On the days of the 2005 perihelic opposition, that took place in November 6th of that year at λ=320°Ls, the European amateurs observed the Tharsis volcanoes at a very bright state. Especially, Olympus Mons was outstandingly bright. The author observed the volcano as a bright spot easily at the eyepiece of his 210 mm Takahashi mewlon on the night from 5th to 6th November. This was quite a noticeable experience; Olympus is by no mean an easy feature to detect visually with a small telescope, unless its appearance is enhanced by any particular circumstance (shadowy, cloudy...).

CCD Images coming from Europe depicted well the phenomenon. Images taken on nov.6th from CMO observers are presented on figure 1. It was so remarkable that questions soon arose around it. As often, I had taken images on the whole CCD spectrum from IR light to UV, and what stroke me is that the brightness was obvious in all bands, including infrared. Of course, brightness over a martian volcano could be interpreted as a classic cloudy state. However, the season was much too early for this - OM was in its mid-winter season, when there is no water vapour available to feed its orographic afternoon cloud. And, a cloud would have disappeared in R and IR light. During the night of nov. 6th to 7th, DPc also took a high-res view when we can distinguish the brighter dome of the caldera from the less bright larger aureole (see figure 2).

So what is white, and bright in every color? Usually, on Mars only ice has
these properties (whether water or carbon dioxid). A french professional wrote in a Yahoo group that the summit of the Mons must have been frosted (by CO₂ snow), and this was also the conclusion that I retained for my own 2005 SAF report. For any reason, CO₂ looked to have condensate on the mountain, although I had never heard or read anything in that sense before.

The OAA Mars section Director, Masatsugu Minami, was saying that this was a mere “opposition effect”: when our two planets are aligned at opposition, Mars has a tendency to shine brighter, and on some parts, to reflect sunlight in a way that make them really shiny. This hypotesis, however, sounded too scanty to me as it was so bright, much more than it was in the opposition in 2003, when it was dark in blue light.

Yet the answer to the contradiction of the aspect between 2003 and 2005 had been given by M.Minami no later that in the 25th april 2006 issue of the CMO (n°318), in “CMO 2005 notice #03”: “note that Olympus Mons is located 28°N, while the slope of the flank has an angle of 20 to 30°, and so the area looks as if located more southward near the angle (Ds + DE)/2. At opposition the surface is as if in a full-moon state, and the high albedo areas increased their brightness by some dozens per cent and so this difference of angles enhances the particular areas (originally the “opposition effect” was used to denote the brightening of the high albedo areas seen through the shorter wavelengths. Nowadays, the presence of the blue haze is regarded as dubious.) In 2003, (Ds + DE)/2 was more southward about by 6°, and hence it was possible that the Olympus-Mons aureole was less bright in 2003 than this year if the airborne dust condition was the same at opposition”.

As time went by the frost hypotesis sounded more and more strange to me. This CMO notice convinced me of that the opposition effect was the right one, and that the great brightness was due to a particularly favourable angle of view. Moreover, a more careful study of the set of R images taken by Dave Tyler in figure 3 reveals that the brightness also was varying by the martian hour, and was more intense in mid-to late afternoon as the flank of Olympus was turning more and more toward Earth.

Finally we present here on figure 4 an image taken by the MGS on the same day (2005/11/06) that definitely proves that of course no frost was there at the time ; and the orbiter does not know of any opposition effect.
2011/2012 Mars Observations in the Second Half of March 2012

This is a belated report of the Mars observations made in the latter half of March 2012. The planet was at Leo and was approaching α Leo. The Martian season λ began from 084°Ls and proceeded finally to λ=091°Ls, just after the northern Summer Solstice. The angular diameter δ was from 13.7” to 12.6”. The tilt kept φ=22°N and the remnant of the npc always faced to us. The phase angle é rapidly changed from 10° to 20°, and the morning phase increased. The morning belt of the mist was rather conspicuous and the poking-out calderas were often observed. It was notable at dawn there were observed several protrusions from the terminator due to the spontaneous CME and confirmed our observations in November 2003. This kind of protrusions was also observed also in April, and hinted some relations with the Solar activity and the remnant of the magnetic fields on Mars.

In Japan the weather remained dismal because of the southern current of the cold waves, and the Cherry blossoms rapidly disappeared. The number of observers was 32 from abroad while just 6 from the domestic members.

ALBERT, Jay (JAl) Lake Worth, FL, the USA
1 Drawing (31 March 2012) 400×28cm SCT

AKUTSU, Tomio (Ak) Cebu, the Philippines
13 Sets of RGB + 12 IR + 2 UV + 12 LRGB Colour + 12 L Images (16, 21,~25, 28, 30, 31 March 2012) 36cm SCT @f/36, 55 with a DMK21AU04

BATES, Donald R (DBt) Houston, TX, the USA
2 Colour Images (24, 25 March 2012) 25cm speculum @f/27 with a ToUcam Pro II

BOSMAN, Richard (RBs) Enschede, the Nederlands
1 Set of RGB Images (27 March 2010) 28cm SCT with a Basler acA640-100gm

BUDA, Stefan (SBd) Melbourne, Australia
2 Colour images (17, 28 March 2012) 40cm Dall-Kirkham with a DMK21AU04

DELCROIX, Marc (MDc) Tournefeuille, France
1 Set of RGB + 2 IR Images (23, 31 March 2012) 32cm speculum with a Basler acA640-100gm

FERNÁNDEZ GÓMEZ, Francisco José (FFn) Ourense, Spain
2 Colour images (19, 22 March 2012) 20cm SCT @f/25 with a DSI III Pro

FLANAGAN, William (WFl) Houston, TX, the USA
1 Colour Image (25 March 2012) 36cm SCT @f/39 with an ST402

FUMEGA UCHA, Camilo (CFm) Galicia, Spain
2 Colour Images (27, 29 March 2012) 31cm speculum @f/25, 30 with a DMK21

GHOMIZADEH, Sadegh (SGh) Tehran, Iran
6 Colour Images (19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 29 March 2012) (28cm SCT with a DMK21AU04.AS)

GRAFTON, Edward A (EGf) Houston, TX, the USA
1 Colour Image (25 March 2012) 36cm SCT @f/27 with a Flea3

HILL, Richard (RHl) Tucson, AZ, USA
3 Colour Images (22, 28 March 2012) 36cm SCT @f/22 with a DBK21AU04

KIDD, Simon D (SKd) Welwyn, Herts, the UK
3 Colour Images (20, 23, 24 March 2012) 36cm SCT (with a DBK21AF04.AS)

KOHZAKI, Ichiro (Kz) Higashi-Kurumé, Tokyo, Japan
16 Drawings (16, 20,~22, 24,~27 March 2012) 340, 400, 480×20cm speculum
KONNAÏ Reiichi (Kn) Ishikawa, Fukushima, Japan
5 Drawings (21, 28, 30 March 2012) 600×30cm SCT

KUMAMORI, Teruaki (Km) Sakai, Osaka, Japan
6 LRGB Colour + 3 B Images (21, 24, 27 March 2012) 28cm SCT @f/33, 60 with a DMK21AF04/DFK21AF04

KOWOLLIK, Silvia (SKw) Ludwigsburg, Germany
4 Sets of RGB + 1 IR Images (20, 22, 26, 26n March 2012) 20cm speculum with a DMK31AF03.AS

KOWOLLIK, Silvia (Skw) Ludwigsburg, Germany
4 Sets of RGB + 1 IR Images (20, 22, 26, 26n March 2012) 20cm speculum with a DMK31AF03.AS

LAWRENCE, Pete (PLw) Selsey, WS, the UK
1 Colour Image (24 March 2012) 36cm SCT @f/67 with a SKYnyx2-0M

LEWIS, Martin R (MLw) St. Albans, Hertfordshire, UK
8 Colour Images (18-20, 23, 25, 27, 29 March 2012) 22cm speculum @f/44 with a DMK21AU618.AS

