara Hidden Treasures Deep-Sky Companion
D	O-SD	O'Meara Secret Deep Deep-Sky Companion

Some separate descriptions of these object lists:

RASC	http://www.astrosurf.com/mmorin/pdf/rasc-finest-ngc-spring-a.pdf http://www.astrosurf.com/mmorin/pdf/rasc-finest-ngc-spring-b.pdf http://www.astrosurf.com/mmorin/pdf/rasc-finest-ngc-summer.pdf http://www.astrosurf.com/mmorin/pdf/rasc-finest-ngc-autumn.pdf http://www.astrosurf.com/mmorin/pdf/rasc-finest-ngc-winter.pdf
SAC	https://www.saguaroastro.org/wp-content/sac-docs/Book110BestNGC.pdf
CALD	http://www.lakatoswebsite.com/Astronomy/Caldwell%20Catalogue.pdf
HER-400	https://www.faintfuzzies.com/Files/Herschel%20400-I%20v1.pdf http://www.faintfuzzies.com/Files/Herschel%20400-II%20v1.pdf
O-HT	https://www.astrobin.com/users/Garyl/collections/676/
O-SD	https://www.astrobin.com/users/Garyl/collections/677/

My consolidated list can be seen and downloaded here:

PDF:	https://qualitycode.files.wordpress.com/2022/01/classicngc-bw.pdf
XLS:	https://qualitycode.files.wordpress.com/2022/01/classicngc-bw.xls

AURIGA

√	NGC	RASC	SAC	CALD	HER-400	O-HT	O-SD	Season	Con	Type	R.A. H:m.s	DEC °,'	m v	Size "	Comment
√	I-2149						D027	W	Aur	PN	05:56.4	46.06	10.7	8.5	Near Bet Aur, small 11m fuzzy *, 170x mag
√	1664				H056 (8,51)			W	Aur	OC	04:51.1	43.41	7.6	18	"Meteor trail" OC, near Eps Aur, >100*, use low power
√	1907		S007		H060 (7,39)			W	Aur	OC	05:28.0	35.19	8.2	7	30* mags 9
√	I-0417						D022	W	Aur	EN/OC	05:28.1	34.26	8	13x10	# Spider EN/OC; S of M38, at Phi Aur; St-8, See also NGC1931
√	I-0405			C031				W	Aur	E/RN	05:16.2	34.16	6	30x19	Flaming Star, at AE Aur; Binary runaway* with Mu Col (from I Ori)
√	1931	R024	S008		H061 (1,261)		D023	W	Aur	E/RN/OC	05:31.4	34.15	-	3x3	# Fly E/RN/OC, Small neb (Sh 2-237), tiny 4*OC; High Mag.; E of IC417

CAMELEOPARDALIS

√	NGC	RASC	SAC	CALD	HER-400	O-HT	O-SD	Season	Con	Type	R.A. H:m.s	DEC °,'	m v	Size "	Comment
√	2655	R038	S011		H119 (1,288)	T048		W	Cam	G-Sa	08:55.6	78.13	10.1	5.1x4.4	Mixed lenticular/spiral, 4'x2' mottled glow, central brightening
√	I-0342			C005				W	Cam	SG	03:46.8	68.06	7.9	16x15	"Hidden Galaxy"; SB:15.0; Dist 13 MLY
√	2403	R037	S010	C007	H099 (5,44)			W	Cam	G-Sc	07:36.9	65.36	8.4	17.8x11	*Fireworks Galaxy; Very large & bright; visible in binocs

CANIS MAJOR (CMA)

√	NGC	RASC	SAC	CALD	HER-400	O-HT	O-SD	Season	Con	Type	R.A. H:m.s	DEC °,'	m v	Size "	Comment
√	2359						D035	W	CMA	E/RN	07:18.6	-13.12	-	9x6	Flying Eye, Thor's Helmet, Duck Head; Large ENE-SSW at 11m *; 60x mag
√	2360			C058	H093 (7, 12)			W	CMA	OC	07:17.8	-15.37	7.2	13	OC, pretty compressed, rich, 1/2° diam.; Stars 9-12m
√	2362			C064	H094 (7, 17)			W	CMA	OC	07:18.8	-24.57	4.1	8	"Liquid Pyramid" OC, Tau CMA Cluster, 60* of 8m and fainter

