

60

12-11, 12, 1999

1999 - 2000

Observed: Moon, Jupiter, Saturn, M42 (Great Nebula in Orion), M1/NAC1952 Crab Nebula, M35 (open cluster), NAC 2392 (Eskimo Nebula) + NAC/M31 Andromeda Galaxy. Seeing good. Moderate wind came up late in the evening. Ready Obs for the winter.

12-26-99

WEBB, STEPHENSON

40°F
62RH

CLOUDS COVERED MOST OF THE SKY,
SO WE LEFT EARLY.

Dec. 28-29

no wind
55% 33°F

Poyer, Stephenson, Bill Webb, J. Schroeder
Good night. Did visual variables, tutorial session

Dec. 29-30

34°F 55%

Poyer alone. Good night but slow working due to scattered, lazy moving clouds. NO WIND, very pleasant good seeing. Did visual again and CCD tricolor of recent SN.

Dec. 30-31

33°F 55%

35th
entry for
1999

Poyer alone. Did variables early evening then southern clouds came in. Very little wind but seeing very poor. Autoquider works well on short refractor without a barlow - but barlow is still better for stable focus. 16mm eyepiece is far focal with ST4 head.

Jan 1, 00

Happy New Year 2000 - Stephenson
Daytime Visit, Light dusting of
snow last Night, but road still
open

Jan. 11-12

50°-33° F.

75%

STRONG W. WIND

Poyer alone and depressed over being 2nd in this
log for the 3rd millennium! But good night
for faint variables by CCD. Tightened belt on
R.A. indicator - it was loose + slipping. Auto-quider
worked well, used barlow.

2/25/00

12:30 pm

Gray Thomas skied in. Good snow! Checking for water leaks. Mopped upstairs floor. Most of the water is coming from the South & Southwest area of the dome ring. Snow & ice were found in these areas. The snow appears to be blowing in between the 2 pairs of plywood leveling plates. Dumped about 2-3 gallons of water & ice out of the mop bucket.

3/11/00

sat 11:30 am

to 3/12/00

@10am.

Gray Thomas skied in. Lots of snow but portions of the road are dry. Most of the leaks this time are from the north roof. Removed ~3 gal water, ice, & snow from N/roof. Mopped up ~1/2 gal water from inside. Installed 10 linear feet of 5/16 neoprene weatherstripping on South side of dome between wooden leveling plates where grout is missing. This was done from the outside. On inside south part of dome, installed ~8 L.F. of 5/16" PVC closed cell weatherstripping where grout was missing. North inside roof over NE corner table still dripping from water & ice trapped under roofing & plywood. Rafters has skewed down with the water that was ponding on the roof removed. Clear skies but slightly turbulent. Looked @ Orion nebulas, M35, & 4 misc galaxies in M90 vicinity.

3/18/00

sat 4pm

to Sun 10:45 am

G. Thomas here. 50% skiing 50% hiking. A couple of weeks more and you should be able to get a car up the road. As built roof elevations for future roofing repair. As built ~~drawings~~ drawings to determine roofing flashing methods. Moon out, clear, occasional strong winds during night. No extra time to do any star gazing.

3/25/00

sat 4:30 pm

to 3/26

a 9:30 am

Gray Thomas hiked in. Still snowdrifts which prevent driving more than 1/2 way on the road. Ash Dome soap dome weighs about 3000 lbs and has been here along time. They recommended in an e-mail that the dome not be jacked up lest we have problems. They recommended only leveling the plates and regrouting. Clear night & somewhat turbulent Saturn & Jupiter too low w/ turbulence to see much except for moons. Look are M42 & M43 in Orion, M37, M36, & M38 in Auriga; Split bar; and looked @ M53 in Boobies area. I had opened the lower shutter w/ dome about NWS. Tried to close it w/ dome pointed East. Would not close. Got smart & pointed dome WSW and it closed w/o any trouble. This WSW is where the grout →

(continued) is missing under the leveling plates. Will email Poyer regarding this problem when I get back to Glendon. This morning while cleaning up & checking more dimensions for future repair, I couldn't open the dome shutter with the shutter parked facing east. Rotated dome WSW and everything worked fine. Parked dome facing east & this time shutter worked. We may have an intermittent open in either the East 220VAC outlet or the motor cord. I'll bring a WDM to leave here next time so I can chase down the source of the open when the shutter fails to operate.

