LBT Observing Log: 2026 Mar 15 UT

Observers: Alex Becker
Partner Observer: Tawny Sit, Paarmita Pandey
Telescope Operator: Josh Williams

Plan:

PEPSI:
ND_gkper/GKPer (needs to start like right at 12 degree)
OSU_LBOISpec/HD63433
OSU_NGC2420/865401378607077888 - aborted due to wind

OSU_LAMP/GaiaDR31048029989398510976
OSU_LiDwarf/1029421854610068736
OSU_LiDwarf/780375667690224000
OSU_LiDwarf/789459076853329920 - skipped, not in readme or uploaded to mountain
OSU_LiDwarf/792020114305974528 - skipped, not in readme or uploaded to mountain

OSU_LiDwarf/1460579671402229632

OSU_LAMP/GaiaDR3 1253059805280190848
OSU_LAMP/GaiaDR3 1605229703165503104

OSU_LAMP/GaiaDR31534484719851800576 - skipped due to wind

OSU_PASTA/HD109286
OSU_PASTA/HD106252

ND_M3Cluster/NGC5272_357 - 2nd exposure aborted but 1st one ok

Summary:

PEPSI log:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/15vGOG1ccmqatfhRYpUOeY1W1guw1jlzk/view?usp=sharing

Issues:

The mountain crew was able to repair the blown transformer this morning. However, LUCI will stay offline for tonight as the temperatures and pressures are not stabilized yet.

Weather:

Start of the night:
Clouds, RH 28.5%, Wind 13 m/s @ 240, Temp 4.3C, Seeing ~1.3”

Overview:

01:28 Opening

PEPSI

01:51 Pointing check

02:01 Collimation preset

ND_gkper

GK Per

02:04 Preset
Faintish target, clouds, and still before 12deg twilight, we’ll see what we can do

02:11 Starting exposure. Taking one extra CD2 exposure and two additional CD4 exposures as we are well before 12deg twilight with variable cloud cover

02:37 Seeing is becoming atrocious. Spikes up to nearly 6” on GCS.

OSU_LBOISpec

HD 63433

03:34 Preset

03:38 Starting exposure

OSU_NGC2420

865401378607077888

03:51 Preset
We will need a pointing check to make sure we are on the same target with both sides.

03:56 Preset

03:58 Starting exposure

04:04 We have to abandon this program. We are facing right into the wind and the DX AdSec ripped. Moving out of the wind to recover

OSU_LAMP

Gaia DR3 1048029989398510976

04:08 Preset

04:11 Pointing check

04:17 Starting exposure

05:06 We lost the target on DX. Two min before the end of the exposure. Sending a new mono preset to the right side

OSU_LiDwarf

1029421854610068736

05:10 Preset

05:14 Starting exposure

05:27 SNR requirement not met. Taking another set of exposures

780375667690224000

05:41 Preset

05:45 Starting exposure. Exposure time doubled to compensate for bad seeing

1460579671402229632

06:07 Preset
Preset is stuck, restarting PCS cleared everything.
06:18 Preset
With 5+” seeing we didn’t lose any quality observing time…

06:23 Starting exposure
Left WFS still has an RMS of 5000, but it probably doesn’t matter in these conditions

06:25 HBS failed. We lost AZ and EL drive … not enough pressure? But it looks as if we have enough pressure. And we face out of the wind, we have the wind directly in out back…

06:44 Josh has to wake up Jay.

07:08 We had a tripped breaker on HBS PLC. Reason unknown

07:09 Preset

07:14 Starting exposure
Seeing somewhere between 2” and 6”, variable and always bad

07:29 We just finished the exposure and lost HBS again…

08:15 Still investigating the cause of the tripped breaker…

We might have a workaround. Fingers crossed

08:57 Preset to take the missing data

09:02 Starting exposure

OSU_LAMP

GaiaDR3 1605229703165503104

09:17 Preset

09:24 We might not have the same targets on both sides. Pointing check just to be on the safe side

09:27 Preset

09:31 Starting exposure

GaiaDR3 1253059805280190848

10:24 Preset

10:34 Starting exposure

OSU_PASTA

HD109286

11:26 Preset

11:34 Starting exposure
Taking another set of exposure to reach the SNR requirement

