

76

2001

0006

12/3/00 -

11/1/2001

Toni & Greg Thomas here New Years night -
Happy New Year!! Cloudy no observing -
Painted platform for telescope to reduced
splinters.

1/5-7

55°F

75% RH

G. Thomas here. Rained Friday night so no observing.
Not a drop inside until shutter was opened. Large
open spots between clouds on Saturday. Looked at
planets, Rigel, & some variable stars. Hard to get
below M3.5 w/ clouds.

1/13-15

32°F 97% RH

22°F 95% RH

G. Thomas skied in. About 12" + of snow everywhere & 4' drifts.
Spent about 4 hrs clearing ice & snow on roof. Wind-swept piles
of snow inside dome ring (~2 gal uncompressed, ~1 pt as H₂O). Mainly
at NW, SW, & SE corners. Some water on floor from shutter leaks,
perhaps 1 cup total. Ice on roof sometimes over 2" thick, snow up
to 18" high. Roof appears to be ponding badly. SE corner
appears to be getting lifted up by the ice even though it was
not as thick as the north roof. Hoping we won't have to re-
do the roof, the ponding problem is quite severe, perhaps being
deflected about 1 1/2" beyond the unloaded sag.

Did variable stars both nights & watched Ganymede & Io
transit Jupiter. ~~Full~~ Quite spectacular during the few
moments of good seeing with Io & Ganymede at edges
of planet and GRS exactly in the middle.

1/20-21

40°F 70% RH

Greg Thomas skied in. Still lots of snow. Some new stuff
on roof. Cleaned everything off. Still very deep (~1-2" of
water and ice) on roof. No leaks! Did my ~~last~~ first
astro photography solo. Strictly w/ the 35 mm camera
Royer loaned/gave me, not through telescope yet.
Also did variable stars. Very nice night w/ no wind,
moderate high alt. winds, and no clouds.

1/27-1/29/01 G. Thomas here again. A lot of new snow and it started falling again the moment I walked in the door. Some heavy snowfall started around dusk & continued for several hours. About 11pm it stopped & you could see Hesperia & Lancaster clearly but no stars above. Stars didn't come out until somewhere around 4am. No observing.

Cleaned off several feet of snow of the roof. Very little had become ice which made it easier. Visqueen previously added made a huge difference in preventing snow from coming in through dome ring. We had about a gallon of powder come in thru the shutter weatherstripping however. Beautiful night on Sunday. Did some astrophotography & some variable stars. About a 1/2 hour after I quit, strong winds came in and blew throughout most of the night.

2/2-4 Clear skies. Skied in again but the snow is melting fast. Did variable stars both days. Tore apart electric blivet, brushed off blower fan, vacuumed ashes & burnt paper, and cleaned ash pan.

2/10-12 G. Thomas here again. Best skiing I've had this season coming in. Weather not so great but snow over ice made for a fast trip. Top of clouds is about 100 to 200 ft above dome with blue sky above. Lots of snow come in thru shutter (this is relative) About 2 gallons over all from inside door, shutter, & dome ring. Dome ring doing good w/ new Visqueen plastic. Winds sometimes shaking bldg but once was from an earthquake (TV moved). Cleared up to 3" thick ice off roof but most wasn't bad. No observing although I almost tried Saturday except for wind. Big storm coming in Monday morning which I hope comes after I leave.

- 2/17-18/01 G. Thomas here. Lots of new snow but not much more here at the top. Got some good (but short) opening in the clouds Sat. nite and did Astro photography. Did not get any visibles done because I quit due to the wind. No viewing Sunday due to strong semi steady winds. Some new snow over the 2 days.
32°F
75% RH
- 2/2-3/01 Terri & Greg here. Lots of new snow, very deep. Took about 3 hours to ~~skis~~ in. (Terri is slow but steady skier). It looks very different here with all the snow very beautiful and very cold. Weather is clear - last night windy. * Snow fell off the dome and broke the T.V. antenna. † Greg did variable stars, snow 2' over door sill, snow on roof up to 4' high, totally prevented dome rotation, less than a pint of water on the floor, no snow seen leaking inside.
- 2/9-12 Repair TV antenna in the wind. No observing Friday or Sunday nite. Unusual snow coming in thru back of shutter and covering sprocket of shutter drive motor. Some clear skies w/ occasional clouds on Saturday. Did variable stars until eye pieces fogged up. Also some photos taken.
20°F
95% RH
- 3/17-18 Great weather, no wind, and only a few clouds. Did variable stars. After 2am no clouds - beautiful night.
44°F
70% RH
- 3/23-25 G. Thomas here. Snow melting fast but a ton of it left. Beautiful nites Friday & Saturday - especially Friday. Did variable star work.
50°F
60% RH

3/30-4/1/01 G. Thomas hiked in, forgot ski boots. Much snow is melted but cannot drive in very far. Beautiful night Friday. Saturday had a slight breeze and some clouds. Did variable stars and photography also looked at sun spots. Broke Royce's 35mm camera when it got bumped by the platform while mounted on the telescope. Pulled the shutter release off. I hope to get it fixed before he needs this.

