



The Home Observatory

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For

Rappahannock Astronomy Club

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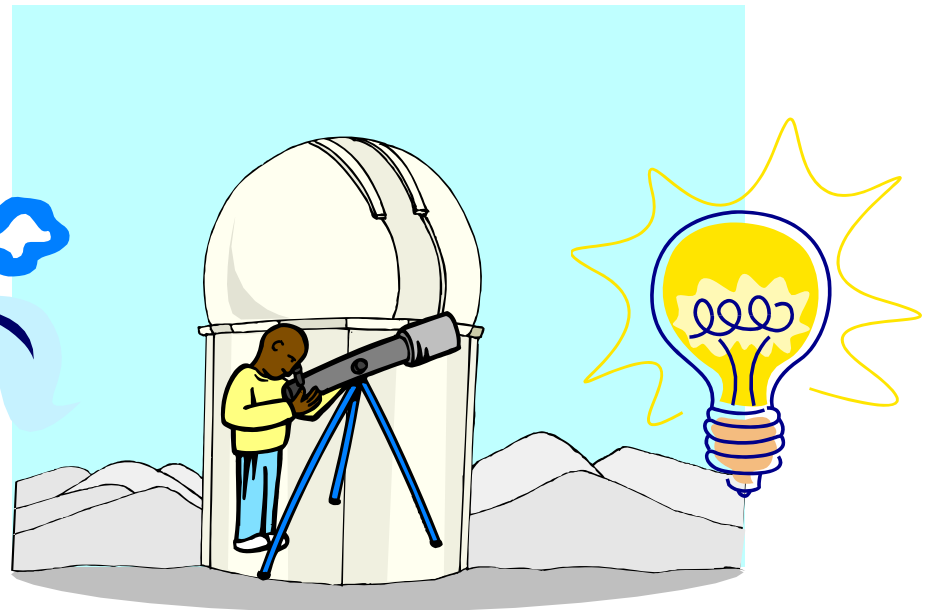
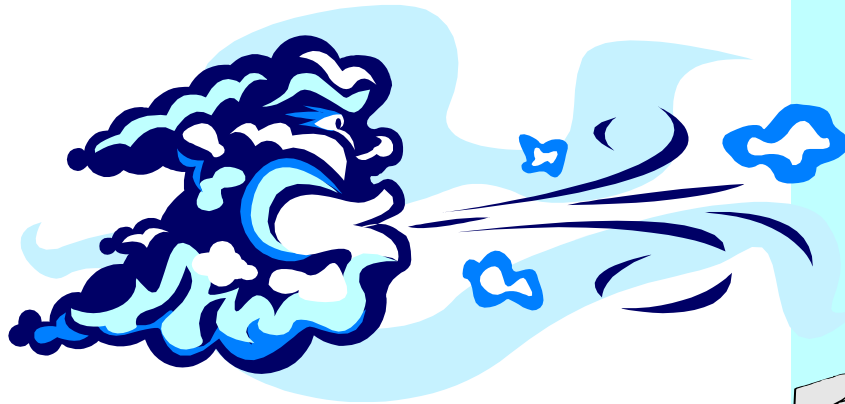
Agenda

- Why a Home Observatory?
- Deciding on Which Type – Dome or Roll-Off Roof
- Project Planning
 - Cost
 - Location
 - Materials
- Buy or Build from Scratch
 - Skills
 - Vendors
- Construction
- Conclusion



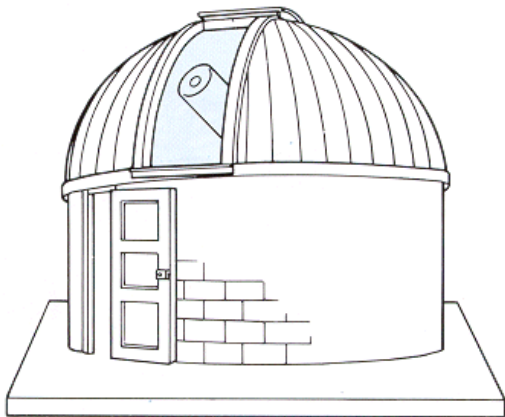
Why a Home Observatory?

