

# An Ultrafast Review: Decades of the 3.5<sup>m</sup> Telescope

- 1960s: several of the eventual ARC members realize that the Palomar 200" and Lick 120" should not be allowed to dominate faint object observational astronomy
- 1970s: same institutions realize KPNO and CTIO cannot grant enough 4<sup>m</sup> observing time for a top quality department

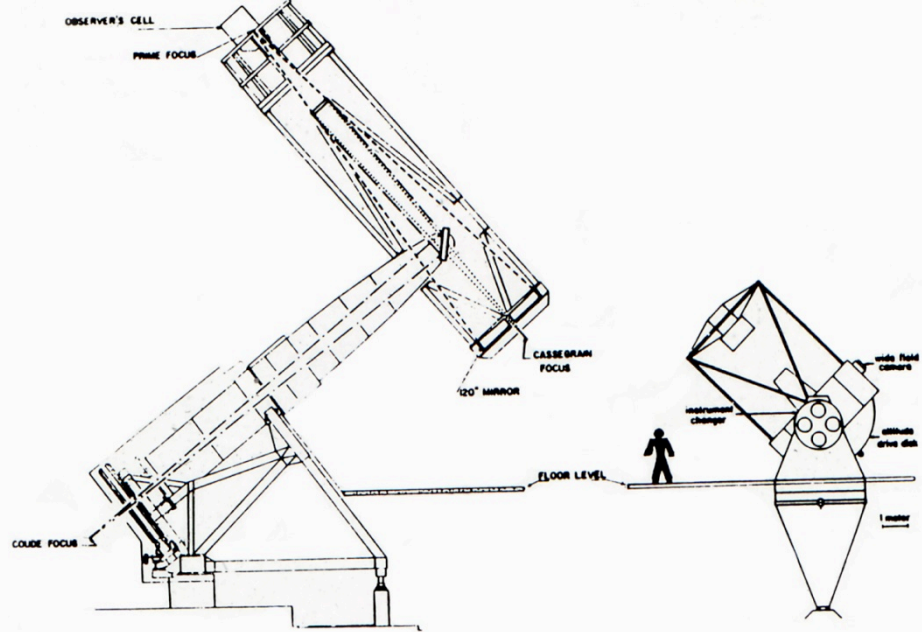
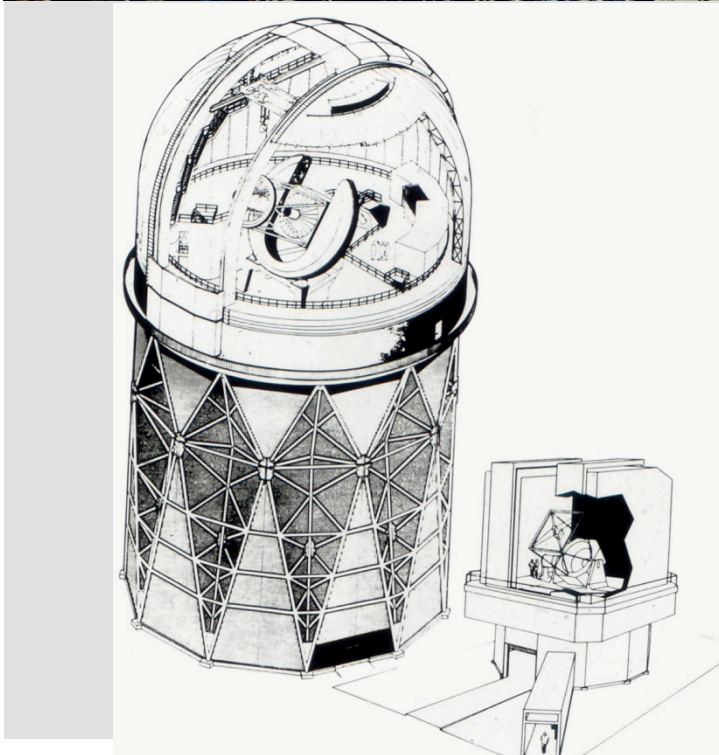
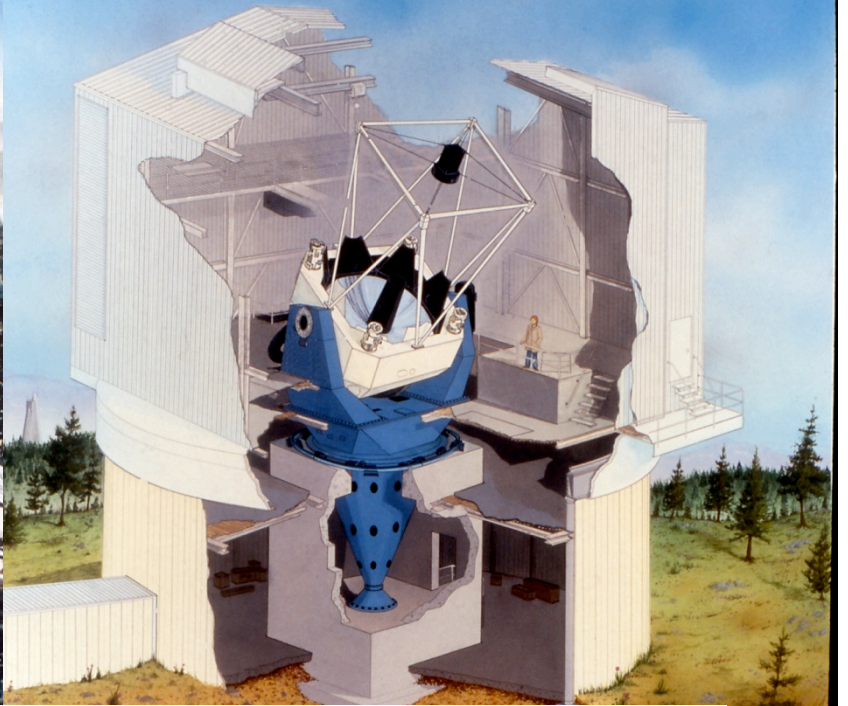
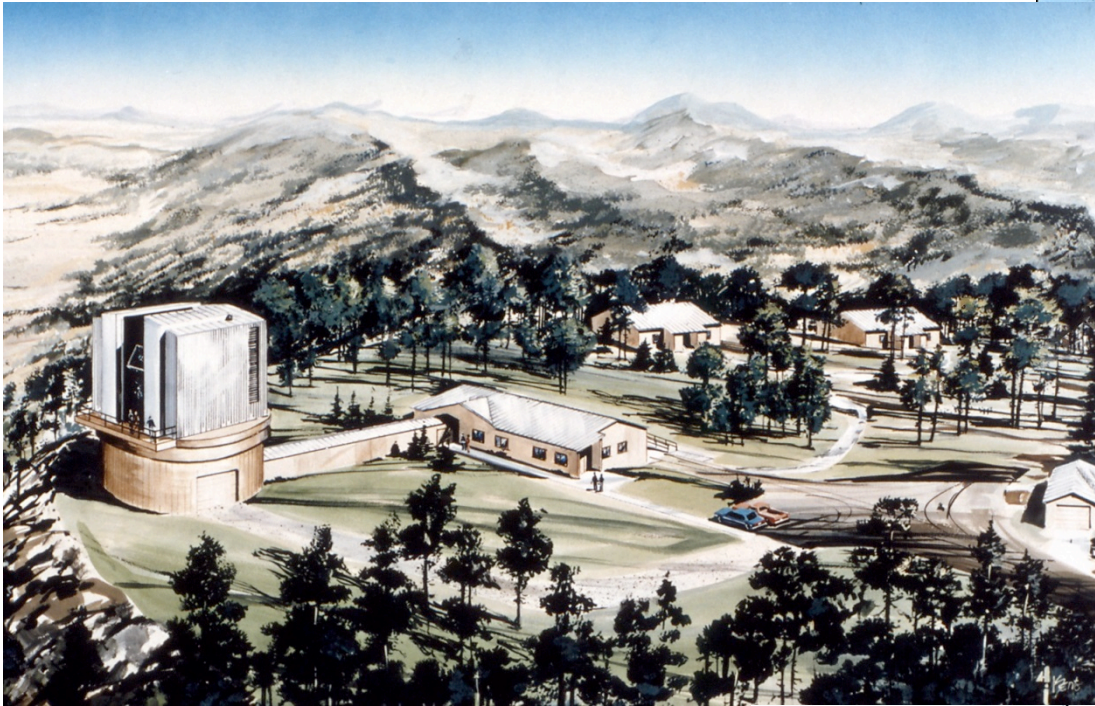
## Decades of the 3.5<sup>m</sup> Telescope (cont'd)

