Deep sky astrophotography checklist

*Nico Carver*

* Bring equipment to flat spot with views of object and Polaris
* Level tripod and add trays/spreaders
* Assemble mount: add pier extension, mount head, and counterweights
* Attach assembled imaging train (scope, camera, guiding) to mount
* Setup power and cables
* Rough polar alignment with polarscope (use iOS app: PS Align Pro)
* Balance Dec then Balance RA
* Turn everything on
* Start Cartes du Ciel and connect to EQMOD
* Start PHD2 and set up guiding camera (ASI290MM-Mini, RAW8)
* Start SGP and set up imaging camera (ASI1600MM-Cool)
* Run QHY Polemaster for fine polar alignment
* Run star alignment procedure in EQMOD
* Slew to bright star with Cartes du Ciel
* Center star with Lum filter and 1 sec. exposures in SGP
* Focus on star with Bahtinov mask and whatever filter I am using first
* Slew to target with SGP
* Center on target
* Plate Solve and slew again
* Center on target
* Run calibration (shift-click) in PHD2
* Start sequence in SGP