

JOURNAL of the  
ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH)

JUNE 1974

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"What's Up?" The Solar System This Month (June) 1974 as seen from Ipswich.

(A)

THE MOON: Phases: First Quarter on May 28th, 13h UT.  
FULL MOON on June 4th at 22h10m UT. Last Quarter on June 13th at 01h45m UT. New Moon on June 20th at 5h UT. First Quarter June 26th at 19h20m UT. Full Moon July 2nd at 12h 40m UT.

ECLIPSES JUNE 4th: ECLIPSE OF THE MOON : Start of entry into penumbra at 19h24m. Start of entry into Umbra at 20h39m UT. Middle of Eclipse at 22h16m UT. Leaving Umbra at 23h 53m UT. End of eclipse on June 5th at 01h08m. This will be visible from Ipswich. This is a partial eclipse, at maximum 0.83 of the Moon's disk will be eclipsed.

ECLIPSE OF THE SUN ONLY VISIBLE FROM AUSTRALIA on June 20th.

MERCURY is visible at the start of the month, greatest elongation from the Sun being on June 4th. This is the best opportunity to see Mercury from England this year. However, you should have started looking for it during May, best visibility from May 25th to June 4th. On May 30th it sets two hours after the Sun, and should be visible in the Orwell Park 10" OG in the evening twilight, and may be seen in smaller instruments. The planet is in Taurus in May, and Gemini in June.

On and around July 22nd and November 10th the planet maybe visible as a morning star. If members are interested in going to the observatory on or near on of those dates, contact Roy Cheesman, and if there is interest the observatory may be opened early in the morning to view this object again.

VENUS: is not very well visible from GB this year, best visible as a morning star in the south-east before dawn about now when it will be in the constellation of ARIES, brightness at magnitude -3.5. On June 17th and 18th the thin crescent Moon will be near the planet. Venus rises at about 02h UT, sunrise at about 03h40m UT. Venus will be occulted on July 17th, details in next month's edition.

MARS: Forget it.

JUPITER: Is a morning star. This year's apparition of Jupiter will be better than last year's, and we should have a good view of it for the Open Day in September. At the moment it is a morning star in Aquarius/PISCES. It rises at 01h UT at the start of the month, and a 23h UT at the end of the month. It rises in brightness from -2.0 to -2.2. It reaches a maximum declination north on July 8th before moving south in declination again. Maximum declination north then will be  $-05^{\circ}55'$  South.

SATURN: This month we lose it, it is behind the Sun on June 30th.

METEORS: THE JUNE LYRIDS are visible this month. Maximum at midnight on the night of the 16th/15th June. The radiant is at maximum altitude above the horizon at 01h UT each night. Thus on that night between midnight and 01h UT, up to

8 meteors per hour may be seen. The Moon presents a little interference before maximum. Maximum altitude of the radiant above the horizon will be  $73^{\circ}$ . \* \*

The OPHIUCHIDS reach maximum on June 20th, 23h UT to midnight on the nights of 19/20 and 20/21 June will be the best time to see some of them. The maximum again is only 8 per hor, but there is no Moon to interfere, so Tom Cardot is organising a meteorwatch that night in the open air, naked eye, phone no.

**\*\* 15/16<sup>th</sup> JUNE LYRIDS  
SEE OTHER PAGES**

NO COMETS TO BE SEEN THIS MONTH.

GRAZING OCCULTATION PROJECT

In the BAA Handbook I noticed that the track of a grazing occultation passes near Ipswich. I obtained the predictions from RGO and had a conversation with Gordon Taylor of HMNAO about them. I then decided on the strength of this to organise some sort of dummy run to prepare ourselves for this interesting event. **CONT:-**  
The grazing occultations occurs on October 21st in the evening

GRAZING OCCULTATION CONTINUED:-

(B)

Let me explain what this is. An ordinary occultation is when the Moon passes in front of a star and blots this out. These can be fun to watch. A grazing occultation happens when the edge of the Moon touches or grazes the star concerned. Due to the irregularities on the edge of the Moon (valleys, mountains etc.) the star will disappear behind the crest, and appear in the dips, and may be thus occulted several times in the course of a few minutes. The region which this can be seen in is very small for each grazing occultation, but it just so happens that a very favourable grazing occultation of a 3.6 magnitude star (Eta Sagittarii) will be visible from the west and north of Ipswich at 17h45m that evening.

