M45 – Pleiades

11/19/2003
3161 Winston, Toledo, Ohio
Conditions: residential, clear, bright sky background, no wind, low turbulence, no moon, mid 40's, no dew

Telescope: Meade LX-90 8 inch SCT in Altazimuth alignment mode:
        Used as tracking platform.

Camera: Canon Digital Rebel:
        200mm lens with 2X converter = 400mm (if camera were 35mm) X 1.6 = 640mm equivalent 35mm focal length
        Shutter: 20 sec // ISO1600 // F10.0 // large image format with fine jpeg compression (3072X2048)
        White balance auto, contrast +1, sharpness +1, color saturation +1, color tone normal
        Camera mounted on LX-90 for tracking purposes.
        19 images captured (Frames 23-41)
        Download from camera to USB port on HP ze5185 notebook using standard image download process.

Make "Pleiades_111903_DIGREB_avg16aregx_proc3":
Microsoft Photo Editor:
        Resize each image to 1024X682 (maintain aspect ratio) so Registax can read them in.
        Delete 3 frames as visually poor (Frm 26, 28 and 40)
Registax: Align and stack 16 good images with quality 86%, diff 100% and save as bmp image.
AA3:   Use bmp hi res image
        Histogram min 0, max 145, log 20
        Background = 3, add offset –2
        Color sat 100% from nominal 50%
        Read in again, now 0-255 bkgnd=2 so offset –2 again
        Histogram min 0, max 125, exp 5
        Offset –10
        Color sat 70% from nominal 50%
Adobe Photo Deluxe 4.0: Clone out 3 hot pixel streaks.
Microsoft Word: brt 66%, con 72%

Larry Low – Astrophotonist
1/5/2004