

ARCSAT Call for Proposals for Shared-Risk Observing during May-Sept 2014

Suzanne Hawley, Director and Mark Klaene, Site Manager

April 18, 2014

Updated June 14, 2014

We are happy to announce that the ARCSAT upgrade project led by APO engineers Joe Huehnerhoff and Bill Ketzeback is nearly complete. The user interface software has been tested by a number of early users, and we are ready to release the telescope to the general ARC community for observing in shared-risk mode during the period Monday, May 5 - Sunday, October 5, 2014. Anyone interested in applying for time should go to the ARCSAT link off the main APO web page:

<http://www.apo.nmsu.edu/Telescopes/ARCSAT/index.html>

Of particular importance are the links to telescope and instrument information, the users manual, and the ARCSAT proposal form. This message is also available as the “call for proposals” link.

There are two instruments that can be used on ARCSAT:

FlareCam has a narrow (8'x8') field, good blue response and fast readout, but relatively high dark current limiting observing to short exposures. This camera is favored for time series monitoring of relatively bright, variable sources (e.g. flare stars, hence the name and funding source).

SurveyCam has a wide (32'x32') field, slower readout and lower dark current, and is favored for longer exposures of multiple objects, for example star clusters.

Both cameras use the same filter wheel, which accepts 2" square filters. Currently it has broadband SDSS filters and a narrowband Halpha filter loaded. See the website and contact the Telescope Engineer, Bill Ketzeback (bketzeba at apo.nmsu.edu) for more information on filters.

ARCSAT proposals will be accepted as text files using the ARCSAT proposal form (available from the website) which is similar to the 3.5m proposal form. Please email the proposal form as a text file to both:

Suzanne Hawley, ARCSAT Director (slhawley at uw.edu)

Russet McMillan, ARCSAT Scheduler (mcmillan at apo.nmsu.edu)

The initial deadline for receipt of proposals is May 1, 2014. The first week that will be scheduled is the week of May 5-11, 2014. Depending on proposal pressure, additional proposals may be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Questions about ARCSAT operations and capabilities during the shared-risk period should be directed to the ARCSAT upgrade project engineer, Joe Huehnerhoff (jwhueh at apo.nmsu.edu).

Some things to be aware of in asking for telescope time during the shared-risk period.

1. There is no charge for the time.
2. We will appreciate helpful feedback while we are still commissioning the new software interface. Please be patient with issues that will inevitably arise. Remember, the time is shared-risk!
3. Time will be allocated in one-week blocks from Monday-Sunday. Please indicate the full block in your scheduling request. The reason for one-week scheduling is to minimize instrument changes and time required to help new users get started, since we have limited staff support for this telescope. You do not have to observe every night, but the telescope will be available to you during the entire week. You may ask for up to 3 separate weeks of time during the shared-risk period.
4. All observing is assumed to be remote. There is no requirement to travel to the site to be trained before remote observing.
5. Astronomers and advanced graduate (PhD) students from ARC institutions and ARC leasing partners are invited to apply for time. Undergraduate and masters students are also welcome to observe but should be accompanied by an astronomer or advanced graduate student. If an undergraduate/masters student becomes an experienced ARCSAT observer, we will consider allowing them to observe alone on a case-by-case basis.