

Messier Shootout

Wednesday, July 23

St. George Observatory, Schriever, LA

The Messier Shootout is a contest designed to test your skill in finding Messier objects. Contestants will use telescopes of various types in the 6" to 8" aperture range to locate assigned objects as quickly as possible.

In the first round, contestants will be assigned a Messier object and given a sky chart with helpful information for locating that object. They will be given a minute to familiarize themselves with that object and decide how they will find it, then given three minutes to locate it for a judge assigned to their telescope. All contestants who are successful will advance to the next object and the process will repeat. The first round consists of five Messier objects with the last successful observer winning.

If more than one observer locate all five objects, there will be a second round. Contestants will be given charts for five additional objects, with three minutes for familiarization. When the round starts, the first observer finding all five objects wins.

The planetarium will provide the telescopes, although this will limit the contest to a small number of contestants. Contestants may not use their own telescopes. The planetarium will also provide dew zappers and red flashlights. Full rules will be provided to contestants in advance.

Judges will be needed! If you don't wish to be a contestant but can tell a galaxy from a globular cluster in a 6" to 8" telescope, please consider signing up to be a judge.

I want to be a Messier Shootout Contestant!

Name: _____

Planetarium: _____

phone: _____

mailing address: _____

e-mail: _____

fax: _____

Contestants: Rank the following telescopes in order of preference. None have computers.

_____ 8" Celestron SCT on fork equatorial mount w/ 24 mm finder, c. 1980 vintage

_____ 8" Celestron SCT on fork equatorial mount w/ 50 mm finder, c. 1980 vintage

_____ 8" Celestron SCT on fork equatorial mount w/ 50 mm finder, c. 1995 vintage

_____ 8" Meade 2080 SCT on fork equatorial mount w/ 50 mm finder, c. 1980 vintage

_____ 6" achromatic refractor on Atlas GEM w/ 50 mm finder, c.1975 vintage

_____ 8" Meade reflector on Dobsonian mount w/ 30 mm finder, c. 1995 vintage

I want to be a Messier Shootout Telescope Judge!

Name: _____

Planetarium: _____

phone: _____

mailing address: _____

e-mail: _____

fax: _____