HD106252

11:47 Preset

11:49 Starting exposure
Again additional exposures to reach SNR requirement

ND_M3Cluster

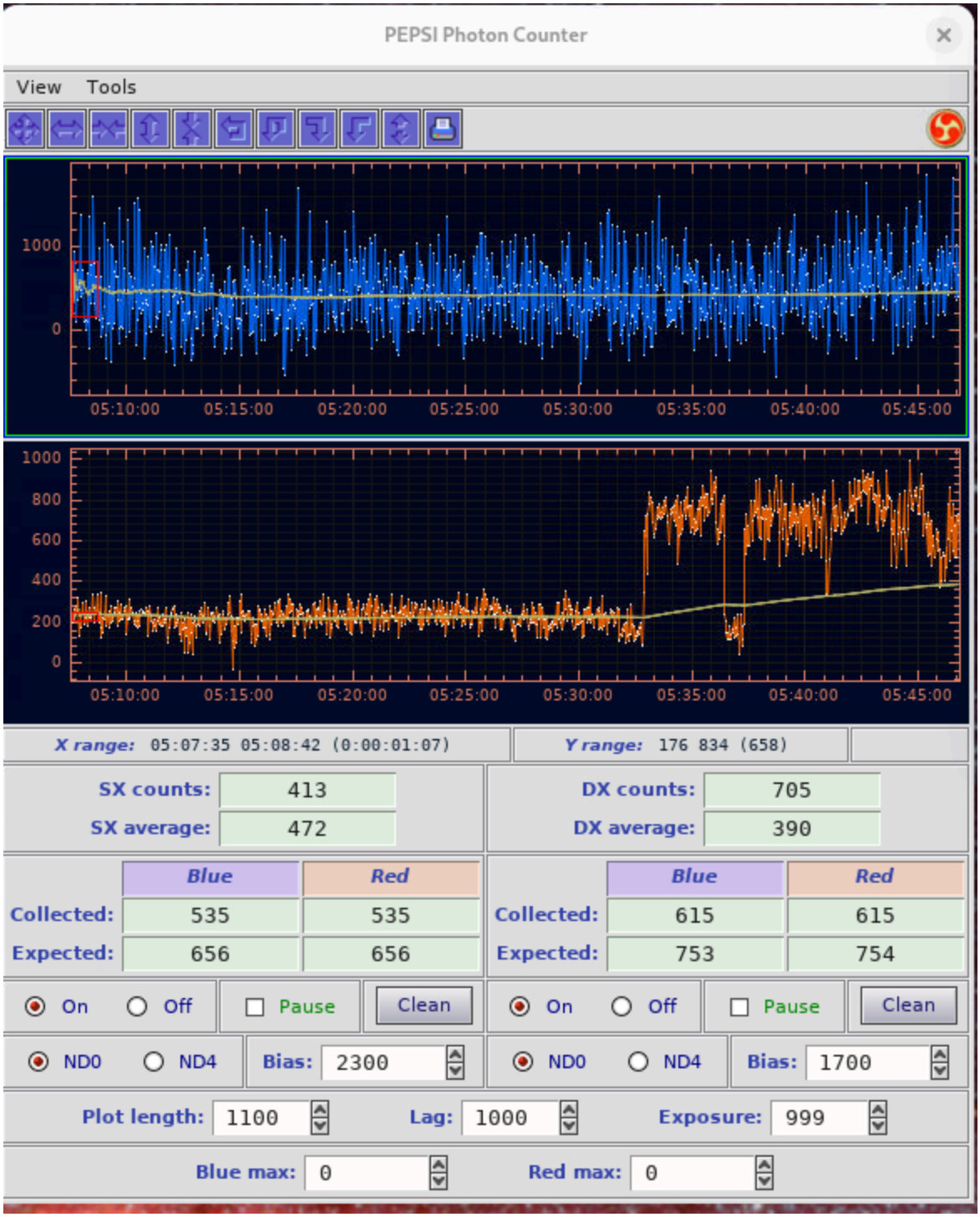
NGC5272_357

11:57 Preset
Not on the same target. Pointing check

12:02 Preset

12:07 Starting exposure

12:32 Something flew in front of our target, just on the right side. This unfortunately moved the pinhole onto another target. We only realized this after about 10 minutes and well into twilight. We don’t have time to take another exposure



12:48 Aborting exposure and end of night