



New East Dome Main Telescope and Mount

August 2023



George Observatory
Brazos Bend State
Park

Fort Bend Astronomy Club or “FBAC”

Club Overview

- 501 (c) (3) organization
Founded in 1984
- Club has served amateur astronomy in Fort Bend County, Texas and within the Houston Metroplex for nearly 40 years
- Owns the East Dome Telescope and Mount at the George Observatory

Club Mission

Observing,
Sharing,
Teaching,
Promoting Astronomy

Club Activities

- Over 2,500 hours per year of outreach service at the George Observatory ⁽¹⁾
- Over 1,500 hours per year of service to community through Astronomy on Wheels (“AOW”) events at local schools, clubs ⁽¹⁾
- Monthly meetings open to the public with technical presentations by astronomers

⁽¹⁾ Annual average from 2014 to May 2023

George Observatory East Dome Telescope



- FBAC began operating the East Dome in 1990. The current telescope and mount were installed in 1993 and have now been in service for nearly 30 years.
- During this time, the telescope has provided thousands of hours of public viewing, and was used in the discovery of over 300 asteroids.
- The current telescope and mount are reaching the end of their useful life, and repair parts are no longer commercially available. For this and other reasons, replacement is planned within the next five years.

Current 18" Newtonian Telescope and Fork Mount

New Telescope and Mount

- Expert planning committee extensively researched telescopes and mounts.
- With the new telescope and mount, FBAC will be able to continue its long history of public outreach and scientific research at the George Observatory.
- The recommended new equipment is a Dall-Kirkam telescope ~17" and a German Equatorial Mount.
- The new telescope will be similar in size to the current 18" telescope and have high quality optics. The mount will have excellent tracking capabilities.
- Together, the new equipment will support electronic assisted astronomy (EAA), visual observing and astrophotography for many decades to come.

(1) The telescope and mount pictured represent a preliminary selection only, with a final selection to be made near time of order to optimize features and quality of equipment.

17" AG
Optical
Dall
Kirkham
Telescope
(1)

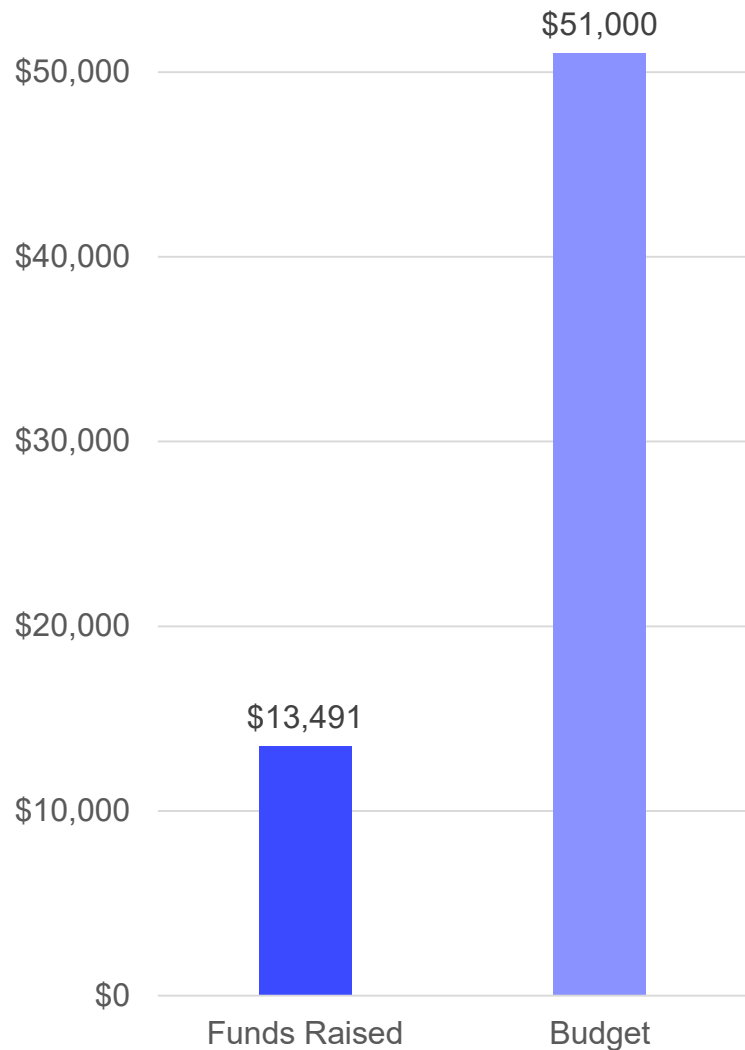


Astro-Physics
1600 GTO
GEM mount (1)



