

- 11/30-12/1/01 G. Thomas here. Snow on the ground but no drifts yet on the road. Good viewing Fri night. Too far west for occultation of Saturn by the Moon but a nice conjunction. Did variable stars. Sat. night too cloudy for observing but really pretty outside w/ high moon and fluffy clouds despite the wind.
- 12/2-8 G. Thomas here. Did variable stars. Clear night w/ moderate high winds. Very windy at Microwave tower but quite here at Ford. Cleaned snow and a lot of ice off roof.
- 12-9-01 J. SCHRÖDER, J STEPHENSON
30°F DELIVERED NEW MICROWAVE OVEN.
71% ENJOYED DINNER + PINK FLOYD.
OVERCAST, SNOW STARTED 5:30 AM.
- 12/14-15-01 Terri + Greg Thomas
18°F Snow on the ground but still able to drive in.
90%RH No star gazing too many dark clouds. Sat. morning we did a little skiing. Nice little trip. ❄️
- 12/16-18 G. Thomas up again. Still cloudy Sunday night although still and nice outside. This is the weekend for Sun dogs. Have seen several both days on each side of Sun. Monday night first looked hopeful, then extra gleals with wind and black clouds but by 7pm every thing was clear and calm. Did variable stars and watched Gungwead transit of Jupiter.
- 12/29-1/3/02 G. Thomas here. Open on primary circuit to service transformer and back feeding thru the 3p xbrns to Microwave facility resulted in 30-67 VAC in 120 circuits. As a result I couldn't open the dome and needed the oil lamp to read. (cont)

cont. Edison called and the problem fixed by end of next day. Unfortunately, Sat. was the only night with clear enough skies to complete variable work and I couldn't open the dome. Did 1 variable after electrical power was restored but the clouds closed the sky up fast. Weather always above freezing but snow and ice (in the morning) still make access difficult (10 tries to get w/ past snow on last stretch). Very little new snow or rain but moderate winds and lots of clouds to hide the full moon and all the stars. Did get a lot of technical reading/study done w/o interruptions. Water leaking onto computer is assumed to be from snow melting in the dome ring. Will keep watch on this & set up some plastic to protect computer.

1/1-1/6 G. Thomas here Friday. Clear then cloudy then clear then cloudy then clear then cloudy. In clear skies did variables and Jupiter was spectacular. John Stevenson, Bill Wilks, Jeff Schroeder & friend Kester here Saturday. Looked at Jupiter & Orion Nebula before clouds come in. When clear, sky was great.

1/11-1/12 Terri & Greg Thomas
Friday night Greg & I saw the "big red spot" on Jupiter. Sky was clear and beautiful. Air crisp and clear.

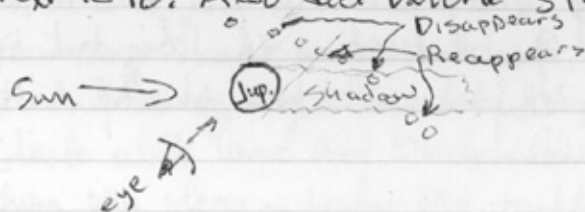
1-12-02 JEFF SCHROEDER / JOHN STEPHENSON
45°F DRIFTING CIRRUS, NO OBSERVATIONS.
54% GOOD DINNER & MUSIC. NO MICE IN TRAPS.
W. WIND > 5

1/20 & 21 G. Thomas here. Only casual observing in beautiful skies. No variable work done unfortunately.

2/8-10/02 G. Thomas here. Drove in over lots of snow. Chains, 30°F
70% RH a shovel, speed, and a lot of confidence req'd to get in by car. Put back alum, siding corners and duct taped openings. Too cold to do much. Need to make some larger end caps this summer. Beautiful skies both nights but seeing at high power on planets not so good. Watched Io transit, did variable stars, and examined NGC 26 alternate galaxy. East wind blowing during the day but nights ok. Took down all dry chem fire extinguishers to unstuff packed powder.

2/16-17/02 G. Thomas here. Did variable stars Sunday night. 22°F
75% RH Clouds & wind prevented much observation on Sat. Snowed about an inch. Just missed the Europa reappearance from Jupiter's shadow by about 2 min.

