Fall Messier List
Observing Club

Raleigh Astronomy Club

Version 1.1   24 November 2012

Introduction

Welcome to the Fall Messier List Observing Club. The objects on this list represent many of the most prominent deep sky objects (Globular Clusters, Open Clusters, Nebula, Galaxies) visible from mid-northern latitudes. The Messier list of objects was compiled in the 1700's by the French comet hunter Charles Messier and his associates as a list of objects to not confuse with their primary goal of discovering new comets. What they really produced, was a list of many of the best deep sky objects for astronomers to enjoy. Observing the Messier List is an excellent way for beginning astronomers to learn the night sky.

This club is intended for those who wish to tour the Messier objects while adding more structure to their observing activities. Club members who wish to work their way through the Messier objects, a season at a time, will find this list to be a helpful guide. Two certificate levels are offered, Silver and Gold. The Silver certificate is earned by viewing and logging all objects on the list while using Go-To or Digital Setting Circles to help locate the Messier objects. The Gold certificate is earned by those who view and log all the objects while only using charts and star hopping to locate them. Anyone who intends to use their RAC list results as a stepping-stone to the Astronomlcal League Messier certificate, MUST work to the Gold certificate rules.

Rules

To earn the Fall Messier List certificate, you must:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Raleigh Astronomy Club.

2. Observe all the Fall Messier objects. Objects observed on dates outside of the Fall season may also be counted. Telescopes and binoculars may both be used.

3. Record your observations on a log form that includes:
    a. Date, time, sky conditions and location of observation.
    b. Equipment used – eyepieces, magnification, filters, etc.
    c. A sketch or short description.

4. Use of Go-To and Digital Setting Circles IS permitted for a Silver certificate. For a Gold certificate, and to use this list as a stepping stone to the AL Messier certificate, use of Go-To and Digital Setting Circles IS NOT permitted.

5. Have a copy of your observing record reviewed by the Raleigh Astronomy Club Observing Club Coordinator.

Fall Messier Object List (23 objects)

ID	NGC	Type	Constellation	RA	Dec	Mag	Size
M2	7089	GC	Aquarius	21 33.5	00 49	6.6	16.0’
M11	6705	OC	Scutum	18 51.1	-06 16	7.0	14.0’
M13	6205	GC	Hercules	16 41.7	36 28	7.0	16.6’
M14	6402	GC	Ophiuchus	17 37.6	-03 15	9.5	11.7’
M15	7078	GC	Pegasus	21 30.0	12 10	7.5	12.3’
M26	6694	OC	Scutum	18 45.2	-09 24	9.5	15.0’
M27	6853	PN	Vulpecula	19 59.6	22 43	7.5	480” x 340”
M29	6913	OC	Cygnus	20 23.9	38 32	9.0	7.0’
M30	7099	GC	Capricornus	21 40.4	-23 11	8.5	11.0’
M33	598	GX	Triangulum	01 33.9	30 40	7.0	73’ x 45’
M34	1039	OC	Perseus	02 42.0	42 47	6.0	35.0’
M39	7092	OC	Cygnus	21 32.2	48 26	5.5	32.0’
M52	7654	OC	Cassiopeia	23 24.2	61 35	8.0	13.0’
M56	6779	GC	Lyra	19 16.6	30 11	9.5	7.1’
M57	6720	PN	Lyra	18 53.6	33 02	9.5	85” x 61”
M71	6838	GC	Sagitta	19 53.8	18 47	8.5	7.2’
M72	6981	GC	Aquarius	20 53.5	-12 32	10.0	5.9’
M73	6994	Asterism	Aquarius	20 59.0	-12 38	9.0	2.8’
M74	628	GX	Pisces	01 36.6	15 48	10.5	10.2 x 9.5’
M76	650	PN	Perseus	01 42.4	51 34	12.0	163” x 107”
M77	1068	GX	Cetus	02 42.7	-00 02	10.5	7’ x 6’
M92	6341	GC	Hercules	17 17.1	43 08	7.5	11.2’
M103	581	OC	Cassiopeia	01 33.2	60 42	7.0	6.0’

Type abbreviations:

- GC : Globular Cluster
- OC : Open Cluster
- PN : Planetary Nebula
- GX : Galaxy

Note:
The following objects on the Fall list are actually better placed in the sky for viewing during Summer, but are still easy to view during early Fall: M11, M26, M14, M13, M92.

Finder charts:
The Raleigh Astronomy Club’s yahoo group provides access to Telrad finder charts for the Messiers under Files > Messier Marathon > Messier Object Finder Charts.

Checklist and logs:
The following pages provide a checklist and observing log for your convenience. You may use your own log sheet format as long as it contains required information.

Raleigh Astronomy Club
Fall Messier Observing Club List

Observer: ______________________________

Instruments Used: ____

Messier Object	Location	Date	EP / Mag	Sketch
1. [ ] M2				
2. [ ] M11				
3. [ ] M13				
4. [ ] M14				
5. [ ] M15				
6. [ ] M26				
7. [ ] M27				
8. [ ] M29				
9. [ ] M30				
10. [ ] M33				
11. [ ] M34				
12. [ ] M39				
13. [ ] M52				
14. [ ] M56				
15. [ ] M57				
16. [ ] M71				
17. [ ] M72				
18. [ ] M73				
19. [ ] M74				
20. [ ] M76				
21. [ ] M77				
22. [ ] M92				
23. [ ] M103				

Notes:
Sketches are not required for this certificate, but consider trying a few. Mark the *Sketch* column (Y/N) to track whether the object was sketched.

Messier Observing Log

Object:	Date:	Time:
Constellation:	Transparency:	
Magnitude:	Seeing:	Temp:
Size:	Telescope:	
Site:	Eyepiece/Magnification:	
Description:		

Object:	Date:	Time:
Constellation:	Transparency:	
Magnitude:	Seeing:	Temp:
Size:	Telescope:	
Site:	Eyepiece/Magnification:	
Description:		

Object:	Date:	Time:
Constellation:	Transparency:	
Magnitude:	Seeing:	Temp:
Size:	Telescope:	
Site:	Eyepiece/Magnification:	
Description:		

Messier Observing Log

Object:	Date:	UTC/civil
Right Ascension:	Time:	UTC/std/ds
Declination:	Seeing: *Transparency*:	
Constellation:	*Steadiness:*	
Magnitude:	Temperature:	
Size:	Telescope:	
Obj. Dist:	Eyepiece/Magnification:	
Site:	Filters:	

Notes:

Finder Chart: Field Size:

Observer: ________________________