



The John J. McCarthy Observatory at the New Milford High School New Milford, Connecticut



May 14, 2001

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Dear Friends,

We would like to thank you again for the donation of a Frame Grabber and supporting software to the John J. McCarthy Observatory at New Milford High School. The generosity of EPIX and many other local and nation corporations has been instrumental in making the JJMO a one-of-a-kind resource in the nation for K-12 science education.

In September of 2000, New Milford dedicated a new high school. This new school was designed with the knowledge that our students will be expected to enter a very competitive society. Our challenge to every student who attends New Milford High School is to take full advantage of the numerous opportunities while here.

Unique among those opportunities is the John J. McCarthy Observatory. The observatory, through the wide variety of educational and scientific endeavors it supports, will serve many purposes. For students, it will act as a catalyst for general interest in science, and provide in-depth opportunities in the K-12 curriculum. It will allow pursuit of many focused areas of science for citizens of all ages as well as providing a means to pursue the fascinating pastime of learning the heavens.

The Western Connecticut Chapter of the Society of Amateur Scientists is the principal organization responsible for the fund raising, construction and operation of the observatory. The WCCSAS team strongly believes that this resource will contribute greatly to improving scientific literacy in the current and future population of New Milford and the surrounding area.

The EPIX frame grabber and software will be initially used in a demonstration of the effects of atmospheric turbulence on the image quality of stars. No doubt it will find many other uses over the years. One of the important aspects of encouraging high school students to explore scientific endeavors is giving them the sense that they are doing something new and unique. The EPIX donation goes a long way in that effort. We will be sure to keep EPIX informed about our progress.

Again, thanks EPIX very much for the donation. In particular Mr. Dijak, for being so helpful and supportive of our project.

Sincerely,

Donald P. Fiftal

Principal NMHS

Monty Robson

President WCCSAS

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