I therefore propose to have as many people as possible out that evening to observe this event. There are over a dozen members in the north-west estate of Ipswich around Norwich road, and they may be able to see something if they park their telescopes there. The track also goes through Witnesham (a member lives there), Capel-St-Mary, Raydon and that area. It is that region, south of Hadleigh and west of Capel-st-Mary that I hope some stations can be set up.

Can you participate? If so, telephone me now, as you are reading these words!! Do any members have friends/relatives in this area, where we could set up telescope(s) in their back garden?

I intend to hold some dummy runs so that we can gain the necessary experience in ordinary occultations before we can observe this more exciting event. It is necessary to TIME these events accurately. 1/10th of a second accuracy for ordinary occultations and 1second accuracy for grazing occultations. The methods that are to be employed are as follows. Each station must have a portable tape recorder, complete with microphone and cassette. The nearest public telephone is located beforehand, and ten minutes before the event is due, record a minute or so of the speaking clock on to the tape. Then return to the station and make a sudden noise when the occultation occurs. You will be able to see the star approach the dark limb of the Moon, then snap out instantaneously.

We have already had one dummy run on April 26th. I shall spare the morbid details, except that we did not see the event, but we gained invaluable (if painful) experience in occultation work!! At one point (10h05m UT) at the Radon airfield station (where I was) a blue Rover stopped at the sight of three telescopes in the middle of nowhere and hollered "you're a load of loonies". Half an hour later they passed again shouting "spot the loony". We felt loonies I must admit, but it was highly amusing.

Dummy runs are scheduled for : Sunday May 26th, Tuesday July 2nd and Friday September 27th. I would appreciate as many members as possible to come. Meeting place is the 'pub in Raydon at 8p.m. There is a pub in Raydon near the telephone kiosk, that is the one.

If you could bring along one or more of the following you would be very useful: portable tape recorder, microphone, cassette with at least 15 minutes of blank space on one side, telescope, car. If you would like to come but have no transport, contact me and I shall try to arrange something.

ADVERTISEMENT: Mr. Cesiray, c/o FLORYNATA, Green Lane, St. Hokesley, Colchester, wants to sell a 6cm refractor for £20 o.n.o. anybody interested contact him, telephone number working hours only is Colchester [redacted].

MEETINGS The J.A.S Meeting of Saturday 4th May was very good. Planned meeting of BAA Lunar Section with Patrick Moore will be on November 23rd (Saturday) unless postponed to December 7th (Saturday). Open Day will be on afternoon and evening of Saturday 28th September, bring along all your friends and relatives, and advertise it as much as you can. These occasions are great fun, and the climax of the year in which they are held. The last one was in April 1973. COME TO OBSERVATORY ON FRIDAY JULY 5th FOR SOCIAL AND CHAT MEETING.

NEW MEMBERS:-

Welcome to the following new members:-

Mark Cachill, [REDACTED], Ipswich. Telephone: Ipswich [REDACTED].

M.K. Howes, [REDACTED], Bury-St-Edmunds, Suffolk. [REDACTED].

It is my policy to publish the names and addresses of new members. About a year ago I published a list of CAST members' names, instruments and addresses. This is no longer practical (as far as I am concerned anyway). Therefore I am sure that virtually every member in the society has another member YARDS away, except for those more than say ten-miles out of Ipswich. One of the aims of this society is to stimulate co-operation and friendships in the Ipswich area. Therefore we are trying to get people who are virtually neighbours, both members of the society, and oblivious of one another, to team up. Each member could be of benefit to the other. There are number of such relationships going on where two people living near to one another have met through the society, one has a car to get up to the observatory, the other has his own telescope, the link-ups are obviously beneficial.

Therefore, if you seem to be isolated, write or telephone me, wherever you are, and I am sure I can find members not far away. There are for edample about ten members living in a one or two square mile area around Norwich Road.

When I have given you the member's name and address, don't worry about just appearing at his door and announcing your presence. He won't bite your head off, he wouldn't probably have joined the society if he was that sort of person. In my experience, astronomy is such a way-out hobby (sorry about that) and very absorbing to its devotees, and amateur astronomers become elated when they can convers with somebody with the same interest.

Even if you live way out from Ipswich, I can probably dig out A BAA member in your neighbourhood.

