

106  
1977

Nov. 28 Ford. Closed up dome, telescope, + obs by  
for long-term leaving. 1:30 PM.

Dec. 7 Royer, Marty Poissant, Randy Galowski, Tina Piskey  
8 18" and 4" tricolor of Crab Nebula.

Auto-guider did not work - stuck closed in dec.  
Guided manually. 48°F 45% SW strong wind  
easing toward morning. Seeing poor. Transparency good.  
Tina vacuumed all downstairs. Thanks!

Dec 10/11 Jack Child 38° 45%

Replaced burned out component in autoguider. It worked  
until it was physically connected to telescope, then  
burned out again. I suspect a grounding problem.  
Pretty good night - some occasional ~~scattered~~ high clouds  
but seeing was not bad. Photographed NCC objects  
for supernovae atlas

Dec. 14 Royer and Marcario. Began eyepiece projection all  
15 night sequence of Jupiter. Gave up after 2 hours  
42°F because of very poor seeing. Did one astrograph  
55% plate of upper-Orion.

windy, <sup>3.W.</sup> strong

JAN 1-2 1978! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Jack Child - 32° 70% RH

scattered high clouds - but clear and  
steady for about 1/2 of night. Took  
some pictures with Auto-guider. It  
sounds like it's working ok - pictures will tell.  
Discovered that POLARITY is wrong on most  
of upstairs wall sockets - could be dangerous  
lights from Holiday Bell ON ALL NIGHT. Bright  
and very noticeable from here.

DEW'S TOO \*3

1978

107

Jan 7-8

Jack Child

32° 75% ROR

Pretty Good night! Seeing was ok for photo but not for planetary observ. - Too bad, looks like Jupiter is showing activity. Telescope not working well:

Fast RA - not working at all; I think the clutch is slipping

Slow RA - relay was sticking and would not release. I put some tape over relay magnet & now it works ok (the relay that is!). Slow RA seems to be slipping also.

I was able to drive in (HOORAY!). Needed chains all the way, however.

Jan 17-18

Jack Child

20° 100% ROR

Winter is here! Took 1 photo of possible supernova. Superb night - cold & clear with good seeing at times.

Everything ok - long hike!

Mar 7

Jack Child

32° 80%

Winter is still here. I just got here - took about 70 minutes to ski in. Road is very closed and probably will be for some time. Everything ok, but lot of water upstairs.

BAH! High clouds all night - nothing accomplished. Wind about 1am.

108  
1978

Mar 15/16

32° 50%

↓ Child. Road still closed - drifts & trees.  
Pretty good night, dark but a little windy.  
Worked on supernovae atlas and photographed  
some red variables.  
Fast RA still not working, regular RA  
seemed to bind occasionally.  
Everything else A-OK

May 12-13 Padilla, Frigon, Sorenson & Stepp. Gate closed but  
road clear to obs'y. Found obs'y in good condition.  
Visual observing until 3.00 A.M. PDT. Excellent  
seeing all night. Transparency good also after moon  
went down. Temp. 68-60.

May 31 June 1 Ron Royer - Road clear - mounted astrograph  
on 18" after jaunt to Australia. Found everything  
in good shape. Did 35 mm of the line up of  
planets in Western sky - Venus + Jupiter; Mars and  
Saturn both in conjunction.

50° F  
45% HUM  
no wind  
trans. +  
seeing poor

Did prime focus of EH Cyg for 1 hour exposure  
on IIAD + wv 12. Let auto-guider do the  
work - but it makes much fewer corrections  
than before J. Child fixed it. I suspect that  
its sensitivity should be increased - will see  
what plate looks like. Don't trust it as is! <sup>2mm led</sup>  
50" N-S  
30" E-W

Tightened fast RA set screws (no easy job).

It is OK for now - need a longer allen wrench next time -  
slow RA worked OK - but should be looked into.

June 2 Marcario with friends Jack and Donny  
Kelley photographed Pluto field with  
18" prime focus camera. Using IIAD no  
filter for 1/2 hour. Worked visually  
till 3:30 P.D.T. Seeing 1-2, Bright Sky.  
No wind. Everything saw O.K.