4-1
4-2
2000

Danny Thomas ^{ΔΕΥΣΕΒΑΥ}
Hit ~~ed~~ in looked at Jupiter and Saturn

I saw Orion's nebula. I had a fun time. This is way better than my dad's telescope. I operated the dome, shutter, telescope, and the upper shutter.

There is still some snow! Me and my Dad ate dinner and breakfast. We slept here!!!!!!!!!!

APR 8 JOHN STEPHENSON AND JEFF SCHROEDER ENGAGED
54° & 64% IN CLASSIC 19TH CENTURY ASTRONOMY, AS THIS
WIND FROM ENTRY IS BEING MADE BY CANDLELIGHT! THE
W. GUSTING. POWER FAILED AT 7:30 PM, ABOUT $\frac{1}{2}$ HOUR
AFTER OUR ARRIVAL. IT WENT OUT ABRUPTLY, WITH
A FEW FLICKERS OF LIFE SOME 30 SEC. LATER THEN
DEAD AGAIN. DID WALKAROUND INSPECTION, ALL
LOOKS FINE. NO MICE IN TRAPS. DROVE IN PAST
CORRAL, SNOW BLOCKING ROAD IN USUAL SPOT. IT IS
SOFT, AND WILL BE GONE IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS.
OBSERVED GALILEAN SATELLITES, MOON, AND SATURN
WITH JOHN'S 10X MONOCULAR.

- 4/15/00 Grey Thomas drove in. Wow! So much easier than coming in
4pm to by skis or foot! Spent some quality time w/ the moon
4/16 10⁰⁰ before sunset. The stars are really twinkling and the westerly
wind really blowing. Too timid to point the dome west where
the clouds are not. Power line is swinging. Gave up after
10pm. ~ 2am several people outside w/ vehicle, lights, and
radios. Said they were from Mateo Mtn doing an experiment and
would be there for about an hour or so. (Assume they were from Table Mtn.)
- 4/21/00 Good Friday! Grey Thomas drove ~ 2/3, hiked remainder. It has
5pm to snowed and drifts are too high and too long to dig out any more than
4/22 10:30am I did to get the car as far as I did. About a 1/2 gallon of water
on the floor. Pooled in 4 places. No signs of water on any of
the desks or anywhere in the dome ring. My best guess, it's coming
in through the dome shutters and settling in the low spots of the
floor. Very windy and light to heavy clouding.
- 4/25-26/2000 Mr and Mrs Martin Porsant (Alina), Greg Thomas, & Royer.
65% 50°F Another very pleasant, warm stay here at good old Ford Obs.
no wind my first time in 2000 and as a married man. We discussed
improvements for the roof to stop the leaks.
The L.A. County Sheriff was called up here to (by whom?)
check into a case of gate "cracking" and
underage drinking up at the Relay tower.
The chain had been tampered with at the road
gate. One "link" was a plastic tie strap.
Royer was the special guest speaker at the Volunteers of
the Angeles Nat'l Forest monthly meeting. The Volunteers
staff the ~~camp~~ ^{Grassy} Hollow Visitor center on the weekends.
Royer reported the History and Happenings of Ford Obs.
Royer this week announced plans to retire in
Springville ^{CA} five years from now.
Poor transparency - poor observing.

64

2000

4-29
4-30GREG THOMAS, BILL WEBB, JOHN STEPHENSON,
JEFF SCHROEDER47°F
58 Rh

WE OBSERVED SEVERAL VARIABLES. REPORTS TO AAUSO WILL FOLLOW. GREG OBSERVED SEVERAL DEEP SKY OBJECTS INCLUDING THE RING. THE ENCOILS AND CONVECTER BOX WERE LEFT IN THE OBS. IN THE CABINET NEAR THE CLOCK DRIVE. GREG CONTINUED WORK ON PLANS TO REPAIR THE ROOF

5/5/00
- 5/6/00

Greg & Terri Thomas here. Very windy & cloudy except over head. Brought in plywood for future roof repair. Broke outside lamp globe. Reinforced South East corner of roof with 2 new 2x4 rafters. Broke one shutter interlock pin when closing upper shutter. No sure if jacking S/E corner rafters or if wind slightly opening lower shutter was the cause of the misalignment which caused the pin to break. Will replace next visit.

