Pro-amateur activities in Ursa and Finland

Europlanet Pro-Am Exoplanet Observations Workshop 2019

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Background and history

Some pre-history of pro-am activities in Finland

- Variable stars have been observed since 1970’s, first as a Scandinavian co-operation, contacts also to AAVSO, BAA, AFOEV
- International Halley Watch in the middle of 1980’s
In 1990’s and 2000’s several Finnish astronomical clubs started to build their countryside observatories.

In 2004 The Finnish Observatory Network was founded to share knowhow in construction and instrumentation of observatories.

Later also some private observatories joined to the network.
Gradually the activity of network shifted to supporting PRO-AM activities (instrumentation and method knowledge, campaigns, contacts)

In 2014 the network renamed to The PRO-AM network

In 2016 official status as an Ursa interest group, network renamed to The PRO-AM group
Group activities

- The PRO-AM group is helping Finnish amateurs:
  - help in instrument and observational questions
  - training in research skills eg. CCD photometry
  - sharing information on PRO-AM observation programs and campaigns
  - building contact network between amateurs and professionals
  - participating scientific conferences
During the last decade the network members have participated in several PRO-AM projects, eg.

- photometry of exoplanet transits
- asteroid search and photometry, eg. NEO asteroids
- observations of Jovian moon eclipses
- supernova search
- comet imaging and monitoring campaigns
- photometry of variable stars
- photometry of GRB optical afterglows
Some recent activities

- Exoplanet transit observations
  - more info in upcoming presentations

- Photometry of special variable stars
  - eg. black hole accretion disk MAXI J1820+070, new variable TCP J06373299-0935420, new supernovae

- Photometry of GRB optical afterglows
  - GRB 181201A, 1.12.2018

- 4*P coma morphology campaign
  - Near-UV (CN 387 nm) imaging of comets, eg. 46P/Wirtanen
Some observatories

Hankasalmi Observatory (A91)

Arto Oksanen

Artjarvi Observatory

Jorma Koski

Taurus Hill Observatory (A95)

Jari Juutilainen