The open clusters for observers on the Northern Hemisphere

Angelika Gruner and Uwe Pilz, two observers from Germany, made these lists.
You can visit their site at http://piu58.bei.t-online.de/

There are two lists. One list contains about 200 clusters that have been seen with 5 to 6 inch telescopes under dark skies. With 8 to 10 inch they are visible from a suburban site. The second list contains about 498 clusters that can be observed from the Northern hemisphere. The objects are listed by ascending RA (right ascension). Pick any 300, 400 or the whole list as an observing target.

The lists contain the following data: Catalogue number, Constellation, RA (right ascension), DEC (declination), vMag (visual magnitude) and the CLASS (Trumpler classification).

Uwe stated the main goal of the list as following:

No matter if you are going to choose 200, 300, 400 or the whole list to observe. The main object should be that you observe (or not observe, because the object is not visible in your telescope) and that you log the observation. Uwe suggests that you should log the following data per cluster:

1. Coordinates: Are they correct? Do they correspond with the catalogue data?
2. First impression: Can it be seen in the viewfinder, or in the eyepiece with the lowest magnification? Does the cluster stand out from the surrounding stars, or is it hard to detect?
3. Magnification: At which magnification is the cluster at its best?
4. Aesthetic impression: Form: rewarding view, typical or inconspicuous? Loose ore concentrated?
5. Stars: What is the magnitude? Are there any bright stars? Are there any double stars? Are there any stars with outstanding colors?
6. Number of stars: In poor clusters, count, in rich clusters, estimate.
7. Other objects: Are there any other objects (for instance another open cluster) in the field of view? Is the open cluster embedded in a nebula?

Angelika and Uwe and some other people have already started with their first project. If you have any questions on the project or if you want to participate, contact them through the internet site mentioned above.

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