MAKSYMOWICZ, Stanislas (SMk) Ecquevilly, France
9 Sets of Drawings (16, 19, 21, 25, 27, 28 March 2012) 400 × 30cm Cassegrain, 215 × 230 × 13cm Cassegrain, 290 × 30cm Cassegrain, 250 × 10cm Refractor, 250 × 15cm Refractor

MELILLO, Frank J (FMl) Holtsville, NY, the USA
14 Colour Images (18, 19, 23, 24, 29 March 2012) 25cm SCT with a ToUcam pro II

MINAMI, Masatsugu (Mn) Fukui City Observatory*, Fukui, Japan
24 Drawings (19, 21, 27 March 2012) 400, 550 × 20cm Goto ED refractor*

MORITA, Yukio (Mo) Hatsuka-ichi, Hiroshima, Japan
7 Sets of RGB + 7 LRGB Colour + 7 L Images (19, 21, 27, 31 March 2012) 25cm speculum with a Flea3

MURAKAMI, Masami (Mk) Fujisawa, Kanagawa, Japan
5 Drawings (27 March 2012) 320 × 20cm F/8 speculum

PARKER, Donald C (DPk) Miami, FL, the USA
9 Set of RGB + 3 UV Images (17, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30 March 2010) 31cm SCT with a DMK21AF04

PELLIER, Christophe (CPl) Nantes, France
10 Sets of RBG + 1 IR + 1 Violet + 3 UV+ 4 LRGB Colour Images (19/20, 24, 28, 31 March 2012) 25cm speculum @f/32 with a PLA-Mx

PHILLIPS, James (JPh) Charleston, SC, the USA
1 Colour + 1 B Images (21 March 2012) 20cm Refractor (with a SKYnyx cam)

POUPEAU, Jean-Jacques (JPP) Essonne, France
2 Sets of RGB + 2 IR Images (19, 31 March 2012) 35cm Cassegrain @f/29 with a SKYnyx 2-0

SHARP, Ian (ISp) Ham, West Sussex, the UK
6 Colour Images (18, 23, 24, 27, 29 March 2012) 28cm SCT with a Flea3

SMET, Kris (KSm) Bornem, Belgium
TYLER, David (DTy)  Flackwell Heath, Bucks, the UK

3 Sets of LRGB + 6 Colour + 4 R + 2 L Images  (18, 24, 26, 29, 30 March 2012)
36cm SCT with a Flea3

WARELL, Johan (JWr) Skivarp, Sweden

7 Sets of RGB Images (16°, 19, 22, 23, 25,~27 March 2012)
22cm speculum @f/27 with a DBK21AU618 & ToUcam pro III⁺

WESLEY, Anthony (AWS) Murrumbateman, NSW, Australia

2 Colour Images (19, 20 March 2012) 41cm speculum with a Grasshopper Express

WILLEMS, Freddy (FWl) Waipahu, Hawaii, the USA

10 Sets of RGB + 7 Colour + 13 IR Images (19,~21, 29 March 2012)
36cm SCT with a DMK21AU04.AS

We further received as follows:

GORCZYNSKI, Peter (PGc) Oxford, CT, the USA

2 Sets of RGB + 2 IR Images (7, 12 March 2012) 36cm SCT @/f/28 with a DMKAU618.AS

In the second half of March, there have been several important phenomena: We just pick out a bit of them, but they are fully interesting. First of all, Don PARKER (DPk) and Jim PHILLIPS (JPh) captured a protrusion on 21 March (λ=086°Ls) from the morning terminator, perhaps suggested by the observation of Wayne JAESCHKE (West Chester, PA)'s observation on 20 March. Especially DPk's image set is outstanding. JPh's set of images in B is also interesting: They suggest the protrusion is conspicuous especially in purple colour.

This phenomenon must have been caused by the arrival of the CME on the Sun which occurred around 18 March. The CME's expansion is quite rapid but if it encounters with the magnetic mushrooms on Mars the obstruct effects work for a while and the protrusion can be seen rather longer. Thus DPk's case fortunately was shot in the appropriate time.

Note that this phenomenon was already known to us in 2003. As was reported in http://www.hida.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmomn2/283OAA/index.htm the similar phenomenon was noticed by naked eye of one of us (Mn) on 4 November 2003, and again on 7 November 2003. According to Mn's impression DPk's image was realistic. It was also independently shot by Yukio MORITA (Mo) on 7 November 2003 and afterword on 8 November Isao MIYAZAKI (My) ccd imaged the protrusion. Apparently at that time the Sun was furiously active and hence we were convinced that this phenomenon must have been caused by the Solar activity as CME or Flare activity. This was long forgotten by many but this time the several ccd images have shown them up. (Just a forerunner Bill FLANAGAN (WFl) observed the projection similar Wayne's one on 25 April to be reported next month). So these kind phenomena are independent of the Martian season, and rather we should be attentive to any local activity on the Sun. We also note in 2003 the observations were tried to long, but this time one day or two day observations have been put forward.

Anyway it is important to pursue the remaining effect of the passing of the CME on Mars. What on earth is the remnant after the rapid passing of the CME?

As the phenomena which occurred at this aphelical opposition, several were reported but one of them was the clear appearance of the Tharsis Montes as a darker spots which were seen trough (or poked out from) the white mist: There are many observations but outstanding clear images were those given by PEACH (DPc) for example taken on 19 March (λ=085°Ls) at α=069°W or on 24 March (λ=088°Ls) at α=044°W: We shall stress that in DPc timing looks very nice.

We also notice the activity of Efrain MORALES RIVERA. (M MINAMI & M MURAKAMI)
Letters to the Editor

● ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: Drawings of Mars
Received: Fri 16 Mar 2012 01:09 JST

Dear Dr. Minami, Attached here are my latest drawings of Mars. Seeing was very poor, so I concentrated on the colors of the lighter area on the Martian images.


Good Seeings/Health!

○ ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: 10000 hits
Received: Mon 19 Mar 2012 00:56:45 JST

Dear Dr. Minami and all, Congratulations on CMO/ISMO's hitting the 10000th access!...it must have been at about 13:50 GMT on 18 March 2012, which I missed as the Access Counter leaped over the memorable figure from 9999 to 10001(see the attached montage)! Anyway I will raise a glass of my favorite sake Minowa-Mon. Cheers!

Best Wishes

○ ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: Unusual cloud on the dawn terminator
Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 12:39 JST

Dear all, The lighter protrusion on the dawn terminator at high southern latitude is very interesting. In my LtE (in Japanese) on 14 Mar in the CMO Japanese version I have mentioned the possible dawn terminator protrusion on MDc's image on 12 Mar. 2012 23:07GMT ω=154°W, seems explicit in RGB and in its each component, as well as in IR. It is delicate on CFm's image taken at 13 minutes before MDc's. Possible similar protrusions, I think, can be seen also on JPp's image on 14 Mar. 23:28GMT ω=142°W, and EMr's one on 19 Mar. 02:31GMT ω=151°W.

Best Regards,

○ ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: Mars drawings
Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 16:52 JST

Dear Dr. Minami, I am attaching my latest drawings of the red planet's "Exciting (or Imagenic) Side".


Good Seeings/Health!

○ ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: Hellas in the Martian last year
Received: Tue 27 Mar 2012 16:54 JST

Dear Dr. Minami, all, I am attaching an interesting ESA/MEX/VMC image showing Hellas in the Martian last year, season of which almost the same as now. For the terrestrial Mars observers it was in the later last apparition when the planet had been going far to be smaller. You can find many informative images on the released VMC images including the ones showing the region around "Wayne's Cloud" in a similar season.

Good Seeings with Excellent Scopes!

○ ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: Mars drawings
Received: Thu 29 Mar 2012 00:45 JST

Dear Dr. Minami, Attached here are my latest drawings of Mars. Seeing was extremely poor, extra-focal Martian image showed rapidly streaming streaky cold air current above!


Good Seeings/Health!

○ ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: Drawing on the Martian southern winter solstice
Received: 31 Mar 2012 00:52 JST

Dear Dr. Minami, Please find attached my latest drawing of Mars. I do hope the recent terrible seeing improves next week!
Hi Mr. Minami, I am submitting this Image.
Mars - 360deg. Here is a composition of images from Feb. 2nd to March 10th (when possible) of slightly over a month and showing a full rotation of the planet Mars. Image from feb.2nd and so on is slightly smaller due to distance and approaching opposition on March 3rd (Sun) and March 5th (Earth) closest to us.

Equipment: LX200ACF 12 in. OTA, F30, CGE mount, PGR Flea3 Ccd, TeleVue 3x barlows, Astronomik L,IR, RGB filter set.

Hi Mr. Minami and Mr. MURAKAMI, Here is a session from March 13th, 02:57ut under not so good conditions, Clear Skies.

Hi Mr. Minami and Mr. Murakami, Here I send my latest session from March 19th under unfavourable conditions, Clear Skies.

Hi Mr. Minami and Mr. Murakami, I submit my latest session from the 22nd of March: Terminator protrusion is still evident on the limb S/T is below average, Clear Skies.

Hi Mr. Minami and Mr. Murakami, Here is my latest session from the 24th of march only managed two sets before the rain; Clear Skies.
Hi Mr. Minami and Mr. Murakami, here is my latest processed session from the 28th under not so ideal conditions, Clear Skies.


Efrain MORALES RIVERA (PUERTO RICO)

Hi all,


Marc DELCROIX (Tournefeuille, FRANCE)

Hi all,

http://www.astrosurf.com/delcroix/images/planches/m20112012/08r.jpg

Best Wishes

Hi all,

http://www.astrosurf.com/delcroix/images/planches/m20112012/08r.jpg

Best Wishes

Hi all,

http://www.astrosurf.com/planetessaf/mars/images/planches/m20112012/02h45UT-WJa.jpg

Best Wishes

Marc DELCROIX (Tournefeuille, FRANCE)
Hi all,

Some preliminary images from March 14th (currently wading through a huge backlog of imagery.)

Some excellent seeing occurred here on this night (a full set of images will follow in the days ahead) but I wanted to send these first as there is much of note, especially in the high quality B filter image I was able to obtain. Interesting to note the orographic clouds flanking the volcanoes notably become weaker and fainter the further south in latitude you look with Arsia Mons having only a very small and weak cloud flanking it. Also interesting to note all the orographics flank the western sides of the volcanoes with the Ascraeus cloud being far and away the brightest and largest. Chasma Borealis is nicely seen in the NPC with fragmented outliers.

Best Wishes

Damian PEACH (Selsey, WS, the UK)

I tried to use Blue image on L to compose L(Blue)RGB image. I did so because the colour camera gave a different-type colour balance. With best wishes,

M MINAMI-sama; I expected the seeing became better because the high pressure approached us, but unfortunately a bit only better compared with the time the winter-type configuration prevailed. I suppose still the unstable atmosphere continues here.

Best regards,

Teruaki KUMAMORI (Sakai-Osaka, JAPAN)
17 March.


The Tharsis orographics were brilliant on the PM limb. There appears to be a trace of dust over the AM side of the NPC. Best,

○ ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: Mars 21 March with unusual cloud

Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 07:58 JST

Hi All,

When I first started processing these images, I was ready to smash my telescope because of the terminator “defect!”. But thanks to Wayne’s great work my scope was spared.


This “cloud” on the morning limb is truly extraordinary. Evening limb orographics are never this high. This feature reminds me of the SL-9 impact plumes that were carried over the limb of Jupiter in July of 1994. Moreover, it is prominent on the red as well as the blue channel. At the risk of sounding daft, perhaps it is of impact and not meteorological origin. I agree with Roger Venable that one must take the terminator into account when determining the height of this cloud. However Mars is 98.4% illuminated now, so the terminator effect is minimal -- the cloud still has dramatic altitude. Furthermore I have never seen a cloud like this even when the Tharsis orographics are on the evening terminator during perihelic apparitions.

Who said that Mars is boring this year?? Best,

○ ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: Re: Mars 2012-03-22

Received: Fri 23 Mar 2012 03:25 JST

Hi Sylvia, Nice images. It's amazing what you have done with an 8-inch scope. It does indeed look like dust. We will have to see if it moves and obscures any features. I doubt that this will happen, since stationary dust clouds are frequent in this region. You have also captured nice NPC details. Best,

○ ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: Mars 24 March

Received: Mon 26 Mar 2012 11:52 JST

Hi All,


I have attached some RGB and UV Mars images from 24 March. Numerous bright clouds seen over Tharsis and Candor. The Ascreaus cloud was very bright, and the peaks of Ascreaus and Olympus Montes were seen flanked by clouds. Best,

○ ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: Mars 27 March

Received: Wed 28 Mar 2012 12:19 JST

Hi All,

I have attached some RGB Mars images from 27 March. The peaks of the four Tharsis volcanoes appear reddish above the cloud deck. Again, the Ascreaus cloud is brilliant.


The seeing was fair to poor, since a cold front had just passed. Humidity was down to 21%, giving me a nosebleed. Best,

○ ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: Mars 30 March

Received: 31 Mar 2012 12:57 JST

Hi All, I have attached some RGB and UV Mars images from 30 March.


There is a streak across the NPC, partially obscuring the western half of the cap. This streak joins a small dust cloud located over the NPC collar. Bright discreet clouds and cloud bands are prominent over much of the disk. Best,

Don PARKER (Coral Gables, FL)

○ ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: Mars images, 15 March 2012

Received: Fri 16 Mar 2012 22:19 JST

Hi all, Seeing was excellent last night - I had a pair of hour to observe before the fog accumulated on the Atlantic Ocean invade the sky...


http://www.astrosurf.com/pellier/M2012_03_15-CPE

The amount and the variety of clouds found on the Tharsis Hemisphere is just amazing! This set is taking at the time when the orographic cloud over Olympus is just beginning to form. They are already formed over Arsia/Pavonis/Ascreaus. The bottom B, W47 and UV are all the sum of two frames under WinJupos.

Best wishes

(Note by the Ed: CPI emailed again at 00:07 that he had changed the processing of the RGB image. The image on Gallery is the new one)

○ ⋅ ⋅ ⋅ Subject: Proposals of notes for ISMO

Received: Mon 19 Mar 2012 04:20 JST

Dear Masatsugu, I have two notes to propose to ISMO in a short delay:

1) One about the trend of the Tharsis orographic
25 April 2012

clouds. Adding SAF and CMO images, I have a full set of detailed images showing how Olympus and the other grow from local noon to the evening. The particularity being that the clouds show a strong westward trailing effect (that you must have seen on some images). Interestingly enough, this trailing effect looks to be a feature of northern spring to mid-summer only: to my surprise, looking at MGS images, I found that the effect disappear from around Ls 140° where the orographic clouds looks roundish (did you know it?)

2) The other about the very weak amount of white clouds in the higher northern latitudes. This one would be a basic note talking about the water vapor cycle and the general circulation on Mars (Hadley cell during northern spring/summer).

