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2006 - 07

11/25/
2006

Kate Hutton & Chris Young did variable stars. Excellent night & we did 7 stars before 10 pm - R Eri was too low. We need new "rising" stars. Domo only squeakers going counterclockwise. 32°F when we started, 27°F when we finished.

1/1/07
29°F Low
48°F High
70% RH

W.S. Thomas here for day trip. Made 2 small repairs to roof. Everything else seems ok. Came with skis but was able to drive all the way. Leaving at night will be a problem due to the amount of snow & ice still on road. Micro waste facility has had all copper on the outside removed to prevent further theft. Bath room door is now locked but with same combo. All ~~the~~ openings to building are now closed using plate and strong backs (sim to what I did to our east window ~~which~~ ^{plate} thieves used it). Some of the plates already show signs of forced entry but they were unsuccessful. All this should also help deter future break-ins at Ford.

2007

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AT ROYER'S REQUEST, THE FORD LOG IS BEING SCANNED FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES. IT WILL BE BACK AS SOON AS THAT PROCESS IS FINISHED. KATE HUTTON IS PERSONALLY DOING IT.

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MEANWHILE, PLEASE USE THIS —

1/6/2007

Kate Hutton, Pam Gonpales & PJ Goldfinger did variable stars. Only patches of smog on the way up. Temp in the 30's.

There was some water on the secondary tarp (RA circle) but none on the floor.

2/3/2007

Pam Gonpales, Kate Hutton & Kathy Watts here to do variable stars. used 9 stars & 1 AGN. Jeff & John came by also. New keys we made did not work.

Borrowed John's extra keys to try another copy.

Tension mechanism on turret drive chain fell off. Parts are on desk.

There were some high clouds but mostly stayed over LA.

2007

2/17/07 G. Thomas here. Removed chain on motor of telescope
 46°F nose per discussion w/Royer. With pins in the grooves,
 chain will eventually come out of groove & break or cut
 120VDC cord to motor unless the tensioner is on.
 This makes it unsafe to operate unless tensioner is working.
 Made index marks & moved nose in line w/original
 position. It's not too hard to move by hand but
 operators will need to be careful doing so.

3/11 G. Thomas here for guide trip to repair
 56°F looked gate chain. Clear skies but
 60%RH not much observing due to fine
 to 40%RH

3-17

50°F 55AM JEFF SCHNEIDER, KATE SLAMA, JOHN STEPHENSON.
 BEAUTIFUL DARK, TRANSPARENT NIGHT FOR A GALAXY TOUR!
 STARTED WITH M 42, M1, M72, M79 AND HORSEHEAD.
 HORSEHEAD DIFFICULT WITH AVEATED VISION BUT SEEN!!
 ON TO THE ISLAND UNIVERSES. M 94, 95, 96, 65, 66 IN LEO.
 M 87, 100 AND SEVERAL OTHERS IN VIRGO CLUSTER. FINISHED
 WITH M 104 AND M51. ALSO SATURN (6 MOONS) AND ESKIMO.

3/24/2007 Jeff, John, Pam & Kate here. Looked at
 Saturn, Orion nebula, several galaxies
 & 6 variables. Moon bright but
 otherwise sky is nice.

left Jeff's keys on table.

2007

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4/13/07 Pam & Kate were here for dinner -
 weather not cooperating. Forecast worse.
 for tomorrow night so we are going
 home. 12 midnight

5/5 WC Thomas. Have to check on status. Everything looks
 ok for group tonight. Changed the work elements. Someone appears
 to have discharged the extinguisher down stairs so I've taken it for refill and
 to check on heater

5/5 Kate Hutton, Pam Gonzalez & Chris Holmes
 here to do variables. All went well, but
 we were not prepared for 35° temp &
 wind.

5/11 WC Thomas. Can't seem to find any of the little items I've
 had laying around for maintenance. Takes much more time where
 they're rearranged in unknown places. Lower shutter is ok to operate
 as is. Keep push button down until enough pressure builds up
 for it to work. Should only be required once per night. Hydraulic
 oil is needed & extra is missing. No problem w/ upper shutter but
 I'll check gear oil later in summer. Recharged fire extinguisher
 in back stairs. I've removed all the rest to recharge & will
 bring back later.

5/16 JEFF SCHROEDER AND JOHN STEPHENSON

65% CLEAR & SOMEWHAT WINDY. SEEING FAIR ON SATURN, POOR ON
 JUPITER. THIN CRESCENT MOON GORGEOUS WITH STRONG
 EARTHSHINE. M 51, 102, 109, 97, 13 AND OMEGA CENTAURI.

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2007

6-23 JEFF SCHROEDER, KATA SLAMA, JOHN STEPHENSON.

BEAUTIFUL NIGHT: SOMEWHAT WINDY. SUMMER SKY
TOUR THROUGH KATA'S 5" SCOPE. GREAT ISS PASS,
GREAT IRIDIUM FLASH (-6) MANY OTHER SATELLITES
SEEN. JEFF FOLLOWED SPACE STATION FOR 30 SEC. AT
35X THROUGH 5". MAIN SOLAR ARRAYS AND BASIC
SHAPE PLAINLY SEEN! GORGEOUS COLOR CHANGE AS
STATION WENT INTO SHADOW.

6-30 JEFF SCHROEDER, JOHN STEPHENSON, KATA SLAMA.

