

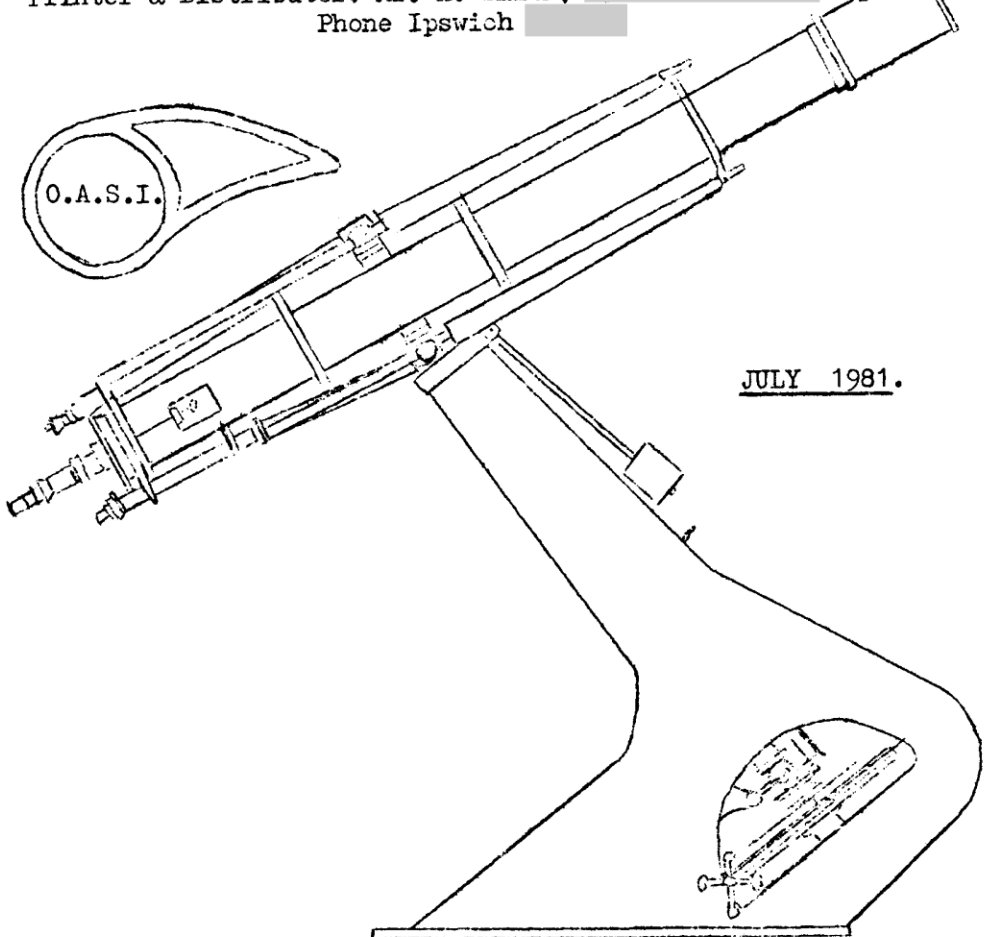
JOURNAL OF THE ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH)

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JULY 1981.

The Orwell Park 10 inch Astronomical Telescope
at Nacton near Ipswich.

THE NIGHT SKY AS SEEN FROM ORWELL PARK IN JULY.

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by Paul Burt.

The zenith position is held by the quadrilateral-shaped head of Draco during late evening this month, though it is somewhat overshadowed by nearby Vega, and glorious Cygnus to the east. Draco is in fact surrounded by a ring of prominent constellations, the chain being completed by Hercules, Corona, Bootes, Ursa Major, Ursa Minor and Cepheus. To the east, Andromeda and Pegasus are stretched horizontally along the horizon. Aquilla lies in the south-east, and Ophinchus is just past the meridian. Libra and Virgo are very low in the south-west horizon. This month provides our once-yearly chance to grab a glimpse of the star clouds in Sagittarius, just above the southern horizon, (viewing conditions allowing of course).

THE SUN.

Sunrise is at 03h 40m at the beginning of the month, changing to 04h 20m at month-end. Sunset changes from 20h 30m to 20h00m during the month. The Sun moves from Gemini to Cancer during the course of the month.

THE MOON - phases:-

New Moon	1d 19h 03m	Full Moon	17d 04h 39m
First Quarter	9d 02h 39m	Last Quarter	24d 09h 40m
		New Moon	31d 03h 53m

Occultations:

<u>Star</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Mag.</u>	<u>Time</u>
*2436	D	6.3	13d 27h 24.8m

*denotes double star, star listed according to Zodiacal Catalog (ZC) number

THE PLANETS:

Mercury reaches greatest elongation of 21° on the 14th at mag. +0.5, but rising less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours before the sun.

