



## SARA-RM Observatory Directors Report

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Daniel Batchelder.

### I. Summary

The observatory is currently shut down due to the global outbreak of COVID-19. There are still a number of major issues that need to be resolved with an onsite-visit. However, the observatory is operational with work-arounds in place. While the ongoing major issues are no doubt frustrating, there are significant logistical issues that cause backlogs in action items. These logistical issues include difficulties in custom fabrication work on La Palma, and complications with shipping items to the telescope.

### II. Telescope Usage

Table 1 presents the statistics for the telescope usage from September 2019 to March 2020 as compiled by Bill Keel (thank you Bill!).

**Table 1: SARA-RM Telescope Usage Statistics (Thank you Bill Keel).**

Month	Hours Obs.	Lost (Weather)	Lost (Tech)
Sept '19	72	0%	37.9%
Oct '19	127.5	32.1%	12.9%
Nov '19	111.2	41.4%	2.7%
Dec '19	112	23.8%	3.7%
Jan '20	159	12.4%	11.5%
Feb '20	117.45	59.1%	4.9%
Mar '20	59	17.5%	7.1%

### III. Observatory Problems

1) Mirror petals – same as last report. Two motors pull a chain operated mirror petal motion system. One motor failed leaving too little torque to reliably open and close the petals. This motor was going to be replaced during the September ACE visit, however the new motor was not delivered to the observatory on time. Once the motor is on site, ACE will instruct local staff on how to install it. For the time being, the telescope is to be parked with the mirror petals open at 00h -36dec.

2) Dome cameras – same as last report. It seem the security of the camera server has been repeatedly compromised. A full reset is necessary. This will be attempted by on site staff

3) ACE Connector Client. As always, ***the best observing practice is to perform a complete system power cycle before starting observations. Follow the README.TXT instructions on the desktop.***

#### **IV. Instrumentation**

1. *Science Cameras.* No known issues.
2. *Computers.* No known issues.
3. *Weather Station.* No known issues.
4. *All Sky Camera.* No known issues.
5. *Dome Cameras.* Interior dome camera server issues (see III.2).

#### **V. Observatory Director**

D. Batcheldor, the SARA-RM Observatory Director since the re-inauguration of the telescope, has stepped down from the SARA-Board, and is therefore also stepping down as the observatory director. The representative to the SARA-Board from Florida Tech is now Dr. Saida Caballero-Nieves, with the SARA-RM Observatory Director position now open.