

# KPNO/KITTPeAK

N A T I O N A L O B S E R V A T O R Y

## *In Remembrance of Jim DeVeny*

*(14 April 1943 – 30 May 2004)*

Jim DeVeny died suddenly in Silverton, Colorado, of a long-term heart condition more serious than previously diagnosed. Jim played a major role in the development and success of Kitt Peak for over 30 years. Most visiting astronomers would know Jim for his work supporting their use of instruments and for his management of the Kitt Peak Instrument Support group. Kitt Peak staff also knew the joy of working with and for Jim as he strove to maximize the scientific utility of our facilities with his quiet, competent, professional, humble, and joyful manner.

Jim first came to Kitt Peak on 30 October 1967 to work with Roger Lynds. In these early years of Kitt Peak, Jim worked with Roger and others to implement the use of spectrographs using image intensifiers and to use these instruments in observations of quasars. Among the many “firsts” in this work were the first blind off-setting of a Kitt Peak telescope to a faint object and deployment of an automatic guider. Jim was involved in development of multislit spectroscopy at the 4-meter, and continued to support observers using this mode throughout the rest of his career. Jim’s competency at the telescope is legendary. As all of the Kitt Peak spectrograph instrument scientists of the past can attest, Jim was the true guardian of the performance of our spectrographs throughout his tenure. As leader of the Kitt Peak Instrument Support group, Jim left a legacy of competence that has been essential to the observatory to the present day.

In addition to Jim’s achievements at Kitt Peak, his love of the outdoors and the natural world touched many lives. He was often the leader on epic adventures that took him and his many friends (including colleagues from Kitt Peak) river running, hiking, backpacking, skiing, mountaineering, orienteering, caving, and bicycling.

Jim was active in the Sierra Club and led national backpacking trips into the Grand Canyon and in the slickrock country that surrounds Rainbow Bridge in southern Utah. In 1974, he bought a river dory and began a long series of river trips: the

Salmon River of Idaho, the San Juan River of Utah, several canyons on the Green River of Utah, Cataract Canyon on the Colorado River, and four runs of the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. Piloting rubber rafts down the Colorado is common today, but only a very few experienced boatmen dare to row wooden boats through the rapids of the Grand Canyon. Jim was one of them. For their most recent trip, in 2001, Jim orchestrated a perfect 18-day run—

no flips, no wrecks, no bungles of any kind. In both his hobbies and his work, Jim loved to help his team be at the forefront, well prepared, and successful.

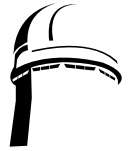
Jim is survived by his wife Maureen. They split their time between Tucson and a Silverton, Colorado, home since Jim’s retirement from full-time work at Kitt Peak in 1999. Memorial services took place in Silverton, where Jim’s ashes will be buried in the Silverton cemetery, a place special to Jim and Maureen, who volunteered many hours clearing and documenting the site. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, October 30, at 5:30 P.M. in the Tucson Botanical Gardens. We encourage friends to send their thoughts and memories of Jim to [jimd@noao.edu](mailto:jimd@noao.edu).

These messages will be forwarded to Maureen and possibly included in the Tucson service. Individuals wishing to send private condolences to Maureen may do so at this address: Maureen DeVeny, Box 351, Silverton, CO 81433.

The family requests that any desired donations in Jim’s memory be made to one of the following charities: Hillside Cemetery Fund, PO Box 115, Silverton, CO 81433; San Juan County Ambulance & EMT Fund, PO Box 493, Silverton, CO 81433.

A permanent memorial to Jim on Kitt Peak is also being planned, for which donations may be sent to the Kitt Peak Director’s Office.





## Imaging at WIYN

*Richard Green & Steve Howell*

Your successful proposal for WIYN imaging may get you time on one of two imagers in Semester 2004B. Some of the imager nights will be scheduled with Mini-Mosaic as they have been in the past. In the coming semester, the WIYN Observatory will be hosting extended visits of John Tonry's OPTIC camera from the University of Hawaii. That camera is mounted at the WIYN imaging port, and instrument block scheduling will generate imaging runs dedicated to OPTIC.

The OPTIC format is nearly identical to that of Mini-Mosaic. The performance advantages include enhanced red sensitivity with little fringing and rapid read-out time. In particular, OPTIC contains two MIT Lincoln Labs CCID-28 CCD chips with 2K×4K format, mounted side by side in the dewar. The 15-micron pixels give a scale of 0.14 arcsec; the format of the mounting gives a gap equivalent to 104 pixels, or 14 arcsec. The read noise is 4 to 5 electrons. The readout time is 25 seconds full format, or 8 seconds binned 2×2. The amplifiers are configured such that the image is assembled from the equivalent of four 2K×2K images. The quantum efficiency of the detectors is

42 percent at 3600 angstroms, 90 percent at 7500 angstroms, and 44 percent at 9500 angstroms. Further details can be found in a very complete manual, linked to the WIYN information page ([www.noao.edu/wiyn](http://www.noao.edu/wiyn)). Click on *documentation*, then *instrument manuals* from the pop-up menu, making sure that you have that menu box starting high on your browser page to see all the entries. We do not yet support general use for OPTIC's orthogonal transfer mode for rapid guiding; WTTM is still recommended for that purpose.

OPTIC's major disadvantage is that one of the CCDs has a number of cosmetic defects. Its shutter action also requires a minimum exposure time of four seconds for accurate relative photometry on short exposures. If your program would strongly benefit from the use of Mini-Mosaic (for example, for continuity with a long-term program), please specify that need on your observing proposal form. We will otherwise assume that we can schedule your run with either Mini-Mosaic or OPTIC. We also encourage your feedback on the relative scientific performance of the two cameras in "straight" imaging mode.

## KPNO Telescope Scheduling Constraints

*Richard Green*

The current instrument suite shows no preplanned retirements because we have tried to maintain instrument availability in response to proposal pressure. However, as our operational model becomes more constrained, we must observe more stringently the nominal minimum run lengths, and particularly, minimum instrument blocks on the telescope. Note that in general a minimum run is four nights on the 4-meter and seven nights on the 2.1-meter, unless the scientific program is better served by a different distribution (for example, if variability monitoring or an extremely limited program is demanded).

One consequence of approximately two-week minimum instrument blocks is the potential for meritorious proposals not to be scheduled. The Time Allocation Committee may recommend highly a single proposal's use of an instrument, but there may be no further proposals for that instrument judged deserving of any time award (or none submitted). In that case, it is quite unlikely that the good proposal will get scheduled. Our advice is to offer an alternative: for example, if you can use FLAMINGOS on the 4-meter instead of SQUIID as an acceptable option for your multicolor program, please include this in the proposal technical section. Our goal is to get the best science on the telescope. Given our tightening constraints, the more options you give us, the better your odds will be of receiving telescope time.