

Comet Neowise (officially designated C/2020 F3) is visible in the early morning sky just before sunup. It is low to the northeast horizon (5-10 degrees altitude) so a clear view of the horizon is needed. Over the next couple of weeks, it will be visible just after sunset -- low in the northwest sky. Since we only get to see a few of these comets in our lifetimes, I hope everyone gets a chance to see this one.

Since my neighborhood is full of tall trees, I got up at early today to drive to a site that had a pretty clear view of the Northeast. This comet was clearly visible low in the northeast sky. The lights from Spartanburg made it difficult to find, but binoculars helped a lot.

I started photographing with my Canon DSLR and a 70-300mm zoom lens around 5 am and quit around 5:30 am as it was getting too light to photograph. I could still see the comet nucleus, but the tail was lost in the background light by 5:45 am.

This photo is at 70 mm focal length and looks like what you see in low power binoculars or visually if your eyesight is good. The comet is visible just over the power lines. The background light was from the distant city of Spartanburg.



This is a crop from a photo taken at 300 mm focal length:

