Example logbook entry

(Note: numbers used in this example are fictitious)

Date: Sept 21, xxxx, 8:30pm CDT
Location: GAO small scope observing pad
Sky: 9/10 clear, few clouds low in the west
Temp: +15C Wind: light westerly
Sunset: 7:30pm CDT, End twilight: 9:15pm CDT
Moon: last quarter, rises 12:45am CDT
Aurora: none seen this evening
Number of meteors seen tonight: 2, one through the eyepiece!

OBSERVATION #1

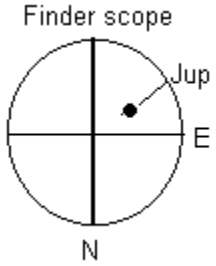
Purpose: Observe Jupiter and its moons through a small telescope

Equipment: C8 with white finder scope, on SE pier of observing pad, 25mm ABC and 13mm XYZ eyepieces and a star diagonal.

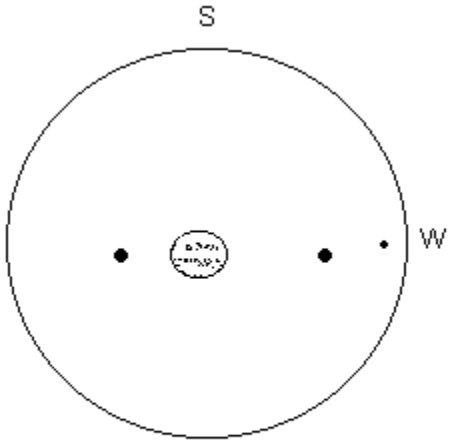
Procedure:
Setup:
Mounted scope on pier early to allow it to cool to ambient temperature.
Sighted down the barrel of the finder scope to position Jupiter in the finder.
Used the slow motion controls to centre Jupiter in the finder scope.
Couldn't see Jupiter in the main scope using the 25mm ABC eyepiece. Had to move the scope around to find it.
Centred main scope on Jupiter. Jupiter was not in finder. Adjusted the finder scope so that Jupiter was just above (south 1/10 field-of-view) and to the right (east 2/10 field-of-view) of the finder cross-hairs. (Best I could do.)

(Note: Sketches can be placed on an adjacent, unlined page in your log books. Make sure you identify the subject, eyepiece, NSEW orientation and the size of the field-of-view for each sketch.)

Recentred Jupiter in main scope. Could easily see 3 of its moons - or maybe some are just field stars.

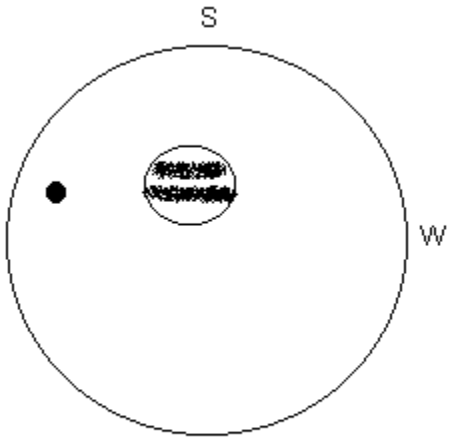


Observations:



Jupiter Sept 21, xxxx, 9:00pm CDT
C8 25mmABC eyepiece, FOV = 5 '

9:10pm CDT switched to 13mm XYZ eyepiece.



Jupiter Sept 21, xxxx, 9:15pm CDT
C8 13mm XYZ eyepiece, FOV = 2.5 '

Could clearly see two bands on Jupiter. Bands were aligned roughly east-west, as were the three moons. FOV of the 13mm ABC eyepiece was too small to see all the moons but the definition of the bands was better in the 13mm eyepiece. Did not see the Great Red Spot on Jupiter.

!!!Meteor or something shot through the eyepiece at 9:22pm CDT.

9:30pm CDT clouds suddenly formed overhead, didn't blow in. Whole sky covered in about 10 minutes.

Closeup: 9:40pm CDT, Temp: +10C, Wind: light west, Cloud: 10/10 No aurora seen this evening. 2 meteors seen, one through the eyepiece!

Conclusions:
Higher magnification showed more detail on the the surface of Jupiter but was harder to focus the telescope. Image was less steady at higher mag - jumped around a lot.
Jupiter's moons looked just like stars. Will only be able to tell if they are really moons by watching them over several nights. (Or by looking at the positions of the moons in the Observer's Handbook.)***
Figured out which way is north, west in the scope by moving the scope slightly in each direction and noticing which way Jupiter moved in the eyepiece. Looking through the C8 without the star-diagonal the directions are exactly reversed from looking at the sky with your eyes. Star-diagonal switches one axis (NS or EW) but not the other.
Bill turned on his white light - in my eyes. Couldn't see faint things in sky for about 15 minutes after that. Red light used for taking notes doesn't cause a problem.

*** **Follow-up** on Sept 30 - looked up the position of the moons in the OH. All three points sketched above were where the moons should be. Also observed them 2 nights later. The west moon had moved very close to the planet. See Sept 23 log entry.

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