

FPOA Observing Log

Introduction

22 June 2007 Friday

opened the observatory at 7:15pm.

Observatory room light lens on the floor. All else looks good. Objects observed: Venus Saturn, the Sun, Ring Nebula, Moon, M13, m51, m81/82/m92, Jupiter, Mars, M31, m22, Lagoon Nebula, M27, Alberio.

Close up observatory @ 5:45am.

Left keys with David S. Enjoyed showing the stars and Planets to 3 young students and their father. David and I worked on the telescope link. David aided me in locating some objects for viewing.

Greg Bosler.

23 June 2007 Sat. Public Program

Hartnell intern Ed does presentation on "Galactic Mergers" to 30 people. Observed Venus, Saturn, and Jupiter at sunset. Moon is 8.5 days old in south lighting up sky, but still able to show M57, M13, M51, m27 to visitors.

Volunteers tonight Dave Samuels, Mark Levine, Joe, Ricki, and Ed. Closed at 12:30am

Ron Dammann

Removing diagonal for 5" refractor from observatory for repair. Ron D.

7 July 2007 Sat.

Returned repaired and cleaned diagonal for 5" Challenger refractor. Cleaned up Observatory.

Laura Clark does presentation on "Galactic Gas Jets". Research from 2wk course at Duke University/ PARI observatory. Excellent presentation!

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Hartnell interns Angelica, Miguel, and Mark help out on pad with 16" Dob. Joseph Brandt, Bob Zingerhut run Challenger. Objects: Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, M13, m57, m4, m22, m16, m17, m51, m101, etc. 40 visitors tonight. Closed at 2:30am. 60F degrees. Windy earlier.

Ron Dammann

July 11 2007

Opened at 7:30pm. Everything seems in order. Clear and cool evening. Objects observed: Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, M4, M57.

Closed up at midnight.

Joe Barndt

12 July 2007

MPC Summer Astronomy 10

Adnrews/Besserman

Kim Marlow and Luke Pasley lab aides.

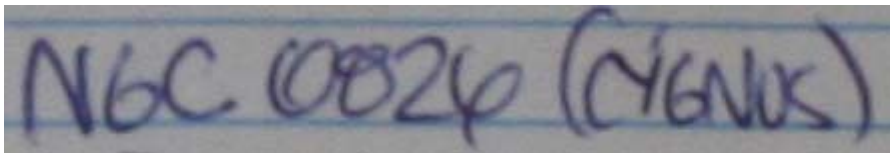
Opened observatory @ about 7:10

Sky semi clear. Transparency not great. But not cloudy. No marine fog below, so expect light pollution tonight.

Expecting 19 students. Sunset observations @ overlook @ 8pm Observing session after sunset to midnight.

Roof not well secured @ turn buckles on arrival.

Objects - Juipster is very nice



NGC 6826 (?) - "Blinking Planetary Nebula" - fantastic object. W/ 20mm eyepiece.

The nebula nearly disappears when viewed directly, but w/ averted vision it "blinks" back into view. Showpiece of the night.

18 students, 2 aids, and several guests.

Good nite @ 1:40am

Allen

Thanks again FPOA! & State Parks!

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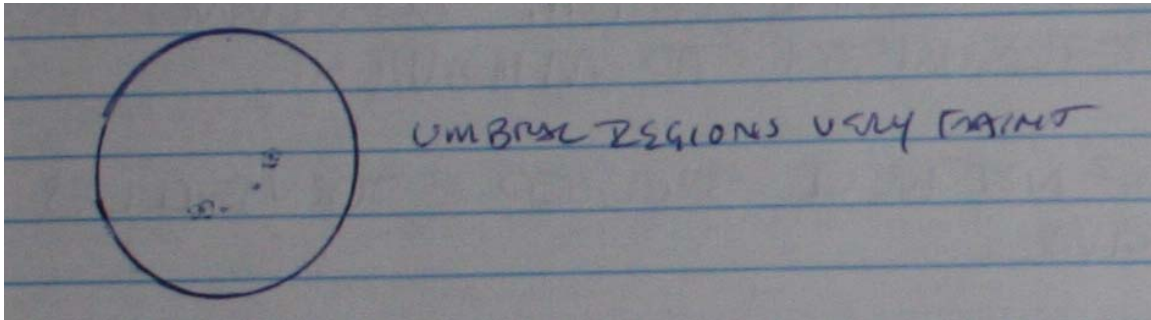
13 July 2007 [Friday]

Bill Hudson, Hannah Hudson, and Rosie Hudson. Private reservation.