2/22-24 G. Thomas drove in w/o chains. Snow melting fast. Clouds 42°F
55% RH and wind Friday but could still see Jupiter next the tree moon. Watched Europa ~~peek~~ ^{travel} behind Jupiter only to ~~disappear~~ reappear about a planet width from Jupiter after it came out from Jupiter's shadow. Sat. very windy at first but calm after 10pm. Watched Ganymede emerge from behind Jupiter and then disappear 1/2 hr later behind Jupiter's shadow. 3 hours later Ganymede reappeared next to Io. Also did variable stars.



2/2-3 G. Thomas here. Hardly any snow on the road. 21°F
Did variable stars.

2/8-9 G. Thomas here. Beautiful night, no wind, clear skies, 32°F
but poor transparency - esp @ 30°. Did variable stars.

3/16-17/02 Cold! Seemed colder than the 20° on the thermometer. When
 20°F it warmed up to 25°F at 2am, it seemed much warmer.
 85% RH Clear skies except on the horizon after 9pm. Too many
 clouds to see the new comet. Did variable stars.

3/22-24 G. Thomas here. No observing due to high winds Friday and
 clouds on Saturday. Light snow flurries but nothing
 29°F stuck through the day. The snow that came down on
 99% RH Monday to 1500ft is pretty much gone.

3/29-30 Greg & Terri Thomas (Happy Easter :))
 Beautiful day & night, only a little snow left.
 Clear skies good viewing on Friday - looked at Saturn and
 Jupiter. Full moon so Greg stopped observing about
 12-12:30 - too much light. Sat. morning warm and pretty.
 Lots of water on the roof!

4/5-7 G. Thomas here. Mt. High Ski Resort closed this
 43°F week. Friday was very nice except the clouds prevented
 65% RH much observing. Saturday was just as nice except
 there were no clouds. Excellent climate for variable stars
 and I got a lot done. Seeing for planets varied from
 brief moments of excellent clarity to equally brief times
 of very poor seeing.

4/13-H G. Thomas here again. Beautiful night w/very little wind.
 59°F Not as nice as last week when clouds down in the basin
 55% RH kept out light pollution and I could get below 16th Mag. Still
 was able to get to 15.3 when doing X-Leo. Fought the
 RA wheel for hours. Some times it will get 15 or more minutes
 out of sync even on short moves on the same side of the mount.
 Did get a lot of variable star work done but it took me past
 4 am fighting the RA wheel.

4/20-21/02 G. Thomas here. Surprisingly cold but skies very good except for that pesky moon. Five planets (Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, Venus & Mercury) visible in the western sky at dusk. Another long night of variable work done.

4/26, Fri. Terri Thomas, John Thomas, Hasan Charahi
32°F John & I came up for the evening. Weather was cold, raining and in spots foggy, and windy.
97% RH Dead mouse in a trap next to the toilet.
Also 1 trapped @ stove & one next to vacuum cleaner.
Mouse droppings in various places & a hole in my blanket.

4/27-28 G. Thomas here. Beautiful night except for full moon.
34°F Did variable star work. Got a little windy by midnight
95% RH

5/3/02 G. Thomas here. Beautiful night. Did visible stars until the moon came up around 3am
44°F 70% RH Schroeder, Kate, John & Larry Stevenson, & Bill Webb here to photograph Planet conjunction. Mercury relatively high above the horizon, Venus w/ Saturn & Mars looking somewhat like R Leo geometry & Jupiter. Jeff says he got all in the same frame of a 35mm camera turned sideways
5/4
5/5 am Thomas did variable stars and some recreational viewing of the Double Double, Ring Neb & Cat's Eye Neb.

5/8-9/02 J. Stephenson, L. Stephenson - Visual of Conjunction
Very nice seeing all naked eye planets at once
M31, Ring, M13. Light Wind from West,

5/10-12 Odd weather. First clear, then as night fell low, thick, black clouds coming from the west. All of a sudden, clear w/
40°F 90% RH high turbulence up high. Did variable star work until low clouds broke in by 2am. Sat was very nice & I did star hopping w/ Binocs.
46°F 50% RH

5/31-6/2/02 Co. Thomas here. Did not rain on Friday night but
50°F 70%RH lightning off in the distance. Did variable stars
Saturday until clouds took over.

6/7-9 Co. Thomas here. Beautiful nights although a little windy.
Fire in Sagus help with the clouds in the LA Basin to
make for dark nights. Best Milky Way I've seen here.
Did variable stars both nights
Jeff Schroeder, Bill Webb, John Stevenson, and a visitor
from JPL here. Did some technical checking of
various RA drives, and a star lite express CCD camera

6/15-17 Co. Thomas here. Did variable stars both nights.
Wind was a problem early the first night & late
the second night. Worked out fine. Milky Way
very prominent Saturday. Fire at IIS and
Hwy 138 delayed leaving but only a
slight visual distraction here at Ford. Mice
were out in force. Two caught before I got
here, 1 while I was here, and the baby in the
family seen about 5 times the first day here.

