

NEO monitoring from Schiaparelli Observatory (MPC 204)



The 2015 Shoemaker NEO Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the 2015 Gene Shoemaker Near Earth Object Grant winners:

Luca Buzzi, Varese, Italy;
Maurice Clark, Koorda, Australia;
Daniel Coley, California, USA;
Robert Holmes, Illinois, USA;
Julian Oey, New South Wales, Australia; and
Donald Pray, Massachusetts, USA.

Overall:

- There were 19 proposals.
- \$53,250 is awarded to six winners
- Over 17 year history of program: \$323,000 has been awarded in 49 awards (to 39 awardees) in 16 countries on 5 continents.

The 2015 Winners:

Luca Buzzi, operates the G. V. Schiaparelli observatory near Varese in northern Italy. This system is one of the most productive NEO astrometric (sky position) follow-up facilities in the world. They have recently procured a large 0.84-meter diameter f/4 telescope. His grant of \$9,995 will enable the purchase of a CCD camera for this telescope. With this equipment in place, it is expected that Luca will be able to observe NEOs down to a visible magnitude (brightness) of V~22, on par with professional facilities around the world.



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Statistics

2011: 131 nights - 3752 astrometric measures - 1160 asteroids

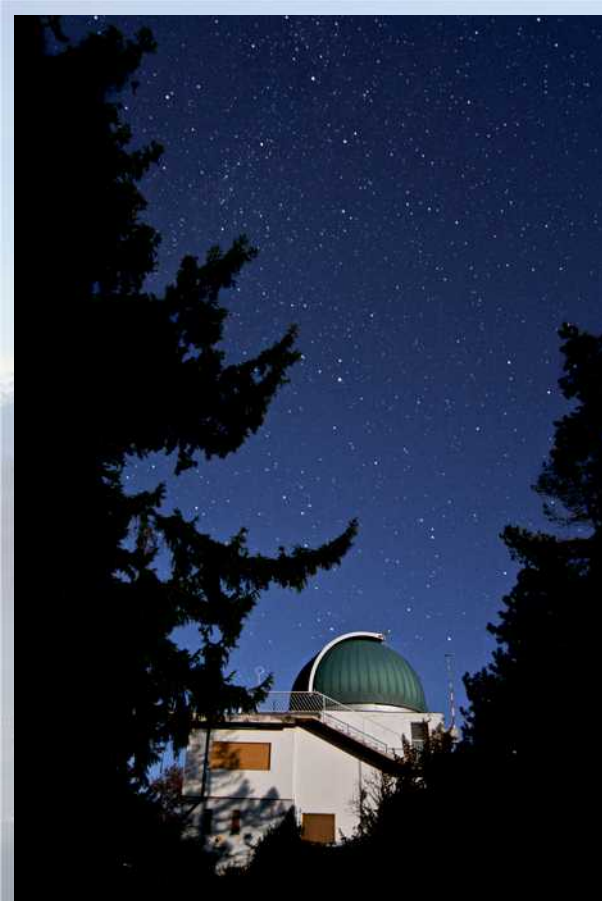
2012: 113 nights - 3588 astrometric measures - 1126 asteroids

