

Journal of the
ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH)

April, 1975.

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[REDACTED],
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Nr. Ipswich, Suffolk.
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What's Up? The Solar System as seen from Ipswich, April, 1975.Solar Section.

The Sun will be in the constellation of Pisces and Aries this month though with the state of the weather lately, one wonders if we shall ever see it at all. Partial Eclipse next month.

Rotation number 1626 commenced March 18.40^h.

" " 1627 commences April 14.69^h.

Heliographic co-ordinates as at noon U.T.

	P	Bo	Lo		P	Bo	Lo
Apr 2	-26.2°	-6.5°	160.9°	Apr 18	-25.9°	-5.3°	309.7°
" 6	-26.3°	-6.2°	108.1°	" 22	-25.5°	-5.0°	256.8°
" 10	-26.3°	-6.0°	55.3°	" 26	-25.0°	-4.6°	204.0°
" 14	-26.1°	-5.7°	2.5°	" 30	-24.4°	-4.2°	151.1°

If anyone does make any observations/drawings of sunspots I would be grateful to receive any drawings or reports of Solar activity (Ed.)

Planetary Section.

Mercury. will be in superior conjunction on the 18th at 21.hrs U.T. and therefor unsuitably placed for observation for most of the month, you might possibly glimpse it low in the N.W. on the last couple of evenings of the month.

Venus.

Venus is strikingly brilliant in the evening sky in the west at mag. -3.5. Venus is moving rapidly eastward in the constellation of Aries and Taurus and in the course of the month covers about 2½ hours of right ascension. Venus passes between the Pleiades and the Hyades in the middle of the month 7° N of Aldebaran on the 22nd and will be very close to the star 95 Tauri on the evening of the 23rd. On the evening of the 14th a crescent Moon, three days old will pass less than 2° S of the planet.

Mars.

Mars is a morning star mag. 1.2 in the constellation of Capricornus and Aquarius rising only an hour before sunrise. By the end of the month it will have reached 56° western elongation.

Jupiter.

Jupiter is unsuitably placed for observation, it is a morning object rising only an hour before sunrise. It is in the Pisces constellation lying at about 30° western elongation by the end of the month.

Saturn.

Saturn is an evening star in Gemini and is visible in the south western part of the sky until well after mid-night. On the evenings of the 17th & 18th a crescent Moon will be near Saturn.

Uranus.

Uranus is in Virgo mag 5.7 and it is at opposition on the 21st at 04hours U.T. and lies about 8° east of Spica, Telescopically it shows a slightly greenish disk 4" in diameter.

Geocentric Co-ordinates for Uranus.

		Re.A.	Dec.
April	1	13h57.4m	11°24'
"	11	13h55.8m	11°15'
"	21	13h54.2m	11°06'
"	31	13h52.6m	10°58'

Lunar Section.

Moon Phases, Lunation 647

New Moon	April 11th	16h39m U.T.
First Quarter	19th	04h41m U.T.
Full Moon	" 25th	19h55m U.T.
Last Quarter	May 3rd	05h44m U.T.
Apogee	April 7th	16.00U.T.
Perigee	" 23rd	13.00U.T.

Transient Lunar Phenomena (TLP)

The latter part of February (after the March Journal had gone to press) saw much activity in respect of TLP observation by astronomers up and down the country when reports were coming in rapidly of suspect brightenings in Aristarchus, Gassendi and Plato. Three of our members Charles Radley, T. Cardot and D. Barnard saw what they believed was a T.L.P. in Aristarchus and have submitted a report to the B.N.S.

(cont)...

C.E.D.'s. (Crater Extinction Devices)

Following Mr. Fritton's suggestions of crossed polaroids for CED, Mr. Jewitt of the B.A.A. Lunar Section writes casting some doubt as to the useful purpose of this form of CED. Mr. G. Buss of the B.A.A. Lunar Section feels that further investigation should be made into all the methods tried so far as so many variable factors effect the accuracy of results, it will be interesting to see what the final outcome is.

Occultations.

