

# 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