- 1980s: multiple friends of Roger Angel (Arizona) realize a spun-cast, light weight, fast 3.5<sup>m</sup> mirror might be available for a physically small but optically powerful telescope
- 1980s: 7-8 departments dance around each other; the music stops with UW, Chicago, NMSU, Princeton, WSU forming ARC

# An Extraordinary Labor and Delivery

- 1984 January 26: five universities sign the Astrophysical Research Consortium agreement
- 1994 May 10: ARC 3.5m is dedicated during a total solar eclipse





LICK OBSERVATORY  
3.0 METER DIAMETER

APACHE POINT OBSERVATORY  
3.5 METER DIAMETER

*From the Oxford English Dictionary:*

## **“Vaporware”**

Pronunciation: /<sup>l</sup>veɪpəweɪ(r)/

1984: *PC* 7 Feb. 49/1. Esther Dyson..has appropriately coined the term ‘vapor ware’ to refer to all the integrated windowing software that doesn't exist—apparently.

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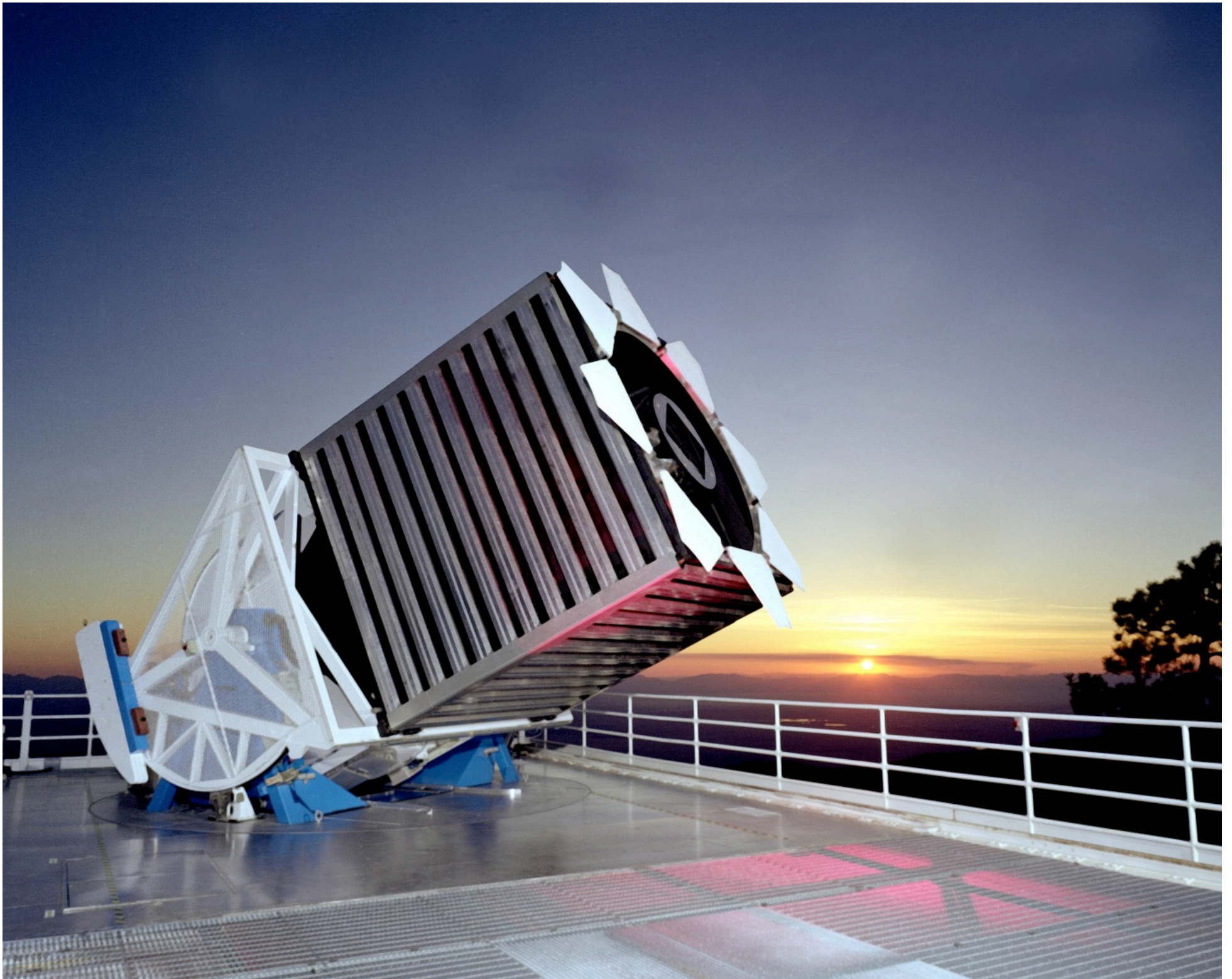




# Lessons Learned

- The Zeno's Paradox of financing telescopes:

*If you wait to identify the full cost of a telescope project before proceeding, during that wait the cost will increase beyond your reach.*



