Jupiter in twilight

Telescope: **ATC82/1670** (oil doublet)
Eyepieces:
O-15 - Vintage Zeiss (111×, 23′)
O-12.5 - CZJ (134×, 19′)

Time: 2017/05/10 18:50-19:15UT
Location: Říčany
Weather: Quickly changing cirrus clouds.
Seeing: Excellent.
Mount: Zeiss Ib
Accessories: Baader 1.25” zenith prism

The days are longer and when I put our three kids into their beds I was still able to catch Jupiter during twilight. If you never observed planet under such light conditions you should definitely give it a try. Contrast is stunning and planets show more vivid colors than usual. When it is combined with good seeing, you have a recipe for memorable session.

This was the case of the May 10 evening. What I saw in the eyepiece was beyond my expectations. Colors were everywhere. Normally, Jupiter is mostly black and white for me in smaller refractors. In 80mm class, I can barely recognize Great Red Spot (GRS) color if I concentrate on it. This time, I saw not only deep orange GRS. In addition, the North Equatorial Belt (NEB) was showing dark brown colors from its northern side while the equatorial side had steel grey-bluish tint, especially in the places with festoons. Northern polar region was reddish while SEB and south polar regions were grey with subtle changes of intensity beyond my sketching skills. And GRS southern edge was bordered by dark brown line.

At the eyepiece, I made just the sketch with black graphite pencil. Later at home, I made a color version with kids pencils based on the notes in my logbook.

After making the sketch, I waited a little bit for more dark. Indeed, the colors were gone and I saw again only black and white Jupiter with just slightly orange GRS.

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