
Mauna Loa Solar Observatory Observer's Log

Tue Oct 20 16:38:50 GMT 2026
Year:26 Doy:293
Observer: mcotter
Weather COMMENT BY mcotter: Tue Oct 20 16:44:15 GMT 2026
MLSO Current Weather
Timestamp (UTC): 2026-10-20 16:35:00
Temperature   : 42.12 deg F
Dew Point   : 2.61 deg F
Pressure   : 681.44 mbar
Wind Speed   : 9.4 mph
Wind Direction : 143.7 deg

Skies: Clear skies overhead But very large bands of Cirrocumulus clouds are present on the north, west and eastern horizons. The cloud bands to the east look like they trail off to the south. Very hazy conditions at lower elevations with the inversion layer visible on the horizon just at the peak of Hualalai. Light steady wind blowing from the southeast.
___end___
Source Log Type BY mcotter: Tue Oct 20 16:48:32 GMT 2026 entry was edited
noaa construction:

The NOAA construction contractors are now onsite and work has already started for the day with heavy equipment starting to traverse the area. I was told by the crew supervisor that todays activities will involve setting up cement forms with the likelihood of heavy equipment being used by the crew throughout the morning into the early afternoon. The wind is currently blowing from the south so we should be able to observe as long as conditions allow.
___end___
GENERAL COMMENT BY mcotter: Tue Oct 20 17:00:53 GMT 2026
Opened windows upstairs
___end___
GENERAL COMMENT BY mcotter: Tue Oct 20 17:00:58 GMT 2026
Dome open
___end___
** KCOR PM mcotter ** : Tue Oct 20 17:01:05 GMT 2026
Blew off Kcor O1
___end___
** UCOMP PM mcotter ** : Tue Oct 20 17:01:12 GMT 2026
Blew off UCoMP O1
___end___
  BY mcotter: Tue Oct 20 17:14:55 GMT 2026
Weather Report:

Weather satellite images show very large bands of upper level clouds moving towards the Big Island from the southwest. It appears that it will arrive later this morning or in the early afternoon.
___end___
Tue Oct 20 17:20:23 GMT 2026 Kcor Focus/alignment program exited
Tue Oct 20 17:23:45 GMT 2026 Kcor Focus/alignment program exited
** KCOR PROBLEM REPORTED BY mcotter ** : Tue Oct 20 19:31:55 GMT 2026
This morning while observing the bottom two images in the synoptic GUI turned completely white. The top eight synoptic images looked slightly bright but were completely acceptable. The NRGF and Level-0 images appeared strange, making me suspect a circular acquisition error. I stopped the observing code and the socketcam GUI, but the command window showed no indication of an acquisition error. I restarted the observing program and socketcam and again the bottom two synoptic images were all white, but again the top eight synoptic images looked acceptable. When the data appeared in the NRGF and Level-0 images they again looked like there was an acquisition error. Ben checked to ensure everything was operating correctly (and it was) but determined that today's sky conditions were causing polarization issues with the data. Today, high-level Cirrus and Cirrostratus clouds are spread across the sky in different areas. Although the area we were observing looked clear, a very thin translucent layer of clouds must still be present. This thin layer of clouds combined with the low angle of our observations of the Sun appears to have caused an unwanted polarization in the data even though our initial synoptic im

ages looked good.

Due to poor sky conditions observations have been stopped.
___end___
Weather COMMENT BY mcotter: Tue Oct 20 19:59:35 GMT 2026
MLSO Current Weather
Timestamp (UTC): 2026-10-20 19:53:00
Temperature   : 55.27 deg F
Dew Point   : -8.28 deg F
Pressure   : 682.31 mbar
Wind Speed   : 11.41 mph
Wind Direction : 66.1 deg

Skies: The sky is now completely overcast with Cirrus and Cirrostratus clouds.
A moderate steady wind continues to blow from the east-northeast.
___end___
  BY mcotter: Tue Oct 20 20:00:30 GMT 2026
Due to poor sky conditions the dome area windows and the dome shutters are now closed.
___end___
** KCOR PM mcotter ** : Wed Oct 21 02:32:53 GMT 2026
Kcor:

First Contact was applied to the opposite side of the #4-O1 Lens this afternoon; yester
day we had applied First Contact to the first side of the Kcor #4-O1 Lens. We are going
 to allow the First Contact coatings to fully cure before removing the applications.
___end___
  BY mcotter: Wed Oct 21 02:37:06 GMT 2026
End Of Day:

Some observations were accomplished in the early morning but within a short period of t
ime large bands of high level clouds came into the observing area and observations were
 stopped.

Weather satellite images for the next few days do not look promising for taking observa
tions, but there may be breaks in the cloud coverage that provide viewing opportunities
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___end___
Logger COMMENT BY mcotter: Wed Oct 21 02:37:11 GMT 2026
Log closed
ONSITE STAFF: berkey, mcotter
___end___
KCOR COMMENT BY KCOR: Wed Oct 21 02:37:52 GMT 2026
KCOR file transfer report
KCor created 245 .bin files
245 .fts files
  Remote site is complete ? no rsync required.

___end___
Logger COMMENT BY : Wed Oct 21 15:39:10 GMT 2026
Log closed
ONSITE STAFF:
___end___