New Imager for Kuiper Telescope on Mt. Bigelow
By Paul Smith

A close collaboration between Steward Observatory and the University of Montreal has produced a new, powerful imaging instrument for the Steward Observatory 1.55-meter Kuiper Telescope on Mt. Bigelow (8,230 ft.) in the Santa Catalina mountains outside of Tucson, Arizona. At the heart of this new optical imager, the Mont4K, is a high-sensitivity 4096x4097-pixel CCD, with a field of view of nearly 10 arcmin at the Cassegrain focus of the telescope. The detector was optimized for astronomical use at the University of Arizona Imaging Technology Laboratory (http://www.itl.arizona.edu/). Coupled to the outstanding optics of the Kuiper Telescope, this instrument will be extremely useful for a wide variety of research and education projects for many years to come. Within the next few months, a CCD guiding system will be installed to enable long exposures with the Mont4K and other instruments available for use at the telescope.

http://james.as.arizona.edu/~psmith/61inch/

Safety First
By Karen Kenagy and Dale Webb

Safety considerations should be prevalent in all levels of our activities. For example, the IR group has an exit plan in place. Mt. Graham International Observatory has first aid kits in every vehicle. Site personnel were eager to share their ideas with other sites and were not shy about asking for help when needed. Through the committee’s efforts, diverse groups are working as a team, sharing information and resources.

The committee’s work does not stop with inspections, but includes training and ongoing education. Since we have similar hazards in many areas, every group sent people to a recent electrical safety seminar. Attendees felt the training was incredibly valuable.

Soon you will see and hear more on safety as we endeavor to help all Steward employees keep this a safe workplace. Watch out around our buildings this summer for informative notices and “Safety Boards” (on which you’ll find the names of Safety Committee Members).

Think about what you can do to make your job and the area around you safer for you and your fellow employees. Committee co-chair, Karen Kenagy, says she’s learned that “safety affects everyone and your input is very valuable” so if you have a safety concern, please speak with your supervisor or your group’s Safety Committee Member.