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Mauna Loa Solar Observatory Observer's Log

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Fri Apr 05 18:00:32 GMT 2024

Year: 24 Doy: 096

Observer: berkey, Jun (EPC contractor)

Eclipse prep work.

Poor weather in the saddle combined with smaller helicopter lead to late arrival on site and only 1/2 the crew making it on site. Ben and Jun (EPC) on site from 8:00-1:00pm. Not a very productive day due to power issues.

Power:

On arrival inverter was in fault state, reported low battery (like Tuesday). Battery L CD reported 73% charge. Generator would not start, due to low power in the 12v generator battery. On third trip to the observatory Paradise brought up a spare battery; that helped us jumpstart the generator.

Around 9:45am we were able to get the generator started and we could power up the observatory.

From about 10-1pm Jun was on the phone with sol-ark techs to help troubleshoot our problems. At one point did the inverter and battery agree on the battery charge state.

At about 11:45 the inverter, battery and generator were power cycled to check updated settings. After this point the batteries no longer charged; which more settings "upgrades" the reported battery when from 65 to 8%, and power were no longer seen on the cables between the inverter and battery.

It seems like the last setting applied may have cleared things up; but troubleshooting/testing got cut short due to clouds at the observatory for a 1pm evacuation. EPC will be flying back up with us again on Sunday to continue troubleshooting.

Network/Computing

About 9:15 am inverter was brought online. And then when the generator was brought online at 10. All the computers were connected to the internet and windows updates were applied.

Tom was able to remote in and apply updates to the computers.

It appears that LDM failed to start; as some kcor data didn't transfer to Boulder. Unfortunately due to things getting busy with the inverter there wasn't time to verify data transfers to Kodiak or Boulder in realtime.

Kcor

Kcor never came to temperature.

Generator was able to start about 10am. Heaters restarted. However the modulator never came to 35C

Kcor fore-optics blown off ND, diffuser, polarizer. No obviously debris was seen before blowing it off.

Some data was taken with Kcor, at low temperature.

Heaters were online when we left, but given the state of the battery/inverter system it is unlikely they remained on over night.

UCoMP

UCoMP never came to temperature.

On initial start up ucomp didn't see the cameras. When rebooting to see if that fixed the computer, it got stuck applying windows updates for the remainder of the time the building was powered.

No data was taken with UCoMP.