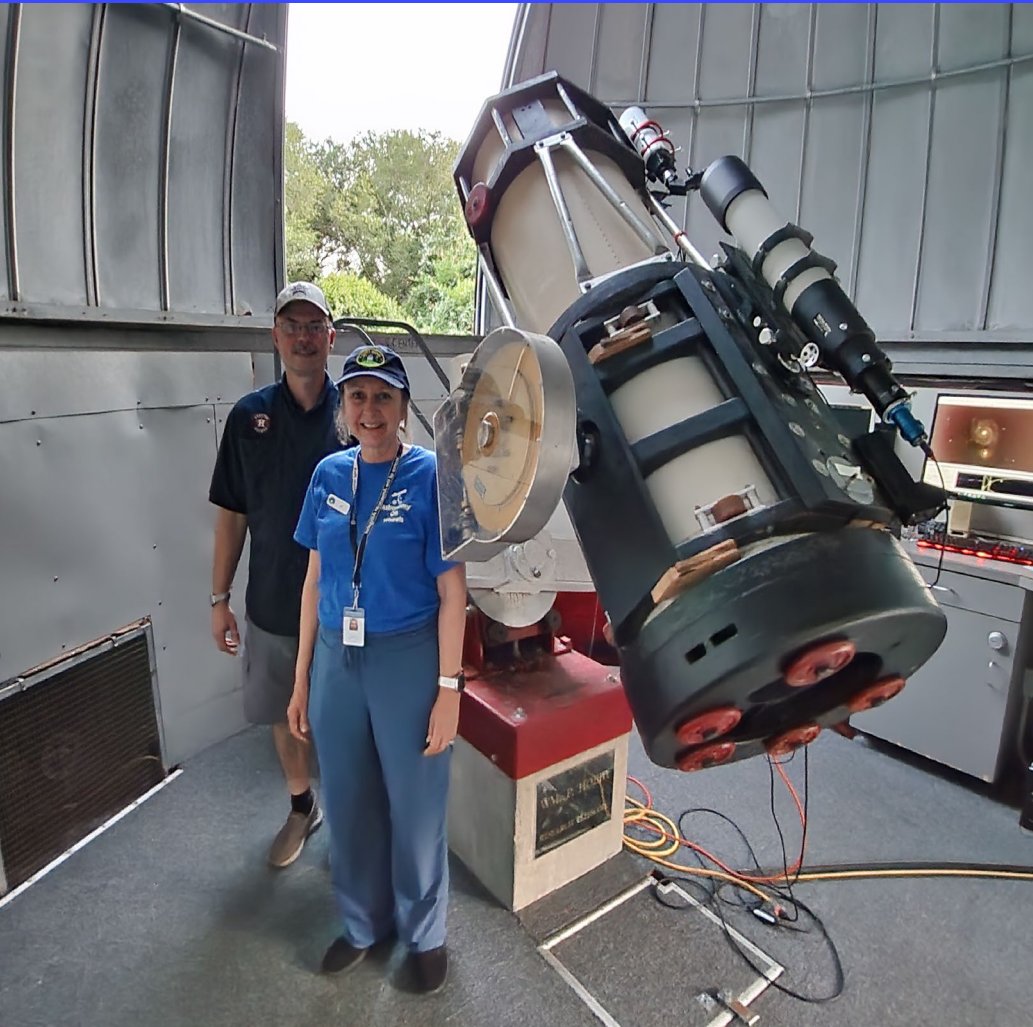
Realizing the Vision

Goal: \$51,000



- FBAC members overwhelmingly approved the “New East Dome Main Telescope and Mount” project in April 2023.
- FBAC is now working to collect the funds that are needed to realize our vision.
- We request your financial support in this effort!
- The support of you and others will enable FBAC to continue delivering on its mission of Observing, Sharing, Teaching, and Promoting Astronomy, to the benefit of children and adults.

How You Can Contribute!



- FBAC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a 509(a)(2) public charity.
- Contributions can be made by:
 - Personal check made payable to “Fort Bend Astronomy Club” and mailed to FBAC, P.O. Box 942, Stafford, Texas 77497.
 - FBAC PayPal account or Zelle at fbac.treasurer@gmail.com
- Please designate on your payment that the donation is for the “New East Dome Main Telescope and Mount”.

Jeff Lepp and Liz Prochnow inside the East Dome