

Abstract Submitted  
for the 4CF10 Meeting of  
The American Physical Society

**Commissioning and “First-Light” of the Willard L. Eccles Observatory at Frisco Peak** WAYNE SPRINGER, KYLE DAWSON, PAUL RICKETTS, NICOLAS RAMSRUD, UPUL SAMARASINGHA, University of Utah — The University of Utah completed construction of the Willard L. Eccles Observatory located on Frisco Peak near Milford, Utah in October 2009. The observatory site is located on a prominent peak at an altitude of approximately 9600 feet in a region with minimal light pollution. The Frisco Peak site was chosen after careful consideration of many factors including climate, light pollution and available infrastructure. The facility houses a 32” Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope manufactured by DFM Engineering of Longmont, CO. Commissioning and development of remote operation capabilities is currently being undertaken. Monitoring of the weather and seeing conditions are being performed and confirm the excellent nature of the site for astronomical observations. The observatory facilities will be used for educational and public outreach activities as well as research projects. A description of the facility and its planned use will be provided. Measurements of the “seeing” and night sky background from images obtained with the telescope will also be presented.

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Date submitted: 10 Sep 2010

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