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2 July 1961

CLIMAX NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1961

The claudy trend in the weather broke somewhat during the month of June, and the clear sky that we then had was largely class IV - as is very typical of this time of year. The coronal sky time was up to 10% for the whole month. For the most part the sky was clear but of too poor a quality to permit much work on the various coronagraph programs.

The coronagraph observations were:

Green Survey: 8 complete and good, one no good.

Red Survey: 8 complete and good, 2 partial, and 4 ALR surveys (Active Limb Region - read from the H_x line on the red survey when the red line has not registered due to poor sky or clouds. It is also read and reported from the good red surveys. This has been reported for the past year or so, but was stopped for a few months this spring - it was called an APR report previously.)

Spicules: All of the following were shot in the equatorial regions: 1 set 8542, 1 set H & K, 4 sets H_x and D_3 , 2 sets of just H_x , 2 sets H_y , 1 set of just D_3 , and 1 good set and 1 no good set of 7772-4-5.

One of the problems confronting us more and more as we approach minimum is the lack of programs suitable for observing the quiet sun. Limb activity is becoming a rarity, and even prominences suitable for observing are few and far between. I realize that you do not just produce a program out of the air at will, but if anyone has any ideas or desires in the way of new observations that are feasible with the present instruments do not hesitate to discuss them with one of us.

The Flare Patrol was taken out of operation on 22 June for installation of the Acme camera. This is a sizable modification to the instrument, and, we hope, the final one necessary for awhile. The decision was made to go to the 10mm image since there was little if any loss of detail over the 15mm image, and there would be much more room on the frame for large limb events with the smaller image. With the Acme camera we will gain tremendously in registration, we will have a more versatile exposure set-up, and several trouble spots of the present system will be eliminated making for more reliable operation. The instrument should be back at Climax within a few weeks.

The K-Coronameter is still out of operation, and a discussion with Gordon revealed that it will not be pushed until next fall during the good observing period that we usually have then. The thinking is that it would be too complicated to attempt to firmly keep the instrument in operation this summer while the shop people are installing the large coronagraph. Plus it would mean extra work for them to always have the coronameter to consider in each installation job. If the spar is in balance and operating, however, there is no reason why the instrument should not be run, providing it is in operating condition itself, when installation work is not actually being done on the spar. Chris is making good progress in the reduction of the past data from the coronameter, and is nearly through, in fact.

Lee is currently planning a trip to Climax in early July to install the image tube.

As I stated in last month's report, the new door system has been completed on the big dome, and the doors operate very smoothly and surely - quite a change from the old system. It remains to be seen how they will function in the cold and with a snow load on the doors, but there is nothing to suggest that there will be any trouble in this area.

Mr. Roger Kopp from the University of Michigan joined the Climax staff for the summer on 22 June. Roger received his B.S. degree in Astronomy from Michigan this spring, and plans to enter Harvard graduate school in Astronomy this fall. A very brilliant young man, Roger drives a Volkswagen. (He also plays 2nd base).

Bob Bessey from the University of Wyoming spent three days at Climax early in the month familiarizing himself with the spicule observing program. He will be working with Grant this summer on spicules.

The Observers softball team, behind the superb controlled pitching of Fireball Richey, has racked up wins¹⁷ its first two games 15 to 11, and 27 to 13 (this was only 5 innings). Manager Richey feels that the Observers should be hitting their top form about 6 August.

Kieth