1978

109

June 3/4/78 Mousaris, Jack and Danny Kelley. Opened dome @ 6:30 temp 80° - 40% R.H. Photographed with 35 mm. on 18" seeing Kodacolor 400 color negative film. Photographed Saturn with exposure times ranging from 2" to 5" seconds projection 16 mm. also M13 15 min, 30 min, M57 5 min, 15 min, M27 5 min, 15 min and M.C.C. 6946 for 1 1/2 hours before twilight closed @ 4:30 temp 50° - 40% R.H. seeing +3 no wind.

June 4 Mousaris, Kellys and Ed. Byers from Barstow. Opened at 6:00 temp 79° - 40%. Photographed Saturn and Mars conjunction with 35 mm. Used prime focus camera on plate IIAD + 2x12 for 1/2 hour seeing +3 no wind closed @ 11:30 temp 58° - 40% R.H.

June 7 Royer, Tina Riskey, Jim Pollack.  
 8 Clear night - dying wind. Auto-guider sensitivity increased dramatically by using 700 V on tube and second to extreme right coarse gain setting and some sky-suppress. Seems like it's old self. Did 40' on LO Agl for AAVSO. - GOOD!  
 Did continuous tricolor on North American nebula 50' green, 40' blue, 60' red from 12:40 to 3:30 PDT.  
 Wet mopped dome floor - good day crew!

June 9-10-11 Jack Child, Greg Goodson  
 Dark & windy Fri. nite, did 2 plates of PLUTO but probably N.G. Cloudy Sat nite so did some wedding Sun AM.  
 Everything ok

Your turn Clint. Hope your stay is nice, dark, & free of wind! See you soon, Jack C.

110/  
1978

June 27 Ford + R. Annual. Light wind, poor seeing, temp. 46°. FD obs'd 9 var's including 8 sanctums, w/ chart chs on new chart for 194909 RZ Aql. Closed dome 1:50 AM PDST June 28.

June 28 Ford + Fr. Ron Royer. No wind, "muggy" sky, fair seeing, temp. 52°-45°. Checked a sketch for suspected new nova 161008 (Oph), obs'd 12<sup>th</sup> magn. (ca) \* at "nova" position. FD obs'd total of 19 var's, including 15 sanctums. Royer also obs'd visually — no photography attempted. Present moon up before closing dome at dawn lite 4:15 AM PDST June 29<sup>th</sup>.

June 29 Ford + Carpenter. Transp'y ok, seeing poor. Temp. 56°-51°. FD obs'd 8 var's, including 5 sanctums. Obs'd interrupted by breaking of joint in belt drive for setting circle. Belt repaired OK. Closed dome 03:50 AM PDST June 30<sup>th</sup>.

June 30 Ford + Carpenter. Good sky, light wind, increasing to troublesome. Temp. 58°, poor seeing. FD obs'd 13 var's including 7 sanctums. 2 chart checks completed, including newly-charted 193106 L0 Aql. Closed dome 2:15 AM PDST July 1.

July 2 Ford, Bilodeau, Jack Child. Good sky, but windy, gradually subsiding. Poor seeing. Temp. 50°-48°. FD obs'd 16 var's including 11 sanctums. New chart chs. on 161617 U Sco, 181828 AZ Her. Present moon up before closing dome at 3:15 AM PDST July 3.

BILODEAU: 15 ESTIMATES; 11 SANCTUMS

1978

111

July 3 Ford + Bilodeau. WINDY! - but gradually subsiding. Sky OK, seeing fair, temp 60-56°. FD obs'd 95 var's including 11 sanctums. Chart obs: 17+135 SV Sec. Closed dome 2:15 AM PDST July 4

BILODEAU: 21 ESTIMATES; 14 SANCTUMS.

July 5 Bilodeau, Royer, Tina Piskey. Set up autoguider for variable fields - but autoguider failed to correct in R.A. - so went manual. Did LS dgl + MS dgl fields primo focus. Trip on RA gear wheel got caught up in small worm on side of drive and ruined one exposure.

