

'Spring Galaxies' continued....

While you are in Virgo, if you like seeing multiple objects in one eyepiece field of view, go to NGC 4365. This is a nice bright 9.6 mag. galaxy elongated 5.6' x 4.6' with a conspicuous core and a SN. Pan to the SW of 4365 and you will find a nice v-shape formation of five galaxies. IC 3259 lying at the V's apex is a rather faint object at 13.5 mag. with a small halo elongated 1.7' x 0.9'. The two brightest galaxies form the west side of the "V". NGC 4342 is a mag. 12.5 galaxy elongated 1.2' x 0.6', while 4343, the brightest and largest galaxy forming the "V" is a 12.1 mag. object highly elongated 2.5' x 0.7'. The eastern side of the V is formed by 4341 shining faintly at mag. 13.2 and elongated 1.7' x 0.6'. The end of the V's eastern side is a faint galaxy with a feeble 13.4 glow and a circular 1.2' halo. The entire region is filled with galaxies, especially to the NE and SW but you better have a copy of Uranometria with you if you want to identify all the objects, otherwise just have fun and see how many you can sweep up. Happy viewing!
(Have questions about terminology mentioned in this article or techniques to accomplish the viewing? GOOD! Let's discuss and answer them at the meeting on 5/12 or at our star parties— that's why we have these events, folks!

Star Party Corner—Keith Mullen, Star Party Coordinator (520)366-0049; repogazer@wavmax.com

April has come and gone and Orion has settled down in the West for the summer. Our public star party on April 1 drew a large public crowd, but only a few members (and 1 scope). Very disappointing, people. A few members were able to WOW the kids at the Huachuca Oaks campground for a third outreach Star Party on the 24th; but we were clouded out for the scheduled After-Meeting-Viewing Event at Patterson Observatory on the 21st. Doug and I set up a booth at the Earth Day Farmers Market on the 22nd with the club's Hydrogen-Alpha solar scope and an 8" with a solar filter. We had a line of people most of the day, until the wind took over and almost blew us all off the lot.

The major event of the Month was our 6th annual **Telescopes for Telethon** Star Party held on the 29th at Veteran's Memorial Park. Over 300 people attended our event and so far in the 2006 T4T campaign, we have raised over \$900.00 towards combating muscular dystrophy. The campaign will run until the end of August, so let's continue donating and bringing in more outside donations! With the aid of an anonymous donor, the final amount will be tripled and all funds donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. We **greatly** appreciate the 24 HAC members who participated this year with and without telescopes—they made this event very successful, but as the HAC President said, "It would have been nice to see ALL of the officers and Board members participate in this one major HAC event of the year, as well as many more members. We could have used them!" There were lines behind every scope out there. We even had binoculars and three of the loaner scopes out on the field, including the 8" Dob in the hands of **new member Josh Crimens and son Brion**. Thanks also to the ladies who manned (womanned?) the gates all evening.

For Sale: Questar Birder 3.5" with Pyrex Mirror, Broad-band and Low reflection coatings. It is in like-new condition and comes with all of the original accessories including lens cap, integrated 256mm finder spotting scope, 32mm eyepiece (8x-40x-60x), star-diagonal prism, Barlow lens for eyepiece port, rapid focus, blue anodized dew cap, basic camera coupling set, soft black caps on finder, front lens and eyepiece, waterproof carrying case. Questar list price is \$4,025. Asking price is \$2500. My email is bobluce@earthlink.net and phone # is 520-459-8604. For photos, see www.questarcorporation.com/questar.htm

For Sale: An Astro Dome for \$5,000.00. I purchased it from Astro Haven Astronomical Ltd. on July 9, 2004. I decided that it is dark enough to view the stars here in Quail Creek, so I do not need it anymore. The dome is seven (7) feet in diameter and with the 1-foot riser; it is seven (7) feet tall. It was painted tan at the factory. My total cost including freight, import tax, and installation was \$6,475.00. It weighs about 350 pounds. It opens like a clamshell. I have it installed on a level cement foundation. Included with it are two stepladders for easy access, a cabinet of six drawers, and a rubber grommet to prevent water from seeping underneath the dome. If this is something you've always wanted, PLEASE call LARRY M WOOD at 520-398-7156 to view this dome in person.

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Yearly Membership: Individual: \$25; Family: \$35; Military: \$20; student:\$10 (with conditions)
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This issue of NightFall can also be found on-line at <http://c3po.cochise.edu/astro>. Click on the 'Newsletter' link. There is much more information about astronomy and our HAC activities on our club web site. *To join the HAC-LIST, send an email to haclist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.