If you are interested in learning to use the meteor camera, you’ll need to start by using a software package called Metrec. This is already installed on the computer upstairs, and it is what we have used in the past. The manual is [here](http://www.metrec.org/download/readme.txt). Read this.

We also have an application called UFO installed on the computer. If you look [here](http://www.imo.net/wiki/index.php/Video_Meteor_Observation), you can read about the ways in which UFO and Metrec are used. By the way, this description is on the website of the International Meteor Organization ([IMO](http://www.imo.net)). You will find a lot of useful information on their webpage. You’ll definitely want to check that out as well.

Metrec runs from the command prompt, so you are going to be typing in commands rather than clicking around with the mouse. It kind of feels like computer programming, and it can be a bit daunting at first if you haven’t done that sort of thing in the past, but it is really no big deal. Once you get Metrec to take an image, you’ll need to get the camera focused (requires going up on the roof) and take calibration frames. You’ll use these to do something like the automatch function from MPO Canopus, except that the process is far from automatic. You’ll be manually telling the computer how stars correlate from image to star map. This is all (badly) described in the Metrec manual, but you’ll figure it out when you do it.

Once you get the calibration done, you can set Metrec to start up and run every night, and then you go through the next day and look at the video clips.

From this point on, you can use your creativity to determine next steps. Some possibilities include:

* Creating a composite image of all meteor events from a particular night. (You could also try writing a script to do this in an automated fashion).
* Creating a composite movie of all meteor events from a particular night.
* Compiling data from two sites (there is another camera in Lincoln, MA) to get location data on these meteors.
* Figuring out how to upload data about position, velocity, and brightness to the IMOP website so that our observations become part of the public domain.
* Maybe you have your own ideas??