



# Spring Messier List Observing Club

*Raleigh Astronomy Club*

Version 1.1 24 November 2012

## Introduction

Welcome to the Spring 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 Astronomical League Messier certificate, MUST work to the Gold certificate rules.

## Rules

To earn the Spring Messier List certificate, you must:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Raleigh Astronomy Club.
2. Observe all the Spring Messier objects. Objects observed on dates outside of the 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.

## Spring Messier Object List (31 objects)

ID	NGC	Type	Constellation	RA	Dec	Mag	Size
M3	5272	GC	Canes Venatici	13 42.2	28 23	7.0	16.2'
M40	Winn4	DS	Ursa Major	12 22.2	58 05	9.0	49"
M49	4472	GX	Virgo	12 29.8	08 01	10.0	9' x 7.5'
M53	5024	GC	Coma Berenices	13 12.9	18 10	8.5	12.6'
M58	4579	GX	Virgo	12 37.8	11 50	11.0	5.5' x 4.5'
M59	4621	GX	Virgo	12 42.1	11 39	11.5	5' x 3.5'
M60	4649	GX	Virgo	12 43.7	11 34	10.5	7' x 6'
M61	4303	GX	Virgo	12 22.0	04 29	10.5	6' x 5.5'
M63	5055	GX	Canes Venatici	13 15.8	42 02	8.5	10' x 6'
M64	4826	GX	Coma Berenices	12 56.7	21 41	9.0	9.3' x 5.4'
M84	4374	GX	Virgo	12 25.1	12 54	11.0	5.0'
M85	4382	GX	Coma Berenices	12 25.5	18 12	10.5	7.1' x 5.2'
M86	4406	GX	Virgo	12 26.3	12 57	11.0	7.5' x 5.5'
M87	4486	GX	Virgo	12 30.9	12 24	11.0	7.0'
M88	4501	GX	Coma Berenices	12 32.1	14 26	11.0	7' x 4'
M89	4552	GX	Virgo	12 35.7	12 34	11.5	4.0'
M90	4569	GX	Virgo	12 36.9	13 10	11.0	9.5' x 4.5'
M91	4548	GX	Coma Berenices	12 35.5	14 30	11.5	5.4' x 4.4'
M94	4736	GX	Canes Venatici	12 50.9	41 08	9.5	7' x 3'
M95	3351	GX	Leo	10 43.9	11 42	11.0	4.4' x 3.3'
M96	3368	GX	Leo	10 46.7	11 49	10.5	6' x 4'
M97	3587	PN	Ursa Major	11 14.8	55 01	12.0	202" x 196"
M98	4192	GX	Coma Berenices	12 13.9	14 55	11.0	9.5' x 3.2'
M99	4254	GX	Coma Berenices	12 18.9	14 26	10.5	5.4' x 4.8'
M100	4321	GX	Coma Berenices	12 23.0	15 50	10.5	7' x 6'
M101	5457	GX	Ursa Major	14 03.3	54 22	8.5	22.0'
M102	5866	GX	Draco	15 06.5	55 45	10.5	5.2' x 2.3'
M105	3379	GX	Leo	10 47.8	12 35	11.0	5' x 4'
M106	4258	GX	Canes Venatici	12 18.9	47 19	9.5	19' x 8'
M108	3556	GX	Ursa Major	11 11.6	55 41	11.0	8' x 1'
M109	3992	GX	Ursa Major	11 57.6	53 23	11.0	7' x 4'

### Type abbreviations:

- GC : Globular Cluster
- DS : Double Star
- PN : Planetary Nebula
- GX : Galaxy

### Note:

Spring is galaxy season and so galaxies make up most of the Spring list. Since our own galaxy resides in the Virgo cluster of galaxies, the sky is rich with galaxies visible in Virgo and Coma Berenices.

### 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 logs for your convenience. You may use your own log sheet format as long as it contains required information.

# Raleigh Astronomy Club Spring Messier Observing Club List

Observer: \_\_\_\_\_

Instruments Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Messier Object	Location	Date	EP / Mag	Sketch
1. [ ] M3	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. [ ] M40	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. [ ] M49	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. [ ] M53	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. [ ] M58	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. [ ] M59	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. [ ] M60	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. [ ] M61	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. [ ] M63	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. [ ] M64	_____	_____	_____	_____
11. [ ] M84	_____	_____	_____	_____
12. [ ] M85	_____	_____	_____	_____
13. [ ] M86	_____	_____	_____	_____
14. [ ] M87	_____	_____	_____	_____
15. [ ] M88	_____	_____	_____	_____
16. [ ] M89	_____	_____	_____	_____
17. [ ] M90	_____	_____	_____	_____
18. [ ] M91	_____	_____	_____	_____
19. [ ] M94	_____	_____	_____	_____
20. [ ] M95	_____	_____	_____	_____
21. [ ] M96	_____	_____	_____	_____
22. [ ] M97	_____	_____	_____	_____
23. [ ] M98	_____	_____	_____	_____
24. [ ] M99	_____	_____	_____	_____
25. [ ] M100	_____	_____	_____	_____
26. [ ] M101	_____	_____	_____	_____
27. [ ] M102	_____	_____	_____	_____
28. [ ] M105	_____	_____	_____	_____
29. [ ] M106	_____	_____	_____	_____
30. [ ] M108	_____	_____	_____	_____
31. [ ] M109	_____	_____	_____	_____

**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

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

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

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

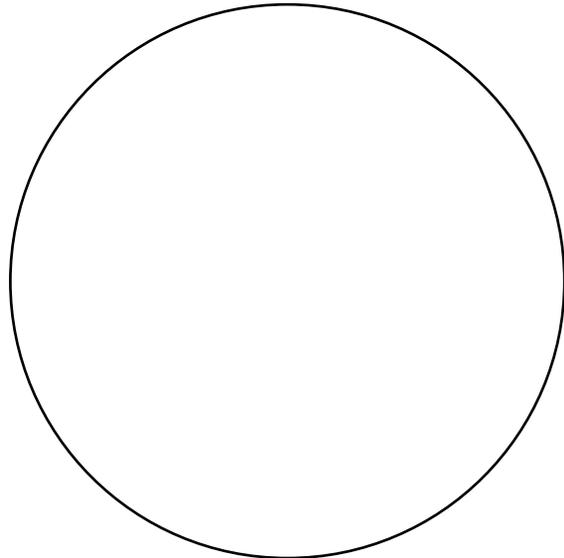
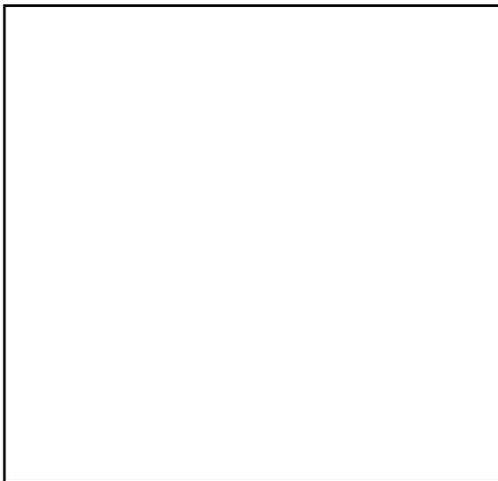
# Messier Observing Log

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

**Notes:**

Finder Chart:

Field Size:



Observer: \_\_\_\_\_