

Our Astronomy Area

By Cliff Hedgepeth

When we got our XT 12i and XT4.5, we found that the Cheapskate Observatory we had build was unsuitable for dob use. So it was decided to dismantle it and use the parts for a more functional observing area.

We had also found that the pick up truck camper we had been using was quite unwieldy to drive so it was decided to remove it from the truck and set it as a permanent office. 220 volt wiring was installed for heating using a 750-watt baseboard unit that was thermostat controlled. A 5000 BTU window A/C unit was installed as well. The area under the over cab section made a great riding lawnmower garage.

The privacy fence sections used for the observatory were used for the entrance of the area and some picket fence sections were used for the back to keep curious kids out. The posts were kept tall and piano wire strung between them for black plastic or tarps as needed.

A salt treated platform was made for the xt12 and a post will be set for the C8 wedge.



Outside of area showing A/C and camper



Inside showing fence and camper. Lights are solar lights with Red LED's installed.



A plastic 6 x 8 shed was purchased from Lowe's for scope storage. White Rubbermaid cabinet is tarp storage.



To the east of the storage shed is a picnic shelter. C8 wedge on tripod and XT platform are visible. C8 tripod will be replaced with permanent post.



Back of area. Post were left tall and strung with piano wire for tarps or plastic.