April 3rd	03h51.6U.T.	121B Sgr	Mag. 5.9	R
" 17th	22h00.1U.T.	Zc 1038	" 6.8	D
" 21st	22h45m U.T.	Zc 1543	" 6.6.	D
" 22nd	00h52.8 U.T.	Zc 1551	" 6.7	D
" 23rd	00h56.1 U.T.	87 Leo	" 5.1	D
" 30th	01h20.0 U.T.	14 Sgr	" 5.7	R

Comet Boethin (1975a)

B.A.A. Circular 560 reports on a new comet discovered by the Rev. Leo Boethin, Abra, The Philippines, although sighted on Jan 4th confirmation was not available until Feb. 1st. and the first precise positions were obtained on Feb 5th. The comet is described as very diffuse with slight condensation, Mag. 11.

GK Persei (Nova Persei 1901)

Dr. K. Osaina, director of the Tokio Astronomical Observatory has reported that there has been a recent outburst of this nova. The B.A.A. director of the variable star section urges observers to keep close watch on this object and to submit their reports promptly.

Meteor Section.

This month we see the start of meteor activity for this year with the April Lyrid's, noted for bright meteors, Maximum Zenithal Hourly Rate (ZHR) predicted at 12 occurs on the 22nd 13h U.T. the normal limits of the shower are from April 19th to April 24th. The local transit time (Greenwich) of the radiant will be at 04hrs10m U.T. on the 22nd.

Keep an eye out, weather permitting and send any reports to the section director.

POSTAL CHARGES.

Will everyone who has sent S.A.E.s to Mr. R.M. Cheesman and who put stamps of the old postage rates please forward stamps to the value of the difference. First class postage is now 7p. and second class post 5½p.

This is important and your co-operation will be gratefully received.

Forthcoming Events.

The B.A.A. Lunar Section are to hold a meeting in London on May 17th at the rooms of the Swedenborg Society, planned to start at 1.45B.S.T.

An International Astronomical Youth Conference will be held in Gt. Britain next year from July 17th 1976 to July 31st. It will be held at Burwell House, Burwell, about 10 miles from Cambridge. If you are interested in attending or can help with the organisation, please contact C. Radley, [redacted], Wherstead, Ipswich.

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Mercury & Venus Section Meeting at Orwell Park.

The Mercury & Venus Section of the B.A.A. director Mr. Hedley-Robinson, are holding their provisional meeting at Orwell Park School Nacton on Saturday 26th April, 1975. The meeting will start at approx 3.00p.m. and all members and friends are invited to attend this meeting. During the evening Mr. Hedley-Robinson will give a talk at the Friends Meeting House, Fomnereau Road, Ipswich starting about 7.30p.m. Please see poster for full details.

Recently the Moon went mad. For those of you who don't know what a T.L.P. is, it stands for Transient Lunar Phenomenon, and is simply any strange flash, glow or obscuration which may last seconds, minutes, or perhaps longer, but is always of a temporary nature. The Lunar Section of the British Astronomical Association have been interested in these events for some years, since they became "respectable" in 1957 when the professional Russian astronomer Kozyrev obtained the first spectrograph of one of these events.

The BAA Lunar Section has a network of observers and observatories throughout the British Isles (with a few observers in the low countries) to observe these events. What happens is that each observer observes craters and other features on the Moon whenever he can, and if he sees anything out of the ordinary, he sets the network in action by ringing up the co-ordinator at Dundee (Harry Ford and Morgan Findlay are on the co-ordinating team at the Mills Observatory, Dundee, which has a ten-inch refractor just like we do).

The co-ordinator will ring up Patrick Moore and as many of the other members of the network by telephone as he can get hold of, so that as many people as possible can observe this event and give their descriptions of it. It is hoped that photographs and spectra of T.L.P.'s will be obtained by the network.

On the weekend of Friday 21st to Monday 24th Feb 1975, the network was a hive of activity. A T.L.P. was discovered on the Saturday or Friday evening (I cannot remember which) and the network was set into motion. There was a T.L.P. a short distance from the crater Aristarchus. Several other observers were able to confirm the event once notified by the network. The following evening there was another TLP!! This time a blue colour was seen inside Aristarchus itself. Howard Miles, who was alerted by the Network not only confirmed the TLP in Aristarchus, but actually discovered another TLP simultaneously in Gassendi, which was also confirmed by other members of the network.

I understand that on the Monday evening there was still activity visible in the Aristarchus area. Most people seem to have been clouded out on the Tuesday evening. David Bearcroft had his night that Tuesday in the dome, I wonder if he looked at the Moon at all?

