

Mars and Saturn

Telescope: Baader 95/560 (oil triplet apochromat)

Eyepieces:

O-25 - CZJ O-25, $f=25\text{mm}$, ($22\times$, 1.9°)

TMB7+TV2.5x - TMB Mono 7mm + Televue PowerMate 2.5x, ($200\times$, $9.2'$)

Time: 2016/06/06 20:30-21:00UT

Location: Říčany

Weather: Quite clear sky. Average seeing, Ant III.

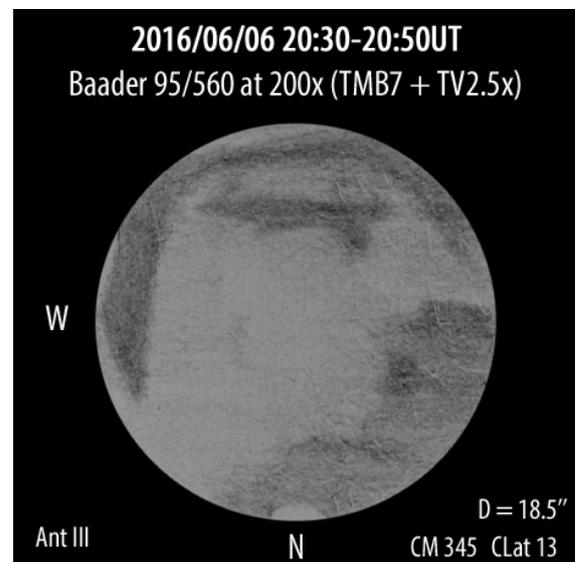
Accessories: Baader 2" diagonal mirror

This Mars apparition is not a favorable one for the place where I live. With its declination of $\delta = -21^\circ$, Mars climbs only 19° above the horizon in our latitudes. Running on good conditions is very rare. This June night was exhibiting the average seeing but I'm afraid it is the best I will get this apparition as Mars disc is getting slowly smaller and smaller.

For last couples of months, I'm using for my observations almost solely a very lovely 95mm oil triplet apochromat. I got it on the loan in exchange for my 82mm oil doublet. I will probably never own such a nice instrument. Of course, I'm trying to enjoy the refractor as much as possible while I can.

Mars looked very interesting this night. Beside relatively good seeing, it was showing its more bussy face with a lot of dark, easy to see albedo features. The best view I got so far this year on Mars. Colors were perfectly rich: strong orange deserts were in nice contrast with dark brown/violet lakes and seas. Southern polar regions were more gray while north polar cap was barely recognizable.

When I was done with the sketch, I pointed the telescope on Saturn. It was my first Saturn look this year. Really breath taking view at power of $200\times$. I enjoyed especially the subtle colors on the globe. The southern hemisphere was of bright yellow colors, north equatorial belt was brownish with a hints of semi-arcs of two darker thin belts. North of this belt, there were darker subtly



change pastel colors. Simply wonderful.

I'm definitely looking forward more summer planet observations. I hope, I will run on conditions at least as good as was this June night.

Alexander Kupčo