

Organized network for supporting the amateur–scientist co-operation in Finland

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Abstract

PROAM network is a working group of Ursa Astronomical Association [1] for supporting Finnish amateur astronomers participating to co-operation projects between professional and amateur astronomers. The network relays the information on projects, maintains professional contacts and arranges training on technical skills for research work.

1. Background

Finnish Observatory Network [2] was originally founded for co-operation between the observatories of Finnish amateur astronomical associations and private amateurs who were interested in professional–amateur astronomy. Its goals were to help amateurs and associations in communication between professional and amateur astronomers and to share know-how in construction and equipping of observatories.

2. Results and Main Interests

During the last ten years the teams and members of the network (Figure 1) have participated in several professional research projects, eg.

- photometry of exoplanet transits [3]
- asteroid search
- photometry of asteroids
- mutual phenomena of Galilean satellites [4]
- comet monitoring campaigns [5]
- supernova search
- photometry of variable stars [6]
- photometry of GRB optical afterglows

3. Present network

Recently the scope of the network is focused more on private amateurs interested in scientific work in

professional-amateur projects, and the working group is renamed as Finnish PROAM network.

The interest to scientific work among Finnish amateur astronomers is rising. There are plenty of high quality instruments and observatories in Finland. There obvious need for information and support on research work.

4. Goals of Finnish PROAM Network

The main goals of Finnish PROAM network are:

1. Relay information on professional research projects, campaigns and observational requests where amateur contribution is needed
2. Be a contacting channel between professional astronomers and Finnish amateur astronomers
3. Help and train the network members in research skills, eg. photometry and data processing

The network have own web pages [2] and use e-mail and other electronical channels for communication.

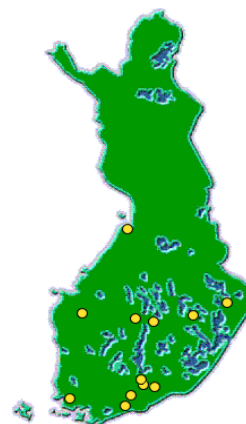


Figure 1: Map of amateur observatories involved in PROAM network in Finland.

Acknowledgements

Authors want to give acknowledgements to all individual members and observatories who have involved in Finnish PROAM network. Also we want to give thanks to the scientists and institutes who have lend support to the network.

References

[1] <http://www.ursa.fi>

[2] <http://www.ursa.fi/torniverkko/english.html>

[3] <http://var2.astro.cz/ETD/index.php>

[4] Arlot, J. E. et al.: Mutual phenomena of Galilean satellites PHEMU03, *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, Vol. 493, 1171A, 2009

[5] <http://stsp.astro.umd.edu/>

[6] <http://www.aavso.org/>