ERIDANUS (ERI)

√	NGC	RASC	SAC	CALD	HER-400	O-HT	O-SD	Season	Con	Type	R.A. H:m.s	DEC °,'	m v	Size "	Comment
√	1407				H047 (1,107)		D013	W	Eri	GX	03:40.2	-18.35	9.7	6.0x5.8	# Eridanus-A Gxy Grp; pair w. NGC1400; E0 Elliptical
√	1400						D012	W	Eri	GX	03:39.5	-18.41	11.0	2.8x2.5	# Eridanus-A Gxy Grp; pair w. NGC1407; SA0 Lenticular

GEMINI (GEM)

√	NGC	RASC	SAC	CALD	HER-400	O-HT	O-SD	Season	Con	Type	R.A. H:m.s	DEC °,'	m v	Size "	Comment
√	2371/2	R030			H095/096		D036	W	Gem	PN	07:25.6	29.29	11.3	55	Her(2,316/17) Double Bubble/Peanut PN;Faint double-lobed;filter
√	2266				H081 (6,21)			W	Gem	OC	06:43.3	26.58	9.5	5	Small, relatively faint, fan shaped OC, 2° N of Eps Gem.
√	2158		S053		H070 (6,17)			W	Gem	OC	06:07.5	24.06	8.6		Near M35, Compact, rich, small (5'), dim
√	2420				H101 (6,1)		D037	W	Gem	OC	07:38.4	21.34	8.3	6	Twinkling "Comet" OC, round, very rich (>300*)
√	2392	R031	S054	C039	H097 (4,45)			W	Gem	PN	07:29.2	20.55	8.3	13	*Clown Face/Eskimo Nebula. Use high power

HYA – LEP - LYN

√	NGC	RASC	SAC	CALD	HER-400	O-HT	O-SD	Season	Con	Type	R.A. H:m.s	DEC °,'	m v	Size "	Comment
√	2548				H114 (6,22)			W	Hya	OC	08:13.7	-5.45	5.8	30	M48, loose OC ~80*, 8-13m; arrowhead core
√	IC418					T028		W	Lep	PN	05:27.3	-12.42	9.6	0.5	Raspberry Nebula
√	2419			C025	H100 (1,218)			W	Lyn	GC	07:38.1	38.53	10.4	4.1	Inter-galactic Tramp/Wanderer; GC in outer MW halo, N of Castor.
√	2683	R039	S067		H121 (1,200)	T047		W	Lyn	G-Sb	08:52.7	33.25	9.7	2.1x9.3	UFO Galaxy; Nearly edge-on spiral; very bright

MONOCEROS (MON)