I hope that this will be fine to you. Best wishes

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From: Damian Peach
Subject: [marsobservers] Re: FW: A very odd feature caught on Mars by an amateur
Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 08:55 JST

Hi all, I have another reference to add to this X-file :) Last summer Reiichi Konnai pointed to me and Masatsugu Minami that an old HST image was showing a very strange protrusion before evening terminator


(personal processing ; 17 may 1997, Ls = 120°)

>Le 21/03/2012 23:55, Damian Peach a écrit:
>Apologies the link should be:
>http://www.hida.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmomk/2003/031108/My08Nov03.jpg

>Damian PEACH

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From: Damian Peach
Subject: [marsobservers] Re: FW: A very odd feature caught on Mars by an amateur
Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 08:55 JST

I would still go with this feature being a high altitude cloud of some kind. See this series of images i mentioned earlier by Miyazaki in 2003 showing a very similar feature that we are seeing now:


Damian PEACH

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From: Damian Peach
Subject: Trend of morning Tharsis hazes 19 march 2012
Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 09:02 JST

Hi all,

No strange cloud here but a long following of the Tharsis clouds from last monday evening with 5 RGB sets:

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From: Damian Peach
Subject: Re: Hellas in the Martian last year
Received: Tue 27 Mar 2012 17:10 JST

Dear Reiichi, Nice document! It looks like the frostening of Hellas does happen just on the winter solstice every Martian year, although we would have to look for differences if they exist. Attached is a montage I made for planetes-SAF with HST images from 1997, with two images taken apart in 20 days only (Ls 89 and Ls 98). The phenomenon must be quite rapid (the montage contains as well an image of the frosten Argyre, that might happen earlier, but is quite more difficult to watch from the Earth: again a future subject for an ISMO note)

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From: Damian Peach
Subject: Re: Re: Proposals of notes for ISMO
Received: 29 Mar 2012 17:29 JST

Dear Masatsugu, My ideas of notes would suit better the post-apparition notes, I think, from what you say -
they’re not generalist, even if I like to call data from other periods for comparison purposes.

I’m going to propose a different thing for a more rapid publication: recently I have been experimenting the LRGB method for imaging Mars along with RGB, and I will write something on my experience. I think it would be a good idea to have technical articles about Mars observations as well. Best wishes,

PS: So here is a list of future ISMO notes on the 2012 apparitions I’m thinking about, but I don’t know what kind of topics you have already considered -

- Trend of the Tharsis clouds during the sol (from morning hazes to evening orographies)
- The cloudless northern hemisphere during 2012 apparition (2010 as well here)
- A note to watch if we have detected the frostening of Argyre (when and how)
- Brightening of some Martian relief because of the opposition effect (Tharsis/Elysium)
- of course a note on the frostening of Hellas, this one should have a strong comparative dimension (with 2010, 1997, 1999)

○ ⋅⋅⋅ Subject: Mars images 28 march 2012
Received: 31 Mars 2012 22:19 JST

Hi all, Some images from last Wednesday.
Seeing turned better at the end of the session.
http://www.astrosurf.com/pellier/M2012_03_28-CPE

Recently I have been experimentalising with LRGB imaging (true LRGB) using of course an atmospheric dispersion corrector (ADC). It seems to deliver increased sharpness, although the processing is quite complicated. Best wishes,

Christophe PELLIER (Nantes, FRANCE)

○ ⋅⋅⋅ Subject: Mars 20120319 20:45 GMT
Received: Wed 21 Mar 2012 04:21 JST

Hello, I send to you a new picture that I obtain the night, 19th march of 2012. 20:45 GMT
Telescope Meade LX 90 D=203 mm F.25
DSI III Pro Camera. Red-Blue Filters
Yours sincerely

○ ⋅⋅⋅ Subject: Mars 20120322 20:36 GMT
Received: Fri 23 Mar 2012 19:23 JST

Hello, I send to you a new picture that I obtained on the night of 22nd March 2012 at 20:36 GMT
Telescope Meade LX 90 D=203 mm F.25
DSI III Pro Camera. Red-Blue Filters
Yours sincerely

Francisco Jose FERNANDEZ GOMEZ
(Ourense, SPAIN) http://www.aristarco.org

○ ⋅⋅⋅ Subject: Mars 20120315 21:46 GMT
Received: Sat 17 Mar 2012 04:05 JST

Hi. With bad transparency, allowed me a regular picture.
Best regards

○ ⋅⋅⋅ Subject: Mars 20120327 00:27 GMT
Received: Wed 28 Mar 2012 19:08 JST

Hi. My Mars on 2012-03-27 with a regular seeing.
I can only send my images to this address, the other address is rejected by my server. Please excuse
Best regards.

Camilo FUMEGA UCHA (Galicia, SPAIN)
www.mipaginapersonal.movistar.es/web3/c1f2u3
www.ourenseastronomico.org

○ ⋅⋅⋅ Subject: Mars - 2012 March 2
Received: Sat 17 Mar 2012 06:18 JST

Hi Masami and Masatsugu, I send you an image of
Mars taken last 2nd of March.


Greetings,

Simone BOLZONI (Santhiá, ITALY)

Subject: Mars: March 15, 2012 (2nd posting)
Received: Sat 17 Mar 2012 15:21 JST

Hi - I have attached my Mars image March 15, 2012 at 3:24 UT. It is a slight improvement over the first one I sent to you. You can delete the March 15, 2012 at 3:18 UT image from the CMO website and replace this one as a revised.


Thanks,

Subject: Mars: March 18, 2012
Received: Mon 19 Mar 2012 14:33 JST

Hi - I have attached my latest images of Mars March 18, 2012 to be posted.


Thanks,

Subject: Mars: March 19, 2012
Received: Tue 20 Mar 2012 14:35 JST

Hi - I have attached my latest images of Mars March 19, 2012 to be posted.


Thanks,

Subject: Mars: March 23, 2012
Received: Sat 24 Mar 2012 14:35 JST

Hi - I have attached my latest images of Mars March 23, 2012 to be posted.


Thanks,

Subject: Mars: March 24, 2012
Received: Sun 25 Mar 2012 14:18 JST

Hi - I have attached my latest image of Mars March 24, 2012 at 3:35 UT to be posted.


Thanks,

Subject: Mars: March 28, 2012
Received: Sat 29 Mar 2012 13:50 JST

All - I have attached my latest image of Mars March 29, 2012 at 3:46 UT to be posted.


The Equatorial Cloud Band (ECB) is quite impressive in spite of the below average seeing condition. Thanks,

Frank J MELILLO (Holtsville, NY)

Subject: Mars: March 28, 2012
Received: 29 Mar 2012 15:24 JST

I have posted my latest images March 28, 2012 to be posted.

Also, I have included a short animation.

http://www.hida.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2011/120328/s20120328a_fjm.gif

About Venus something is strange to me regarding
the caps extension. They appear larger bright in
On the 14th with fixed images a bright fillet near the
cap was seen separated by a dark thin band.

Few spots captured in dark red light, but with
excellent images. For your perusal.

When the venus phase will become crescent, I will
use a 12mm eyepice equipped with a band of B/W
camera film in order to occult the bright crescent. The
use of colored filter serie will be apply so that the
brightness in each will be quoted.

It is easy to do each end of afternoon, dawn light
and night. I loosed my old eyepiece with the occulting
band, a challenge to install one into an eyepiece.

We will see the results exhaustively.

Have good receipt of the present mail. Faithfully

Subject: Venus Mars observations last 19th
Received: Wed 21 March 2012 3:07 JST
Dear sir, Here are some observations performed last
19th with only the 127mm cassegrain. Still the
equatorial haze on mars. For your perusal.


Subject: Mars last 21st
Received: Friday, 23 March 2012 02:17 JST
Dear sir, My contribution about Mars 21st.


Subject: mars this night 22nd
Received: Friday 23 March 2012 07:11 JST
Dear sir, I think there is something strange north of
sinus meridiani and pandorae fr and northern area.


I captured something away the limb of the planet
 corresponding to bright patch in yellow light sur-
rounded on the disk to a yellow cloud occulting the
features. This is probably a dust cloud storm that I
didn't collect last time the 21st. However on 21st there
was not the pattern accessible as this night. This night
with a similar CM the patch is difficult to see at the
first look. Nevertheless, some drawings here in differ-
ent colors of this yellow cloud. I will try to-morrow to
see if the limb will provide this strange anomaly again
as shown this night. For your perusal.