4/6-8 No observing due wind & snow. Pulled out about 3 tubs of snow off floor, telescope, & dome ring. Drove over 1/2 way up here in a 4x4 truck. Hoping I can get out.

4/13-14 Here Good Friday night. Did variable stars. Found damage to the electric service. The preform dead end at the transformer pole broke and crossarm is split. Will probably be ok unless a big wind takes it out. Also found some significant damage to aluminium siding at SE corner. Repaired and should be ok for next wind.

4/21/02 Frank Rorabaugh & son Rhett here along w/G. Thomas. Frank climbed the power pole and put in a split bolt in the cross arm & tied the broken service to the pole. Everything is temporary and this should keep power (hopefully) to the observatory until Edison can get trucks up here. Frank left Saturday. Everything covered w/snow again. Took chains to get to the gate. Did variable star work. Beautiful night even though the day was stormy.

- 4/27-28/01
4°F
65%RH
G. Thomas here. Did variable stars, Absolutely beautiful after 12 midnite. A little windy before. Still snow but able to drive up about 2/3 of the way
- 5/4-5
G. Thomas here. Snow still blocking road but it's melting. Did variable stars & Mars observations. Again, it's very nice after midnite when the wind stops.
- 5/7-8/01
no Wind
J. Stephenson, L. Stephenson - Full moon interspersed with Deep sky objects, did photography of full moon. Very warm during day time, shoveled small amount of snow and was able to get the truck through.
- 5/10-11
G. Thomas here. Can't believe how much the snow has melted. No problem getting past the now non-existent drift. Did variable star work & looked @ Lyre, Called Edison & looks like they'll come in on Monday to assess how much work it'll be for their crews to make repairs to the power pole. Clouds moving in for Friday night, looks like it might rain. Gone by Epine
- 5/12
Stephenson - stopped in for daytime Viset forecast is for thunder storms and I wanted to make sure every thing was ok
- 5/19-20
G. Thomas here. Did variable stars & looked @ Mars. Mars looks best w/ aperature mask. Lots of white on top which I presume was the ice cap of Hellas. Imagined I saw Syrtis Major. Best view w/ 10mm E.P. Edison apparently come and did some work to the pole but looks like more remains to be done

5/27/01 G. Thomas here from RTMC. Cloudy & drizzle below so I come up to Ford to get 3 variable stars. No luck since clouds move in fairly solid after night fall.

6-02/03 J. SCHROEDER, J STEPHENSON
45°F THICK MARINE LAYER BELOW IN PASS ALL
60% NIGHT, STRONG WIND FROM WEST. FAST
SEEING W MOMENTS OF GOOD DETAIL ON
MARS, MOON. POLAR CAP & HOOD VERY
PROMINENT.

6/8 & 9 G. Thomas here. Friday nite had some
62°F clouds & poor seeing, but did variable stars
54% RH & tried Mars. Saturday night had lots
of clouds but had enough clear time to
finish variables I didn't get on Friday. Mars
was hopeless.

6/16 + 6/17 Dave Phelps, John Stephenson, Jeff Schroeder
60° Rather clear, some residual smoke from fire. Sky
54% light bright little contrast. Observed M57 was unable to
locate nearby galaxy, observed M13 + nearby galaxy NGC 6207
observed Cassiopeia Nebula in Cygnus (NGC 6888) observed
filament (no filter). On Mars we observed the following
features Hellas, Pnyxia, Mars Pyrenaeum, Mars Craterum,
Syrtis Major, Utopia, Mars Serpentis, Mars Subarum,
edge of Acidalia, north & south polar caps,
Arecibo's Nadus

6/21 & 22 Dan & Matt Schechter & Greg Thomas here.
Extensive viewing of Mars under fairly good
seeing. Also toured the sky including the
ring, E Lyre, Whirlpool, Cat's Eye, etc.

