



## **SARA-CTIO Observatory Director's Report**

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### **I. Introduction**

The SARA-CTIO telescope this semester was closed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The telescope was shut down on 17 March, 2020 at the request of the director of CTIO. As of this report the observatory remains in shutdown. However, CTIO is in the process of bringing facilities back online with access currently limited to observatory staff. If infection numbers in Chile do not begin to increase they re-opening procedure will likely continue into November. In that case it is likely that we will be able to resume remote operations beginning in either late October or early November (if everything restarts without considerable problems).

### **II. Instrumentation**

#### **1. Science Camera**

Andor has returned the CTIO camera to ACE. They were unable to specifically identify the issue that we observed. However, they did find a problem with the thermoelectric cooler assembly that necessitated a complete rebuild of the camera. They sent a report and test images prior to returning the camera. Those indicated that the trailing problem we were seeing is not present in the rebuilt camera. The camera will be reinstalled as soon as operations can resume and Peter is either able to take it down himself (most likely) or send the camera down and have the staff mount it to the telescope.

Thanks to Judi and Terry, SARA was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Mt Cuba Astronomical Foundation with the purpose of purchasing a quality back-up CCD camera for SARA-CT. Discussion of purchasing a camera is a separate item on the agenda for this meeting.

#### **2. Spectrograph**

Peter plans to travel to CTIO as soon as travel restrictions are lifted and access to the observatory is available. He will install the spectrograph at that time.