

Jupiter in its glory

Telescope: **ATC82/1670** (oil doublet)

Eyepieces:

PEX40 - ATC f40PEX, $f=40\text{mm}$, ($42\times$, $86'$)

O-12.5 - Zeiss O-12.5, $f=12.5\text{mm}$, ($134\times$, $19'$)

A-10 - Zeiss ZAO-I 10, $f=10\text{mm}$, ($167\times$, $17'$)

A-6 - Zeiss ZAO-I 6, $f=6\text{mm}$, ($278\times$, $10'$)

Time: 2015/02/19 19:40-20:30UT

Location: Říčany

Weather: Milky sky with strong cirrus.

Seeing: Excellent, Ant. I-II

Mount: Zeiss Ib

Accessories: Baader 1.25" zenith prism and 2" diagonal mirror



There were not many nights so far during this Jupiter's opposition that would offer to taste how the planet is looking in its full glory in excellent conditions. The night of February 19th has not looked any differently in the beginning.

In fact, the plan was to take an advantage of the moon-less night and observe some deep-sky objects, in particular larger open clusters. I wanted to test new 40mm eyepiece made by ATC company in Přerov. This impressive 2" Plössl provides almost 1.5° wide views with very useful 2mm exit pupil. Due to a strong haze, I had hard time to recognize even some Messier's clusters, such as M35, and I decided to postpone the eyepiece test.

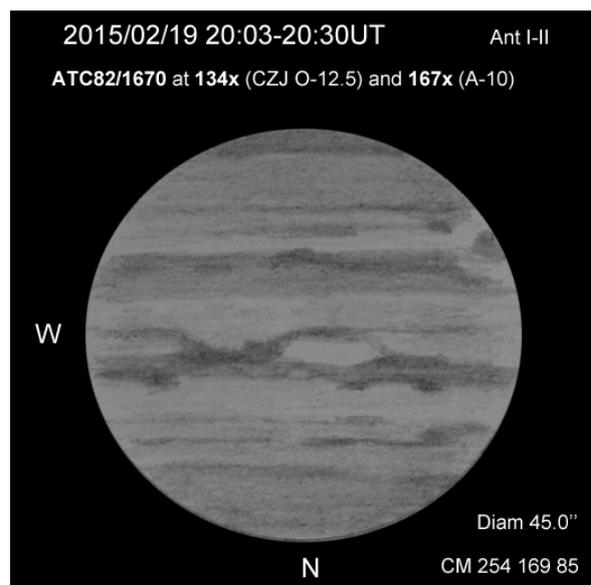
I did not want to go to Jupiter, yet. I wanted to wait a little bit before it climbed higher. What else to do under such conditions? Doubles!

The view of **32 Ori** ($4.4+5.8$, $1.4''$, 46°) at the power of $278\times$ was unusually steady. The airy disc was staying at the place without a slightest move. I could clearly see the fainter secondary as quite distinct, almost separated tail at $PA\sim 60^\circ$. The second pair, **33 Ori** ($5.7+6.7$, $1.9''$, 26°), was more relaxing. The two components were nicely separated at $278\times$ with a tiny black space.

The sky was getting worse very quickly. So I jumped to Jupiter expecting some good views. As the attached sketch is showing, I

was not turned down. The sketch is quite raw as it was made directly at the eyepiece. Most of the features were captured at the power of $134\times$. The view was so steady that I could use $167\times$ still with a benefit. With the help of the higher power, I recorded few additional smaller details in the belts.

Although the night was cold, I was feeling warm inside as this wonderful view of the planet was provided by a lens of my design. I'm glad that this adventure with lens making ended so well.



Alexander Kupčo