

ERA Container Manager's AGM report up to end of April 2024

General

Nothing much to report other than some new acquisitions. The Container environment began to get a little too humid during early autumn, with the TS20 mirror¹ fogging up. We blocked the two lower vents so that air is only drawn from high above the damp ground and this seems to have fixed the issue.

During the very wet weather early in 2024 the container did not sink, which was a pleasant surprise.

The container is getting crowded so we will have to have minor clear out soon.

New acquisitions

1. 12" club mirror in a poor condition has been stripped and will be checked to see if it is worth recoating.
2. 6" long F8 (?) Newtonian telescope (the white dwarf) donated to Club has been matched to a DIY Dobsonian mount. It has seen first light and seems to work well.
3. 10" F6 (?) Newtonian telescope (big purple one) donated to Club has been matched to a DIY Dobsonian mount. It has yet to see first light.
4. A 2nd 12v battery and solar panel have been added to the container setup so we can leave the red lights on all night.

TS20

The TS20 has been out since our last AGM but not as often as we all would have liked. In an effort to encourage more clear nights I have not carried out an upgrade to the azimuth setting circle and bearings, as well as some other tweaks, but has this clearly not improved the weather we may as well carry these out over the summer/autumn.

Assets in the container

A few useful items to be aware of:

- Two camping chairs and 4 folding wooden chairs.
- A red-light mains powered table lamp
- Several telescopes in addition to the two dobsonians are available to borrow "for the night".
- There are eyepieces that can be borrowed should you bring your scope but forget your EPs.

And finally,

If anyone wants to find out how to help get the TS20 scope out of and back into the container then please make yourself known.

¹ The mirror has a large thermal mass and seems to be consistently colder than the rest of the container during the day, hence he fogging up.