6  
60°F  
40%  
no wind  
seeing good

July 6 Ford, alone. Sky OK, but WINDY!, increasing rather than decreasing. Seeing fair, temp. 62°. Obs'd 13 var's including 7 sanctums. Wind increasingly troublesome, closed dome 2:15 AM PDST July 7.

July 12 Royer, Fred Middendorf, Chris Mc Hale, Bob Galbraith.  
13 Public observing in early eve of line-up of Venus + Saturn 90°F to 60°F and Mars and Mercury and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter moon 40% HUM. by some staff of Sta Teesita Camp. Slight wind, some haze, good seeing. Struggled with auto-guider repaired cable, but still couldn't get R.A. to function, so went manual on EH Cyg and Y Peg. new fields.

Aug. 2-3 Royer and guests Fr. Joe Floyd and Peter Verity from England. 70°F Fitted in new Nikon orthoscopic eyepieces in turret. 40% Hum Photographed LO AGL again to verify which component is the red variable. Quite early. No wind. Warm. Did not try autoguider.

112

1978

Aug 4-5 Padilla, Frigon & Sorensen. Prime-focus photography. Cloudy in early evening. No wind, Temp 70-60. Photographed the helix, Veil, Saturn nebula & NGC 253.

Aug 5-6 J. Child  
 Beautiful after clouds went away (12pm)  
 Good seeing! Everything working very well.  
 Visit from Patti Wells of USFS Sun am.  
 Had a very interesting and positive talk with her about the observatory, astronomy, and the forest service

Aug. 9 Payer, Bob Galbraith, Chris McHale. Thunderstorms, but  
 10 little amount of rain here. Ranger Patricia Wells came by to learn of history of Ford Obs. - instead shot a whole roll of ED 200 of intense lightning storm over Antelope Valley between 9-10 P.M. P.D.T.  
 No observing tonight - but sky did clear in early morning. Did tour Big Pines ranger station with ranger Wells.

Drove home Aug. 10 to develop photos and take to KABC, Channel 7 news - returned to Obs. in time for open house for Camp Teresita Pines.

Aug. 11 Did some observing through clouds. Looked at lightning slides, etc. till 11:00 P.M. - then saw our slides on TV - we need a better TV here!

60°F

45%

Cleared after midnight. Did sky-check on some variables recently photographed. Did tri-color with astrogaph of Cassiopeia till dawn light. Perseid meteor shower going good tonight!

1978

Aug 13 Jack Child & Guests: Tom, Dawna, Jim Pine  
55°

Strange weather: clouds & lightning on horizon; cooler than last weekend. Very Windy all night, but also very dark. Could see Milky Way almost to SW horizon. Saw several good Perseids.

Aug 25-26 Lee F., Padilla, Sorenson, Jones, Pat. Clear, High cirrus (scattered), no wind, 60°. Visual observations until moon came up. Seeing poor at sunset, improved as night progressed.

Sep 1-3 Fri night on, Sat night N.G. - clouds, some photo, some visual, I think the autoguider is working

Jack Child, John Sanford

Sept 26 Poyer. Visually checked variable star, 10 Aql is  
27, '78 the southern component of the double. Could see 10 at 11.0 and also its 14.0 companion. Still cannot identify LR Aql - not yet visible.

60°F

43%

no wind  
much cirrus!  
seeing poor  
to improved  
later on.

Did astrophotograph visual plate of 55 Cyg and nova Cyg '78, 8.4 mag. with autoguider which seems to be functioning well, with better high voltage control than before.

Did tricolor of Perseus, Double Cluster. Had to interrupt each exposure for clouds - but autoguider only lost guide star once due to clouds.

Oct. 4-5

78

60°F

40%

no wind

Poyer + Pollock. Did 18" and 4" tricolor of Andromeda galaxy. Autoguider unable to hold faint guide star ~ 9.0 mag.  
Cleaned observatory well.



114

1978

Oct 6-7 60° 40%

J. Child

Splendid night! not really dark but good transparency & very still. Seeing pretty good. Telescope working really well. Photographed objects for superhouse atlas.

Oct. 18

Hi Jerry! - Jerry didn't make it - R. Royer  
50°F 40% no wind - Clouds. Could do no work.

