

Call for observers (US and Australia): (59980) 1999 SG6 events on July 20th and 21st 2025

Hello all,

The University of Virginia occultation research group recently embarked on an expedition to South Africa to observe an occultation by the asteroid (59980) 1999 SG6, which is a target of the UAE's future MBR Explorer spacecraft. This would have been the first occultation observed of this asteroid, although for this occultation all but one of our chords were clouded out. In hopes of retribution, there are a pair of upcoming occultations which we intend to observe from the US and Australia on the 20th and 21st UTC, respectively.

I would like to advertise the US event on the 20th UTC (~11:55 on the 19th Eastern US time), which crosses through North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and Mexico. Our team has the capability to deploy upwards of seven or eight telescopes, although we are limited by the quantity of observers which we may be able to source during the summer. We will be performing an inventory on our equipment to determine just how many telescopes we can contribute shortly, but the lowest estimate for our contribution is five telescopes. Roger Venable has also expressed interest in observing with three or four telescopes. This puts our (tentative) minimum chord count at eight, and the maximum could be upwards of twelve. We would graciously appreciate any additional chords which observers could contribute. Given the magnitude of the star (13.8) and brevity of the event (~0.6 seconds at maximum), we recommend a minimum aperture of about 11" to provide valuable data.

Here is the OWC link for the US event: <https://cloud.occultwatcher.net/event/1661-59980-287047-647174-U148925>. The two chords from both myself and Roger Venable are placeholders and will be updated when we have more information.

I will leave coordination for the Australian event to those participating. I believe Mike Skrutskie will be observing alongside local observers. The event passes over the area surrounding Melbourne, Canberra, and Sydney. OWC link: <https://cloud.occultwatcher.net/event/1662-59980-286756-647165-U148794>.

Please let me know if you are interested in participating—thanks!

Best,

-Teddy Oakey, 2027 June 19, IOTAoccultations Msg # 82961