



# The Astronomical League

A Federation of Astronomical Societies

## Astro Note C1 – Observation Log Sheet

**Introduction** – It is fun to observe the heavens - that is why many of us are amateur astronomers! However, in order to make scientifically useful observations or to compare your own observations over years of observing, it is important to record your observations in some permanent form. You might use a bound or loose-leaf notebook to maintain your records or you may use bound observation journals available from the AL Store. Whatever format you use, certain standard information must be recorded. The form in this Astro Note is one way to organize that information. You are free to make copies as needed for recording your own observations. Comments follow for clarification on some of the data fields. Most of the fields are self-explanatory.

**Right Ascension/Declination or Altitude/Azimuth** – These are the coordinates of the object in the sky. The coordinate system used depends on the observing activity. Right Ascension and Declination are coordinates on the Celestial Sphere and are preferred since they are consistent for all observers. Like Latitudes and Longitudes on Earth, they do not change for a stationary object. Altitude and Azimuth are based on the observer. These depend on the observer's Latitude and Longitude as well as the Date and Time. These are most useful when communicating with another astronomer at the same location.

**Date and Time** – These may be recorded in 12-hour format or 24-hour format (military time). If you use 12-hour format, then be sure to include AM or PM. You may also use local time or Universal Time. Note that your date may be different in Universal Time.

**Seeing and Transparency** – Seeing (a measure of how stable the atmosphere is) can be recorded on any convenient scale. The AL's standard recommendation is available as an Astro Note or on the Observe web page. Transparency (a measure of how transparent the atmosphere is) can also be recorded on any convenient scale. The AL's standard recommendation is available as an Astro Note or on the Observe web page.

**Sketch** – A sketch is important (whether required or not). Often detail is captured that is otherwise lost. The rectangle is used to record naked-eye observations. The two circles are used to record binocular or telescope observations. The two circles are to record two different magnifications.

# AL Observation Journal Log Sheet

Observer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

Object Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Catalog ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative Names / Nomenclature: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Object: \_\_\_\_\_ Constellation: \_\_\_\_\_

Right Ascension: \_\_\_\_\_ Declination: \_\_\_\_\_

or

Azimuth: \_\_\_\_\_ Altitude: \_\_\_\_\_

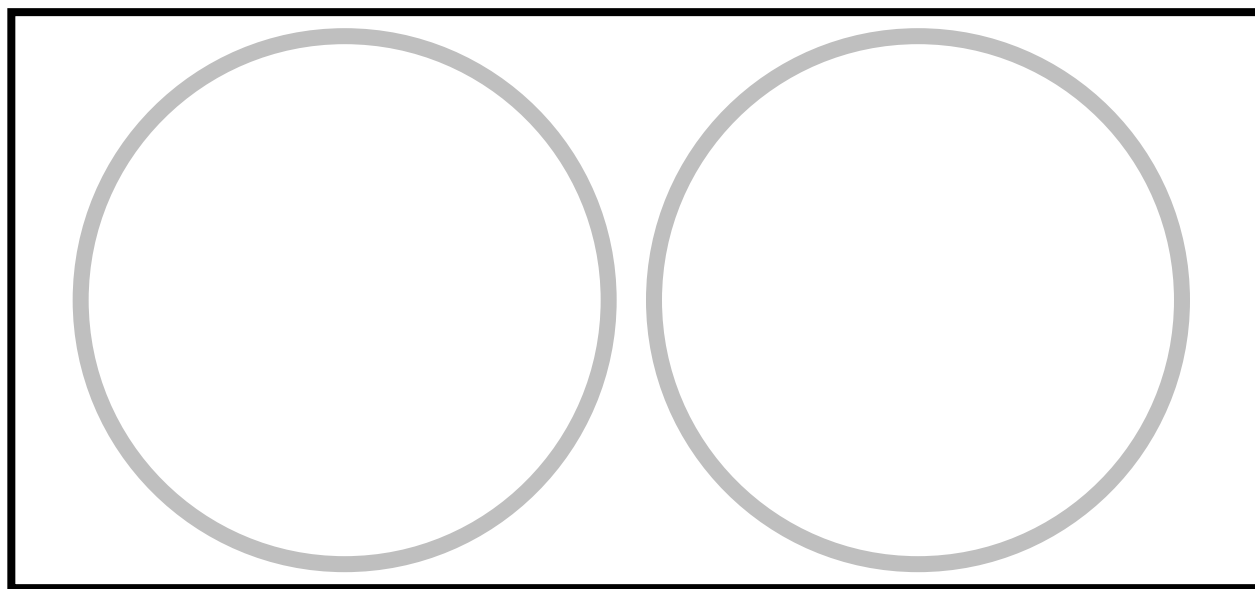
Magnitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Filters Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM PM LT UT

Seeing: \_\_\_\_\_ Transparency: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument Used: \_\_\_\_\_ Magnification: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sketch



Naked-Eye Sketch

Eyepiece 1: \_\_\_\_\_ mm

Eyepiece 2: \_\_\_\_\_ mm

Notes/Description (can be continued on back): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Page: \_\_\_\_\_