This needs a narrow follow-up. That recall me the
events of the 1981 opposition, this is similar.

We will see. Faithfully

Subject: Venus and Mars last 23rd
Received: Sat 24 March 2012 23:00 JST
Dear sir, I tried again last night at times in order to
cover the same conditions of mars looking than the
night before. What I can say.

- I did not see some altitude cloud,
- it remains this yellow patch rather on the pole limb
 the brightest color being yellow, yesterday night
 on Noachis,
- something seems to cover the Noachis area and
 Pandorae Fretum area.
 - Hellas exhibited hazy whitish.

The area on controversy is indeed with low contrast-
ed features before this (Deucalionis) but the yellowish
aspect is here.

Globally the images were not at the same quality
level than before yesterday and the event presented
less conspicuousness.

I covered from 18H50UT with the 200mm until 20h00
-20H55UT with the 300mm.

Less conspicuous. On the patch a brighter dot on
the limb visible in green yellow red colors, that may
involve the vision of a high altitude cloud at the limb
by glaring effect. With the 305mm this was not seen
but the brighter dot yes.

Deucalionis was seen by transparency. For your
perusal. Have good receipt of the present mail.

Subject: Mars observations from 25th until 28th
Received: Friday, 30 March 2012 02:41 JST
Dear sir, Here are some observations about Venus
and Mars for the period 25-28th.


The seeing was not negligible and it was a fight to
capture on Mars. For your perusal.

Subject: Re: mars this night 22nd
Received: Friday, 30 March 2012 15:55 JST
Dear sir, Just to remind you the below mail regard-
ing this feature away the limb captured last 22nd on
Mars. The report of 22nd is OK and surprised me at
the date. This was not obvious on 23rd. There was
notes on the sketches that does not appear on the
CMO report, the event disappeared at 20H35UT that may imply this is rotating with the planet.

Regarding the phenomena reported also by the US observers more accurately,

I think if the aurorae hypothesis is expectable, this is not a localised event but covering a large surface area. The phenomena from my expectations stood in yellow and above colors, not in the blue and green portions. The images were very good, not perfect quoted 8/10 at best moments. Faithfully

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2012/3/22 stanislas maksymowicz <stsma78@gmail.com>

Dear sir

I think there is something strange north of sinus meridiani and pandorae fretum and northern area. I captured something away the limb of the planet corresponding to bright patch in yellow light surrounded on the disk to a yellow cloud occulting the features.

This is probably a dust cloud storm that I didn't collect last time the 21st. However on 21st there was not the pattern accessible as this night. This night with a similar CM the patch is difficult to see at the first look. Nevertheless, some drawings here in different colors of this yellow cloud I will try to-morrow to see if the limb will provide this strange anomaly again as shown this night. For your perusal.

This needs a narrow follow-up. That recall me the events of 1981 opposition, this is similar.

We will see. Faithfully

Stanislas

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○·····

Subject: Subject: Re: mars this night 22nd
Received: 31 March 2012 23:14 JST

Dear Masami san, I was just speaking about the event occurred last 21st at the north mars area. I am sorry for the disturbance. I feel something was reported obviously on 22nd and aleatory last 23rd from me. This could bring something for the understanding of the phenomena revealed by the US observers for a side limb of Mars reported. Personally this was at the opposite limb of Mars the night after.

To be frank I attributed this to a storm activity (a yellow cloud because brighter under this color) and not to an aurorae activity. However, the 22nd night report remains obvious. Now I understand that this way of report undertaken visually becomes so obsolete, and more and more, that this cannot be considered. I think the notes mentioned on the sketch add something more than the sketch itself. Sorry for the disturbance. Feels that you will not bother of me now with my dozen of color filters. Regards.

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Stanislas MAKSYMOVICZ (Ecquevilly, FRANCE)

●·····Subject: Mars from last night
Received: Sun 18 Mar 2012 10:38 JST

Hello everyone, I captured the attached image through a large break in the cloud cover. The seeing was poor to mediocre.


Regards,

●·····Subject: Mars last night
Received: 29 Mar 15:24 JST

Hi everyone, The seeing last night was very different than what I've been getting lately. There was no flowing water effect when defocusing the planet but rather just non-directional turbulence. The end result, however, was the same mediocre seeing.


Regards,

Stefan BUDA (Melbourne, AUSTRALIA)

●·····Subject: Mars 12 March
Received: Sun 18 Mar 2012 15:49 JST

My best for the apparition so far.


On Monday I tore my rotator cuff (again!) on my left shoulder so I don't know how much more I will get done this apparition.

●·····Subject: Mars 22 March
Received: Fri 23 Mar 2012 03:29 JST

I got some pretty good seeing last night (8/10)....finally.


●·····Subject: Cloudy Mars 28 March
Received: Thu 29 Mar 2012 02:19 JST

My latest effort in pretty good seeing for my place.


●·····Subject: Re: Mars 27 March
Received: Thu 29 Mar 2012 02:28 JST

That's the way retirement otta be! Nice going.

●·····Subject: Re: Cloudy Mars 28 March
Received: Thu 29 Mar 2012 04:06 JST

No, our seeing is better because we've gone from a winter weather set up into a summer one. Our temps are around 90f in the daytime and stay around 70 until 10pm or midnight then they drop suddenly to 50. That's when the seeing falls apart. Love the drawings you're doing. Tip your eye Dr.!

Rik HILL (Tucson, AZ)
Subject: Mo15Mar_12

Received: Sun 15 Mar 2012 23:32 JST

M MINAMI sama: These are from 15 March. Clouds flowed, but seeing was better and the images improved. Hellas was very bright looking roused.


Best wishes

Subject: Mo19Mar_12

Received: Sun 25 Mar 2012 00:31 JST

M MINAMI-sama; Just finished in processing two sets of Mars images from 19 March. I continue to do about those on 20 Mar and 21 Mar.


Best wishes

Subject: Mo21Mar_12

Received: Mon 26 Mar 2012 02:27 JST

M MINAMI-sama; Here is one set from 21 March. Seeing was rather stable, and the area of Syrtis Mj was well seen. The brightness of Hellas is not uniform.


Today it is sometimes bright but it sleets sometimes, and so next opportunity will come after tomorrow.

Yukio MORITA (Hatsuka-ichi, Hiroshima, JAPAN)

Subject: Mars images Ak16Mar

Received: Mon 19 Mar 2012 18:08 JST

Dear Mr. Minami, I attach here two sets of Mars images from 16 March 2012. The seeing and transparency were poor.


By the way I did clean up my C14 (CP and mirror) yesterday. I changed the color of tube to be silver.

Subject: Mars images Ak21Mar12

Received: Fri 23 Mar 2012 13:39 JST

Dear Mr. Minami, I attach two sets of Mars images from 21 March 2012. Transparency was poor.


Subject: Mars images Ak22Mar12 Ak23Mar Ak24Mar12

Received: Mon 26 Mar 2012 13:35 JST

Dear Mr. Minami, I attach new Mars images on 22, 23, 24 March 2012.


Best Wishes

Subject: Mars images Ak25Mar12

Received: Tue 27 Mar 2012 18:35 JST

Dear Mr. Minami, I attach Mars images on 25 March 2012. Seeing was good.


Best Wishes

Subject: Mars images Ak28Mar12

Received: Thu 29 Mar 2012 02:23 JST

Dear Mr. Minami, I attach some Mars images on 28 March 2012. Seeing was good, but there was a wind.


In blue image, there is some of vertical pattern from SPC to center and much of mist along the equatorial zone. Best wishes,

Subject: Mars images 30 March 2012

Received: Fri 30 Mar 2012 18:27 JST

Dear Mr. Minami, I attach a series of Mars images from 30 March 2012. The seeing and transparency were both good.


