

π Aqr returns to emission state - building a disk?

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1) After a long period of quiescence, the Be star π Aqr has returned to an H α -emission state. Sometime between Oct 2003 and June 2004 (while the star was behind the sun, naturally...) the emission resumed, and the polarization has also shown a sharp increase. We are monitoring the star spectroscopically from Ritter Observatory and polarimetrically from Pine Bluff Observatory. We would encourage anyone observing Be stars to put π Aqr back on their regular observing list, as this may be a wonderful opportunity to observe the process of disk build-up. I would appreciate any information that anyone has about the state of π Aqr between Oct 2003 and June 2004, and would also be pleased to learn of any other observations that people are making.

Karen Bjorkman, [Ritter Observatory](#), Dept. of Physics & Astronomy, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606

2) One news. It looks like the Be star, p Aquarii, started to develop a new disk after about 8 years of the diskless phase. If you have any opportunity to take spectra of it (V~4.8 mag), please do that. It is very important to monitor the beginning stages of the disk formation.

Anatoly Miroshnichenko, [Ritter Observatory](#), Dept. of Physics & Astronomy, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606

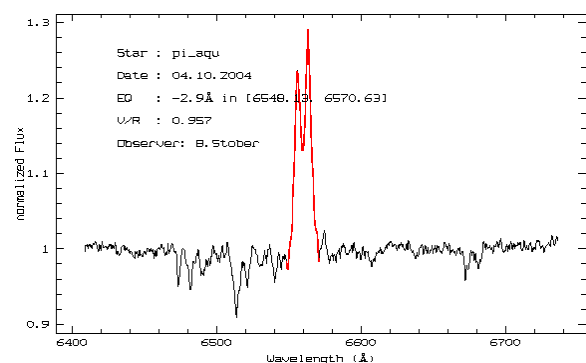
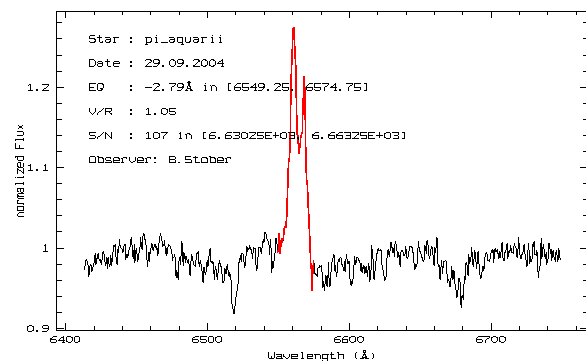
3) I observe this star always times again photographically. I saw between 1997 and 2002 no H α -emission, however at the 17. September 2004 these clearly is to be recognized. A comparison to 59 Cygni, whose H α -EW at present with approx.10

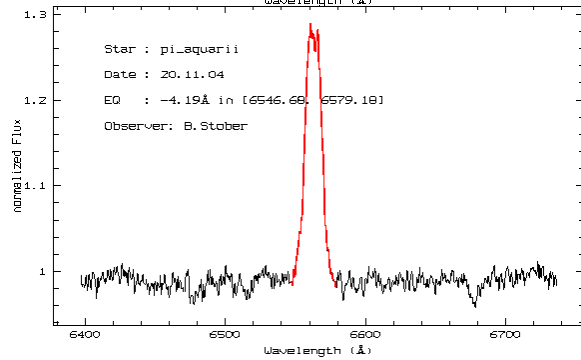
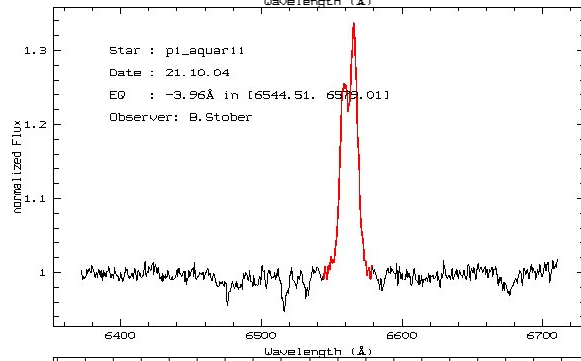
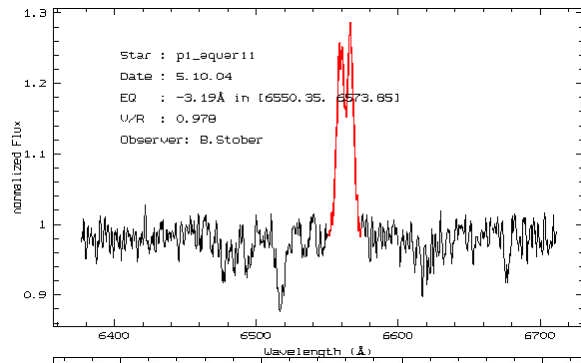
A shows, that the H α -EW might probably be smaller at p Aqr. I support the observation call and ask the quantitatively working-group-members to determine and supervise the EW and also the line structure. Obviously this star is at present active to building a new disk. Between 1972 and 1982 the EW amounted nearly - 30 Å.

Bernd Hanisch, Lebus (Frankfurt/Oder), Germany

Here a first H α -spectrum series by Berthold Stober and Ernst Pollmann. Clearly recognizably: the quick change of the V/R-ratio and increase of the equivalent width.

Spectra by B. Stober: Telescope: 30 cm Newton (in his own observatory); Dispersion: 0.49 Å/pix.





Spectra by E. Pollmann

Telescope: 20 cm Schmidt-Cassegrain

Dispersion: 0.39 Å/pixel