18:30 Opened observatory, noted computer in conference room left on. Monitor Tunred off but cpu running. Shut down.

Everything else looked OK.

Took solar scope out to west pad. Saw 4 small sunspots, 2 with associated umbra.



20:02 Put away Solaris & Tripod. 3 astronomers from San Mateo Astronomical Society setting up on south pad + 4 campers from South Africa got to look thru solaris. Opened roof disturbed bat roosting on West wall track, which greatly disturbed girls.

20:34 Venus, very bright but lots of atmospheric shimmer.

2110 - Jupiter very bright, could see colors in the bands and all of the Galilean moons.

21:54: Ring Nebula

2229: Sombrero Galaxy

2248: Alberio

2317: Lagoon Neb

23:42 Antares & Antares B.

00:22: Close observatory. Locked eyepiece drawer, turned off computer and monitor, b-box & unplugged TA drive.

14 July, 2007 Sat.

Solar Public Program

Had 30 visitors from 2pm to 5pm. 4-5 sunspots visible. Removing solaris solar scope from observatory for cleaning and checkout of H-Alpha filter.

Ron Dammann

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Pat Donnelly does "Worlds in Comparison" presentation because Angelic (Hartnell intern caught in 101 traffic) Have ~ 60 visitors who enjoyed a beautiful evening with Gordon Reade, Dave Samuels, Rick Morales, Peter Natscher, and Bob Black as FPOA volunteers.

21 July 2007 Sat. Public Night

Returned Solaris telescope after cleaning. Returned battery charger after plug repair. Cleaned primary mirror on Challenger.

Allen Andrews does presentation on the scale of the solar system, galaxy, and univers and explains about objects we will be viewing tonight. Mark Levine, Ron Dammann and Hartnell interns assisting on Challenger and with 16" Dob and 18" starmaster on pads. Estimate 45 visitors. First quarter moon, Saturn, Venus, Jupiter, plus usual "M" objects. Closed at 3am

Ron Dammann

22 July 2007

Opened the observatory @ 8:25pm. All looked good except encoders behind the concrete Pier were left on. Viewed Venus, Jupiter, Uranus, & usual M objects. Had visitors and showed them some objects on scopes outside the observatory. Closed observatory @ 2:30am

Greg Bosler

28 July 2007 Sat.

Arrived 18:30 hrs. Everything ok. Found 1/2 variable polarizing filter on 22mm Panoptic eyepiece - other 1/2 in storage box.

Setting up for occultation of star by (27) Euterpe asteroid in Capricornus. Dave Samuels and Gene Hahn assembling CCD equipment on Challenger. Removing Binocular mount from observatory for counter weight repair.

Ron Dammann, Directory of Instruments.

Dave Continues imaging

-->(27) Euterpe asteroid occultation failed because we were unable to acquire it in time with small sensor CCD. 20Da Canon resolved it well. Tracked it for 1 1/2 hours afterward. Imaged m57 with 20Da, [but wind buffeting wouldn't allow > 10 second exposures)

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[After we returned, I examined and processed the images. Here are some images taken with the Canon 20Da from the Challenger scope at prime focus. Feel free to post copies if you like:]

This is asteroid (27) Euterpe the night of an occultation about an hour after the event for about an hour and a half. It is an animated gif so most people should be able to see what 1.5 hours of movement of a main belt asteroid would look like. This was taken with the Challenger 30" f/4.8 scope prime focus with a Gene Khan's Canon 20Da camera at prime focus (no eyepieces or barlows). It is 24 x 30second shots taken at 1600iso.

http://www.davesamuels.com/images/hires/2007_02_28/Euterpe-asteroid-oclt_754mmf048_20da_1600iso30secx24_animated.gif

This is M57 - Ring Nebula. Also taken with the Canon 20Da at 1600iso and 63F degrees. It is a stack of 6x10-second images:

http://www.davesamuels.com/images/hires/2007_02_28/m057_754mmf048_20da_63deg_10SecISO1600_6x10sec_ip-excavg-ddp1681.jpg

Here is an unusual view of the moon. Taken with Gene's 20Da at ISO100 for 1/500 sec exposure. No touchups have been done on this image. This is what it would look like through a 30mm eyepiece:

