Occultation of the open cluster Hyades by the Moon

Vaclav Priban Observatory and planetarium Prague IOTA/ES I am personally the exact observer who waits for interesting observation and interesting results. I was encouraged by organiser's e-mail from the 16th of July and decided to tell something about my private astronomical activity. I usually observe at Dablice observatory in Prague. This observatory is part of municipal company Observatory and planetarium Prague.



Observatory in Ďáblice

My first private telescope which I have made was Newton 16 cm diameter, f. l. 86 cm. I brushed and polished mirror myself and achieved very good quality. I use to go to a cottage near Krkonose mountains (Giant mountains, Riesengebirge).

I built up a concrete pillar on meadow to can observe there. Mounting is equatorial but simple without clock drive only with fine motion on both axes. I brought telescope out and back it was not comfortable in the night mainly in winter because there is a snow.

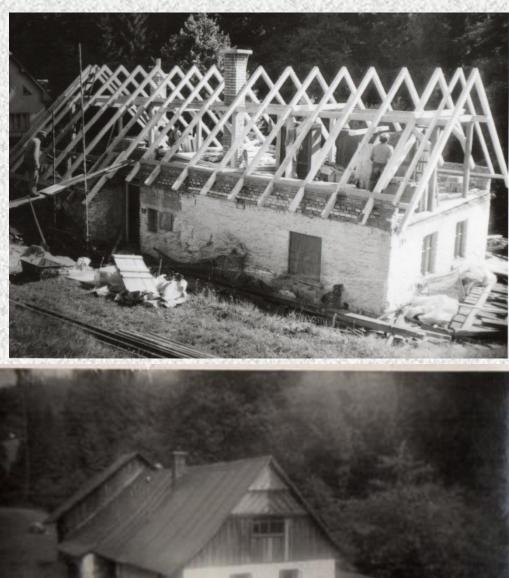






I had an idea to make observatory in attic of the cottage. The cottage is in the valley horizon is limited. Fortunately valley is orientated in south direction so sky rotates above it. Sky is very dark there is not any big town only small town Vysoke is 2 km north east. I use to go there from my childhood more than 60 years. My mother and grandfather were born there so I am the fourth generation in this cottage. Cottage is old mainly roof needed repairing.

I had completely a new roof and asked carpenters to prepare a small gable.







To make a slide roof I had to remove and cut some beams and fixed them in another way not to fall on my head !



Tripod stands by one leg on the wall others legs stand on beam which is not connected with floor.

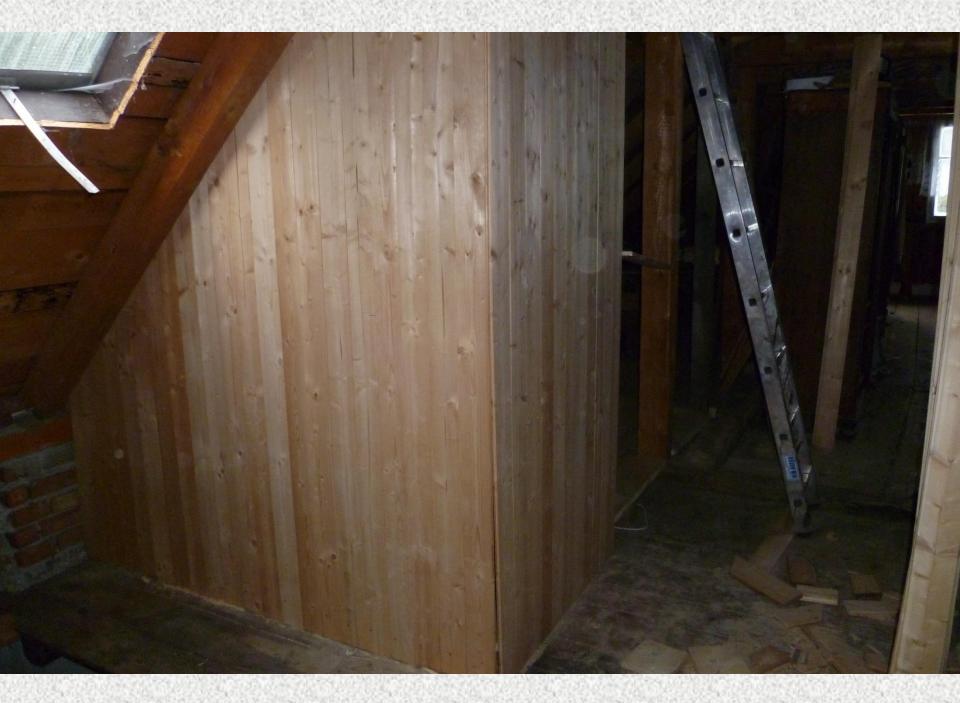
Then I made new floor and closed observatory room with floorboards from surrounding space of attic.





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Then I completed telescope. Here is a finder 65 mm diameter, small refractor 75 mm diameter. Main telescope is Cassegrain diameter 20 cm, primary f. l. 100 cm, Cassegrain f. l. 300 cm.

I did not make optics I have bought it.

Secondary mirror is removable to be possible observe in primary focus. This composition was used for my first occultation observation.







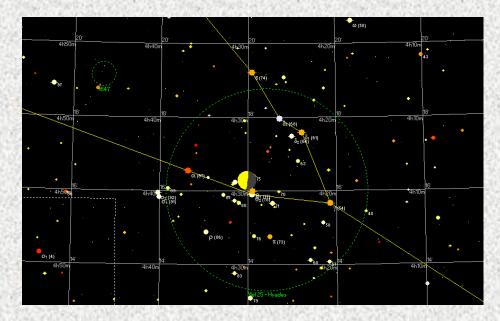
I realized it in the 5th of September last year 2015. It was occultation of Hyades by Moon. I connected all instruments and tried it in the evening. All was OK.

I went asleep because the events were reappearances. I got up after midnight, the Moon was shining so I opened the roof looked at the sky and I saw many clouds were flying across sky and Moon. But I did not give it up I waited for predicted events. I was lucky as you see in following records. [Video Removed]

Added by ESOP35:

Vaclav Priban has observed over 500 lunar occultations at Dablice Observatory since 1986.

{ data extracted from Occult 4 database }



Transportable – the 16cm in use.