7-5-02 J STEPHENSON, W WEBB
STAYED THROUGH THE AFTERNOON ONLY
TO GET OUT OF THE BASIN HEAT. WE
FOUND THE TOP OF THE DOOR SLIT
OPEN. UPON CLOSING ONE PIN BROKE.
THERE WERE NO RATS IN THE TRAPS.

7-6/7-02 J. Stephenson, J. Fisher, W. Webb, J. Schroeder
warm all night, no wind but High clouds
prevented any use of telescope.

7-12/13-02 Danny & Terri Thomas - we came up to visit.
warm out & clouds, sun set nice.

7/11-14/02 G. Thomas here. Did variable star work but was continuously interrupted by clouds. Did it clear up Thursday night till after 12am. Other nights worse except in specific parts of the sky. Generally very still & quiet air at ground level but twinkling stars up high. Cleared brush away from building for entire perimeter to a distance of more than 16 feet. Reviewed Forest Service permit and could not find any requirement for brush removal but recall reading somewhere of a requirement for fire abatement of brush clearance for a distance of either 15, 30, or 50'. The recent fire. The recent fire made it ~~clear~~ over the I-15 freeway since I last was here and up to and beyond Mormon Rocks. Was very clear that an effort was made to save buildings but was unimpressed with how the fire got out of control so many times and even over the freeway. Therefore was inspired to clear brush. Took home shutter pin to repair and will replace next trip.

7/20-21 G. Thomas here. Installed shutter pin and made adjustment to lower shutter. Did variable stars, clear skies w/ some clouds on horizon. Light to strong wind.

July 27-02

HANADI ALSaadi - THOMAS

This was a totally new experience to me.

I enjoyed walking in this beautiful nature, and in the night the stars view was fascinating. ALSO fascinating was Greg's passion, well knowledge and dedication to star-tracking and the observatory.

Thank you SO SO much Greg & Terri. I Love you.

27-JUL-2002

John J. Thomas

7-26/27-02

Terri Thomas

Viewing good till about 12:40 - nice weather.

7/27-28/02 G. Thomas here. Saw a bobcat on the road @ 11:10 am Saturday. Clouds hung around until about 10 pm but after that, pretty much clear sky w/ no or little wind or Concan tracking again on variables with minimal data in Scapious and vicinity.

8/2-4 G. Thomas here. Good nights although a little wind. Variable Stars done both days. Milky way w/ best trails both nights. Could almost see to M15.4.

8/16/02 G. Thomas here again. Beautiful night in spite of 40° Dewskins of the moon. Did variable stars.

8/17/02 G. Thomas, John Stevenson, Jeff Schroeder, Bill Webb & Sabrina here. Tracked Asteroid 2002NY40 for most of the time it was visible in Jeff's 4" refractor. Despite several tries by 3 people, fail to find it in the 10". Always seems more difficult at the zenith. Did variable stars also. Some clouds with the moon. Clouds shut us down around 11 pm. By 2 pm, beautiful and dark!

8/23-25 G. Thomas here. Did variable stars and a little brush clearing. Nice warm weather w/ clouds generally on the horizon

8/25 BILL WEBB, JEFF SCHROEDER
86°F DAYTIME VISIT TO DROP OFF BETTEL COMPUTER
50 RH FOR 'THE SKY' PROGRAM. JEFF ALSO
7:20 AM TOOK DIMENSIONS FOR DEC ENCODER

8/30-31 Terri & Greg Thomas
A bit windy; smoke in the air from a fire, Greg was still able to do five variable stars.

9/1-2/02 G. Thomas here along w/ J. Stevenson, B. Webb, J. Schroder, Ketta, and D. Phelps. Azusa fire dump ashes all over cars and we didn't open the dome for fear of them. Some occasional rain but didn't last long. Prevailing winds from WSW brought the smoke over here to block most of the stars. Occasionally we could see over head and a little around the Big Dipper. By 3am, absolutely dark w/ no sign of the moon. By 4am sky looked pretty good but no observing was done

9/7-8 G. Thomas here. Some wind, some clouds, and 57°F 55%RH a lot colder. Feels like winter coming. Did variable star work.