SUPER NEW/NOVA <sup>THE K.C.B. DON'T QUALIFY FOR THIS SERVICE</sup> No there isn't a fantastic brilliant spectacle in the sky, it isn't even naked eye, not even visible in a rotten 3" OG or 6" reflector. It is visible in the 10-inch fairly easily however, This is a 13th magnitude Nova. Discovered on April 20th. It may be interesting to locate it and monitor its brightness in comparison to surrounding stars. It is in Coma Berenices, near the object designated as NGC 4414, marked in Norton's Star Atlas as 77 in Herschel's catalogue. The nova is 27" arc East and 56" south of the object, at RA 12h24.0m, Dec +31°30'. If you are at the observatory, look at this region, and plot the stars you see and their relative brightnesses (not magnitudes). Meanwhile I will try to obtain a star chart of that area.

STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPES Yes I'm having another good moan. I am not renowned amongst members for my wealth, and when the postal charges go up I'm not paying. It would be helpful if members who have sent me stamped addressed envelopes (for which I am eternally thankful) sent me extra 1p stamps to cover the increase. You'll be paying for it anyway, since unless you send the stamps the money from subscriptions will be used for this purpose.

FINAL NOTE As you probably know, if I am reasonable successful in my GCE's I will be off to London in October, so John Deans will be taking over as editor of this magazine (no doubt aided by Tom Cardot OW'. my poor shin). I hope members can help him by sending him bits of information, suggestions, comments, enquiries, etc.

My contacts with the society will necessarily have to become more limited, but you won't be rid of me totally, my big mouth will probably continue to be heard ringing around the observatory tower from time to time. I shall send stamped addressed envelopes to receive my copies of the newsletter.

John is a committee member, a fairly new arrival and hopefully with new ideas. New faces are welcome on the committee.

## VARIABLE STARS.

I would like to know if anyone is interested in forming a Variable Star Section. We do have some variables which were assigned to us in January 1973 by the B.A.A. These stars are not hard to locate because I have located most of them in my 3" refractor. The variables assigned for our 10" refractor at Orwell Park are very faint in a 3" but with the 10" there should be no problems.

I have a circular which the Variable Star Section of the B.A.A. uses. I feel, as a person, that since this assignment was given to us by the B.A.A. that they are expecting a report. As it is now, two of the assigned stars are already gone from view and we will not be able to work on them until next year. The ones which are left should be worked on as soon as possible.

The more members that pitch in the more the accurate our report will be. All the details of Variable Star observing will be given at the first meeting. I propose to begin observing these stars now and would like any member who is interested to contact me as soon as possible.

For those that do decide to take on this task will not be disappointed. Looking at just two aspects of the venture prove to be very interesting. The feeling of doing something concrete and the educational values associated with the task. I would like to have my first get together on the first Sunday in June. On this date we will discuss the problems and the theories of observing Variable Stars. For those who do not have instruments to observe with will not have that much of a problem at all. Besides the 10" beast which is at Orwell Park I have a 80mm refractor with circles and drive for anyone who would like to pop around my house.

I really do not foresee any great problems except getting the help and seeing the Section off the ground. For those who wish to contact me at Ipswich [redacted] or come by to [redacted] Ipswich, or if you prefer I will see you at the Observatory on Thursday evenings from 9p.m. Of course my name again is Mr. T. Cardot which is long for "Tom".

## LYRIDS METEOR SHOWER.

This shower with specifications is mentioned in this month's Journal. I would like to organise a get together with members who would like to make a 'meteor count.' I propose the 15th June which is the shower's maximum. All that is required is a little free time, an easy chair, and a pad and pencil. The rest of the preparations will be done by me.

If you would like to attend this event please contact me at [redacted], Ipswich phone [redacted].

I believe that, weather permitting, this should be a very enjoyable event. Remember the more the merrier. The beauty of Meteor counting is that there is no need for any instruments except those eyes God gave you. Waiting to hear from you all,

Tom Cardot.

Reading past journals I ran across some entries in the minutes of the general meeting of 3rd January, 1973. This is one month and a year before I actually became a member of this Fantastic Society. Two entries caught my eye right off the bat (That means for you mates, as soon as the ball leaves the Cricket bat) The first entry pertains to the Library. It was article five (5) of the proposals for the year 1973. Since this time one Member of our Society was taxed with this burden and also other important positions in the Society. With this burden and others lumped together in one package it must have been an overwhelming task. The proposal read as follows: "To establish a library of books, slides and maps." This has been done and the library is off to a good start. Being the new Librarian I wish to further this quest for a well rounded library.