- Permanent Setup
- Protection from the Elements
- Reduces Light Interference/Pollution
- Fortress of Solitude



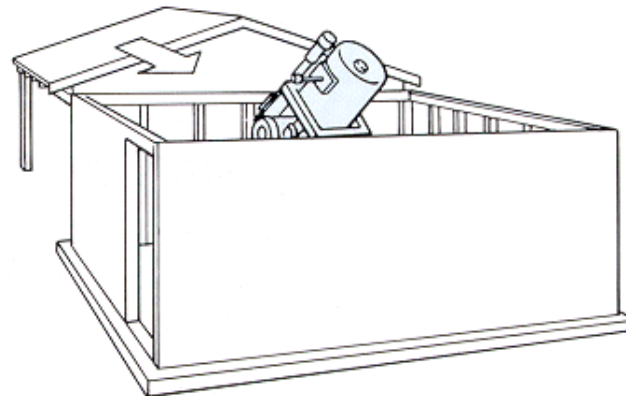
Dome or Roll-Off Roof

- Dome



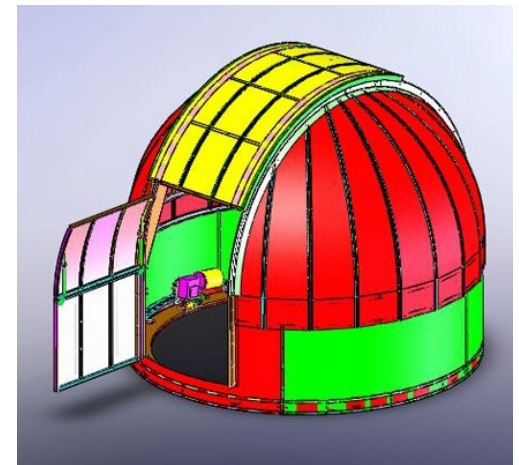
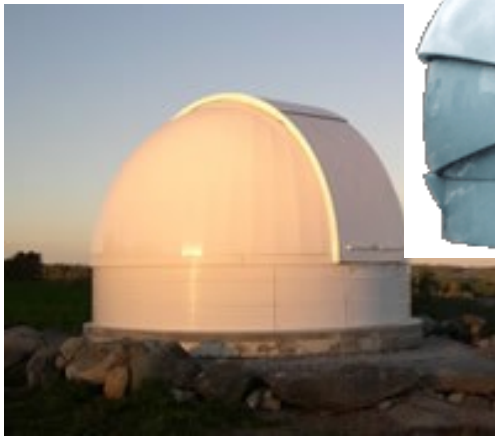
- Completely Encloses Observer
- Resists Dew
- Protects Equipment
- Limited Environment Control
- Protects from Extraneous Light
- Traditional Design
- Limits the Sky View

- Roll-Off Roof

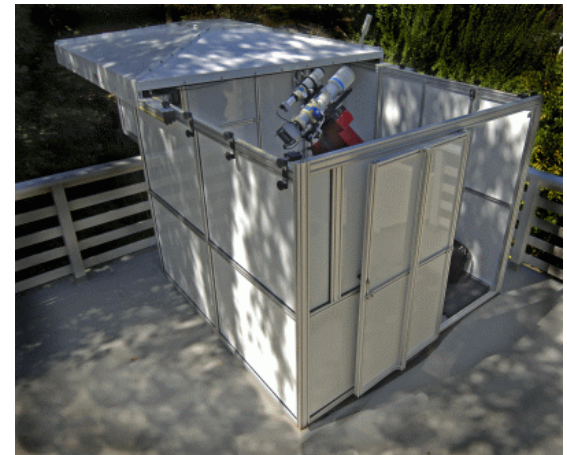
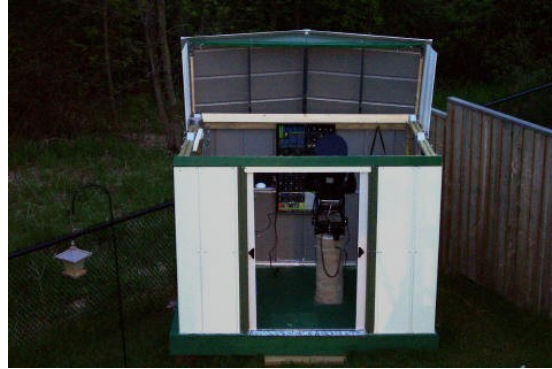


- Observer Completely Exposed
- Dew can be a Problem
- Protects Equipment when Closed
- Non-Traditional Design
- 360 degree Sky View
- Offers more Working Space
- Easier to Camouflage from HOAs

