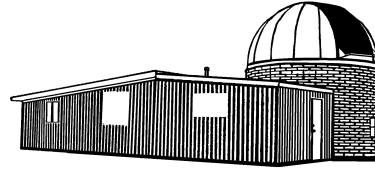


Sunridge Observatory: A Brief History



The Sunridge Observatory was the original project in 1979 of the newly formed Medicine Hat Astronomy Club. Jim Pratt (deceased) owner of Sunridge Farms, had offered the club a long term lease on a dark site on his property. The club president at that time, Rod Silliphant, drafted the original drawings of the observatory and its site. The construction and engineering of the observatory was directed by the club president, Eric Petke. Following the death of Mr. Pratt, the club acquired ownership of the site in 2000 with the generous financial support of the Medicine Hat Lions Club.

Many individual astronomy club members and local companies have made valuable contributions in the development of the Sunridge Observatory site. Wittke Iron Works, in conjunction with Kurts Iron Works, built the domed structure. IXL had donated the bricks to support the dome and build the fences. Arthur Kraus has devoted much time to the landscaping of the site, as have brick layers Gerhard Shulz and Kurt Hilgendorf.

Club members Eric Erdmann and John Leader provided the club with its first two telescopes; a portable f/6 Dobsonian with a 10-inch diameter mirror and a telescope assembly with a 16-inch diameter mirror mounted in a German equatorial mount driven by motors in both azimuth and elevation. The latter telescope is housed in the domed structure, and was acquired with financial support from the Alberta Wild Rose Foundation.

The astronomy club has recently replaced the 16-inch mirror with a 18-inch one.

This telescope is the main instrument used to show persons of all ages the night-time sky, from the moon to the planets and the objects beyond. Future plans include mounting a pointing circle on the main telescope, permitting computer control of the instrument, and investigating the feasibility of doing radio astronomy on the present site.

Become a Member of the
***Medicine Hat
Astronomy Club***
Today!

Astronomy is one of the most fascinating hobbies in the world. You can become an involved member of a service organization for a fraction of the cost of a telescope. Your annual membership fee entitles you to telescope time, access to loaner telescopes and meetings, as well as hands-on training and experience in astronomy by some of Medicine Hat's finest users.

Join the Club today and enjoy the feelings of contributing towards and educational pastime for people of all ages.

- ★ Adults: \$50 per year.
- ★ Family: +10\$/extra person per year.

Send you membership to:

The Medicine Hat Astronomy Club
Box 24008
RPO Crestwood
Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 8M8

In 2010, MHAC received a MSI grant for new eyepieces.

The Telescope:

Tube Assembly:

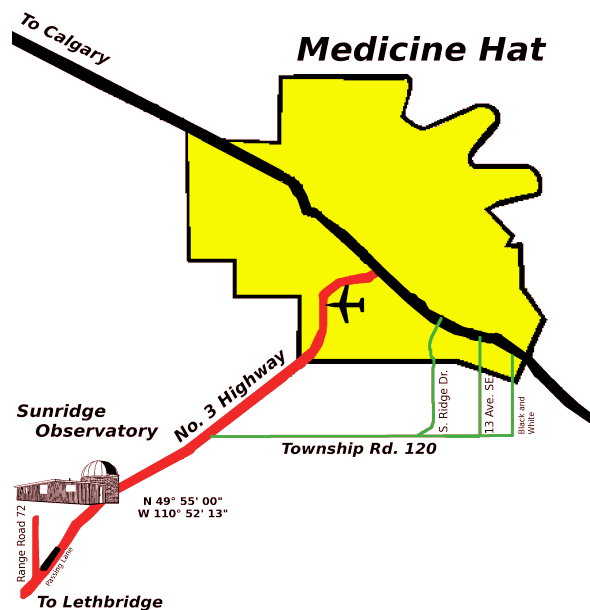
- ★ NEW 18-inch (457mm) diameter mirror with Cassegrain optical system
- ★ Maximum usable magnification approximately 1000 times.

Mount Assembly:

- ★ German Equatorial Mount designed and built by club members Erich Erdmann and John Leader.
- ★ All machining was performed locally.
- ★ Byers clock drive assembly provides error-free tracking for astro-photography.

The Property:

- ★ Purchased in 2000 with the generous help of the Lion's Club, donations and others.



Contact Information.

- ★ Robin Laing – 403.977.1744 (voice/text)
- ★ email: MeSat@TelusPlanet.net
- ★ Praxis Society
email: [MHPPraxis@PraxisMH.ca](mailto:MHP Praxis@PraxisMH.ca)

Meetings:

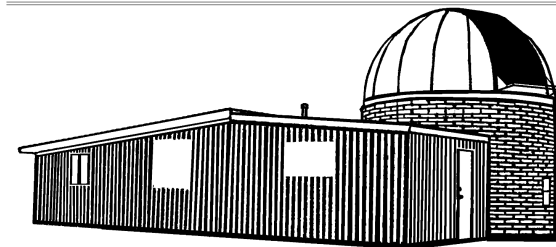
- ★ Club Business Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.
- ★ Members Nights are normally held on the Friday closest to the New Moon.
- ★ All times, dates and locations are confirmed in advance.

Visitors:

- ★ Open House is held on the second Saturday of the month, weather permitting. All times and dates to be confirmed.
- ★ Annual Spring party/AGM.
- ★ Annual Star Party
- ★ For group visits please contact us to arrange times and dates.

Visit our web site for current news:
nonprofit.memlane.com/astro

Welcome to the Sunridge Observatory



The Home of the Medicine Hat Astronomy Club

The Medicine Hat Astronomy Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing the public with astronomy related programs and viewing sessions. We would like to thank you for taking the time to visit the Sunridge Observatory and hope that you will continue to support the Club in the future.

Your Donations Are Welcome