

Argentina deployment plan for 2017-06-03 occultation by 2014MU69

May 26

Buie and Tamblyn depart from Denver for Argentina.

May 27

Advance team arrives for initial reconnaissance (Buie and Tamblyn).

May 28

Observing teams depart the US, overnight flight to Santiago/Buenos Aires then on to Mendoza.

May 29

Equipment delivered to Mendoza by this time and available for pick up. There should be an option to setup and test the equipment in one location on this night. This practice night could involve just a subset of the equipment. The number of vehicles needed this day is 13 (one for each telescope/team and one for the floaters). Note that all lodging will be in Mendoza (Sheraton or Park Hyatt). Acquire vehicles. Pick up equipment if possible. Scouting of locations will be done by various team members as they have time.

May 30

Full practice night in group location near Mendoza. Goal is to collect test data on the field at the same local time as the event. Pick up all equipment if unable to do so on May 29.

May 31

Second full practice night in ***anticipated deployment location***.

June 1

Third practice night, group location. This night will be dominated by solving problems revealed by May 31.

June 2 - event observing night (12:16 am, 00:16 local time)

Make the final determination on deployment locations in consultation with South African teams and based on latest weather forecasts. Teams will deploy from Mendoza to assigned observing locations. The goal is for each team to arrive between 1-2 hours before event time. Longest estimated drive time is 4 hours for the most distant observing site. Setup telescope, acquire field, then take data at the predicted time. The total data collection time is 45 minutes centered on event mid-time.

Event 2017-06-03 03:15:45 UT (check against latest web page values)

After data collection is complete (including any calibration data, TBD, probably won't take longer than 15-20 minutes). Tear down equipment and repack. Return back to Mendoza. Last team will arrive back by roughly 05:00 (local time) on the morning of June 3.

June 3

Rest. Collect data from all stations and distribute backup copies. Prepare equipment for return shipping and hand off to shipping company.

Return equipment to storage location.

June 4

Main travel day for departure back to the US.

June 5

Most everyone is back home.

June 6

Buie and Tamblyn leave. Extra time is for ensuring equipment is properly organized for the next campaign.