6/22-23/01

Jay ~~Everett~~ Thomas 8yrs
 Will Thomas 8yrs
 Patrick Thomas
 Reykjavik, Iceland

Will and Jay used this feature which we called a sword to find Z Bootes. Z Bootes is a seldom viewed variable star. Jay made an estimate of 10.9.

The magnitude continues to decline. We went to bed at 2:00AM ^{PDT} in the morning, which is 9:00AM GMT. GMT is the time in ICELAND where we live.

We saw Mars. Will was able to see blue colors on Mars. We saw double double and the smoke ring (ring nebulae). Jay saw the star in the ring nebula. We saw Aunt Terry's (Antares) and Arcturus. We also saw the cat's eye nebula. We had a great time. Wow!

6/23-24 Dave Phelps, John Stephensen, Jim Feher, & Greg Thomas hosted 9 people from the Riverside Astronomical Society to view Mars & various other celestial wonders. Greg did variables after the crowd left.

- 6/29-7/1/01 G. Thomas here & did variable stars
warm both nights. Nice weather. Hellas very
obvious on Mars but Syrus Major should
have been and wasn't found either night.
- 7/6-8 G. Thomas here. Spotty observing Friday due to
60°F clouds. Had rain prior to visit. Rain & Thunder
90% RH Saturday. Fire Dept upon hill looking for
lightning strikes. Beautiful mte on Saturday.
Did variable stars. See OK for E Lyra but
not good enough for Mars. Purple seen due
to moisture of low horizon for Mars.
- 7/12-22 Greg & Terri Thomas here (Terri only a couple of
days). Alternate Windy/Calm days. Calm days
were beautiful. Did numerous variable stars,
especially some AAISO bulliten stars either
beginning or receding from outburst.
- 7/29-29 G. Thomas here. Did variable Stars on Friday.
Superb night. Had visitors Saturday. Steve
Robinson (a friend of Stephenson) and a family of four.
Looked @ Mars, E Lyra, MST, Mars, etc. Very interested
group. Only 1 variable done Saturday.
- 8/2-4 G. Thomas here. Beautiful nights Thurs & Fri. Did
variable stars both nights. Toured Bootis Fri &
looked at Polaris double.
- 8-8-01 Poyer here alone on stopover to Brattleboro and star party.
Everything Seeing poor - SW wind. Mars shows blue N. polar haze.
in great shape S cap hardly visible. Mars Erythraeum + solis lacus
here! barely visible - so dust still covers most of the planet.
Washed primary mirror - it was not very dirty.

NOTE of 4-30-2009 → this was my last visit to Food Obs.
MISS IT! Someday I have to revisit - but been busy at home.

8/17-19/01 C. Thomas here. Friday was excellent. No wind & fairly good seeing. Did variable stars. The Astronomy class that wanted to come up on Saturday cancelled too late for Stephanson to find out. John & Jeff (#jeffine) came up Saturday night & we looked at M objects in Lyra & the Cat's Eye in Draco until the clouds came in. By the time my remaining variables were accessible the clouds were too thick to work. Jeff confirmed that the object I saw clearly on 8/2 was probably a feathered Satellite the Air Force released recently. I thought I might have seen it again while doing the variable WW Ser @ 10:15 ~~Sat~~ Friday. On 8/2, I believe I was looking @ Z Boo or X Lib @ about 11pm when I saw 2 bright spots (each looked like a typical Satellite) separated about 15 min in the TV 40 ep by what looked like a monofilament fishing line. I write this because Royer appeared so disappointed at Bristol Cove last week when he found out I didn't write anything in the log book back on 8/2.

8/24-26 C. Thomas here. Did variables Friday night. Did photos of Saturn, Jupiter (w/Europa Shadow transit), and Venus Sat. morning. Did photos of Ring Nebula on Saturday night. Beautiful weather both nights. Noticeable haze or smog in the lowlands seems to forecast excellent conditions up here. The RA controls don't seem to be working. Will have to investigate (next weekend hopefully) to find the problem.

82°F
45%RH

8/30-9/4/01 Greg & Terri Thomas here. (Terri for Fri & Sat)
 Did variable star work. Rain during the day on
 Sunday & Monday. After a bit of troubleshooting
 the trouble with the RA. turned out to be the
 breaker. Someone (perhaps me) opened the breaker
 for the RA.

9/7-9 G. Thomas here. Beautiful nights. Did variable
 stars & looked at planets.