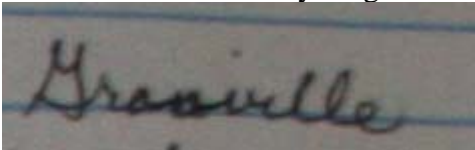
http://www.davesamuels.com/images/hires/2007_02_28/moon500thSecISO100_%23000016.JPG

Note: If you decide to use these images, which are too large to email to you, it might be best to post them on our FPOA.net web site, or paste the pictures into the PDF of the Observer. I might need to clear these images out of their current directory some time in the future, so this location is not permanent.

Closed 5:30am - all ok.

4 August 2007 Sat

Arrived 18:30hrs. Everything ok. returned Graiville (sp?)



) Binocular mount after repair of counterweight holder.

Started with Jupiter tonight in Southern sky. Venus and Saturn lost in Western glare. M57, m51, m22, m4, ISS pass in northern sky - very nice and Iridium flare about 20

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minutes early high in eastern sky at -2 mag. M51 very nice tonight with heavy fog in valleys - "dark sky".

The Blue Snowball in Pegasus - planetary nebula and nearby NGC 7640 spiral galaxy. M13, MGC6207 (just off M13) NGC 6166 Hercules Mag 13.3.

Miguel (Hartnell Intern) does the three presentations. Had estimated 60 visitors. Angelica and Ricki here also with 16" Dob on pad.

Moon rise at midnight. Closed at 1:30am. Temp 66F.

Ron Dammann

11 August 2007 - Star-B-Que

Doug Brown estimate of 230 people attending. Many non-members present. Goug, Pat, and Donn re-elected. Dave Samuels, Rick Mazzuella, Michael Connelly and William Hudson on pads. Observed only a few objects because of the number of people. Jupiter, M13, NGC 7662, M57, M51, MGC 253, NGC 288 globular. Closed at 3am

Ron Dammann

19 August 2007 Sat.

Hartnell interns tonight Miguel, Joe, and Ed open observatory at 18:30hrs. Miguel does 2 presentations to 60 visitors. Observed 5 day old moon, Jupiter, ISS and Shuttle STS118 in north, M57, M51, etc. Interns running Challenger scope with Peter Natscher, Ron Dammann and Paul Bradshaw on pads with telescopes. Nice, clear evening. 54F at midnight.

Ron Dammann

22 August 2007 Wed.

Boy scout troop due for special program some time this evening. Opened observatory & conference room to cool @ 18:25 hrs. Everything looks ok. Loads of black flies.

19:20 scoutmaster called from Hollister. Delayed only 1/2 scouts there yet, est 21:00 arrival.

19:52 Taking some time to look at the moon.

20:15 Ed Huston Arrived. Informed of scout's late arrival. Ed & I began observing the moon & Jupiter while we waited.

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22:00 Began observing with scouts. Looked first at constellations from the west pad. Showed them the big dipper (UMaj), Polaris, Draco, Cassiopea, Pegasus, Bootes, Arcturus, part of Virgo, Antares, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Cygnus, Aquil, Vega, Lyra, Jupiter, & moon. Answered several questions regarding the constellations.

22:30 Began observing through Challenger. Looked at Jupiter, Antares, m13, m31, m57, Alberio, the Double-dobule, etc.

23:30 Scouts had left, Ed & I tried but were unable to see M101 in the sky glow.

00:18 Closed observatory. Sold 3 CD's to scout troop. Money placed in noation box on the west wall.

23 August 2007 Thursday - 6pm

Arrived early, everything seems in good order

Spent time studying, memorizing Learning. Did not stay long enough to observe. Mostly wanted time to thing and learn.

Left before dark.

A peaceful evening.

Joseph Barndt

1 September 2007

Hartnell interns tonight are Nicki, Edi, and I. ricky presented to about 25 people on the birth and death of stars. We all began biewing at 20:30 and opened at 19:30. Observed Jupiter, M8, m22 Albireo, M110, m31, m57. Joe, Marc, Ed and the Interns ran the Challenger. The handle for the roof crank was barely on when opening and came off. Good night. Great crowd.

Closed 23:30

Campers from as far as New York came up as we were coming up with Ed. Opened again at 23:35. The interns left @ 00:00, Ed will close.