Best Wishes

Tomio AKUTSU (Cebu, the PHILIPPINES)

Subject: Mars Image 18-Mar-2012

Received: Mon 19 Mar 2012 20:36 JST

Hi all, Finally got off my bottom to produce my first Mars image from the UK this year! Not bad seeing here last night.

http://tinyurl.com/79rh2qq

Subject: Mars Image 23-Mar-2012 - great seeing

Received: Sat 24 Mar 2012 19:36 JST

Hi all, Great seeing last night. Here's an RGB Mars image.

http://tinyurl.com/6upekml

Is that Olympus Mons poking through the clouds on
the limb? Best Regards

Subject: Mars Image 27-Mar-2012
Received: Wed 28 Mar 2012 19:02 JST
Hi all, An image from last night with rather jittery seeing. Mars now under 13" again!
http://tinyurl.com/d3kne4t

Best Regards

Subject: Mars 28-Mar-2012 Good Seeing
Received: 29 Mar 2012 17:17 JST
Hi all, Much better seeing last night.
http://tinyurl.com/bvevo7k

Best Regards

Subject: Mars 29-Mar-2012
Received: 30 Mar 2012 17:18 JST
Seeing only fair last night. Syrtis Major creeping further on. http://tinyurl.com/ccbv4bp
Regards
Ian SHARP (Ham, WS, the UK)

Subject: Mars from Thursday 10th March 2012
Received: Tue 20 Mar 2012 07:17 JST
Hi, Here is Mars from just past midnight on the 10th March in more jittery seeing.
Cheers,

Subject: Investigations into the Mars edge artefact
Received: Tue 20 Mar 2012 07:43 JST
Hi, As planetary imagers and observers and Mars close to opposition you might be interested in the write up of my investigations into the 'edge rind' effect on Mars.
My conclusion seems to be it is an optical diffraction effect - but see what you think. See http://www.skyinspector.co.uk/Mars-Edge-Artefact(2449277).htm
Comments most welcome.
All the best

Subject: Mars from 11th March and 14th March 2012
Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 08:31 JST
Hi, Here are two Mars images from last week showing some nice cloud details.

Cheers,

Subject: 19th March (and 11th March rework)
Received: Fri 23 Mar 2012 09:17:24 JST
Hi, Mars from 19th March in moderate seeing showing the location of the three Tharsis volcanoes and Olympus Mons as holes in the morning mists.
(Also Mars from 11th reworked since last sent out).

Cheers,

Subject: Mars from 18th March 2012
Received: Wed 28 Mar 2012 08:19 JST
Hi, Mars from 18th March in moderate seeing, again showing interesting morning mists over Tharsis region and a curious darker 'tadpole' feature seeming to connect the three Tharsis volcanoes.
Best wishes,
Martin LEWIS (St. Albans, the UK)
www.skyinspector.co.uk

Subject: Mars, March 19
Received: Tue 20 March 2012 11:31 JST
All, here is an image of Mars from last night in poor seeing, even using IR for red in this case only gives a marginal result.
regards,

Subject: Mars in RGB and IRGB, March 20
Received: Wed 21 March 2012 9:18 JST
Here are two Mars images from last night - one in the natural RGB and the other in IR-G-B. The seeing was still not very good but better than for the last few days.

Links:
RGB image:
IR-G-B image:
regards,

Subject: Mars in RGB and IRGB, March 20
Received: Wed 21 March 2012 9:18 JST
Here are two Mars images from last night - one in the natural RGB and the other in IR-G-B. The seeing was still not very good but better than for the last few days.

Anthony WESLEY (NSW, AUSTRALIA)
Hi Guys yet another evening of useful seeing. Although Mars only appears to have rotated the wrong way by 9 degrees, its good to get the processing practice, try new timings, softwares, filters, magnifications and to observe the latest clouds. We only have this short "Mars experience window" every two years. I must write it down for this one!

Best wishes

Subject: Mars 18-March-2012
Received: Sun 25 Mar 2012 04:55 JST

Hi Guys Seeing was not bad for the hot channels. Plenty of cloud and mist, with the volcano's showing through.

Best wishes

Subject: Mars 24-March-2012
Received: Tue 27 Mar 2012 16:28 JST

Hi Guys Here are a trio of images from the decent seeing of the 24th, showing Mare Acidalium etc climbing out of the morning mists.

Best wishes

Subject: Mars 26-March-2012
Received: 31 Mar 2012 17:39 JST

Hi Guys There are many excellent images of Mars in my inbox. It's good to see them. Here's a couple of images from me from the 26th, seeing fair.

Best wishes

Dave TYLER (Bucks, the UK)
www.david-tyler.com

Subject: Re: We have a freedom to reject
Received: Tue 20 Mar 2012 21:12 JST

Dear Masatsugu,

I quite understand all of the above; I didn't know about these things. I have recently had to deal with a rather unpleasant matter involving the real ALPO here, so I understand what you are saying about courtesy, ethics, etc.

I am pretty busy at the moment but hope soon to begin writing up the Nice and Juvisy experiences --Francis Oger and his wife were wonderful hosts, and we did get a chance at Mars with the grand old refractor of Flammarion.

Paolo Tanga was wonderful to us, and I am now eager to begin serious preparations for the transit --Paolo may join me at Mt. Wilson, and in any case is busy working on special coronagraphs which will be used to image the aureole and allow profiling of Venus's atmosphere.

Hoping that you and Nakajima are getting excellent observations.

Warm regards,

BILL SHEEHAN (Willmar, MN)


25 April 2012

○ Subject: Mars 29 March

Received: 31 Mar 2012 09:51 JST

Hi: Seeing was blurred over last night on 29th: It was totally not good.


Cheers

Sadegh GHOMIZADEH (Tehran, IRAN)

○ Subject: Mars - 2012

Received: Wed 21 March 2012
Sent: 12 March 2012 (Air Mail)

Dear Masatsugu,

Enclosed my MARS observations to date. Seeing has left a lot to be desired plus new lighting at a local garage has not helped either.

Time is somewhat limited due to my wife’s poor health. Her mobility is limited and my domestic duties are more or less total but we are coping with.

I have been refilling my astronomical records recently and found I had completed 60 years of records and had just over 15,000 observations. Of these trough, 11,000 or so were of the Sun. So much for being a planetary observer.

Hoping all is well with you and there should be more observations in due course. The MARS BULLETIN is, as always, a joy to read and for which my grateful thanks.

All Best Wishes

Alan W HEATH (Long Eaton, Nottingham, the UK)

○ Subject: Mars in February and March

Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 00:33 JST

Dear All, Here’s a batch of Mars images from the last month. The most recent image (March 19) is the first with my new DBK618 camera - with some more practise on the settings I’m sure the images will get brighter, sharper and more detailed. Wow, what a difference to the ToUCam!


All the best,

○ Subject: Mars, 23 and 25 March

Received: Tue 27 Mar 2012 14:10 JST

Dear all, A couple of new Mars images from the 23rd and 25th with the new TIS camera. Ascraeus Mons peaks through the cloud deck nicely on the first date.


All the best,

Johan WARELL (Skivarp, SWEDEN)

○ Subject: Mars March 20th

Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 03:11 JST

Dear All, One from last night...moderate seeing but still quite ‘flickery’. The 4 big volcanoes well seen.


Regards

○ Subject: Mars March 23rd

Received: Sun 25 Mar 2012 03:54 JST

Hi All, Last night was a little better for seeing.


Cheers

○ Subject: Mars March 24th

Received: Wed 28 Mar 2012 04:16 JST

Hi All, Good conditions. Interesting radial patterns on the mist and terrain around Ascræus Mons.