Examples of Dome Observatories

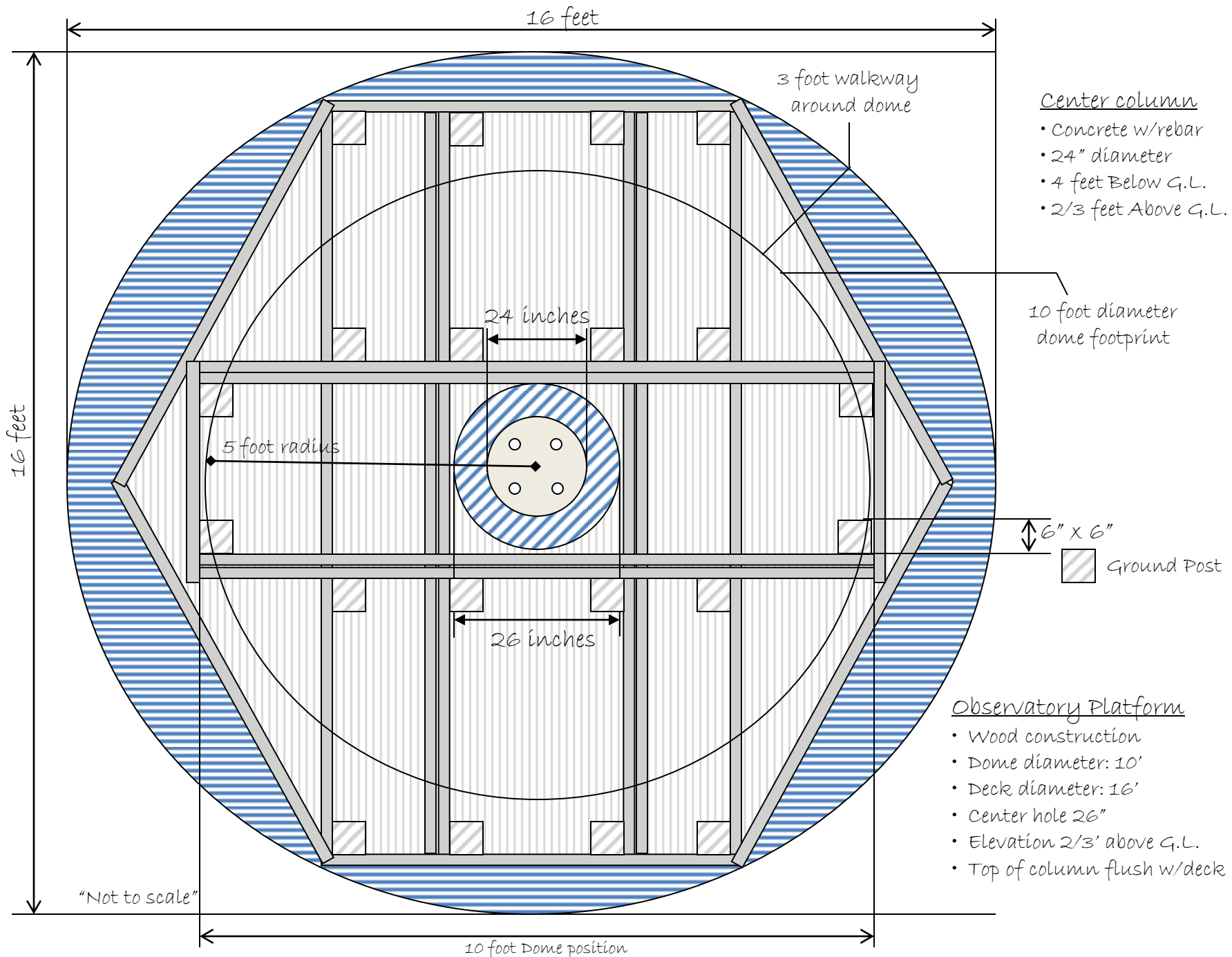


Examples of Roll-Off Roof Observatories

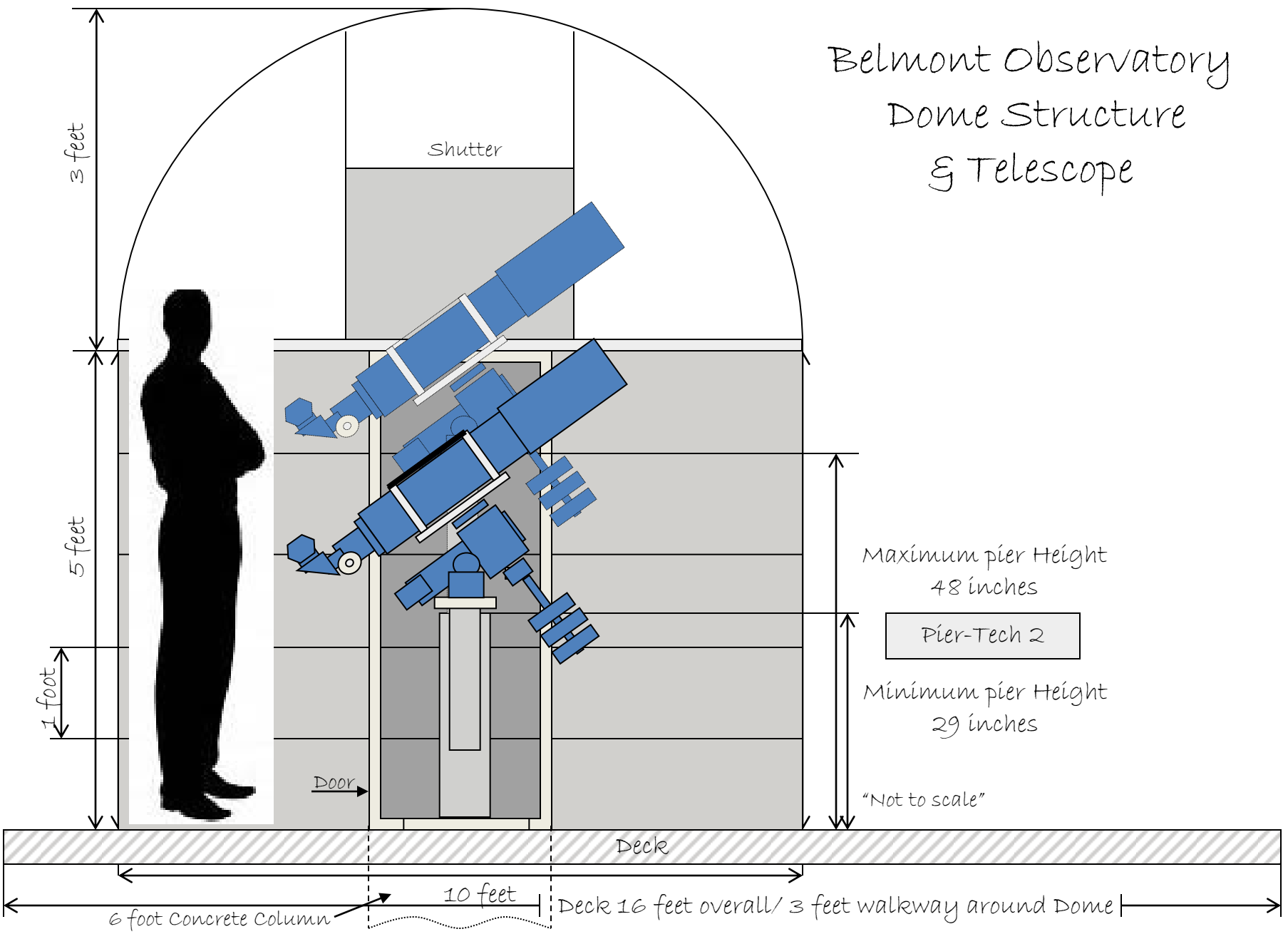


Project Planning

- Cost
- Location
 - Clear of obstructions like trees, poles and wires
 - 360 deg FOV
 - Preferably away from light sources
- Materials and Tools
 - Home Depot or Lowe's

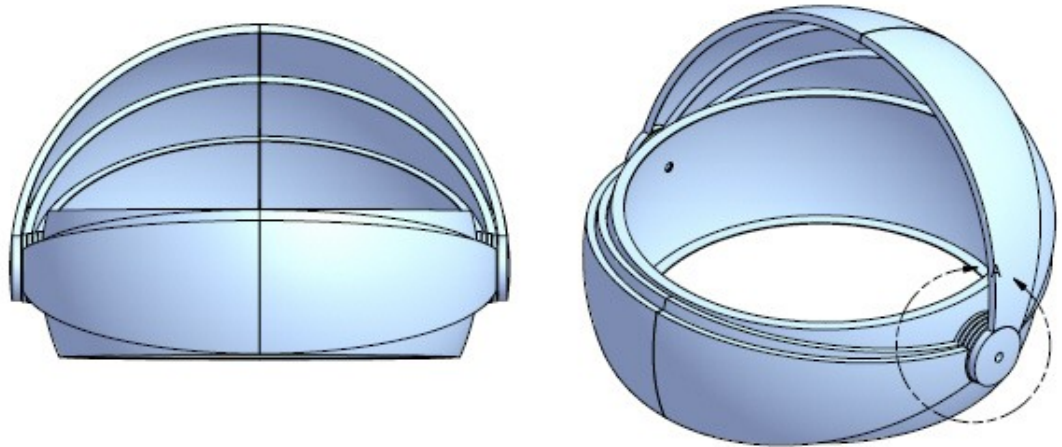


Belmont Observatory Dome Structure & Telescope



Buy or Build from Scratch

- Skills (Maybe you have friends)
 - Got have tools or friends with tools
- Vendors
 - Technical Innovations
 - Sky Shed
 - Sirius
 - Astrohaven



Construction



Construction Cont.



Construction Cont.



Construction Cont.



Conclusion

Belmont Observatory – All finished!!!



If the clouds would just go away...