9/13-15 G. Thomas here. Did variable stars on Friday. Not too much trouble with the moon. After 12am, the moon set to give a real nice dark and quiet sky, almost to mag 15. Had 7 guests on Saturday. Four women from Wrightwood and 3 campers from Table Mountain. All impressed with the sky, stars, & moon. Did variable work after they left although a few clouds had crept in by then.

9/19-21 G. Thomas here again. Beautiful skies and no wind. In spite of the full moon, could get down to 15.1 magnitude in some places. Did variables both nights and looked at various recreational sights such as the Cat's Eye Nebula & Saturn.

9/21/02 G. Thomas here. Angeles forest completely closed to
 -9/29 recreational visitors. Only lease holders allowed in and
 46°F they have to get a special permit (which I did), closure
 95% RH until end of fire season. Apparently the William's fire in
 Glendora, La Brea, Claremont, Mt. Baldy was the last straw.
 Did only a little variable star work due to wind and clouds.
 Reports of rain in parts of LA Basin

10-4-02 - Teri Thomas & Greg Thomas

10-5 Greg did variable stars till the clouds came in. Cooler weather but not windy.

10/5-6 G. Thomas here. Absolutely Beautiful night for variable stars. No wind or clouds. At times low clouds over Heavens & LA made sky darker. Tried out Barlow on 9mm to check possible doubles by certain variables. Added some variables in Capricorn to my list

10/11-12 G. Thomas here. Clouds shut out any practicable observing both nights. Some sky open @ 2am Sat.

11/1-3 G. Thomas here. Very dark Friday but shifting clouds hampered observing. Saturday pretty clear, then cloudy, then great. Saw down to Mag 15.5 in places although low 14's pretty reliable in most locations. By 2am, absolutely clear except low clouds on horizon. Did variable stars and some casual planet observing. Roger called & said his dome in Springfield is slowly getting better ~~as~~ the dome apparently settles to its best gravity shape since we moved it there last week.

11/9, 10, & 15 G. Thomas here. Rain got in to the computer, leaks between the Cores & Puffers in the dome on the S/W quadrant due to wind pressure. Cleared up. Clouds, rain, wind or a combination precluded any observations thru telescope these 3 days.

11/18-19 Greg & Teri Thomas, Bill Webb, Jeff Schooder, Karen, John Stephenson, for the Leonids showers. Greg did variable stars - sky clear good viewing.

11/22-24 G. Thomas here. Friday cloudy until ~1am. Got a call from Roger re his less than perfect viewing of Leonids up at Springfield. Did variable stars after 1am. Saturday night just the opposite. Got down to 15.7 mag for W Psc. before the moon came up. Got a few clouds after midnight and soaked in by 1am.

98

2002 - 03

12/13-15/02 G. Thomas here. Some snow on the north facing slopes and Mtn Hi West is open. Temps in the mid 40's and windy but no rain or snow from the several storms predicted here for this week. Saw the bobcat again. Mostly cloudy but did see what appeared to be a bolide headed due south over the mountain through the cloud cover. Not much observing.

12/23-24 G. Thomas here. Absolutely Beautiful night. Clear skies and good seeing. High 15 magnitudes. Considerable problem w/ dew and the Eyepiece heater I have had a broken wire. Got fixed for next visit. Did variable stars and watched Io & Europa pass next to each other so close they could not be split. Almost as bright as Callisto. By Midnight there was some minor seeing degradation due to moisture. Moon occasionally had a halo. Snow so deep I had to ski in. Maybe a while before vehicles can get up here again.

1-11-03 SCHROEDER & WEBB
42°F DAYTIME VISIT. DOME WAS DRY. NO
72% RH RAIN OR SNOW DAMAGE. I ATTEMPTED
REPAIR ON CD PLAYER WITHOUT SUCCESS.

1-18-03 J. SCHROEDER, J. STEPHENSON, W. WEBB
40° OBSERVED FUTILITY OF LIFE, WATCHED
70% MOONLIGHT ON SNOW. (DECOMPRESSION VISIT)

1-25-03 J. SCHROEDER, J. STEPHENSON, K. ISA, W. WEBB
38°F VERY GOOD SEEING, BRIGHT SKY. SATURN SUPERB.
71% COMET NEAT IN PICES, 6TH MAG. ROUND COMA.
WIND LIGHT & VAR. M 1, M 42, M 81, ESKIMO NEB.