Miguel Rodriguez

As Miguel said, I ran into some campers as I was leaving the park. About eight of them came up to the telescope. Interns Miguel, Ricki, and Ed were so kind to help open up again and to get the telescope set up. We showed the group the moon, m31/32, m13 and Alberio, and a tour of teh constellations that were up.

They very much appreciated the late night viewing - several contributed or may send in donations. Am leaving at about 1:00am.

Ed Huston

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7 sept 2007

Paul Bradshaw opened 8pm, closed 1:30am.

Attempted photograph. Conditions bad due to smoke and turbulence.

8 Sept, 2007

Hartnell interns consisted of Miguel and Angelica. Observatory was opened at about 19:20. At about 20:10, Angelica presented to two groups of about 10 people each. Presentation was on nebulae. Overall crowd consisted of about 30 people. After presentations Angelica managed the 10" dob, while Miguel helped manage the Challenger. FPO volunteers consisted of Doug Brown, Ron Dammann, Pat Donnelly.

Objects observed consisted of Jupiter, M57, Andromeda Galaxy, M4, m14, m17, Arcturus. Angelica left @ 23:15. Observed the Veil Nebula, the North American Nebula. A group of 5 came @ 00:15 view the Veil, M57, the North American (which I was viewing when they showed). Lectured and discussed astronomy with them while viewing until 02:30. Closed down @ 03:00. Clear night despite ash from fire. Maybe thanks to it Hot all night.

Miguel Rodriguez.

Removed 8" Celestron reflector and binocular mount from observatory for cleanup and repair.

Ron Dammann

15 Sept. 2007 Sat Public Night

Mark Peairs does excellent presentation on local solar system objects and deep space structure. 30 visitors.

Miguel R. and Mark Peairs and Even (son) run Challenger all night. Object included Jupiter, M13, m27, m57, m32, ngc253. Good night. 48F at 1am.

closed observatory.

Removed battery pack for 4" vixen refractor for recharging.

Ron Dammann

28 Sept 2007

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Daytime intro to astronomy and telescopes for santa clara girl scout troop. Did activities with star wheels, the telescope, phases of the moon, and comets. 10:00-12:30

Ed Huston

P.S. I have a check for the 15 patches they purchased. I'll pass on to Rick.

Oct 5 2007 Friday - Special Program Hartnell College

Doug Brown does two presentations for 50 Hartnell students from Prof. Pimol Moth's Astronomy 101 class.

Miguel Rodruigues and Greg Bosler also present. Weather is cool and damp with local clouds over peak.

Cannot open up for viewing. Cloudiness disappears after students depart! Closed at 10pm

Ron Dammann

Oct 6, 2007 Public Program

Miguel Rodriguez gave presentation on Cygnus and Lyra to a capacity crowd. Clear and dry. Jupiter, M57, m76, m71, ngc253, m13, Mars, Veil.

Ron Dammann and Doug Brown present.

Close 1:00am.

9 Oct 2007 MPC Astronomy (Andrews - FPO)

About 24 students

Opened observatory under cloudy skies @ 5:30. Forecast is for rain, but Bosserman wanted to keep to the schedule. I have decided NOT to open the scope because there is little hope of clear skies and because forecast is for 80% chance of rain.

Attempting to get VHS working to show video. Cannot get a feed. Out tape is apparently paying. We don't have a DVD to test other output. It may be a lost cause and if the VHS part of ??? machine does NOT work, would someone please label it as such?

Needed to move cables over on back of VHS/DVD player. Note on front of machine would be helpful.

2 movies later (10pm) Windy - closing down in 10 minutes. Back tomorrow night.

A

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10 Oct 2007 MPC Astronomy (Andrews - FPO)

~30 Students and aides.

Bosseman astro 10 class

Skies fairly clear, but cold already.

Opening observatory @ 6:30. Will need to watch for dew tonight.

Skies cleared, but cooled off fast. Managed to get 6 objects before it dewed u @ 10pm.

Shut down @ 10:20 because of dew. Get thick fast.

Best objects were ngc6828 (blinking Neb) in Cygnus & M13 & Uranus (Powder blue).

Back tomorrow night... 2 down - 2 to go.

11 Oct 2007 MPC Astro Continued.

About 25 students

Might 3 of 4 (Maybe)

Very cool again. High clouds but clear enough to do a bit of viewing.

