

motion control to facilitate tracking (this overrides without interruption the regular drive system, permitting a forward or backward shift. It has a unique Super Unihex rotary prismatic star diagonal eyepiece holder, with holds 6 eyepieces at the same time, which accommodate eyepieces of .965", 1.25 " and 2". Looking to its future, for some of you who may be wondering, the Unitron can be adapted to CCD imaging.

The Unitron has with it a 4" Photo Guide accessory scope, which has a coated 2-element air-spaced achromatic objective, rack and pinion focusing, a clear aperture of 102mm, a focal length of 1500mm, a focal ratio of f/14.7, resolving power of 1.1" ["one point one arc-seconds"], observable minimum magnitude of +12, and field of view of 3 degrees 22' ["three degrees, twenty-two arc-minutes"].

On top of that, to be used as a finder scope, is a 2.4" scope, with a coated 2-element air-spaced achromatic objective, a clear aperture of 60mm, a focal length of 500mm, a focal ratio of f/8.3, with a resolving power of 1".1 ["one point one arc-seconds"], observable minimum magnitude of +12, and a field of view of 3 degrees 22' ["three degrees, twenty-two arc-minutes"].

All this is mounted on a Unitron "Photo-Equatorial" Mount, which is a German equatorial mount. It is mounted on a steel pier. It has a weight-powered mechanical clock-drive, right ascension and declination coarse and slow motion control rods, a small electric motor for fine ascension adjustments (it overrides the weight-driven drive), setting circles and verniers on both axes, worm and spur gears, a manual declination adjustment, and a latitude adjustment.

The observatory now operates completely on a newly-installed renewable solar energy system. We have made the observatory environmentally friendly by making it energy independent and self sufficient through solar power. By using photovoltaic cells, we harness the Sun's energy during the day to charge the storage batteries that will power all the equipment at night.

In summary, thank you for being a part of this historic evening. If you're interested in receiving regular emails about astronomical events in Rutland County, be sure to sign your name and info to the clipboard in the observatory. Believe me, it's fun to learn about the heavens. You too can find out more about Jupiter, the Moon and the Stars, just as Galileo did 400 years ago!