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1995-96

Nov. 29 + 30

Royer, Padilla, Poissant

Adjusted Cam on upper dome shutter to close gap with lower shutter to help limit any water leakage from outside weather. Also lubed shutter rollers eliminating the groans. Fixed focuser on guide scope. Listened to Dr. Guertin's audiotape of India Eclipse. Seeing was very good. Temp. only down to 40's, 55% humidity. 6" Newtonian scope borrowed by Marty Poissant and Royer. Royer did visual variables and photos of SUTAU.

1996

Jan. 15-16

Royer and Poissant, drove in - no snow!

65% RH 40°F Did visual variables and CCD of SUTAU at W wind strong 18th Mag. and tricolor CCD of M1. All systems OK

Jan 20-21

Stephenson, Saechter, Schroeder -

65% RH 30°F Photograph NGC 1973, 1975, 1977,
West Wind Strong Clouds moved in about midnight. Wind increased from "0" at sunset to Very strong 40+ at midnight.

March 26-27

Stephenson and Padilla. Gate locked but road

~36°F clear - no snow. Photographed Comet Hyakutake with both 18" & piggy-backed cameras plus John's portable set-up outside dome. Interesting guiding situation with the comet so near Polaris! Comet was great even in first quarter moonlight! Looked even better once moon had set & ski area lights were turned off. Tail visible from near Polaris to at least the bowl of Big Dipper - ~18-20 degrees tail. Some high clouds drifted by late in evening.

April 10

Padilla in early evening to photograph Comet Hyakutake

60% H. 40-33°F Did piggy-back photography on Ektachrome 1600 + 200 using 200mm & 105mm telephoto lenses. Guided with 18" 1 1/2 hr window til comet went behind trees in NW. Comet tail ~10° Still easy naked eye visibility.

1996

- May 15-16 Poyer, Jim Whelan, Steve Padilla. Beautiful 3 layered
85% 40°F lenticular clouds, several sets on lee side of Mts.
No observing, slight rain, strong west, SW, winds.
All equipment OK.
- May 18-19 Hillbey, Jeff Schroeder, KAREN ISA,
44°F Jim Tapp, John Stephenson.
Clouds problem Early Evening, Visual obs.
M51, 97, 57, 13, 4565, Hale-Bopp, Jupiter, M31, 82
No Photography because of Poor Seeing and Clouds.
- June 2 Stephenson. Stopped by during day
to do a few minor items. Thanks John for
fixing door + Reefer!
- June 18-19 Poyer and Marty Possant. Marty bicycled home!
58°F 50% Wind + clouds. Cleared at 1:00 A.M. PDT - Poyer
did AAVSO work with SX CCD. All OK
Thanks Dan Lopez for fixing front window!
Hale-Bopp developing - but no nuclear features.
- June 22-23 John Stephenson. Installed new antenna.
Observed Comet Hale-Bopp.
- June 25-26 Poyer, Padilla, Possant (Marty) Left 486 PC in dome
45° 60% with sound. Cloudy + windy all night - no rain (as
predicted it would) Cleared up star + down. Printer works
for DSPACE, need to install driver for W95 next time,
to ~~do~~ ^{print} other programs.
- July 6-7 Stephenson, Schroeder, Webb, Rabsbery, Jim Fulre
68°F 58% Photograph Hale-Bopp, Visited by S.B. Co. Sheriff
Light Wind About 7 PM, said there they were just board and
From West Looking Around, but when Schroeder got here at
8:30 he said there was a Sheriff road block
on Swarthout Canyon rd. They must have been looking for someone.

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July 9-10 Poyer, Possant, Padilla. Checked out AAVSO hit list.
 55% 58° Photographed Hale-Bopp, strong sunward fan, no tail.
 Lt. W. wind. Thanks to whomever waxed the dome floor!
 We noticed!

July 12-14 Stephenson, Webb - Photograph M57 - M27 - Hale Bopp
 63% 60° and NGC 7479, Worked on removing weeds until
 Little Wind weed whacker ran out of string, install New Antenna mast,
 worked on electricals.

