



SARA-CTIO Observatory Director's Report

November 10, 2023
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I. Introduction

The SARA-CTIO telescope this semester worked reliably, while it was operational. The primary issue has been the shutdown of the outside network connection since August 2nd due to a cyber attack at Gemini South (the mountain networks are interconnected).

II. Telescope Usage

Prior to the network shutdown 53% of nights were reported (from May through the end of July). Of the reported nights, 37.5% of the time was lost, (34.9% to weather and 2.6% to equipment).

III. Usage by others

Lowell and Chilean observers continue to make use of their time allotments.

IV. Observatory Problems

There were no reoccurring issues with the telescope this semester. The obvious primary issue has been the lack of network connection. Peter has been acting as the SARA representative to restart our connection.

While the mountain is officially reopening telescopes, we have (Peter has) had a very difficult time getting responses from the staff there and we are still unable to connect to the observatory computers. We have been requesting an updated VPN system when we reconnect.

We just discovered today (11/10) that CTIO is *not* allowing VPN connections at this point due to the cyber attack. The CTIO staff is working with Peter to connect in order to check equipment, but a formal long-term connection method will have to be worked out. At this point there is no indication of what that will look like, or when.

V. Instrumentation

1. Science Camera

The camera has continued to work well.

2. Spectrograph

The spectrograph is installed, but the camera failed and Peter was looking at possible replacements prior to the network shutdown. I need to follow-up with Peter about this. With the network issues the camera replacement slipped through the cracks with me.