Regards

Simon KIDD (Welwyn, Herts, the UK)

○ Subject: Unusual Feature on Mars

Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 05:21 JST

After seeing an image that showed what appeared to be a large cloud (?) feature on Mars I started processing my images from last night and sure enough I have it on several images. Here is the best so far. I have highlighted the area so it can be seen easily. It is best seen in the blue channel.


best,

○ Subject: Blue Channel Unusual Feature on Mars

Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 06:02 JST

This is the image plus just the blue channel.

○ Subject: (no subject)

Received: Fri 23 Mar 2012 01:48 JST
Here is a mosaic showing the "plumes" on Mars in the blue channel FYI.


Jim PHILLIPS (Charleston, SC)

Subject: Impact plume on Mars?
Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 07:33 JST

Dear Masatsugu: A number of American amateurs have imaged a remarkable feature on Mars during the past two nights (including our esteemed Don Parker) in the form of a remarkable cloud projecting from the morning limb at a high (60 degree?) southern latitude. Remarkably, it has grown in size over the last 24 hours.

As Don Parker and I communicated by telephone less than an hour ago, even orographic clouds on the evening terminator are not this high. Moreover, the feature reflects appreciably in long wavelengths as well as short wavelengths and appears to have a dusty component that is very difficult to reconcile with the location and season.

When I first saw the images thought of the famous 1892 observation by Andrew Ellicott Douglass of a prominent cloud projecting from and deforming the morning limb, as well as the Antoniadi observations of the peculiar greyish clouds that he attributed to volcanic ash. But soon the images of the 1994 SL-9 impact plumes rotating over the morning limb of Jupiter also came to mind. Given the altitude, location, and spectral character of these features, I suspect that they may not have a meteorological origin.

Images by Wayne Jaeschke on the first night can be found at:
http://exosky.net/exosky/?p=1606

Parker's preliminary image from last night is attached. I am struck by the extraordinary altitude of this feature, as well as its apparent detachment from the morning limb.

More news to follow soon.
Warmest regards,

Tom DOBBINS (OH or FL, the USA)

Subject: RE: Mars 21 March with unusual cloud
Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 13:27 JST

Hi Don, It might be the real thing. I imaged two side by side brilliant white clouds on 2 Sept 1973 and they weren't near either limb. It looked like a perfect filled-in 'figure eight'. They were as bright as the SPC!! A PHD graduate student at the Washington U Earth and Planetary Sciences department remarked on seeing the images, that it looked like clouds that would be produced from an icy comet impact. I'll put something together for JALPO. Best regards,

Jim MELKA (the real ALPO)

Subject: Re: Mars on 22 March
Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 13:30 JST

Hi Don, thanks for your comment. Here the complete images with the separate colour channels...


This night I could use 1/91 sec. Exposure time with the DMK 31AF03.AS. for red and green. The blue one I took with 1/60 sec. This is the first time that I tried so short Exposure times. 2 more sequences are waiting for processing ...

Cheers

Subject: Mars 2012-03-20-01-29-45-ut
Received: Thu 22 Mar 2012 22:48 JST

Hi all, here my Mars image from March 20th.


Cheers

Subject: Mars 2012-03-26-00-14-15 UT
Received: Tue 27 Mar 2012 02:40 JST

Hi; here my Mars from this morning. Seeing was tricky, very short moments with 6/10, but long times
only 3-4/10. A lot of color sequences went wrong, but at least I could capture a whole sequence under stable conditions at 4-5/10...

Cheers

Subject: Mars 2012-03-26-23-47-38 UT
Received: Wed 28 Mar 2012 13:39 JST

Hi all,

here my Mars from Monday evening. Conditions have been average, seeing was stable at 4-5/10. Focussing was a bit easier than the morning before, where I had to wait very long for a stable phase.

3 more sequences after midnight UT wait to be processed... Cheers

Silvia KOWOLLIK (Ludwigsburg, GERMANY)

I suspect this is a rare trick of lighting, not a cloud. I measured the position of the feature in WinJUPOS, and (if I did the measurements correctly) it appears to correspond to the highlands that surround the large Martian craters Newton and Copernicus. Thus the area in question gets sunlight before the surrounding region at only this time of year. Additionally, its appearance is exaggerated due to sharpening; the area of our planetary images most distorted by sharpening is the limb. The trick of lighting also explains its appearance in all wavelengths from near-IR to Blue.

I could be wrong, so feel free to poke holes in my hypothesis.

Sean WALKER (Imaging Editor, Sky & Telescope)

I would have a very difficult time accepting lightning as a cause, simply because of the prolonged time of "the event". The atmosphere of Mars simply lacks the density for prolonged activity of this nature; furthermore, lightning near the polar areas would be far less sustainable over long durations than near the poles in sparse atmospheric conditions. What appears to be expansion of this "plume" also is evident in images over a two-three day period also indicative of scattering of a possible dust debris cloud; separation of the RGB components of some of the fine images thus obtained by other observers who have posted also reveal a reflectivity consistent with the Martian dust, and not that of atmospheric phenomena, which is currently quite active on the planet.

Dr Clay (Arkansas Sky Observatories, AZ)

Not so great captures, didn't realize that the gamma setting was offset while capturing...

Only took one set, didn't include RGB, Red channel looks to bad.


Ig u e sc a p t u ri n Wayne’s Icy Cloud is not for here, no special features, just clouds and haze. The bright cloud (spot) looks like a reflection of the Sun on a Martian Cloud. On the RGB image you can see a layer
of thin haze covering the East side. Also include a Red
and IR742 images to compare.

Subject: Mars - March 20, 2012 - Animation....
Received: Tue 27 Mar 2012 09:14 JST

Had some time on hand and made some Mars
animations. Nothing special, Just an animation in RED -
IR and Color.

http://www.hida.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2011/120320/Mars_COLOR-Animation.gif
http://www.hida.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2011/120320/Mars_RED-Animation.gif
http://www.hida.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/cmons/2011/120320/Mars_IR-animation.gif
(See also:

Freddy WILLEMS (Waipahu, HI)

Subject: RE: Don Bates Mars Image 03/24/2012
Received: Sat 24 Mar 2012 23:45 JST

Haikei M Minami, M Murakami:


Negative observation of the anomaly reported in Sky
and Telescope at location 190.5 W; 43.7 S. This image
seems to be taken just prior to rotation of anomaly
into view, or negative observation. Anomaly not seen
on terminator.

250 L, f/27, Toucam pro (no IR)

Keigu,

Subject: Don Bates Mars Image 03/25/2012
Received: Mon 26 Mar 2012 02:07:09 JST

Hello all,


250 L, TolUcam (no IR) f/ 27 06:29 UT Seeing 3/5

Cheers,

Donald R BATES (Houston, TX)

Subject: RE: Re: About the Auroral Protrusion
Received: Mon 26 Mar 2012 02:35 JST

Dear Minami-san, I think there is a great deal of
consistency between this theory and the observations
from the time period.

Attached is a map I created showing the estimated
location of the observed cloud, based on my own and
Don Parker’s images. Please note the location of the
observation is only approximate, due to the difficulties
of measuring phenomena so close to the limb of the
planet, due to sharpening and other factors that can
alter the limb during image processing. However, we
think this is close and the measurement was provided
by Damian Peach of 190.5 degrees by 43.5 degrees
south. I note that the location of the observation
corresponds to one of the strongest areas of crustal
magnetism on Mars!

Further, here is a link to the projected CME path of
an M7-class flare emitted by giant sunspot AR1429 on
about March 13, possibly suggesting that the "peak"
observations noted by Don Parker and myself were
the result of the recent, or concurrent passage of a
large CME and high solar wind activity that Mars
would have been experiencing.


If we are lucky enough to have another CME that
will affect Mars in the near-future, perhaps we can
provide an observation alert to amateurs and
professionals to obtain data and see if we notice a
increase in visibility of the phenomena at a time
consistent with the passage of a CME or increase in
solar wind at the location.