July 22-23 Poyer, Padilla, Fred Middendorf S.V.
 55% 65° Warm, calm night. Transparency poor. Did variables
 and photos (~~EPH~~ ^{EPH 1600} 35 mm format). Hale-Bopp looks the
 same, a bit brighter. Have ordered new timer for toilet.
 Please monitor fan until new timer installed.

July 28 Stephenson - installed New timer on toilet
 new timer defective (won't rotate), worked on electrical
 contacts of old timer and reinstalled,
 whacked on weeds.
 Found several large Pools of Rain water
 on Obs. Floor, - at top of stair landing and ran to W. side.

July 29-30 Poyer and Padilla. Visual variables. Hazy night.

July 30-31 Poyer. Painted doors and shutters. Tested north
 62° 65% roof with water - major leak! Will call roofer.
 toilet works well.

Aug. 7-8 Poyer alone - on way to the Ancient Bristlecone Pine
 52% 62° Forest for U.S.F.S. talk. Visual variables per request
 NO WIND of AAVSO. All fine here - roof leaks fixed (for now!)
 Jupiter nice sight, red spot prominent, NEB has oval
 extension into E2 like red spot does, same longitude.

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Aug 10-12 Stephenson, Robinson, Schroeder
 Came up for Meteor Shower, Visual on Saturn, Jupiter
 Photograph meteors, Pleiades, NGC 7479

8-20-21 Poyer and Padilla, Photographed Hale-Bopp.
 50% 58°F Did visual variables. Great night - no wind.

8-29-96 Stephenson
 50% 70°F Visual of Show objects, Jupiter, Saturn, Moon
 Ring, M13.

9-1-96 Stephenson
 Stopped by in late Afternoon to do maintenance
 install New Timer in Electric Toilet, Took parts
 from two broken timers and made one
 good spare.
 one of Schroeders Airport friends gave
 us a used T.V., works better than the
 other one.
 on my way up a fire broke out on
 Blue ridge (South Side) About sunset
 it jumped the ridgeline and a tongue
 of fire started working toward W rightward
 Really looked Spooky after dark.

9-2,3 Poyer and Padilla - Labor Day. Fire being diked
 60% 60°F by retardant from 3 helicopters. Locals watching
 progress from here - gave a tour of Obs.
 Did PKS 1622-297 for AAUSO at about 17.5 mag.
 Arcator of Hale-Bopp - getting more intense, but
 jets in same position as all of August.
 Good night, but moderate SW wind and poor seeing.
 We washed the 18" mirror - came out CLEAN.

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SEPT 7-8 STEPHENSON, SCHROEDER, CURTIS DYROM
 TEMP 55° (FIRST VISIT) HALE BOPP, JUPITER, M31, 23, 22, NGC 7009,
 HUM 76% 7006, 7635. MODERATE SEEING, WIND FROM S.W. 15 MPH.
 AT 2:00 AM MANY SPORADIC METEORS, ALMOST AS GOOD AS THE
 PERSEIDS THIS YEAR!

Sept. 10-11 Poyer and Padilla. Did Hubble S.T. request - positive
 53% 50°F Hale - Bopp - looks the same. Comet Tabur in Orion
 no wind has a tail and orbital debris too. Left motor-focuser
 to SW light extension on desk (NE) for use at computer
 wind desk - works fine. All OK.

SEPT. 14-15 J. SCHROEDER, J. STEPHENSON, S. ROBINSON, C. DYROM
 TEMP 52° KEN & CAROLYN JARDINE, WHAILAN JIN,
 HUM 70% VISUAL OF SNOW OBJECTS. HALE-BOPP, JUPITER, SATURN
 100 AM M 31, 32, 22, 11, 27, 57, 8, 20, 17. NGC 205, 891, 7009
 LIGHT TO MODERATE NALC-BOPP SHOWING A LOT MORE TAIL THAN LAST WEEK.
 S.W. WIND

Sept. 17-18 Poyer and Padilla. Did H.-B., tail is strongest yet.
 44°F 80% Looked for debris field of comet TABUR (Teller). Did not
 SW wind ^{just} see any beyond immediate coma area. Tail is forming,
 stronger. All A-OK here.

Sept 21-22 Stephenson, Photography, M31, M1, NGC 434.
 52°F 75% intermet Pushbutton on control Paddel (Dec).
 West Wind 10KTS will try to find replacement. Changed mounting Bolts
 at Front of Long refractor.