# Lessons Learned

- The Zeno's Paradox of financing telescopes:  
*If you wait to raise the full cost of a telescope project before proceeding, during that wait the cost will increase beyond your reach.*
- The Stockholm Syndrome of financing telescopes:  
*The most indispensable participant in a telescope project may be a non-astronomer.*

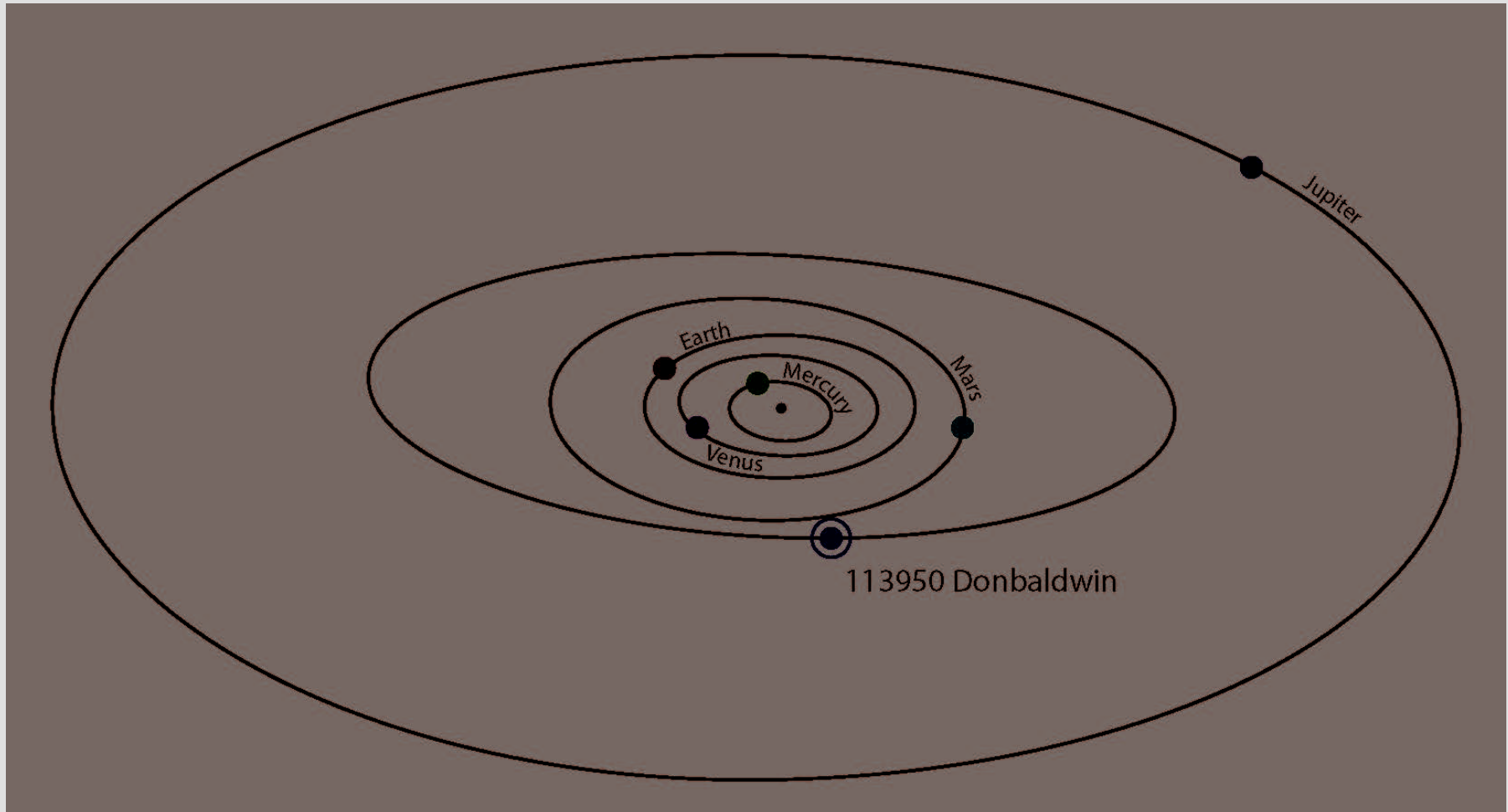




Minor Planet 2002 TC315 (“113950 Donbaldwin”)

Period 5.2 years, orbital semi-major axis 3.0 AU

Discovered 2002 October 4 by the Sloan Digital Sky Survey at the Apache Point Observatory



Official citation of the International Astronomical Union: *“Donald R. Baldwin (1938-2003), a co-founder and treasurer of the Astrophysical Research Consortium, was instrumental in assuring the success of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey.”*

