

Re: Suggestions about powering your GOTO scope/laptop in the field

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Yep. If ya don't mind the hassle of lugging the weight, the size 27 marine/deep cycle/RV batteries are wonderful. The size 24 works too, but the 27 gives you more reserve. I use two: one for the scope, and one for the laptop/observatory lighting. I get several nights out of them. They're the same ones I bring camping, so it wasn't an added expense.

Don't forget to calibrate motors each time you swap out a battery. Unless I'm wrong, the calibration routine on the Meade scopes checks the voltage level at that point. Rod would know; am I right on that, Rod?

The battery for the laptop I run through a 300W inverter. Be careful on those. You'll find two makes. One has a fan that runs at all wattage use levels, the other doesn't come on until you're using at least 100W. The second one is much more pleasant.

Those 2000W Honda gennys are also the cat's pajamas (boy, dated myself with that one). However, unless you're willing to run 100-foot cords, you'll still hear a very quiet background noise in the still of the night. We lived in a trailer for the better part of year two years ago while building a home on our property and adapted to the hum. It definitely helps you to sleep, something I try not to do at the eyepiece.

Richard in the west end of the Antelope Valley, California

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