19

Replaced bad declination relay. Who has the auto-guide?  
J. Child I presume. R. Royer

Nov. 1-2

1978

30°F

50-60%

Royer, Roger Faulstich, Tina Pollock. Clear, fair seeing, and moderate SW wind. I.P. prime focus photo of LS Aql and LR Aql. Tricolor of upper Orion. Put capacitors on all downstairs relays, and autoguider worked perfectly - no overheating of amplifier components.

Nov 3-4

Padilla & Sorensen. Clear night, no wind. Temp 50°-45°. Transparency good, seeing fair. Did 35-mm astrophotography at prime focus, using Ektadrome 400: M33 1½ hr exp, NGC 253 - 1 hr Saturn Neb. 10x15 min, Crab Neb. - 1 hr & M42 - 10 min. All exposures guided manually.

Nov 4-5

Padilla & Sorensen. Clear at sunset, but cirrus moved in quickly after dark. Completely overcast most of night with partial clearing. Took 2 prime focus photos despite cirrus clouds: M74 45 min. & M76 1-hour. Both photos guided manually. Winds picked up after midnight.

Nov 8-9

40°F

45%

Royer and Pollock. Waited for moon to set, and watch high cirrus come in. Left to sleep & clean w/w house.

1978

115

Nov. Dec. 6-7  
 0°F  
 75% HUM.  
 no wind

Came in on chains. Royer, Bob + Mike Walbrath, Steve Trentacosta. Photographed AC Aur - new field, Tricolor of Taurus. Also conjunction of Jupiter + Beehive Cluster. Seeing poor - but kept improving, also transparency improved. All systems functioned fine in spite of temp. Auto-guider worked perfectly, Holiday Hill lights on all night - snow making in progress!

Dec 22-23  
 32° 55%  
 Low

Arrived 5:30pm, lots of snow! Everything ok, Good Night, clear & dark with occasional slight breeze. Shot about a dozen galaxies at prime focus, some with autoguider (which seemed to be working well once I changed the switches from "east of pier" to "west of pier") Transparency good, seeing very good at times, Jupiter splendid with good detail @ 200x.

Dec 23

A BEAUTIFUL DAY. Clear, sunny, no wind (but lots of snow). Memo to R. Royer: better check your solder connections!

I've never seen it this clear up here. Absolutely Tremendous, Visibility must be 80-100 miles

Dec 23-24  
 53% 26°

Shower of sparks from bottom dome door solenoid. This has happened before but this time it tripped the breaker. Breaker would not reset so I examined solenoid & discovered retaining nut had worked loose from ~~the~~ elbow on top and had fallen on contacts. Everything repaired & ok now. Melted, boiled, & filtered 2 gallons of snow - should be ok. Not quite as dark or steady last night, but still a good night. Photographed more galaxies & R LEARS. Dropped a Flashlight - oops! Left mine as replacement -

116

1978

12-24 Love those Beans! Moved the 'outhouse' in case you're looking for it. It's right behind observ. amongst the trees. It was under about 3' of snow and not very useable. I also lubed the dec. fast motion assy. - works a lot better now. Everything ok!

Dec. 27 Poyer, Scott Craig, Leanna Craig, Mary Fruehwirth.  
28 2 skis + 2 non-skis tramped in through deep snow banks.  
30°F Took 4 hours, last 2 hours in darkness. Tiring, but  
50-70% made it. Set up to photograph 3 new variable star fields, but had difficulty with the preliminary ~~sketch~~ sketches and high winds kept building rapidly - so no photography. Had good view of Jupiter, seeing moderately good. Left for NW house at noon. Hope we make it!

Dec 30/31 Arrived 5pm opened dome. 30° in dome @ 5:30 and  
16°-55% Falling - could be cold tonight! Snow on road is melting - might <sup>maybe</sup> be able to drive part way next time. 6:15 - 25°

Ah, RATS! We just lost all electricity (1:30 am) Looks like JPH is out, too. - Power back on at 3:00 am

Dec 31/ JAN 1 Warmer tonight but seeing terrible until about 2 am. Windy, but that also died down. Photographed galaxies for supernovae.  
25°-55%