√	NGC	RASC	SAC	CALD	HER-400	O-HT	O-SD	Season	Con	Type	R.A. H:m.s	DEC °,'	m_v	Size "	Comment
√	2264				H080 (8,05)	T038		W	Mon	OC/EN	06:41.0	9.54	4.4	40	*XmasTree OC + Cone EN; 20* ~5m 10 Mon; brightest 7-11m
√	2261	R033	S069	C046	(4,2)			W	Mon	E/RN	06:39.2	8.44	var	2x1	Hubble's Variable Nebula; comet-shaped
	2237	R032		C049				W	Mon	EN	06:32.3	5.03	-	80x60	# Rosette EN; very large; use neb. Filter (see also NGC 2244 OC)
	2301				H084 (6,27)	T039		W	Mon	OC	06:51.8	0.28	6	15	"Hagrid's Dragon" OC; tight core, bright & obvious
√	2244		S068	C050	H078 (7,2)			W	Mon	OC	06:32.4	0.00	4.8	24.0	# Rosette OC, bright, use low power (see also NGC 2237 EN)
	2346						D034	W	Mon	PN	07:09.4	-0.48	11.8	>5000	Crimson Butterfly
	2232				H077 (8,25)			W	Mon	OC	06:27.2	-4.45	4.2	53	20* around 10 Mon, brightest 7-11m
	2170						D029	W	Mon	RN	06:07.5	-6.24	-	2x2	☐ RN in Mon R2 Cloud; Part of Ori-Eri superbubble
	2316						D032	W	Mon	E/RN	06:59.7	-7.46	-	4x3	"Cometary Nebula", NW of M50
	2149						D028	W	Mon	RN	06:03.5	-9.44	-	3x2	☐ RN in Ori-A Cloud; Part of Ori-Eri superbubble
	2343				H089 (8,33)		D033	W	Mon	OC	07:08.1	-10.37	6.7	6	Double Mint, small, fairly bright & rich, wedge shape
	2506			C054	H110 (6,37)			W	Mon	OC	08:00.2	-10.47	7.6	12	Small, tight OC; stars 11-20m, 3.5° NW 19 Pup, rich 800*
	2353				H090 (8,34)	T040		W	Mon	OC	07:14.3	-10.16	7.1	18	Avery's Island , bright, condensed w. a 6m*, arc of 9-10m**, NE α CMA

ORION (ORI)

√	NGC	RASC	SAC	CALD	HER-400	O-HT	O-SD	Season	Con	Type	R.A. H:m.s	DEC °,'	m_v	Size "	Comment
	2169				H071 (8,24))	T036		W	Ori	OC	06:08.4	13.58	5.9	6	"Double Lambda": Little Pleiades Cluster; 7m double (Struve 848)
	2194	R029	S077		H074 (6,5)			W	Ori	OC	06:13.8	12.48	8.5	10	80*, fairly rich; look for NGC 2169 nearby
	2022	R027	S076		H066 (4,34)		D025	W	Ori	PN	05:42.1	9.05	11.9	18	Kissing Crescent; Small, faint, but distinct annular form. Best with OIII
	Sh2-276						D026	W	Ori	SNR	05:52.5	0.45	-	90x30	Part of Barnard's Loop
	Cr-70						D024	W	Ori	OC	05:35.6	-1.05	0.6	140	Orion's Belt
	2024	R028	S075		H067 (5,28)	T034		W	Ori	EN	05:40.7	-2.27	7.2	30x30	Flame Nebula; Bright but masked by glow from Zeta Ori
	1788	R025	S073		H057 (5,32)		D019	W	Ori	RN	05:06.9	-3.21	-	8x5	Cosmic Bat; Fairly bright but diffuse reflection Neb. comet shape
	1973	R026	S074					W	Ori	E/RN	05:35.1	-4.44	-	40x25	Running Man Nebula; Near M42 and M43; often neglected.
	1980				H064 (4,34)			W	Ori	EN	05:35.4	-5.54	-	14x14	EN ½° S of M42, Nebula associated with Iota Ori.
	2175					T037		W	Ori	EN	06:09.4	20.29	6.9	40x30	Large, diffuse irregular glow
	2163					T035		W	Ori	RN	06:08.0	18.39	10	2 - 3	Cederblad 62; Use high mag (>200x); 2 lobes in N-S direction
						T029		W	Ori	OC	05:35.1	9.56	5	50	Lambda Orionis Cluster
	1981					T030		W	Ori	OC	05:35.1	-4.26	4.2	28	Coal Car Cluster
	1977					T032		W	Ori	Neb	05:35.2	-4.49	6.3	20	Running Man Nebula
						T031		W	Ori	OC	05:35.2	-4.53	5	30	Lost Jewel of Orion
	1999				H065(4,33)	T033		W	Ori	Neb	05:36.3	-6.43	9.5	2 - 2	Rubber Stamp Nebula, Faint fuzzy 9.5m *