5/6 to
5/1/00

John Stevenson, Jeff Schroeder, Bill Webband
Greg Thomas here. Finished rafter repair on SE corner & started ~~the~~ SW corner. Replaced shutter interlock pin. Weather was nice & clear to allow estimates to be made for several variable stars.

5/12 to
5/14

Greg Thomas here. Finished rafters in SW corner. Did some variable star practice in Leo. Cold night but calm on the mountain although some turbulence noted in star images. Hot after 10 am on Saturday. Cut all new rafters in N/E corner and finished two. The 2x6 main beams are not tied together so all load is going into only one 2x6 instead of three. Will devise plan to make the group act as a composite. Too windy Sat evening and night to keep the dome open. Still windy Sunday. Made materials list for next trip.

- 5/20 - G. Thomas here for hot days & hot a/c. Finished rafters
5/21 and new beam bolting in NEC. Still have electrical to rewire.
Plans made for 6/3 to tackle the electrical in NEC, w/J. Stephenson, et al.
Search in vain for variable star RT Bootis
- 5-27 J. Feher, J. Stephenson, W. Webb + J. Schroeder.
5-28 Observed M-51, M-81, M-82, M-97 (the owl)
63°F + NGC 3556 edge-on galaxy John noted
6670 RH there was a bright star near the center
@ 10:05pm of this galaxy at 10:48pm.
Observed M-57 (Ring Nebula). Wind light.
Seeing good. Sky was rather bright however.
- 6/23 G. Thomas here @ 2pm Worked on bolting in SWC and installed
on more rafter. Determined TFOV for Turret eye pieces on 18"
f for Funder. Did variable Z UMa mag. Estimate. Could not
split ϵ Lyra.
- 6/24 Left Schroeder, John Stevenson, & Bill Webb here @ noon.
Worked on wiring in NWC to prepare for new rafters. John
need a part to repair damaged relay. Finished all work
in SWC and bolting in NWC. ~ 9pm Dan Lopez up to
check out FORD. Everyone too tired to do much telescope
work even though we have clear skies.
- 6/25 Finished list of materials I need to bring up next trip &
continued work on rafters, John & Bill off about 9:30am
Greg off @ 11:30.
- 6/7/00 Greg Thomas here alone. Watched Sun spots F, S, & Sun. Most
- 6/11/00 activity on Sunday. Did variable stars Z, T, S, & RS UMa. Finished all
new rafters in NWC & SEC. Still have some repair to do to existing
rafter in NWC & electrical in SEC. Shear pin on dome shutter not
lining up well. Before reinforcing roof w/ new rafters & bolting,
lower shutter had grossly uneven spaces b/w edge & jamb. Now
spaces are more even but holes for shear pins are now slightly off.

66

2000

6-11-00 WEBB & STEPHENSON; WE REPLACED BLOWN
SOLID STATE RELAY IN THE DOHE LIGHTING.
A REPLACEMENT SOLID STATE RELAY WAS
LEFT IN THE BOTTOM DRAWER OF THE
GRAY FILE CABINET UPSTAIRS. WE DID
NOT DO ANY OBSERVING. THIS WAS A
DAYLIGHT ONLY VISIT.

6/12/00 G. Thomas here. Thought I'd left the half nut & mirror
- 6/14 cover off after I finished solar observation Sunday morning.
If I did Bill & John took care of it some day. Good excuse
for a vacation! Did visible stars in UMa Monday &
Tues. Finished electrical touch plate in NWC (Hope
John approves) and electrical light in SEC. Still have
to repair existing rafter in NWC. Ron Royer called &
said he bought property in Portsville/Springville area
and he can do about as well in a dark sky w/ his 12" as
at Ford. He'll be building a house off the property to
be ready for his retirement in 2 yrs. 1 mouse in trap.

