
Mauna Loa Solar Observatory Observer's Log

Fri Jan 2 17:03:13 GMT 2015

Year: 15 Doy: 002

Observer: berkey

WEATHER COMMENT: berkey: Fri Jan 2 17:03:15 GMT 2015

BLIZZARD!!!!. Winds 20-30 gusting to 45+ mph from the SW, with blowing/stinging hail.

____end____

GENERAL OBSERVATORY COMMENT BY berkey: Fri Jan 2 17:29:30 GMT 2015

Main dome had blown open last night letting git of snow accumulate in the dog house. Do or was locked I think the wind was just strong enough to kick it open. I tried modifying the striker in the door jam to make the door a bit more secure. Hopefully this is the last real test it gets before the contractors replace it

____end____

GONG COMMENT BY berkey: Fri Jan 2 17:31:54 GMT 2015

Gong turret stowed

____end____

KCOR COMMENT BY berkey: Fri Jan 2 17:32:09 GMT 2015

It was cold enough last night (now 36f outside) that the kcor modulator dropped below 35C currently 32C and current limit has been hit.

____end____

PSPT COMMENT BY berkey: Fri Jan 2 18:03:36 GMT 2015

PSPT dome az motor removed and inspected. Yep its burnt. I have ordered a replacement from Grainger. Hopefully it arrives some time late next week.

I also noticed the coupling between the encoder and motor transmission had sheared a new coupling has also been ordered.

I would assume the motor burnt out due to some sort of overcurrent trying not push through some sort of mechanical binding. This may in fact be the case. Right now the dome appears to be slightly shifted north and tilted such that the dome bogies are not touching the track for over 1/4 of the track in the SE. It also looks like the SE section of the track is slightly bent w.r.t the rest of the track. There is no obvious damage to the dome rack. With the dome motor removed I would have assumed I could slowly rotate the dome but pushing tangentially along the dome wall; however I am unable to budge it. When the wind/blizzard conditions die down, we should try to recenter/inspect the track/dome further. My best guess is the broken encoder coupler has nothing to do with the problem.

____end____

GENERAL OBSERVATORY COMMENT BY berkey: Fri Jan 2 22:00:14 GMT 2015

Some folks braved the weather and came up. Gave them a tour of the observatory and their son some posters

____end____

GENERAL OBSERVATORY COMMENT BY berkey: Fri Jan 2 22:22:31 GMT 2015

Noticing some leaking on the SW corner of the Pspt dome roof and falling on the toolbox. The toolbox was moved and a bucket was placed under the drips.

____end____

GENERAL OBSERVATORY COMMENT BY berkey: Fri Jan 2 22:38:05 GMT 2015

Winds increasing temperature dropping.

____end____

GENERAL OBSERVATORY COMMENT BY berkey: Fri Jan 2 22:40:52 GMT 2015

Water pooling in the dog house and under the main door due to wind forcing it through gaps around the door.

____end____

GENERAL OBSERVATORY COMMENT BY berkey: Fri Jan 2 23:09:45 GMT 2015

I think the observatory is in an ok place to leave it. COMP camera is off and I put buckets where I found leaks. I am going heading down the next time there is a lull in the wind/hail.

____end____