Only small amt of viewing. Too cloudy.

Closed up @ 10pm. After watching film. Students doing "laptop" viewing to answer questions.

13 October 2007, Sat.

Ed Huston does two presentations to 50 cub scouts plus 20 extra visitors. Paul Bradshaw, Dave Samuels, and Ron Dammann on telescope pads with telescopes while Miguel R. and Mark L. run Challenger. Good night. Ed also does constellation viewing with guests. Weather OK, but dew heavy at beginning of evening. Good later on. 50F at 2am. Objects observed Jupiter, m57, m13, ngc253, 1005, M77, m45, m32, etc. etc. Mars showing north polar cap and Syrtus Major. M42 beautiful as ever and steady showing trap. stars E and F. Very nice night.

Ron Dammann

10/20/2007 Saturday

I gave a presentation about the geology of the Moon, and then we used the 30" to look at the moon, m15, m31, the double cluster, and the peiades. We had about 35 members of

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the public looking through the challenger. Ron also set up the 4" vixen, and we used it to show the public the Moon and Jupiter.

Conditions were breezy and chilly (down to 42F), but dry. I was amazed at how crisp & sharp the view of the double cluster was through the 55mm Plossl -- very sharp, crisp star images to the edge of the field. Lots of tiny, hi-magnitude stars were visible. Fun!

Some high cloud gradually moved in, and Ron and I closed up the observatory at 11:15pm.

Marek Cizhanski

Removed 2 telrad finders from observatory for replacement of reticles.

Ron Dammann - Directory of Instruments.

3 Nov 2007

Arrived 17hrs. Everything ok. Returned Granville binocular mount and tripod after repair. Return 2 telrad finders after reticle replacement.

Ron D.

Paul Bradshaw, Doug Brown and Miguel Rodriquez volunteering tonight. I do first presentations to school group at 19hrs. doug does two presentations to two scout packs at 20hrs. Viewed Jupiter, M57, m13, m31, Comet 17/P Holmes, M27, m42, Mars. Estimate 80 visitors tonight. Warm and clear skies with temp at midnight 60F closing and 1hrs PST (was 2h PDT) utility power drops. If lights are on - uncertain about switch position.

Ron Dammann

9 Nov 2007

Opened 18:30. Lecture room computer was on. See 11/3 power comment. Special program for International School of Monterrey approx 20 students + 4 teachers. Presented powers of 10 "Where are we?" orientation to the univers. Viewed P/17 Holmes. Calm and clear, 45F, but humid.

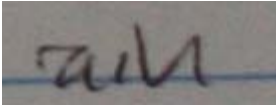
Closed at 22:00 because of dew.

Doug Brown

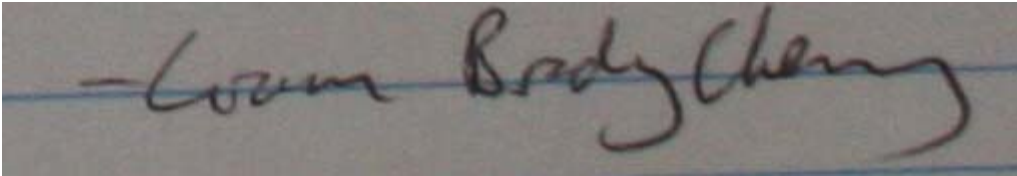
11 November, 2007

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Arrived at 01:45am. Late due to car trouble. Clear night. The (rain?)



seems to have cleared away any haze. The laser seems to have been misplaced. We got a very nice view of Orion Nebula, andromeda, the comet, and saturn. The humidity stayed under control. No dew. We are closing up at 3:45am.



17 November 2007 entry is missing. Here is what I remember (dave samuels):

Ron Dammann opened the observatory.

Dave Samuels and Rick Morales. Peter Jenneskins (sp?) arrived late to take pictures of two meteor showers occurring at the same night.

Viewed Comet 17P/Holmes and Mars through 30". Also attempted to resolve the E and F Trapezium stars of M42. They were visible, but not quite as easy as through the AP155 down from one of the members (Dave...)

Dave Samuels took some shots of the comet, which has exhibited that it is growing in size. Mars showed good detail, though it was difficult to catch on camera.

