Hi CBAers,

It's the last of our winter storms! Ha... but the calendar says that the stars have swung around another month. So at least we have that. Some ongoing or new campaigns (but pay special attention to #10 and #11):

1. AT Cnc. Superb coverage from many people, especially John Rock and Jim Seargeant. I'm still hunkering over this data... but upon analysis we will have learned whatever's extractable from a season's coverage. So let's get on with the rest of the sky!

2. CP Pup. I'd say, suspend this one too. Lots of data from Berto and Josch, as usual, and the possibility of TESS help. My guess is that we should quit now and move on.

3. HT Cam. Calls for sporadic coverage - occasional night here and there, throughout the long observing season. Life is good in the Giraffe.

4. "UMa 6" (designation in the Downes & Shara catalog). Jonathan has a bunch of runs from Vermont. We need some LONG runs from Europe. Perfectly located for us Northerners! Haven't peered at this guy for a long time. Long Porb, so make the runs long.

5. WX Pyx and DW Cnc. Two short-Porb guys with pretty long Prots. These generally need more extensive coverage to disentangle the signals. Good targets, although you might find WX Pyx in a very faint state (18th mag!). I'm on the fence about these two. If you can possibly do WX Pyx (don't worry about time resolution!), then it's a very good target now (uniquely faint state).

6. AM CVn. Some people have started in a big way, esp. David Cejudo (Spain). This is definitely a high priority for the next 2 months. The star has many quasi-stable periods (all related to superhumps), and one weak stable signal, at 1028.7322 seconds. It's the prototype "ultracompact binary", and we're the only ones who have been able to accurately measure that period. Now the challenge is to measure how the period changes with time. I believe 2019 data will nail that down. Actually I think last year's did; but the best test is whether the old ephemeris successfully predicts the next year's timings. Let's find out!

European observations well east of the meridian, and USA observations west of the meridian, are of extra value - because a LONG daily baseline is the key to deciphering the precise period structure of this multi-periodic star.

7. T Pyx. Let's get a few weeks on this old favorite. Like AM CVn,

we know the period to about 5 decimal places; but now the interesting questions are in the 6th and 7th places. Longish runs are needed.

8. HZ Pup. Great year on this mostly unpublished IP and nova. We can quit now.

9. BH Lyn. Looking for a good northern target to return to every night for long runs? Good choice. We have significant data from past years, and there's an obvious superhump. But we have never solved the daily alias problem, which means that we don't know if it's a positive or negative superhump. A good season on this will redeem our previous coverage, plus add one more year.

10. POLARS! 5 of them: VVPup, ST LMi, V2301 Oph, UZ For, EP Dra. We have X-ray observing proposals ready to go on these, but THEY NEED TO BE IN A HIGH STATE. So if you could obtain a 2-hour time series in V light, that would answer the question for sure. No worries about time resolution. The "2 hours" request is meant to cover the orbital variations, which can be large. The reason for requesting V is that these stars can have huge color variations around the orbit (cyclotron radiation). But if you don't have a good V, then go unfiltered. And if you can't obtain 2 hours, then just do what you can. Even a snapshot well-calibrated magnitude would be useful, since this is just a yes/no bright/faint question.

11. We'll have a “joint” SAS/CBA meeting this year in Ontario, CA May 30-June 1, 2019. This means one CBA meeting during/after lunch on Saturday, plus some slots for CBAers to give short talks to the assembled multitude. As an alternative to that, we could grab one of the small rooms for presentations within our own group; either would be a good way to grow our roster.

http://www.socastrosci.org/Symposium.html

joe