I am very interested to learn more of your theory as
well as your analysis of the information I have
provided. With best regards,

Subject: RE: Re: About the Auroral Protrusion
Received: Wed 28 Mar 2012 07:37 JST

I wanted to bring this to your attention:

http://www.esa.int/esaCP/SEMLQ71DU8E_index_0.html

This article from the ESA mentions the observation
of auroral activity at approximately the same location
of my observations of the Mars phenomena -190E and
43S.
"SPICAM detected light emissions in the southern hemisphere on Mars, during night-time observations in the region corresponding to 177° East and 52° South. The total size of the emission region is about 30 km across, possibly about 8 km high."

Further, I have mentioned this possibility to a researcher at the Space Science Institute and am hopeful that we can obtain resources from NASA (preferably the Hubble, but that will depend on the availability of other resources) to image Mars at a time when a large CME is going to impact the planet. I hope you find it helpful. Regards,

Mr. Minami, Thank you for forwarding this information. I will certainly follow-up with my colleagues to obtain observations to the extent possible during the passage of the energetic solar particles and let you know our results. I will identify the locations on Earth where observation of the CM where prior images were obtained will be most favorable.

Best regards,

Wayne JAESCHKE (West Chester, PA)
http://exosky.net/exosky

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Hi Masami and Masatsugu
A March 25th image of Mars taken at 05:12 UT from Houston Texas, can be seen at:
http://www.egrafton.com/03-25-12.jpg

Ed GRAFTON (Houston, TX)

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Greetings, I’ve had a few attempts to observe Mars recently where I had to abort the session because the seeing wasn’t good enough for me to clearly see sufficient detail on that little disk. I returned home from a two night star party our astronomy club held in Venus, Florida this weekend. Friday night was a great night for deep sky observing. I sketched Comet Garradd and M95 with its supernova and enjoyed great low power views of galaxies, nebulae and star clusters, including the fabulous Omega Centauri globular. The seeing, however, was so poor that the only feature I could sometimes clearly see on Mars was the north polar cap. The sky wasn’t so transparent on Saturday night, but the seeing was better, despite the windy conditions. The sky was hazy, with lots of clouds off to the east, west and north, but I was able to observe Mars in a large sucker hole around the zenith. I was able to see coarse detail only during moments when the wind died down and I alternated views at 224x and 311x. I was unable to use my 400x eyepiece and that kept the image scale smaller than I would have liked. To improve the image for scanning into my computer, I made the drawing darker with more contrast than it actually looked in the eyepiece. I think I overdid it in this case and will back off a bit the next time. The separate tonal drawing has been uploaded to the New Images file. This is the most difficult Mars apparition I have experienced. Regards,


Jay ALBERT (Lake Worth, FL)
Attached is a set of images of Mars on March 25th at 04:52 UT. Lots of clouds are showing over Tharsis and Olympus Montes. Chryse is also very bright and appears to be covered with clouds on the terminator. The clouds and ECB were easily visible when I made some visual observations that night.

I hope we get some more clear skies here. I’m still struggling with the seeing on most nights and I’m anxiously waiting for that one excellent night here before Mars gets too much smaller.

Best wishes,

Bill FLANAGAN (Houston, TX)

Dear Masatsugu and all,

According to the following prediction animated activity of CME on the Sun:


we can derive the following as a Time Table of the expectation when we may catch the projection phenomenon. The CME itself is considered to reach the Mars orbit on around 4 Apr or 5 Apr. Note so that we should be on the watch for the magnetic area of Mars orbit on around 4 Apr or 5 Apr. Note so that we should be on the watch for the magnetic area of Mars orbit on around 4 Apr or 5 Apr. Note so that we should be on the watch for the magnetic area of

Best wishes,

Martin MORGAN-TAYLOR (Leicester, the UK)

Dear Masatsugu and all, AR #1429 which now at the rear side of the Sun seems to have emitted a CME on 26 March. See the following animation:


NB. The observations including those in 2003 were carried out as follows:

Wayne J............ 20 Mar 2012 $\omega=147^\circ$W
Don P................. 21 Mar 2012 $\omega=146^\circ$W
Jim Ph................. 21 Mar 2012 $\omega=153^\circ$W
Masatsugu Mn........ 04 Nov 2003 $\omega=203^\circ$W
Masatsugu Mn........ 07 Nov 2003 $\omega=203^\circ$W
Yukio Mo............... 07 Nov 2003 $\omega=211^\circ$W
Isao My............... 08 Nov 2003 $\omega=168^\circ$W–209$^\circ$W

The following are some of the recent associated pictures and old picture and drawing:


Best Regards
Masami MURAKAMI (Fujisawa, JAPAN)

Subject: Re: Cloudy Mars 28 March
Received: Thu 29 Mar 2012 03:33 JST

I knew there was a cloud in Chryse and your image confirms it. A stiff breeze blew up and spoiled my view, so I just called a dull cloud or something. I thought a small cloud was west of the NPC also, and your image has that as well. You must have observed on top of the mountain instead in the valley with improved seeing, huh?

Jeff BEISH (We The People)

Subject: Re: Mars 26-March-2012
Received: 31 Mars 2012 23:09 JST

Hi Dave and Guys, Thanks for your Mars image.
Here a Mars image from 27/3

Regards
Richard BOSMAN (Enschede, the NETHERLANDS)

Met vriendelijke groet
http://www.astrofotografie.n

Refer also to
"37thCOSPAR Scientific Assembly B02-0038-08
A protrusion from the terminator
of the Mars observed on
November 4, 2003"

Best Regards
Masami MURAKAMI (Fujisawa, JAPAN)
Report this month is 22nd this season and treated from the latter half of March to the first half of April 2002. The $\delta$ was from 4.6” down to 4.2”. The season $\lambda$ was from 343°Ls to 358°Ls. The tilt $\varphi$ was from 18°S to 11°S and the phase angle $\iota$ was 28° to 22°. Observations were 66 domestically, and 6 from abroad. CMO Note (5) was entitled “Elysium Planitia Dust Clouded at the Beginning of July 2001”

LtE were sent from Jeffery BEISH (FL), Damian PEACH (the UK), Clay SHERROD (AR), Ed GRAFTON (TX), Tom DOBBINS (OH), Sam WHITBY (VA), Don PARKER (FL), Bill SHEEHAN (MN) and others. Domestically we received from T KUMAMORI, T AKUTSU, H ISHADOH, Y MORITA and others.

As a column entitled “Jeff BEISH in Yokohama”, MINAMI described a detail when we met J BEISH in Yokohama on 24 March 2002. BEISH’s family (his wife, their son’s family) and from our side Morimasa NAKAJIMA, Tsutomu ISHIBASHI, Hitomi TSUNEMACHI, Noriaki NISHITA and Mn and Mk joined. BEISH gave a lecture on the singularity of the coming Mars apparition in 2003 (nearest after 57537 years!).

TSUNEMACHI’s 18th Antares corner is concerned with the Yuzuri-ha (Daphniphyllum macropodum) whose Japanese meaning is to change the leaves themselves from the dead ones to new leaves or the old gives a way to the new. The evergreen trees do this change in the early summer. TSUNEMACH considered this change and the death of individuals. Plants in general take a longer time to die than the animals. It is difficult to judge which is superior in the end as a final form of the evolution.

TYA#080 was written by Mn because the subject treated is concerned with Mk’s note in CMO#116 (25 April 1992) where a photo of Mars in 1988 was used as the 1988 CMO Observation Note (18): Each of this photo was real. Mk printed this more than 100 taking several nights, and they were pasted at in the hospital where Mn’s mother was confined.

The column Click CMO ←→ CMO Clicks (18) treated a large sand storm aroused at the Eastern North district of the China continent. Its effect also reached Japan, and also arrived at the NW district of the US after one week. See the following interesting sites:

http://www.hida.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~cmo/click/cl18/cl18.html (Mk & Mn)