Obviously, the network depends on telephone communication. At the moment, the O.A.S.I. is not a member of this network. However, we are well equipped to do so. BUT WE NEED A TELEPHONE TO RECEIVE ALERTS. We can initiate an alert easily enough, by using the phone box downstairs. I have been trying to get the committee to install a telephone for some time, but they keep overruling me, and now I have had to resign from the committee anyway. There are two other major uses for a telescope on the dome; if there is some sort of emergency when somebody at the dome is needed by somebody (eg traffic accident) he can be quickly contacted by telephone. Secondly, it saves the bother of going all the way out to the dome to find nobody is there if you have not been able to get hold of the section director beforehand.

The main objection is....THE BILL. This needn't be a serious drawback. The telephone will not be able to make outgoing calls. For that the coinbox downstairs will have to be used. What I would envisage is a receiver unit connected to the coin box downstairs, simply an extension, where where incoming calls can be heard both through the receiver downstairs and the receiver up in the dome.

There are two other pieces that the society would be well advised to obtain, a "MOONBLINK" and "C.E.D." for detecting T.L.P.'s.

JOHN DEANS will have all the info' on the BAA Lunar Section, and I believe there is a folder up in the Library, which you would have to contact Tom' cardot about. John Deans receives the Lunar Section Circular.

I am in a rush, so must leave you now,
Cheers from Charlie Radley.

PROGRAMME FOR APRIL, 1975.

TUESDAYS from 8.p.m. Double Stars Section.

Director. Mr. D. Bearcroft, [REDACTED], Ipswich, 'Phne [REDACTED]

1st April
15th "
29th "

WEDNESDAYS Solar, Lunar & Planetary Section.

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

from 7.p.m. 2nd April
9th "
23rd "
30th "

from 8.30p.m. 16th April

THURSDAYS Variable Stars Section. from 8p.m.

Director. T. Cardot, [REDACTED], Ipswich, Phone [REDACTED]
and D. Barnard, [REDACTED], Ipswich, Phone [REDACTED]

3rd April
10th "
17th "
24th "

FRIDAYS from 8.p.m. Lunar & Planetary Section.

Director. J. Deans, [REDACTED], Capel St. Mary, Phone GT. WENHAM [REDACTED]

and K. Dye, [REDACTED], Ipswich, Phone [REDACTED]

25th April

FRIDAYS from 8p.m. Nebular & Faint Objects Section

Director. Mr. M. Stow, [REDACTED], Ipswich.

and Mr. R. Hazelwood, [REDACTED], Ipswich, Phone [REDACTED]

4th April
18th "

Wednesday 2nd April Visit to Observatory by 6th Ipswich Venture Scouts
organised by Mr. R.M. Cheesman

Friday 11th April from 8p.m. Visit to Observatory by Ipswich Friday Club
organised by Mr. R.M. Cheesman

SATURDAY. 19th April Meteor Section,

Director Mr. S. Flory, [REDACTED], Ipswich, Phone [REDACTED]

April Lyrids Meteor count, Meet at entrance to Foxhall Stadium
at 10.p.m. irrespective of weather conditions.

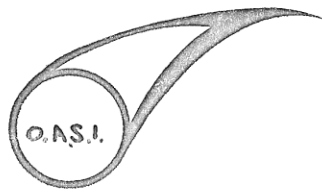
Saturday 19th April from 8p.m.

Visit to Observatory by Ipswich Seventh Day Adventist Youth Club
organised by Mr. R.M. Cheesman.

SATURDAY 26th April at 3p.m.

Mercury & Venus Section of the B.A.A. director Mr. Hedley Robinson.
Meeting at Orwell Park School
B.A.A. members, O.A.S.I. members and invited guests only please

SATURDAY 26th April at 7.30p.m. Lecture at the Friends Meeting House, Fonnereau Rd.
by Mr. J. Hedley Robinson, F.R.A.S. on 'The Amateur Astronomer' everybody invited
admission Free - See poster at back of April Journal.



ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH)

presents

a lecture on

THE
AMATEUR ASTRONOMER

by

J. HEDLEY ROBINSON F.R.A.S.

at

The Friends Meeting House
Fonnereau Road, Ipswich

on

SATURDAY APRIL 26th 1975

at 7.30p.m.

ADMISSION FREE

Secretary: Mr. M. Stow,
13 Ladywood Road,
IPSWICH.