

Mini Messier Observing List—Instructions

Beginning observers sometimes find the full Messier list of 110 deep-sky objects too challenging for several reasons: it may be too long, they don't have the right equipment, they haven't enough time, etc. To stimulate observing in the RASC Halifax Centre and especially to improve the observing skills of *novice* observers, we have created a "Mini-Messier Hunt". We have selected a short list of 20 of the easier deep-sky objects, all of which can be found using binoculars. All observers who finish will receive a Certificate of Merit documenting their observational achievement. There is no time limit to complete the list.

RULES:

1. All of the columns "Date, Time, Instrument, Description" must be completed by the observer for all 20 objects.
2. The observer may use anyone's instrument, but must find and describe the objects without aid of any kind (including "go to" telescopes!)
3. The form must be signed both by the observer submitting the observations and signed and dated by the RASC Halifax Centre Executive member receiving it.
4. The completed forms will be examined and judged by the RASC Halifax Centre Observing Chair.

Observer's Name: _____ Observer's Signature: _____

Signature of receiving RASC Halifax Centre Executive member: _____ Date: _____

AUTHENTICATION:

I declare that this form has been filled out completely and correctly and that the above-named observer qualifies for a Certificate of Observational Merit for finding the 20 objects of the "Mini Messier Hunt".

Halifax Centre Observing Chair: _____ Date: _____

Mini Messier Observing List

	Object	Con.	Type*	Name	Date	Time	Instrument	Description	√
WINTER	M45	Tau	OC	Pleiades					
	M37	Aur	OC	--					
	M42	Ori	EN	Orion Nebula					
	M35	Gem	OC	--					
	M41	CMa	OC	--					
SPRING	M44	Cnc	OC	Beehive Cluster					
	M3	CVn	GC	--					
	M5	Ser	GC	--					
SUMMER	M13	Her	GC	Hercules Cluster					
	M6	Sco	OC	--					
	M7	Sco	OC	--					
	M20	Sgr	EN	Trifid Nebula					
	M17	Sgr	EN	Omega Nebula					
	M11	Sct	OC	Wild Duck Cluster					
	M27	Vul	PN	Dumbbell Nebula					
AUTUMN	M15	Peg	GC	--					
	M31	And	G	Andromeda Galaxy					
	M34	Per	OC	--					
	NGC 869/884	Per	OC	Double Cluster					

*OC = open cluster GC = globular cluster PN = planetary nebula EN = emission nebula G = galaxy

(updated 2003-01-03)