This can only be done with the help of the Society's members. In this month's journal there is a detachable form that you can fill out stating your interest as a member. Using this as a guide line I will be able to get a well rounded view of the Society as a whole. Since I don't know each member in turn so to speak to him or her to find out their joys in the hobby. By grouping interest together I will be able to research and purchase books which will give you added enjoyment in whatever your endeavor might be. For a start, for those that do not have instruments of their own and who might want to purchase one, I've sent for almost every catalogue there is in the United States, and in Great Britain so that you may look through them and get a general idea of what is on the market and for what price. Also for scientific catalogues pertaining to Astronomy for those who may want to make their own instruments.

As you can see by just a few of my scribbles that your library is going to be as good as you want it. I am here to serve you as a Society member and a fellow hobbyist who cares about keeping each and every member happy and proud that they are part of the best Astronomical Society in England. All it takes is just a little effort from each one and by George we will have just that. I am also subscribing to the Sky and Telescope and sending for a sample copy of the 'British Amateur Astronomer'. These copies I'm afraid will not be checkable from the library but will be bound in a covered binder running concurrent for one year in each binder. They will be for research and what's new in the field. This I believe is a start but again your help is essential.

The second entry is about making an adapter for Japanese eyepieces. I am happy to say that this has been done and is in the eyepieces box in the dome. It will take all Japanese eyepieces including diagonal, barlows and camera adapters. I have a 22mm, 9mm, 6mm and 4mm eyepieces that I've tried and the power range is 198x through to 1004x and that's not using the barlow yet! You will find that the best eyepieces to use will be the 22mm and the 9mm and then couple them with the barlow lens. The 6mm and 4mm are so small that you may have difficulty focusing because the draw tube isn't long enough. If you have eyepieces and want to use them on the large telescope do so by all means. You may like using them better than the ones that are available with the scope itself.

Last, but not least, I would like to take this time to express a few of my feelings. If you haven't met me yet then consider yourself lucky because if you do you'll find that I won't shut up for a moment. Of course you might say that I just like to talk but really it is only because I really enjoy what this Society has to offer. I mean this not only in Astronomy, although I do think that we are exceptionally lucky to have the use of the telescope at Orrell Park, I really mean it in the attitudes of the members I have met and the conversations that arise between members. I am a member of the Nato Forces serving here in Gt. Britain and am here under the invitation of the British people and believe me in just being exposed to the Society and the members within it has made me feel more than just a guest. What I really want to say, I guess, is the people in this Society are a group of fine people and when my time comes to depart from Britain I can honestly say that <sup>was</sup> happy in Gt. Britain because you members made it that way for me.

## PROGRAMME FOR JUNE 1974

As the nights are now drawing out some Club Nights at the observatory will cease until September.

Those still being held are:

TUESDAYS: from 8.30p.m. PLANETARY SECTION.

Director: D. Bearcroft, [REDACTED], Ipswich, Phone [REDACTED]

11th June

25th "

WEDNESDAY: from 7p.m. SOLAR SECTION.

Director: R.M. Cheesman, [REDACTED], Ipswich.

5th June

19th "

from 8.30p.m. 12th June

26th "

THURSDAYS: from 9.p.m. VARIABLE STAR SECTION.

Director: T. Cardot, [REDACTED], Ipswich, Phone [REDACTED]

6TH June

13th "

20th "

27th "

FRIDAY JUNE 5th 8p.m.

Please note that there will be a committee meeting and a general discussion evening at the observatory on the above date to which you are all invited to air your views regarding the running of the Society.

Dear Member,

In order that the committee can ascertain everyone's interests and encourage those interests within the society, it would be of great assistance if you would kindly complete the questionnaire below.

You may if you wish return this to one of the committee members or alternatively post it to the address overleaf to arrive by June 30th 1974.

Thank you.

Please tick against Items of Interest

Sun Spots

Lunar Observation

Planetary Observation

Variable Stars

Double Stars

Nebulae and other faint objects

Comet Seeking

Artificial Satellites

Astro Photography

Interested in all aspects of Astronomy

Group Participation Projects

A Project of one's own

A useful project that would not be a commitment but could be done in the odd spare moment.

Not interested in any projects

Special interests not listed above (Please indicate below)

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Details of equipment owned .....

.....