



KPNO Director's Office 520-318-8353

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Introduction

With this brief newsletter, KPNO would like to update all of the observatories on Kitt Peak on a range of items. There are several pending items (e.g. on going discussions between the NSF and the Tohono O'odham Nation regarding the proposed building of the VERITAS project on Kitt Peak, the plans of the NSF Astronomy division for the future of NOAO in light of the recommendations of the Senior Review) that we had hoped would be resolved by the time we needed to send this information out. While these items are close to being resolved, they are not, so a more complete update will have to be provided on these items at a later time.

Buell T. Jannuzi, Acting Director KPNO, and John Dunlop, Facilities Manager.

KPNO Update

The NSF Senior Review recommendations regarding Kitt Peak and Kitt Peak National Observatory were generally favorable, including recognition of the importance of all our facilities (KPNO and the tenant observatories) to scientific research and science education. We appreciate the submissions that were made to the SR by many of the tenant observatories. Among many recommendations, the SR advocated investment of funds to address issues of deferred maintenance and modernization for 1-m to 4-m class observatories and for continued instrumentation partnerships between Universities and NOAO.

Additional information about the Senior Review and NOAO can be found at the following:

<http://www.noao.edu/dir/seniorreview/>

<http://www.noao.edu/noao/noaonews/dec06/pdf/> (the Directors office article)

We are also happy to repeat the announcement from earlier this year that Clemson University has become a three year partner in the Mayall 4m telescope and that the instrumentation development partnership between the University of Maryland and KPNO has been renewed for another three years. These events are covered in more detail in the September 2006 NOAO Newsletter, <http://www.noao.edu/noao/noaonews/sep06/pdf/> (the KPNO Operations article).

Mountain and Facility Operations

Since the Last Tenant Meeting

KPNO Facilities staff worked to improve mountain operations and enhance the mountain wide infrastructure to benefit all tenant facilities on Kitt Peak. Since the 2005 tenant meeting, primary FY06 efforts were oriented toward repairing the numerous roadways around the mountain top facilities. Pavement patching, repairs and chip & seal efforts were done on the West Ridge, 4M, WIYN, WIYN0.9, 84", SARA/Case Western/Roll-off telescope access roads and a small portion of the primary maintenance yard area. In addition the UA was able to obtain a discounted rate for repairs to their main internal access road. Other infrastructure repairs included the inspection and cleaning of the main water storage and pressure tanks.

Fees update

The FY07 JUF will remain at the FY06 rate of \$3.40 per scientific square foot of usage. As discussed at the 2005 Tenant Meeting, NOAO-KPNO has implemented a revision to the method used to develop the Joint Usage Fee (JUF). This revision was done to shift to a cost incurred basis and help stabilize the rate fluctuations while ensuring that funds were available for major repairs and maintenance. In compliance with this method, in mid 2006, NOAO submitted a proposed rate of \$3.75 (per scientific square foot) to the NSF for approval as the upper limit on the JUF for fiscal year 2007. This amount was based upon a preliminary estimate of infrastructure support costs for the coming year and to accommodate projected repairs to the water system and necessary grounds clearing efforts. Costs for the previous fiscal year have now been reviewed and it has been determined that the rate will remain at the FY06 level of \$3.40 per square foot of scientific usage. We hope this stability in the rates assists our tenants while continuing to provide sufficient funds to maintain and operate the infrastructure support system and the planned project work.

The FY07 Shuttle Participation fee will be \$3.60 (per square foot of buildings). Tenant organizations are encouraged to participate in the Kitt Peak shuttle transportation system. This system provides transportation for staff and visitors to/from Kitt Peak and Tucson. The operational costs are shared by all participating organizations on an actual building square footage basis and there is no minimum size. Based upon the FY06 participation level, the cost of \$3.60 per square foot was submitted to the NSF and approved for FY07. Increased tenant participation would result in a reduction to this amount. With the increase in fuel costs, this system could be very cost effective for tenant organizations to consider. Tenant visitors and staff are provided the opportunity to ride within the primary weekday bus vehicle as well as the various shuttles that periodically travel between the two sites on a scheduled basis.