9/14-16 G. Thomas here. Nice clear nights although
 Saturday was a little windy. Did variable
 stars and planets. Got a spectacular
 meteor both nights - probably Leonids. These
 were really bright and Saturday appeared
 as wide as $\frac{1}{2}$ my little finger at arms length and
 was very low when it came apart. Appear to
 be only a few thousand feet above ground.

9/22-23 G. Thomas here. Gorgeous night. Milky Way
 prominent and dark skies overhead although the
 almost quarter moon made visible stars in southwest
 more difficult. Overhead Mag 15 stars easy to see as
 opposed to Mag 13 in southwest. Between 2 and
 5 am both Jupiter & Saturn had some great
 seeing for multi minute periods. Saturn could
 at times rival Hubble photos for extended periods.
 May ~~the~~ have been best or close to the best
 that I've seen Saturn here at Ford.

9-28-29 Hi Terri & Greg Thomas here. No wind, stars
 clear but twinkling. Greg did variable stars.

9/29/01 Terri's family (5 people) here w/ G. Thomas.
 Viewed planets & various nebulae & stars.

10/5-8/01 G. Thomas here again. Friday windy & cloudy. ~45°F No observing. Saturday beautiful. Did 55%RH variable stars & planets. Odd orange lights behind eastern mountains. As much as 5 to 10° wide. Biggest to me bombing, but perhaps it was lightning. Lights continued for several hours.

Sunday was start of bombing in Afghanistan. Very distracting toward astronomy. Beautiful night again. Did limited variable stars in between catching up with news from Afghanistan.

10/20-21 G. Thomas here. Not many Orionids seen. Windy until 12 midnight. Clouds prevented seeing more than 1 variable star.

10/26-28 No observing Friday due to clouds. Early Saturday, even the planets twinkled when the clouds didn't obscure anything. By 11pm sky was clear enough to do variable stars. Clouds back in by 2am.

11/2-4 G. Thomas here. Did minimal amount of variable stars on Friday. Weather good & sky clear. Saturday had high dark clouds which obscured even the moon for most of the night. Light rain during morning hours. Cleared up after 10am. Cleaned water off of roof.

11/9-10 Terri & Gary Thoms. Weather good sky clear no wind. It is getting colder. I got a flat tire, Gary took it off my car - I went into town to a service auto repair & they plugged it - set. The tire still looks good so I hope I won't have any more trouble with it. Friday night Saturn was clear and beautiful.

11/9-10 Teri cent.

I saw do shadow of moons. It looked like a dot on Jupiter - there were two moons but only one dot. I was impressed.

11/10/01 Jeff Schroder, Bill Webb, John Stevenson & Jim Fisher, here w/G. Thomas. Some wind and clouds obscuring sky. Eastern sky around Orion finally cleared up and we did some observing. Jim & Greg did variable stars. Cold.

11/11/01 G. Thomas here. Did variable stars and
- 11/12 saw Ganymed shadow transit on Jupiter.
44°F Most of the time only the eastern sky was not covered in clouds.

11/17-18 G. Thomas, John Stevenson, Bill Webb, Jeff Schroder & coworker here for Leonids. Thomas did variable stars until 2 am when the Leonids really started picking up. Estimate were better than 1000/hr were coming down between 2 am & 3:30. Some spectacular meteors kept coming down past 4:30 am when most of us were too tired to stay out. Jeff kept his 5 cameras going but Webb turned off the VCR with Gen 2 image intensifier recording most of the shower about 4:30 am. Several bolides seen. Bigger meteors often left short wide trails w/a green tint to them. Some yellow was also observed.

11/24/25 G. Thomas here. Did variable stars after sky cleared
down to 38°F up after 11 pm. By 1:30 am skies were very clear
up to 28°F but did have a little wind. Snow forecasted.
down to 5000 ft by Sunday morning so I decided to leave earlier even though first snows are not too
bad w/chains.

- 11/20-12/2/01 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. SCHARDEDER, J STEPHENSON
30°F DELIVERED NEW MICROWAVE OVEN.
71% ENJOYED DINNER + PINK FLOYD.
OVERCAST, SNOW STARTED 5:30 AM.
- 12/14-15-01 Tom & 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. via 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 glebs with wind and black clouds but by 7pm every thing was clear and calm. Did variable stars and watched Gungahmed transit of Jupiter.
- 12/29-1/3/02 G. Thomas here. Open on primary circuit to service transformer and back feeding thru the 3rd xfmrs to Microwave facility resulted in 30-67 VAE in 120 circuits. As a result I couldn't open the dome and needed the oil lamp to read. (cont)