Sept. 26-27 Poyer, Possant, Padilla, Michals, Lopez, Gossells.
 50°F 58% Total Lunar Eclipse - did much photograph + video.
 NO WIND Mid-darkness eclipse in early evening. Beautiful sight

Oct 5-6 Stephenson, Fehér - Tried photography with ST-4
 NO Wind the Errors were excessive gave up at 1:30 AM
 We need to improve on the drive if we wish to use the ST-4

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OCT.

SEPT 12-13 SCHROEDER, STEPHENSON, K. ISA

TEMP. 58° HALE DOPP, SATURN, NGC 253, 288, 2392 (ESKIMO)

H.M. 50% M-76, M 42, M 31, M 33, M 1

AT 2:15 AM.

TRANSPARENT NIGHT; GUSTY WIND FROM SE. FAIR SEEING.

Oct. 15-16 Royer + Padilla + Stephenson. Fixed main worm wheel - adjusted upwards.
60% 45°F SW wind
Pid Comets H.-B. and Tabur, no debris trail detected. Transparency fair.

OCT 19-20 SCHROEDER, STEPHENSON. GUSTY WIND & CIRRUS
54% 35°F OVERCAST UNTIL 9:00 PM. THEN CLEAR / WIND ABATING.
FAIR SEEING. MOON, JUPITER, SATURN. JOHN TOOK
PHOTOS OF M 31 TO TEST DRIVE / GUIDER.

Oct 23-24 Could not find cage rotation controls - virtually impossible to observe North near meridian. Very bright gibbous moon most of night. Drive not working at all! Discovered drive shaft ~ 1 foot above observing floor seems to require 2 grub screws and only 1 was in place! Drive shaft NOT turning above this. Only one star observed, Lh Lyr but couldn't break 14th mag. Gave up early (~ 11³⁰) as virtually impossible to find fields with no drive (RA circle now useless!). Clear all night, temp a little above freezing. New "freezer" suit work well - near sweating most of night! Sad to lose my only night available this trip up here.

Tom Cragg

Oct 26 Stephenson. Came up to work on drive
Found Problem TOM Had and Repaired it,
Retaped Set screws on worm gear of Guiding Motor.
Added Set screws in universal joint at
top of "Q-Bomb", Storm clouds make observing
impossible, so am unable to check drive,
we may get snow tonight
P.S. First snow Oct 27, Afternoon, JWS, 11-9-96

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NOV 9-10 SCHROEDER, STEPHENSON, RON HARTMAN,
49°F 62% K. ISA, JIM TAPP, JIM FEHER.
INTERMITTENT CIRRUS AND THIN OVERCAST WITH
ALMOST NO WIND. M-31, 33, 34, 42, 76, SATURN
GOOD SEEING!

Nov. 12-13 Royce and Padilla. Hale-Bopp looks the same.
45°F 55% Did tricolor CCD on it and Saturn. Some
NO WIND variables visually, including RX And - dimmest ever
at m 15.2. Seeing and High Cirrus closed us down
as evening drew into morning. All working fine.
Still some water leaks - Please leave buckets
as now placed.

Nov. 19-20 Royce and Padilla. Broken clouds. Did some
43°F 98% variables and Mas in A.M. All OK. Moderate
West wind. Covered Computer desk with attached
plastic sheet - just roll back for use.

Nov ~~27~~²⁶ Stephenson - Replaced Guyding Relays and
30°F 65% Rewired Pannel.

NOV. 30 SCHROEDER, STEPHENSON, K. ISA, SARAH PINKERTON FROM
36° 72% BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA. M 31, 42, 1, SATURN, JUPITER
DOUBLE CLUSTER, GAMMA AND.

Dec. 3-4 Royce and Padilla. Tricolor CCD of Hale-Bopp
33°F 60% low in West. Probably last view! Subtle changes in
H. W. wind jets - ^{new} one toward sun. Did visual variables till
clouds rolled in - thick high-cirrus. Oiled dec. crank.

Dec 7-8 Stephenson, Feher, Robinson, Schroeder
42°F 70% Prime Sees and Wide Field Photography, of M45, M1, and M42
No Wind Visual of M81, 82, and M57.
Taking CD player Home for the Winter.