



Summer Messier List Observing Club

Raleigh Astronomy Club

Version 1.1 24 November 2012

Introduction

Welcome to the Summer 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 Summer Messier List certificate, you must:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Raleigh Astronomy Club.
2. Observe all the Summer 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.

Summer Messier Object List (30 objects)

ID	NGC	Type	Constellation	RA	Dec	Mag	Size
M4	6121	GC	Scorpius	16 23.6	-26 32	7.5	26.3'
M5	5904	GC	Serpens Caput	15 18.6	02 05	7.0	17.4'
M6	6405	OC	Scorpius	17 40.1	-32 13	4.5	15.0'
M7	6475	OC	Scorpius	17 53.9	-34 49	3.5	80.0'
M8	6523	CN	Sagittarius	18 03.1	-24 23	5.0	60' x 35'
M9	6333	GC	Ophiuchus	17 19.2	-18 31	9.0	9.3'
M10	6254	GC	Ophiuchus	16 57.1	-04 06	7.5	15.1'
M12	6218	GC	Ophiuchus	16 47.2	-01 57	8.0	14.5'
M16	6611	CN	Serpens Cauda	18 18.8	-13 47	6.5	7.0'
M17	6618	CN	Sagittarius	18 20.8	-16 11	7.0	11.0'
M18	6613	OC	Sagittarius	18 19.9	-17 08	8.0	9.0'
M19	6273	GC	Ophiuchus	17 02.6	-26 16	8.5	13.5'
M20	6514	CN	Sagittarius	18 02.3	-23 02	5.0	28.0'
M21	6531	OC	Sagittarius	18 04.6	-22 30	7.0	13.0'
M22	6656	GC	Sagittarius	18 36.4	-23 54	6.5	24.0'
M23	6494	OC	Sagittarius	17 56.8	-19 01	6.0	27.0'
M24	6603	SC, OC	Sagittarius	18 18.4	-18 25	5.0	5.0' (OC)
M25	IC4725	OC	Sagittarius	18 28.8	-19 17	4.9	40.0'
M28	6626	GC	Sagittarius	18 24.5	-24 52	8.5	11.2'
M54	6715	GC	Sagittarius	18 55.1	-30 29	8.5	9.1'
M55	6809	GC	Sagittarius	19 40.0	-30 58	7.0	19.0'
M62	6266	GC	Ophiuchus	17 01.2	-30 07	8.0	14.1'
M68	4590	GC	Hydra	12 39.5	-26 45	9.0	12.0'
M69	6637	GC	Sagittarius	18 34.4	-32 21	9.0	7.1'
M70	6681	GC	Sagittarius	18 43.2	-32 18	9.0	7.8'
M75	6864	GC	Sagittarius	20 06.1	-21 55	9.5	6.0'
M80	6093	GC	Scorpius	16 17.0	-22 59	8.5	8.9'
M83	5236	GX	Hydra	13 37.1	-29 52	8.5	11' x 10'
M104	4594	GX	Virgo	12 39.9	-11 37	9.5	9' x 4'
M107	6171	GC	Ophiuchus	16 32.5	-13 03	10.0	10.0'

Type abbreviations:

- GC : Globular Cluster
- OC : Open Cluster
- SC : Star Cloud
- CN : Open Cluster and Nebula
- GX : Galaxy

Note:

The following objects on the Summer list are actually better placed in the sky for viewing during Spring, but are still easy to view during early Summer: M83, M104.

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 Summer Messier Observing Club List

Observer: _____

Instruments Used: _____

Messier Object	Location	Date	EP / Mag	Sketch
1. [] M4	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. [] M5	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. [] M6	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. [] M7	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. [] M8	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. [] M9	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. [] M10	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. [] M12	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. [] M16	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. [] M17	_____	_____	_____	_____
11. [] M18	_____	_____	_____	_____
12. [] M19	_____	_____	_____	_____
13. [] M20	_____	_____	_____	_____
14. [] M21	_____	_____	_____	_____
15. [] M22	_____	_____	_____	_____
16. [] M23	_____	_____	_____	_____
17. [] M24	_____	_____	_____	_____
18. [] M25	_____	_____	_____	_____
19. [] M28	_____	_____	_____	_____
20. [] M54	_____	_____	_____	_____
21. [] M55	_____	_____	_____	_____
22. [] M62	_____	_____	_____	_____
23. [] M68	_____	_____	_____	_____
24. [] M69	_____	_____	_____	_____
25. [] M70	_____	_____	_____	_____
26. [] M75	_____	_____	_____	_____
27. [] M80	_____	_____	_____	_____
28. [] M83	_____	_____	_____	_____
29. [] M104	_____	_____	_____	_____
30. [] M107	_____	_____	_____	_____

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:		

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

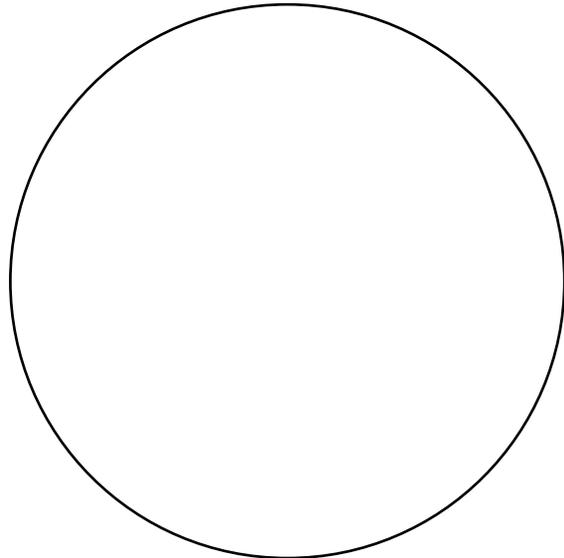
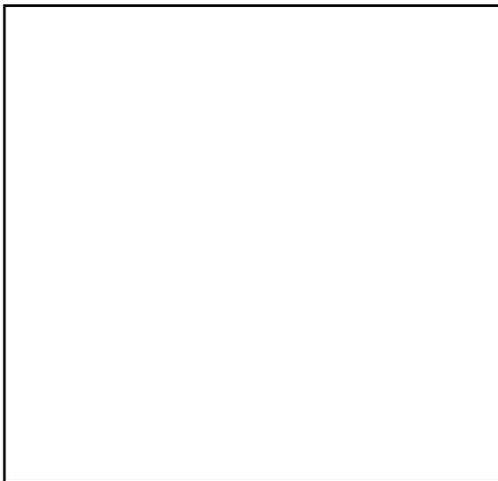
Messier Observing Log

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: _____