6/16-18 Greg Thomas here alone. Replaced repaired dead bolt on
60% 75°F outside closet. Added metal strap to repair cracked rafter
in NWC. Opened up all touch plates & cleaned contacts (rotated bad
one out on south side). Made a world of difference in a more stable
switching on fall of light. Viewed variables in UMa on
Fri, Sun on Sat. & Sun, and variables in CVn, Boo, Vir, & Dra A
Sat. Sadly, the 18" telescope is out of collimation. On Sat I could
see the Ring Nebula fairly well and could see one of the two stars inside
the ring w/ averted vision. I could not split the double-double (ε Lyr)
cleanly even though I rotated the eye piece & secondary mirror
through 180°. About 10° CW from storage position gave best results.
For comparison, in Glendora w/ my G8, I can almost always cleanly
split ε Lyr but have never seen a center star in the ring.

- 6-18-00 STEPHENSON, WEBB, FEHER
DAY VISIT ONLY. JOHN ADDED A
COMBO LOCK TO THE CHAIN ON THE GATE
TO REPLACE THE MISSING, SECOND, LOCK.
WEBB & FEHER REPAIRED BROKEN PLASTIC
RA POINTER.
- 6/24+25 Feher, Stephenson, Schroeder, Webb
9:41pm Guests: N. Siegel, T. Deshler, M. Deshler +
62°F D. Farrington.
57%RH Very windy. Observed: Double-Double,
M57, Alberial (Double Star), M27, M11 Star
Cluster (Wild Duck Cluster), M18, M4 + The Spiral.
Sky very bright. Seeing poor. Webb conducted
Amateur Radio "Field day" on 20meter PK5-31.
Sky getting cloudy on 6/25/00.
- 6/30 & 7/1 G. Thomas here alone. Did variable stars in Vir, CVn,
60°F & Ser. With ~~ε~~-Lyre @ zenith, was able to barely split.
65%RH Not clean but definite. Best separation @ both black lines
on tube (each 1800port) also has worst coma. Tightest pin points
have worst separation, although much better on 1 pair than the
other. Occasional winds but overall very nice night for
viewing. Even the Milky Way was out. U.S. Forest service
lock on gate was not locked if their lock has been damaged.
Closed their lock ^{with force} and will report to them on my way out.
- 7/1 to 7/2 Stephenson, Webb, Schroeder, Curtis
and wife Carol, ISA,
54°F 65% Very strong winds from South West
Restricted viewing to East and North
M27, M57, M56 (real challenge), Cats eye Neb. (wow)
NGC 5909, MNGC 6960-62, and several other
objects in Draco

68

2000

7/3/00 Greg Thomas here alone. Did variable stars in Uu, Ckh, & to 7/4
 42°F 64%RH
 @1am
 Sun, slight wind but good viewing w/ Milky way again apparent. Could not split ϵ Lyra even @ zenith. Ring Neb. w/ a hole but could occasionally see ~~center~~ center star. Started leveling dome ring. Good results but this is going to take a while. Will pick up additional supplies for leveling on next trip.

7/7 to 7/9 G. Thomas here alone. Finished cleaning out & reshimming and bolting south side of dome ring. About 1/3 done before starting final leveling prior to regrouting. Did variables Fri & Sat. Could not split ϵ Lyra or see center star in Ring Neb. Looked @ Cat's eye Neb. Windy off and on but only restricted viewing minimally. More trouble during daylight shimming.

7/14 to 7/16 G. Thomas here. Clear skies full moon. The moon was not a problem because as soon as darkness came, it was covered by clouds - along with the stars. Managed to look at Ring Nebula - no central star - and ϵ Lyra - was split the clearest in a long while (not as good as my GS). Also managed to get 1 variable star. Saturday was terrible. Clouds everywhere and did start thinning until 12 pm. Even then, terrible.