WINDY, DRIFTING HIGH CLOUDS, NO OBSERVING.
GORGEOUS SUNSET!

7-6 JEFF SCHROEDER, KATA SLAMA, JOHN STEPHENSON.

WINDY AGAIN, SEEING FAIR. SHOWED 4 LOCALS
JUPITER, SATURN AND VENUS. THEY WERE
APPREIATIVE BUT DIDN'T STAY LONG. ALSO
M57, 27, &. TRIED BIG EYEPiece, WORKED
VERY WELL! WILL MAKE ADAPTER AS MY
TIME PERMITS.

7/11-12 Will & Patti, Thomas & David Kayler here to observe.
Elyse split w/ turbulence, cat's eye, ring nebula observed
All fire extinguishers replaced w/ service tags. Vaccinated my
all the rocks on the carpet.

7-14 JEFF, JOHN & KATA. UP TO ESCAPE HEAT. 60% AVERAGE

DRIFTING OVERCAST. NO OBSERVING WITH 18". CALM AT
SURFACE 70°F.

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7/25-26

8/25 G. Thomas here. E Lyrae split easily but no blade in between
 due to turbulence. Europa occulted by Jupiter, Gal's
 eye, and others.

Met w/ Tony Heinman & 3 administrators from
 Victor Valley College (3 females - don't remember names)
 who are looking to take over part of get some grant
 money for new facilities.

Microwave bldg was broken into again. Installed
 high security padlock hasp on main door

8/12 G. Thomas here for Paradise. Not all that much
 to see. Nice evening

8-18 JOHN S. AND JEFF S. 40% THIN DRIFTING CLOUDS.
 WAY TOO WINDY TO OBSERVE! EVEN JUPITER WAS
 TWINKLING. :(

8/19/07 G. Thomas & D. Thomas w/ 5 friends here. Looked at
 Double Double, Ring Nebula, Jupiter, Gal's eye, etc.
 Able to split E-Lyra but not always clearly

9/01/07 JOHN STEPHENSON, JEFF SCHROEDER &
 KATH SLANT: HAD TO TAKE A DETOUR
 HIT BOULDERS PILED UP ON SWANTRON
 CN. CAME TO CHECK OBSERVATORY AFTER
 SEVERE THUNDERSTORM - ALL OKAY. JOHN
 ADDED 2 MORE PICS ON THE WAY.

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2007

09/08/07 JOHN STEFFENSON, JEFF SCHAE-
DER & KATA BLANK.
SAW INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION GO
N → E @ 9:30 PM, SEVERAL SATELLITES
& METEORS, PHOTOGRAPHY OF ANDROMEDA
& M8, M27. SEVERAL LOCALS (KIDS) DROVE
PASS, STARTING ABOUT 10 PM ON.

09/12/07 G. Thomas here. Windy, very large lenticular clouds to the
near east. High contrast visual for clear areas. No observing
w/telescope due to wind and late arrival

09/14/07 Meeting w/ Victor Valley College folks of Forest Service.
Craig Thomas - Forest Caretaker

9/14/07 Tony Heinzman Victor Valley College
Stony Ridge Observatory

9/14/07 Lori Kilom
Victor Valley College

+ 2 Maint men from the college

10/12/07 W Thomas & Loua here for tour of
-W observatory

10/17/07 W Thomas here to check on May 4 EQ on
10/16/07 which occurred NNE 2.76 KM of Ford. No
damage found nor rocks on the road. Possible rain
since I was here Sunday am. Very windy today
No observing

2007

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11-10-07 JEFF SCHROEDER AND JOHN STEPHENSON. CLEAR & DARK!
 UP TO PHOTOGRAPH COMET HOLMES. 400 MM F5.6 8 EXP. UP TO 30 MIN
 40° 67% 5 MORE AT FOCUS OF 18" F7 LONGEST 8 MIN.

11/11/07 JEFF, KATA & JOHN UP TO OBSERVE
 36° 97% PHOTOGRAPH THE COMET HOLMES. VISUAL
 GLIMPSES, OTHERWISE FOG. GAVE UP
 WHEN FOG COVERED FOND.

11-12-07 JEFF SCHROEDER UP TO PHOTOGRAPH COMET HOLMES.
 35° 80% CLEAR, CALM, NOT QUITE AS DARK AS TWO NIGHTS AGO.
 400 MM, 1000 MM, 18" F7 ALL WITH FUJI 400. 34 SHOTS TOTAL.
 WORKED ALL DAY AT TMO, TIL PAST MIDNIGHT HERE.

11/14 W. Thomas & L. Morano here to see Comet Holmes & How
 Quite spectacular & unusual comet.

11-17-07 JEFF SCHROEDER, JOHN STEPHENSON, KATA SLAMA UP
 58° 75% TO PHOTOGRAPH 17P HOLMES. 4x5 SHEET TAIX BY JOHN.
 35MM FUJI 400 THROUGH 18" BY JEFF. CLEAR, CALM, ONLY
 MINIMAL INTERFERENCE BY MOON. COMET VERY CLOSE TO
 MIRFAK, NICE FIELD!

12/14-15 W. Thomas here for Geminid Meteor Shower. Some large ones but
 200P short and not too many. Clean off roof of snow. Also
 found lower lock was not locked on door.
 Misc Note. Was here on 11/17 to set up my Meridian facility
 back in it's frame. Notified Forest Service of work to ref.
 recent location.)