The FY07 Meal Charges will remain the same as in FY06. KPNO has reviewed the usage and costs over the past year and determined that the current charges are recovering the operational costs associated with dining services. At this time, there are no increases projected for meals and lodging over the next fiscal year so the current rates will remain in place. These rates will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis and revised as necessary.

The FY07 Lodging Rates will remain the same as in FY06. KPNO has reviewed the usage and costs over the past year and determined that the current charges are recovering the dormitory operational costs. At this time, there are no increases projected for lodging over the next fiscal year so the current rates will remain in place. These rates will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis and revised as necessary.

The FY07 Water Rates will be increasing. Due to the on-going drought and water hauling needs, the costs associated with operation of the water processing and distribution system have increased beyond the recovery rate and increased the KPNO deficit. As a result, the cost per gallon of water will increase from \$0.038 to \$0.045 effective January 1, 2007.

Plans for 2007

Efforts for the 2007 fiscal year will be oriented toward replacement of water system pumps, repairs to the piping distribution system and internal repairs to the main water storage tanks. Repairs to the cargo delivery truck are needed and efforts will continue in coordination with the Tohono O'odham Nation on grounds clearing and reduction to the flammable brush and vegetation to help reduce the wild fire potential. Other areas for work will include remediation as appropriate to ensure compliance with Tribal and Federal guidelines.

Emergency Response updates

KPNO continues to work with the Tohono O'odham Emergency Services group to maintain open lines of communication and ensure response to the emergency needs of Kitt Peak. The nation has also completed, approved and adopted a Fire Management Plan that recognizes wild land fire issues and provides guidance for implementation. KPNO will continue to work with TO personnel over the coming year on these issues and the reduction of flammable vegetation to reduce wildfire potential.

KP Telecommunications

The KPNO telecommunication system continues to perform at an acceptable level and there are no upgrades or improvements planned at this time. The system can accommodate IP based phone connections and a review is now ongoing regarding the feasibility of implementing IP based trunk lines to eliminate the costs associated with maintaining the current T1 voice circuit on the DS3 link.

Data Connection to Kitt Peak

When the new TOUA fiber optic line was put in service back in 2002, KPNO upgraded the connection to Tucson from 2 T1 circuits to a DS3 circuit (28 T1 circuits). At that time NOAO had obtained a grant to assist in purchasing the necessary equipment and a payment was made to TOUA to buy down the monthly rate to approximately \$1.5K per month. KPNO was notified by TOUA that the rate buy down on the DS3 fiber optic data connection link expired the end of August 2006. This was unexpected, as it was believed that the rate buy down would not expire until August of 2007. KPNO has investigated the situation and the records do indicate the August 2006 expiration. KPNO is currently working with the tribe to try and negotiate a reasonable multi-year rate. At this time, it appears that the total annual costs will be increasing by approximately \$20K per year. The annual costs currently incurred with the DS3 circuit are assessed to tenants in April of each year and calculations continue to be based upon the percentage of actual bandwidth usage by each organization.

House availability

KPNO has 2 houses available for lease on the mountain. One home is located near the center of the mountain and the other is located away from the main area in a quieter section of the mountain. These 2 bedroom homes are ideal for usage by mountain-based staff or as small staff dormitory facilities. They have kitchens and are available with rental rates in the range of \$650 +/- with basic utilities included (gas, water, electricity and a phone line). Each has a garage and is equipped with some basic furnishings. Contact J. Dunlop (dunlop@noao.edu) if you have any interest or would like further information.