Venus is an evening star, setting just over an hour after the Sun at mag. -3.3

Mars will be rising more than two hours before the Sun by month-end at mag. +1.7

Jupiter will be setting only two hours after the Sun by month-end at mag. -1.5, in Vingo.

Saturn is at mag. +1.2, still alongside Jupiter. The two planets will be in conjunction on the 30th, with Jupiter overtaking.

Neptune is still visible, setting at around 0200h in mid-month, at mag. 7.7 in Ophiuchus. R.A. 17h 30m Dec. -21°55'

Source: B.A.A. Handbook, 1981. All times are U.T. (B.S.T. minus 1 hour)

FROM OTHER JOURNALS

by Paul Burt.

JUPITER'S MAGNETIC TAIL.

Voyager 2, now on it's way to Saturn, has discovered that Jupiter has an enormously elongated magnetic 'field' stretching over 480 m. Km. from the planet. The spacecraft originally left Jupiter's magnetosphere in August 1979, and entered ordinary interplanetary space, where the solar wind streams out through the solar system. Theory predicted that Jupiter should have a tear-drop shaped magnetosphere, pulled out by the solar wind, but scientists were surprised when Voyager 2 re-entered the planet's magnetic influence for a few days in February this year. It is now believed that the tail reaches out to Saturn's orbit, and that Voyager may be able to study the region where the planet's magnetic field and the interplanetary magnetic field merge. Alternatively, the magnetic tail may be wide enough to encompass Saturn and it's magnetosphere, in which case Voyager would have a unique opportunity to study the interaction of two planets' magnetic fields.

- New Scientist.

SOCIETY NEWS:

This year's Observatory and Telescope Open Day at Orwell Park is on SATURDAY OCTOBER 10th and not on October 3rd as previously advertised this is because it clashes with the Federation of Astronomical Societies meeting in Herstonceaux and many of our members will be going to this meeting.

F.A.S. MEETING AT HERSTMONCEAUX.

David Barnard, [REDACTED], Ipswich, Tel. [REDACTED] is hoping to organise a trip to the above meeting on Saturday 3rd October. The entrance fee is £1.50 plus the cost of transport. If a lot of members show interest then a coach could be hired for the day otherwise car transport will be arranged. If you are interested in going to this meeting please contact David Barnard as soon as possible so that he can make the necessary arrangements.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

The next Committee Meeting will be held at the Observatory on Saturday 11th July starting at 7.30p.m. and all members are invited to attend. The main topic of discussion will be the Open Day. Please come along and give us your support.

OBSERVATORY CLOSED FOR RE-DECORATION.

Every year we re-decorate the Observatory during the summer months. This year we are closing the Observatory during June and July so that a determined effort can be made by as many members as possible rather than the odd few who up till now have spent nearly all their spare time on this job. If you would like to help please come up on one of the nights to help.

TELESCOPE DRIVE:

The mechanics for the new telescope drive are now in position and the variable drive electronics are being fitted so when we open up again all systems should be GO.

DRAW TICKETS: Soon we will be sending out Draw Tickets to members again, the prizes will be: 1st Binoculars, 2nd camera, 3rd Digital watch plus many other prizes. It is hoped that members will sell as many tickets as possible.

VARIABLE STARS OBSERVATIONS by Mike Nicholls.

The light curve on page 5 is that of Mira (omicron) Ceti, from September 1980 to February 1981. It was the first of the class of long period variables to be discovered and members of the class are sometimes called 'Mira stars'. Mira averages about 6 magnitudes in an average period of 312 days. It is quite a convenient star for beginners to observe because of its large light variations and it is quite bright for much of the time.

The predicted time of maximum was early September 1980. This curve suggests that it may have been a little late, but that is not unusual. The termination of results in early February 1981 was due, not to the disappearance of Cetus into the sunset, but to the poor weather throughout February and March. Observations were made with 10 x 50 binoculars, an 8" reflector and a few with the 10" at Orwell Park.

METEOR NOTES: by David Barnard.

The Meteor watch held on Saturday 20th June was somewhat of a non-event because the night sky did not get very dark until way after 11p.m. We finished observing at 12-35A.M. and only saw a few meteors.

