Observers Report

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CHARA Collaboration Year-Eight Science Review
Observing Responsibilities

To assure the Highest Quality of scientific output possible for the PI’s and in 2007 at times Protect the instrument from the PI. In 2011 We have everyone trained well with over 60 papers published and great collaboration !!!

The Observing Assistant has full responsibility for night-time operation of the Array/Observatory, related observing equipment :)

To continually evaluate the Array system status, including environmental control functions, and schedules of the targets to be observed.

Basically “To make sure things don’t go whacky”
2011 Some Observing Stats

- 71 days lost this is average
- On sky days 267
- 10cm~
The most prevalent issues were of 2011:

- Aging telescopes ~ New control software – Balancing .
- Power outages causing system start up problems.
Nights with Data
Weather Plot 2011
Monthly Seeing Averages
Nights Lost

• ~ Power outages - 4
• ~~~ Scheduled and reschedule too many !!
• ~ Tech nights 3
• ~ Bad seeing 5
• ~ Engineering 1
• ~ Murder Suspect 1
Seeing Comparison History
Array functionality

- Array functionality works best…
- Sometimes it acts up slightly as the Sturmann’s leave.
- Switching baselines beams, telescopes etc Operator cadence-
- Observing Memoirs/Confessions ~ Xiao pops basketball
- Lots of fringe dancing.
- Newest baseline solutions ~ Rock ~
- Finder/Acquisition Camera Integration ~ Dimmer Targets are easy to acquire.
- Addition JouFlu
- Climb is amazing !!
Future Thinking

• Programs to integrate this information from
• Other beam combiners into Cosmic Debris - Spoke to other colleagues
• Or generate Somewhat Auto Observing Report into Cosmic Debris, Theo, Nils, PJ Discuss
• ~~~ Needs more effort
Observing Report Format

- **Program**: Beam Combiners are Us
- **Observer(s)**: The Obs Squad
- **Baseline**: All 16
- **Seeing**: 30cm r0~ , 365 days of the year
- **Weather**: Perfect Atmosphere
- **Notes**:
  - Please save technical issues for charatech@chara-array.org
  - Report values not subjective exclamations ie: SEEING: GREAT
  - Remember These Obs Reports go to Important People :-)

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CHARA Information

- Chara has a wiki page at http://chara-array.wikispaces.com/
- Newest addition to Wiki JouFlu !!!
- Also Visit the CHARA web site under User’s Info for operational procedures, site information and other documents at: http://www.chara.gsu.edu/CHARA/data/
- Log in info required, if needed please inquire.
- Please join us for additions and edits to the Wiki.
Thank You - Dudes Really – Merci

• For your including me in your publications:
• ~ Educator and EPO friends return from Astronomy conferences bragging that they know me.
• ~ Rare and unique for special education teacher to have science publications listed in resume.
• ~ A fine example for entrance to astronomy field as a technician.