You can obtain these images here:

This is comet 17p/Holmes taken through Canon 20D (unmodified) through the Challenger. 2-minute shot at 1600 ISO. Hoped to get some of the tail and comet detail. Too bright though.

http://www.davesamuels.com/share/2007_11_17/IMG_0687.jpg

Here is a highly processed image of 17p/Holmes using High Pass filter in Photoshop to accentuate the coma details. It is a single 4-minute shot. Image taken through the Challenger

http://www.davesamuels.com/share/2007_11_17/holmes17-comet_735f480_20d50deg_241sec_IMG_0693_ps-crv-hipass-lvl-usm_ninja.jpg

Here are Ron and Rick with a 30-second shot. You can see the stars in the background as well as the shadow of the moon on the sundial clock on the side of the building.

http://www.davesamuels.com/share/2007_11_17/IMG_0697b.jpg

Here is an image of Mars as seen that night. It was 8x1/2000sec exposures over a two-minute period. These were the top 8 of about a hundred or so images. Stacked with Registax. Image taken through the Challenger.

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http://www.davesamuels.com/share/2007_11_17/mars_8x2min_2000thsec_ps-usm-hipass.jpg

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It was a very fun night of observing.

I think Ron was imaging with 35mm film as we left.

Dave Samuels

5 Dec 2007

Had a small group of middle schoolers from my church. With leaders, there were 8 of us. Did a quick lesson on the telescope parts, then a quick constellation overview. Looked at Pleiades and Mars with the Challenger. Cool and slight breeze gave the kids shivers; they were ready to go home after an hour. Only OK viewing. Some clouds on horizon and hazy overhead.

Ed Huston.

Jan 1 2008 [Happy New Year!]

Brought family up. 6 people in all. Warm night - 59F at 8pm, 49F at 12:30am.

Fairly good night. M42, comet 17P/Holmes was much bigger than last time. Still naked eye-easily locatable. Comet Tuttle 8P was also easy to find at about 8.9mag. First time for all parties for M42, comets, mars, and finished with Saturn. Started to get windy around 10:30pm. 0 moisture anywhere. Check in around 8pm and shutdown around 12:30am

Dave Samuels

1 March 2008 Special Program - Virginia Rocca Barton Elem. School, Salinas

Opened 19hrs. Everything ok.

Ed Huston does presentation to students and parents (estimate 40) on objects we will be viewing in night sky.

Observed Mars, Saturn, M42, Rigel A+B. 40F with some clouds blowing thru. Damp.

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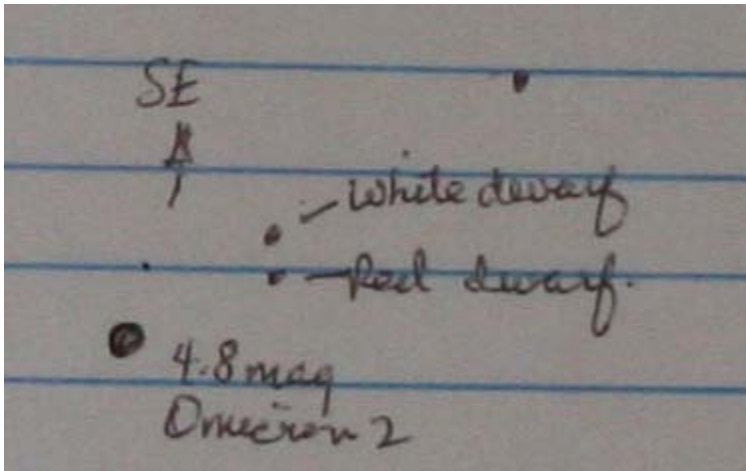
Closed at 22hrs. FPOA volunteers on telescope pads were Paul Bradshaw, Jamie Dillion, and Andrew Pierce.

Ron Dammann.

8 March 2008 Saturday

Opened at noon. Everything ok. Observed Saturn, m42, rigel A&B, Gamma Leo with 3 Hartnell students from Pimol Moth's astronomy class. Rick Morales and I try for Sirius B - no luck.

Omicron 2 in Eridanus. Triple star system. 4.8 mag main star, 16 L.y. distance with white dwarf and red dwarf.



Also observed m104. Asteroid occultation - negative for any moons of asteroid (Eugenia - looking for Petite Princess occultation).

Worked on digital circles. They have some problems. 44F at midnight with constant wind, low humidity.

Closed at 1am pst.