2013: 100 nights - 2866 astrometric measures - 950 asteroids

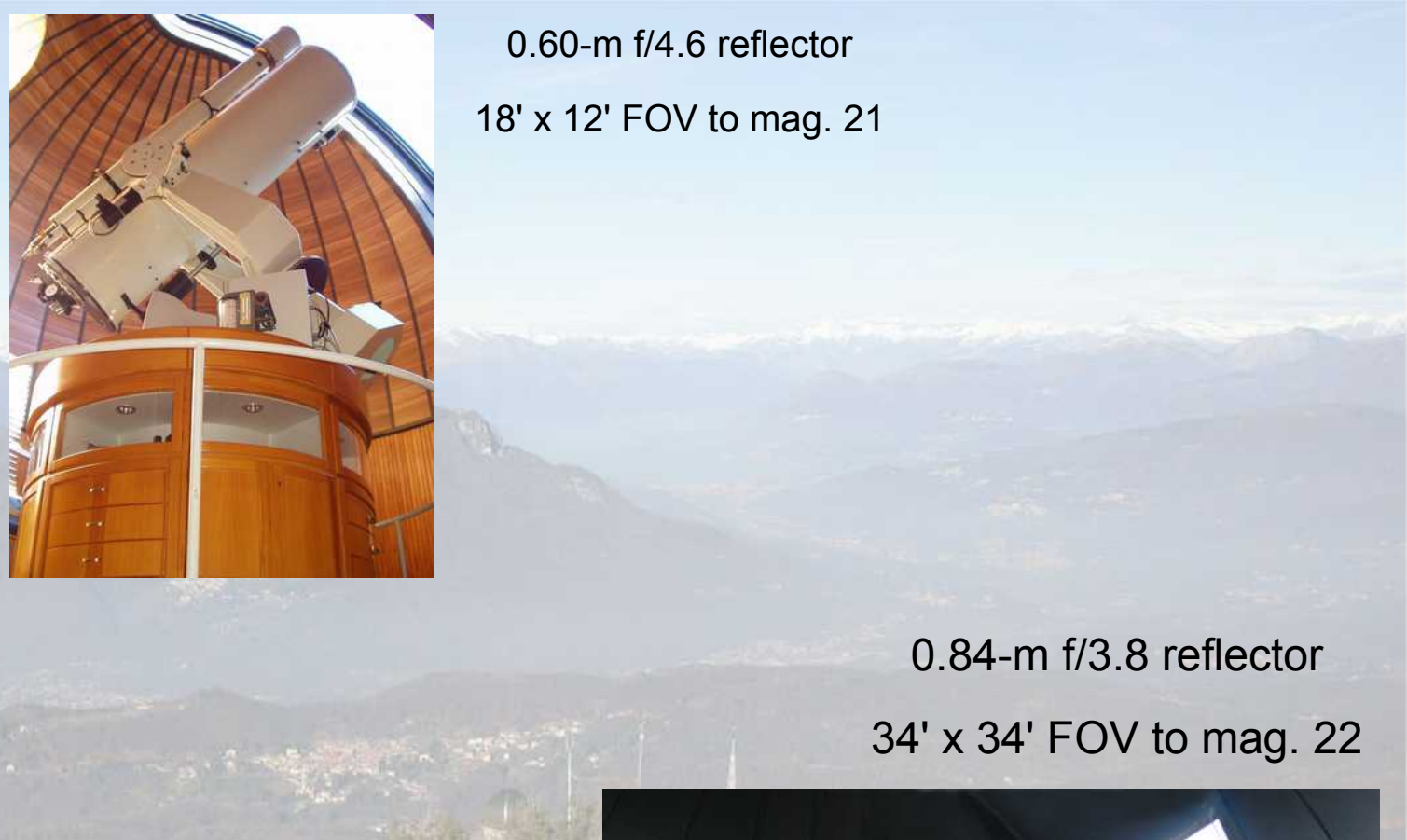
2014: 81 nights - 2560 astrometric measures - 874 asteroids

2015: 93 nights - waiting for MPC update...





0.60-m f/4.6 reflector
18' x 12' FOV to mag. 21



0.84-m f/3.8 reflector
34' x 34' FOV to mag. 22



Robert Jedicke
University of Hawaii

Mikael Granvik
University of Helsinki

Marco Micheli
ESA NEO Coordination Centre

Eileen Ryan
Magdalena Ridge Observatory

Asteroids IV

2015

TABLE 4

TOP 10 ASTEROID ASTROMETRIC FOLLOW-UP SITES (2011 TO 2014)

Observatory	Obs. Code	Location	Lead(s)	Telescope(s) aperture	Limiting V Mag.	NEOs Total 2011-2014	NEOs V > 20 2011-2014
ARO	H21	IL, USA	R. Holmes	0.5m; 1.4m	22	3,418	2,112 (62%)
Cerro Tololo	807	Chile	T. Linder, R. Holmes	0.41m	20-21	2,563	1,659 (65%)
Spacewatch II	291	AZ, USA	R. McMillan	0.9m; 1.8m	20-23	2,511	2,149 (86%)
→ Schiaparelli	204	Italy	L. Buzzi	0.38m; 0.6m	22	1,821	567 (31%) ←
Sandlot	H36	KS, USA	G. Hug	0.56m	22	1,040	437 (42%)
Great Shefford	J95	England	P. Birtwhistle	0.4m	20-21	968	388 (40%)
Mauna Kea	568	HI, USA	D. Tholen, R. Wainscoat	2.2m; 3.6m	>23	937	827 (88%)
Desert Moon	448	NM, USA	B. Stevens, J. Stevens	0.3m	20-21	896	314 (35%)
Magdalena Ridge	H01	NM, USA	W. Ryan, E. Ryan	2.4m	24	854	573 (67%)
Tenagra II	926	AZ, USA	M. Schwartz	0.8m	18-21	782	402 (51%)

NOTE.—The sites are ranked and listed by total number of NEOs observed at each observatory from 2011 June thru 2014 June. Columns are: observatory name or acronym; the site’s IAU observatory code; the site’s location; the name of the current lead, observer, or principal investigator; telescope aperture in meters; limiting magnitude in the V band; total number of NEOs observed during the four years from 2011-2014 inclusive; and the number of NEOs observed at each facility with V > 20 (and the fraction of NEOs with V > 20). The last column is provided to illustrate that some facilities excel at faint object follow-up.



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Congratulations Shoemaker NEO grant winners! These grants will improve their abilities to study potentially dangerous asteroids.

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