

Hi CBAers,

Another ice storm here in upstate NY... but the calendar says it's time for the new season, and therefore new targets. Comments on the old:

1. **AT Cnc.** Just haven't converged on a solution. There's a periodic signal around 52 cycles/day, which sometimes looks strictly periodic, and other times like a QPO (sloppy in phase). Too uncertain to proceed with publication, and too late in the season to improve. Next year!
2. **AM CVn.** Great coverage from many observers. This year's data nails down the long-term orbital ephemeris, and the result, to my great surprise, is a 40-year-long shortening of P_{orb} . A shocker, cuz the standard model calls for period increase. Writing it up now for publication. Another 2 weeks of coverage would be good, but we should gradually shift to HP Lib, and try to do a similar job.
3. **IPs.** Lots of data, especially from Shawn Dvorak. His observing style (numerous runs of ~3 hours) is optimum for the long-term tracking of the pulse period, although not for probing the *binary* structure (which calls for very long runs back-to-back, preferably at different Earthly longitudes). The spring-summer tracking of IPs will be more challenging, since so many of the stars are in/near the Galactic bulge (and hence poorly placed for northern observers).
4. **V407 Lup.** Superb coverage of this 2016 nova by Gordon, with all the works: frequencies of the orbit, WD spin, and spin minus orbit. I recommend just a few more runs over the next two months, then another flurry in June/July, so we can get enough time baseline to bridge to next year (and hence get higher precision).
5. **MAXI 1830+07.** The first HST observation is over; another will happen soon. Let's keep after it!
6. **HZ Pup.** The best season yet for this old nova. Done for the year, and time for me to write it up. That's what they make summers for.
7. **V598 Pup.** I first learned in 2018 about this stange "2007 nova". Gordon and Berto have been tracking it. We have a nice short period, but it doesn't fit into any standard category. If it's possible to get 2-hour runs this late in the season, that would be great. Otherwise we'll pick it back up in Sep/Oct.

Now comes the new.

1. **V1369 Cen**. Berto has been carrying the ball alone for this 2013 gamma-ray nova. Let's back that up with other southern coverage.

2. **HP Lib**. The brightest of all AM CVns. Really well-placed, available to all hemispheres, so we can truly get round-the-world coverage (no reason to fear the Pacific Ocean). Let's start up a 2-month intensive campaign.

3. **DD Cir** (1999 nova). Really good southern target, transiting near midnight now. We've never observed it - an impeachable offense if it's brighter than 18 (not sure). Novae with $P_{orb} = 2.3$ hours are never to be skipped!

4. **EX Hya** - a few runs to tune up the orbital and rotational ephemerides.

5. **IM Nor**. It's that season again, just in time to sneak into in our paper, which is 95% finished. The individual eclipses are hard to spot, but they're easy in the nightly averages.

Now for northern guys:

After AM CVn, I recommend **HP Lib** (close enough to being northern) and **CR Boo** in that class (the helium guys). And among more normal CVs, **LX Ser**, **NY Ser**, and **V355 UMa**. All stars we know something about, but have never done detailed campaigns. Time to remedy that oversight.

joe