Etscorn Campus Observatory





TECH

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology



"I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night." Sarah Williams (1837-1868)

New Mexico Tech is proud to have an exceptional campus observatory, available to students for observing and educational purposes and to the general public for group viewing and scheduled star parties.

New Mexico Tech is an undergraduate and graduate university specializing in science and engineering education and research. Tech, a state-supported university, is



located in Socorro, New Mexico, about 75 miles south of Albuquerque. Tech divisions and departments include world-class research programs providing unique opportunities for students.

New Mexico Tech's Astronomy Club is the student group focused on using the observatory and conducting





public star parties and other outreach activities. Club members also have access to the observatory's telescopes. Most club members are New Mexico Tech students, but there are also members from all over New Mexico who participate in varying degrees.

Members of the Astronomy Club are not necessarily astrophysics majors. Although New Mexico Tech offers astrophysics, some club members major in engineering, computer science, and other fields. Tech students have made use of ECO facilities to pursue projects of their own interest, to conduct projects for classrooms and labs, to test equipment for Magdalena Ridge Observatory, and

many other purposes. Some of these projects have led to careers in astronomy.

For information about New Mexico Tech, contact our Admission Office at 1.800.428.TECH or visit our website at www.nmt.edu.



Etscorn Campus Observatory (ECO), dedicated on April 25, 1993, is equipped with outstanding facilities. On site are three control rooms (one of which is dedicated to radio astronomy), a resource room for presentations, a kitchen, a bathroom, and facilities for maintaining and storing telescopes. The observatory is surrounded by earth berms and is strategically located to avoid as much



light pollution as possible from campus and town.

The observatory is one of the sites of the annual Enchanted Skies Star Party, New Mexico's largest gathering of amateur astronomers. ESSP is held every fall in Socorro. In addition, many public and private star parties are held at ECO throughout the year.

Several telescopes are available for use at the observatory. The most noteworthy ones are a 20" Tectron Dobsonian on loan from club member Ken Mason, a 14" Celestron Schmidt Cassegrain on loan from the NMT Physics Department, a 6" Takahashi refractor owned by the Summer Science Program, and a homemade 6" Schiefspiegler and mount built by Jerry Hudson. The Tectron, Schiefspiegler, and Takahashi are housed in the three domes. The Celestron is housed under the roll-off roof.



The Frank T. Etscorn Campus Observatory is operated and maintained by the New Mexico Tech Astronomy Club, which has a joint research agreement with the NMT Physics Department. Public star parties are held almost weekly,



TELESCOPES

Tectron 20" f/5 Newtonian Reflector Dobsonian mounted on an equatorial platform Celestron 14" f/11 Schmidt Cassegrain Bisque Paramount ME SBIG ST-8E CCD Takahashi FS-152 6" f/8 refractor Bisque Paramount ME SBIG ST-10 CCD Meade 8" f/6 Newtonian reflector Losmandy Gemini System 6" f/22 double mirror Schiefspiegler Telescope and mount custom-built by Jerry Hudson 3 Coulter Odyssey 13.1" f/4.5 Newtonian reflectors Dobsonian mounted Celestron 8" f/10 Schmidt Cassegrain Coronado 40mm f/10 Personal Solar Telescope 2 Karl Electronics 3.05m adding radio dishes

For more information on ECO, to schedule an event, or the New Mexico Tech Astronomy Club, contact:

New Mexico Tech Astronomy Club • astro@nmt.edu

Astronomy Club, Attn: Physics Department

New Mexico Tech

1.4GHz Ultra Cyber Hydrogen line radio receiver

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