

**2009 Epsilon Aurigae
Eclipse Campaign Newsletter #1
29 September 2006**

Hello Colleagues,

Fall is here and the cooler, clearer evening skies. The summer in Phoenix, Arizona was not good for observing. Besides the normal high night time temperatures, it was unseasonably stormy. I was able to get a few UBV data point on epsilon Aurigae in August, however. With a bit of luck I hope to start adding J and H band data soon. I have also been experimenting with BVRI CCD photometry of EE Cephei.

Paul Bechmann of Mendota Heights, Minnesota has started BVRI photometry with his Meade 2080 8" telescope and Optec SSP-3 photometer. His location's high latitude (near 45 degrees N) will enable him to see the star system nearly year around, at least longer than most of the rest of us.

Bob Stencel reports from his recent trip to the IUA meeting in Prague: "I had the privilege to speak before an audience of ~200 astronomers in the binary star symposium, so I believe we'll see some interest. Specifically, I've made contacts with an interferometry group and a high dispersion spectroscopy group to enhance chances of coverage of the eclipse phases. Local Czech observers, at 50 deg North lat, may offer the best hope for midsummer UBV photometry too, in addition to trying for J&H data from Mt. Evans during summer periods [can this be done in daylight I wonder]."

Wolfgang Renz and Gene Lucas have indicated they plan to experiment with short focal length CCD photometry, using a CCD camera with a camera lens in place of the telescope. This may provide a way to do CCD photometry of epsilon Aurigae, due to the brightness of the system and distant caparison star.

Stan Gorodenski is in the process of installing a new Meade 16" LX200R in his Bill Hills Observatory in Dewey, Arizona. He should be up and observing in the near future. In addition to his Starlight-1 photometer he recently acquired a new spectrometer. His location nearly 100 miles north of Phoenix and at around 5,000 feet will provide excellent dark sky observing.

This is the first Newsletter of the 2009 Campaign. Anyone wishing to contribute to the Newsletter, is most welcome. Please send contributions to me at phxjeff@hposoft.com.

If there is sufficient material I will try to publish at least one more Newsletter this year. In addition to sending this directly to those who have expressed an interest in epsilon Aurigae, I will post this on the campaign's web site.

<http://www.hposoft.com/Campaign09.html>
Jeff