TERO Contact Reminder

We continue to meet with the Tribal Employment Rights Office to update them on both our internal employment opportunities and sub-contractor efforts. To ensure that our sub-contractors comply with the TERO ordinances, we have developed a one-page form for them to have signed by the TERO office prior to allowing them to start work on the mountain. We want to remind you that compliance with the tribal employment ordinance is required under the master lease with the Tohono O'odham nation and all tenant organizations must ensure that their mountain operations and subcontracted efforts are in compliance. The form is attached and we suggest that something similar be used by each tenant organization to help ensure compliance with the regulations. KPNO staff can provide some guidance if needed and/or provide contracted labor to help support your efforts.

KPNO Capable of and Interested in Helping You With Your Observatory Operations

Kitt Peak has developed a very skilled labor force responsive to infrastructure, building, or telescope support needs. Over the past few years, Kitt Peak has been revising its operational structure and is able to offer support to tenant observatories on an as available basis (i.e. man power available). This support could range from general custodial support efforts to skilled crafts, electronic and technical support. This support could benefit your organizations in the following ways; the availability of labor within a reasonable time frame; the ability to obtain labor in small increments (minimum 0.5 hours) through out the year; reasonable response to unforeseen or emergency demands (may be dependent upon aperture priority, emergency situation and labor availability); the availability of support without the time demands of initiating sub-contracting efforts. KPNO would benefit from increased work with our tenant observatories through the development of a closer relationship with the institutions operating on Kitt Peak and perhaps by the ability to increase the diversity of our staffing (distribution of skills). The Kitt Peak supervisory staff would work with tenant site managers to insure timely response and schedule labor to respond to both planned projects and emergency requests. In compliance with NSF guidelines, Kitt Peak would bill for the individuals' hourly burdened rate with indirect costs as appropriate.

We are in discussion with one organization regarding support levels and with additional tenant participation we would be able to expand the labor force and ensure the availability of skilled personnel to support your needs. Proposals for both daytime and nighttime support will be considered and a negotiated commitment level will

help us to maintain a qualified staff that can provide a variety of support. Please contact Mike Merrill (merrill@noao.edu) or John Dunlop (dunlop@noao.edu) to discuss possibilities and identify areas that KP could provide assistance.

Updated Kitt Peak Staff Contact Listing

Name	Title	Phone	Email
Buell Jannuzi	Acting KPNO Director	520-318-8353	bjannuzi@noao.edu
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Mike Hawes	KPNO Facilities Coordinator	520-318-8734	mhawes@noao.edu
Chuck Gessner	NOAO Risk Management Specialist	520-318-8211	cgressner@noao.edu
Kiki Atkinson	KPNO/WIYN Admin Coordinator	520-318-8115	katkinson@noao.edu
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Joanne Hudson	KPNO Admin Assistant (Kitt Peak)	520-318-8600	jhudson@noao.edu



**TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION
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Sample Form

TRIBAL EMPLOYMENTS RIGHTS OFFICE CERTIFICATION

(Return this Certification to AURA Contracts Office)

This sub-award, in accordance with Article 14 e, is subject to Ordinance No. 01-85, "Papago Employment Rights Ordinance", ORDINANCE OF THE PAPAGO COUNCIL, March 20, 1985 and the implementing regulations issued by the Tohono O'Odham Employments Rights Commission. These regulations apply to the Contractor and any of its sub-contractors during performance of this Sub-Award.

The Contractor is required to contact the TERO Office immediately upon receipt of notification of an award. The Contractor shall present this Certification to the TERO Compliance Office for signature. A copy of the signed Certification shall be returned to the AURA Sub-award Officer prior to performance of the work. AURA may terminate this sub-award in the event the Contractor fails to return a signed copy of this Certification.

Assigned TERO Compliance Officer

**Date Reviewed by
Administrator/Director**

Approved

TERO Fee Received

Date Received by Secretary

RECAP

**SECTION 3 (Employment/Trng)
applies:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
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SECTION 4 (Contracting) applies:

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
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SECTION 11 (TERO Fee) applies:

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
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WAGE SCALE applies:

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
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