Leveled west side of dome ring. North side is surprisingly good. Decided to leave alone and possibly only repaint the grout. Setting up for leveling the east side of dome ring. Eileen & Greg Thomas

7/18-19/2000 Arrived here from Glendora (near 90°) where the temperature was very pleasant - in the upper 70° (afternoon). Strong wind up near upper relay station but only light breeze near dome. At night, air very ^{clear} comfortable. Slight haze on horizon which cleared as night progressed. Saw ϵ Lyra (double double), Alberio, the Cat's eye nebula very clearly (telescope). Went outside to see the constellations visually: the big + little dipper, Lyra, Cygnus and Cassiopeia. Milky Way very faint. Lots of light pollution from valleys below & the moon

Great experience. Found the platform a little shaky!
 Bed comfortable. Slept well - not cold. My 1st time here. Eileen Thomas
 Greg (my son) worked hard on skinning the dome ring on the east.
 He observed 3 out of 4 variable stars. ————— E. Thomas

* Special Note

Rotating the eyepiece turret off center (out of the locking
 detent) can work WONDERS for collimation. Using
 this method I got a fairly clean split w/ almost
 round stars in E-Lyra. Have not been able to get
 a good split of E-Lyra at any rotation of the eye piece
 cage. Rotating the e.p. turret also helped w/
 variable star measurements because the entire field
 is in better focus. waf.

7/21-23 G. Thomas here. Hurt elbow so didn't do much work. Did variables
 Friday & Sat. Warmest weather this year.

7/25-26 Ron Royer & G. Thomas here. Filmed Comet Linear and
 conjunction of Moon, Saturn, & Jupiter. Also did variable
 star work. Royer on to Bristlecone, Thomas back to
 work then to Bristlecone for weekend. Royer aligned
 eyepiece turret for much better split of E-Lyre. Still
 not perfect but best yet.

8/4-8/5 Crystal & Greg Thomas here. Did a variable star for the 1st time.
 Had a great time. Went home happy. ~CMT

8/11-13/2000 Greg Thomas here. Comfortable shirt sleeve weather if you
 stay inside. Slight wind. Worked on variable stars in
 80%
 50%RH Cygnus both nights. Viewed conjunctions of Pleiades, Aldebaran,
 Saturn, & Jupiter. Saturn banding observable along with crape
 ring, Cassini's & Escher's divisions, shadows, etc.
 Removed broken US Forest Service lock from lock chain &
 replaced w/ temporary lock. Will call them on Monday

70

2000

8/19/2000 to 8/20
 56°F 28%RH
 Greg Thomas here. Put riveted link in chain to gate where forest service lock broke last week. Talked to ranger who stopped by while I was working. He appears to be happy with us at Ford but not with some of the others who have locks on the gate. He may install a lock turnstile in the near future. Gave him my work phone number.

Looked at variable stars and extended basing

8/25-26
 64°F 30%RH
 Had to cut chain on gate & add a new lock on last trip out. Someone put glue in the Ford and other gate locks. Some locks damaged by force which spread shackles & bodies apart and sprung the gate also. Assumed was pushed by a vehicle. Informed Forest Service in the Vallejos office last Monday. This trip up found the gate chain was not crossed and the Forest Service lock keeping it crossed was removed.

Had a lot of quick heavy rain before I got here. Swept about 5 gallons off roof. Most water came in from the shutter on the east. One leak at both desks. Cleared all up.

Did variable star work during night. Light clouds and nice low velocity breeze. Greg & Terri Thomas enjoyed our trip here to Ford Obs.

8/29-30 Greg Thomas + Boyer. Calm. Some rain Tues. afternoon, cleared later. No observing - to bed for Wed. work. Cement grouted most of dome ring. Slow + tedious. Thanks, Greg, for strengthening! Century roofing Co. (John) assisted new roof, guaranteed not to leak. Will do Sept 13.