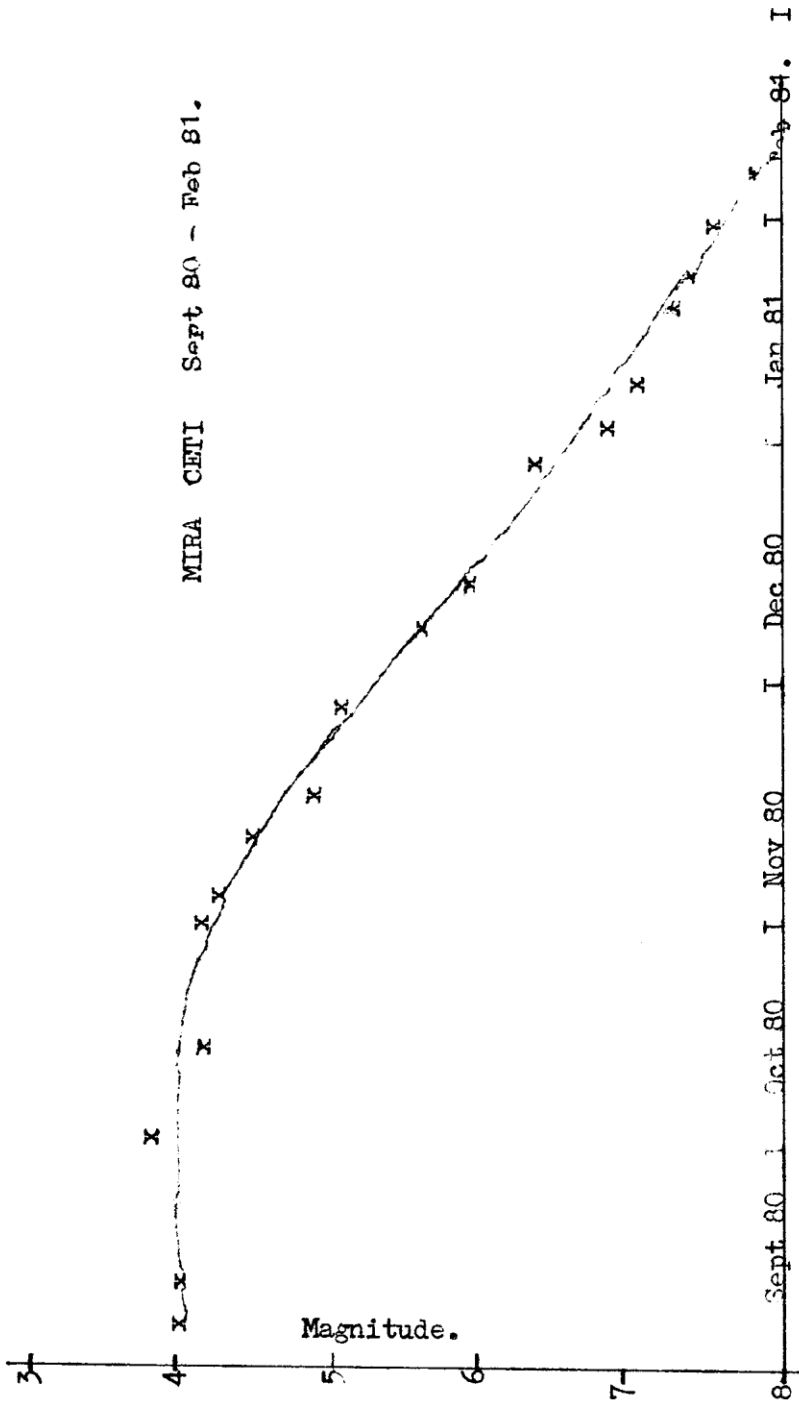
This month we have been asked by the B.A.A. Meteor Section to make special efforts in observing the Delta Aquarids and Perseids meteor showers and the B.A.A. are asking for observations between July 23rd through to August 23rd. The peak of the Delta Aquarid shower comes about 28th July, and although the radiant never rises high in the sky in the short summer nights, good results can, and have been achieved by U.K. observers. At the shower peak the Moon will be about 4 days old and thus will not be a major problem.

We propose holding a meteor watch on Saturday 25th July to observe this shower. We will meet at 9p.m. OUTSIDE the Levington Ship public house irrespective of weather conditions.

Please come along for an hour or so, or if you prefer observing by yourself in your own garden please send your reports to me .

David Barnard,
[redacted], Ipswich.
Tel. Ipswich [redacted]

MIRA CETI Sept 80 - Feb 81.



ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (IPSWICH)

MEMBERSHIP LIST as at

17th JUNE, 1981

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