PERSEUS (PER)

√	NGC	RASC	SAC	CALD	HER-400	O-HT	O-SD	Season	Con	Type	R.A. H:m.s	DEC °,'	m_v	Size "	Comment
	1275			C024				W	Per	IG	03:19.8	41.31	11.6	2.6x2	Perseus A, Peculiar Gxy w. Supermassive Seyfert core
	1579						D016	W	Per	BN	04:30.2	35.16	-	12x8	Northern Trifid
	1528				H052(7,61)	T025		W	Per	OC	04:15.2	51.13	6.4	18	# m & m Double Cluster , sickle shape, 165* 9m & fainter
	1545				H054(8,85)	T026		W	Per	OC	04:21.0	50.15	6.2	12	# m & m Double Cluster, pentagram shape, 10-11m *

PUPPIS (PUP)

√	NGC	RASC	SAC	CALD	HER-400	O-HT	O-SD	Season	Con	Type	R.A. H:m.s	DEC °,'	m_v	Size "	Comment
	2539	R036	S085		H113 (7,11)	T045		W	Pup	OC	08:10.7	-12.50	6.5	15	The Dish Cluster ; 50*; rich cluster; near M46 and M47
	2423				H104 (7,28)			W	Pup	OC	07:37.1	-13.52	6.7	12	M47, round, rather rich, 9m * at the core
	2438		S083		H105 (4,39)			W	Pup	PN	07:41.9	-14.44	11	65"	On N edge of M46, relatively small but bright
	2440	R035	S084		H106 (4,64)	T041		W	Pup	PN	07:41.9	-18.13	9.4	14	Albino Butterfly Neb.; Almost starlike; irregular at high power
	2489				H109 (7,23)			W	Pup	OC	07:56.2	-30.04	7.9	5	"Stellar Gum-Ball", small but beautiful, brightest 11m,
	2298						D031	W	Pup	GC	06:49.0	-36	9.3	5	Condensed, obvious GC, 3° S of 3m Kap CMa
	2477			C071				W	Pup	OC	07:52.3	-38.33	5.8	27	Bright, compressed, like finely resolved Glob., SB 12.3
	2467					T043		W	Pup	EN	07:52.3	-26.26	7.1	15	Sh 2-331, part of Puppis OB2; w. OC Cr 164
	2546					T046		W	Pup	OC	08:12.2	-37.37	6.3	70	Heart & Dagger Cluster
	2451					T042		W	Pup	Ast	07:45.2	-37.57	2.8	50	Stinging Scorpion

TAURUS (TAU)

√	NGC	RASC	SAC	CALD	HER-400	O-HT	O-SD	Season	Con	Type	R.A. H:m.s	DEC °,'	m_v	Size "	Comment	
	1514	R023						D015	W	Tau	PN	04:09.2	30.47	10.8	1'54"	Crystal Ball Nebula; faint glow around 9.4 mag central star.
	1758							D018	W	Tau	OC	05:04.7	23.48	~7.5	10	# OC overlapping NGC 1750; Dist ~2.5 Kly
	1750							D017	W	Tau	OC	05:04.3	23.44	~6th	30	# OC overlapping NGC 1758; Dist ~2 Kly
	1817					H058 (7,4)		D021	W	Tau	OC	05:12.4	16.41	7.7	20	♁ Poor Man's Double, next to 1807, mod. Dim, 4* 9-10m
	1807							D020	W	Tau	OC	05:10.8	16.31	7.0	12	♁ Poor Man's Double, next to 1817, 37*
	HYADES				C041				W	Tau	OC	04:27.0	16.00	0.5	330	Hyades
	1647					H055 (8,8)	T027		W	Tau	OC	04:46.0	19.07	6.4	40	Pirate Moon Cluster, near Taurus 'V', round, 9m double*
	2547						T044		W	Vel	OC	08:10.1	-49.13	4.7	25	Golden Earring, St. Peter's Cross OC;