- 9/2/00 to 9/4 Greg Thomas here for Labor day weekend. Not much activity since gate is locked. Grouted in small congested areas of dome ring where bolts etc. make progress slow. No observing because of not moving dome due to grout. Cold Sat & Sunday, used heater! Warmer on Monday.
- 9/5 & 6 Ron Royer & Greg Thomas here for more grouting. Grouted west side of dome ring. No observing because of not wanting to disturb the grout.
- 9/9 & 10 Greg Thomas here for more grouting. Mainly repainting existing grout on North side of dome ring. Surprised how much it took! I am so sick of grout!! Should be ready now for roofer on Wed. am.
- 9/12 G. Thomas here for dry trip. Roofer cancelled for tomorrow. Cleaned up grout and misc. Lots more to clean up later. Gate is now unlocked by USFS.
- 9/16-17 Cleaned up grout mess in ring & straightened up floor so telescope can be used again. Worked on variable stars.
- 9/22/00 Greg Thomas here. So dark on Friday, I went outside and couldn't see my hand in front of my face. Couldn't find the door to the bldg for a couple of seconds either. A black rain cloud was making about 30 mph over field toward the east. No rain but lots of moisture. Puddles on the roof.
- Roofer come in the morning and we put on the first layer of roofing. Worked 9am to 7:30pm. He'll come back next Sat. to put on the final layer. Showed John (the roofer) and his son celestial sights and did variable stars after they left.

72

2000

9/27-28

WS WIND 60%
42°F

Boyer + Padilla. Did decay of SN99 em at about 18.0 mag. Slow decay - about 5 magnitudes in 11 months. Scope tracked for CCD 70" exposures with no guiding. All OK here. Roof looking good.

note →

Try to cover all sides + bottom of 3 outrigger beams for fire protection! I took cement home! Printer is in windowless room - works fine.

9/29/00

to 10/1
48°
54% RH

Thomas here. No wind and beautiful skies. Some upper atmosphere winds sd. Nite. Did several variables Fri & Sat along w/ Jupiter & Saturn. Noted some E-W vibrations in Saturn's image w/ scope @ 40° to the east. Amplitude about equal to Cassini's Division with 9mm ep. Found motor drive rod thru floor touching bushing. Moved slightly and may work on this more on another visit. Also noted 3 point mirror support by telrad is not supporting mirror. Can rotate freely in any position of telescope.

Roofing called and did not come on Sat. due to another pressing job. He will try to come next Sat.

10/6

G. Thomas here. Beautiful weather & sky. Did variable star work and looked at various planets & nebula. Saturn was very good although not as much detail as a few weeks ago in the morning.

10/7

Helped roofer put on final coat of roofing material. Covered wood supports. Did not cover bottom out of concern that material wouldn't hold well over time due to gravity & because it would tend to collect water.

10/7/00 Thomas, Stephenson, Schroeder, Webb
 & Fehér.
 @ 9:20pm
 55°F
 68% RH
 Light
 wind
 Installed RA + Dec. encoders. Calibrated.
 Encoders worked fairly well but need
 further calibration and Dec. encoder
 mount needs modification.
 Observed M31, Pleades, Saturn, Jupiter
 + M27 (Dumbell).
 Seeing was in and out.

10-19-00 J. SCHROEDER: OVER FOR DINNER, WORKING
 AT TMD TONIGHT ON STAR TRACKER TESTING.
 56°F 73%
 @ 7:15 AM.

10/21-22 G. Thomas here. Overcast and very few stars
 visible through the clouds, mostly near horizon
 w/ clouds overhead. Only slight winds. No
 observing done. Working on dome rollers. Took
 one out for inspection & clearing.
 35°F
 75% RH

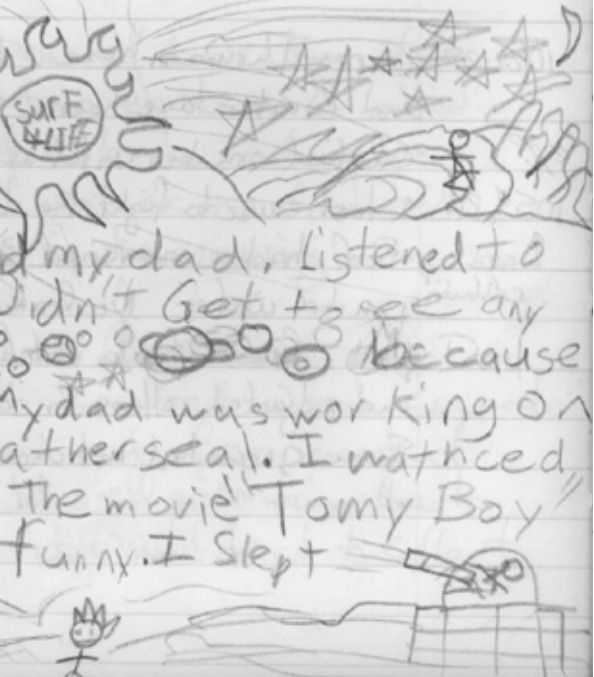
10/27-29 Greg Thomas here. Most trees have turned yellow-autumn
 and winter are here. Observed visible stars and other
 celestial wonders until all the eyepieces dewed up. Was
 a lost cause to fight the dew although the sky was clear.
 Roof had a measured $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ " thickness of ice from
 ponded water. No leaks in roof but shutter leak is
 bad. Constructed a catchment for shutter leaks. Oiled
 and adjusted rollers for dome except for NW quadrant.
 Some snow but not enough to make a snowball with.
 ↑ need
 calibration?

11/3/00 G. Thomas here. Cloudy most of Friday night. Saturday beautiful
 - 11/5/00 except for high altitude winds. Saturn, even at zenith, had
 distortions. Did variable stars and spent time in
 34°F 70%RH Orion & Draco. Finished oiling and tightening all
 dome rollers. Reworked bases of dome rotation motors
 and checked tolerances for 360°. Calked lip of
 upper shutter where previous major leaks appeared to
 be channelled to.

11/10-11 Terri & Greg Thomas here. About 1/4" of snow but road
 22°F 92%RH easily passible. Calking on lip of upper shutter appears to
 @Bam have worked well. Snow blowing in in SW of dome.
 Put in the foam weather stripping back in dome ring &
 this prevented any sign of blow in during the night.
 No observing due to clouds.

11/17-19 G. Thomas here for the 2 leonids. Only 2/hour?
 28-45°F Did some variable star work. Both nights clear. Saturday
 65%RH night especially good. Saturn excellent for detail on Saturday.
 Started calking shutter weather stripping. Hit counter weights
 on RA arm hard and eventually had to wipe the dripping
 blood from my head off the shutter when I realized I
 was bleeding.

11/21/00 Danny Thomas
 Age 13 Very sunny.
 went for a walk
 with my mam and my dad. Listened to
 some music. Didn't get to see any
 stars. because
 of the clouds. My dad was working on
 the shutter weather seal. I watched
 cartoons and the movie "Tomy Boy"
 It was preatly funny. I slept
 over here.



- 11/21/00 Terri Thomas - Cloudy Friday night. But clear enough to look down on the city light which was a beautiful sight. Helped Greg a little on the dome, went for a walk & drew a picture.
- 11/24-26 G. Thomas here again. Good observing both Friday & Sat nights, especially Friday on Saturn. Worked on variable stars & observed various features in Draco, Auriga, & Orion. More work on dome shutter weather stripping done. Looking better but not finished yet.
- 12/18 G. Thomas here. Saturn excellent including banding on planet today. Jupiter also best I've seen. Counted 14 bands! Did minor variable star work. Started talking on dome ring weather stripping. A couple more days should get most of it.
- 12/21 G. Thomas here. Gil Clark (head of TMO) and Mary Cragg (his secretary & wife of Tom Cragg) (very nice lady) stopped by expecting Poyer. Gave them a tour, although Mary has been here. Discussed some of the happenings dealing w/ the Forest Service closing the road this summer & shared my findings about the locked gate which everyone thought led up to TMO. Did more work on dome ring weather stripping. Spent some time with Saturn's moons before seeing got bad. Very windy at Microwave Relay Station but not so bad here at Ford. Did no variable stars.
- 12/27-28 Poyer and Padilla. Steve donated Mt. Wilson calendar. Did variables. Got SN 99 em at 18.6 mag. CCDV. Upstairs clock is broken - tossed it. All OK.
- 12/28-30 G. Thomas here. Saw 1st deer about mid day. Saw 1st transits over Jupiter - Europa shadow & Io & shadow ingress & egress. Did some variable star work. Minor repair work done including painting.