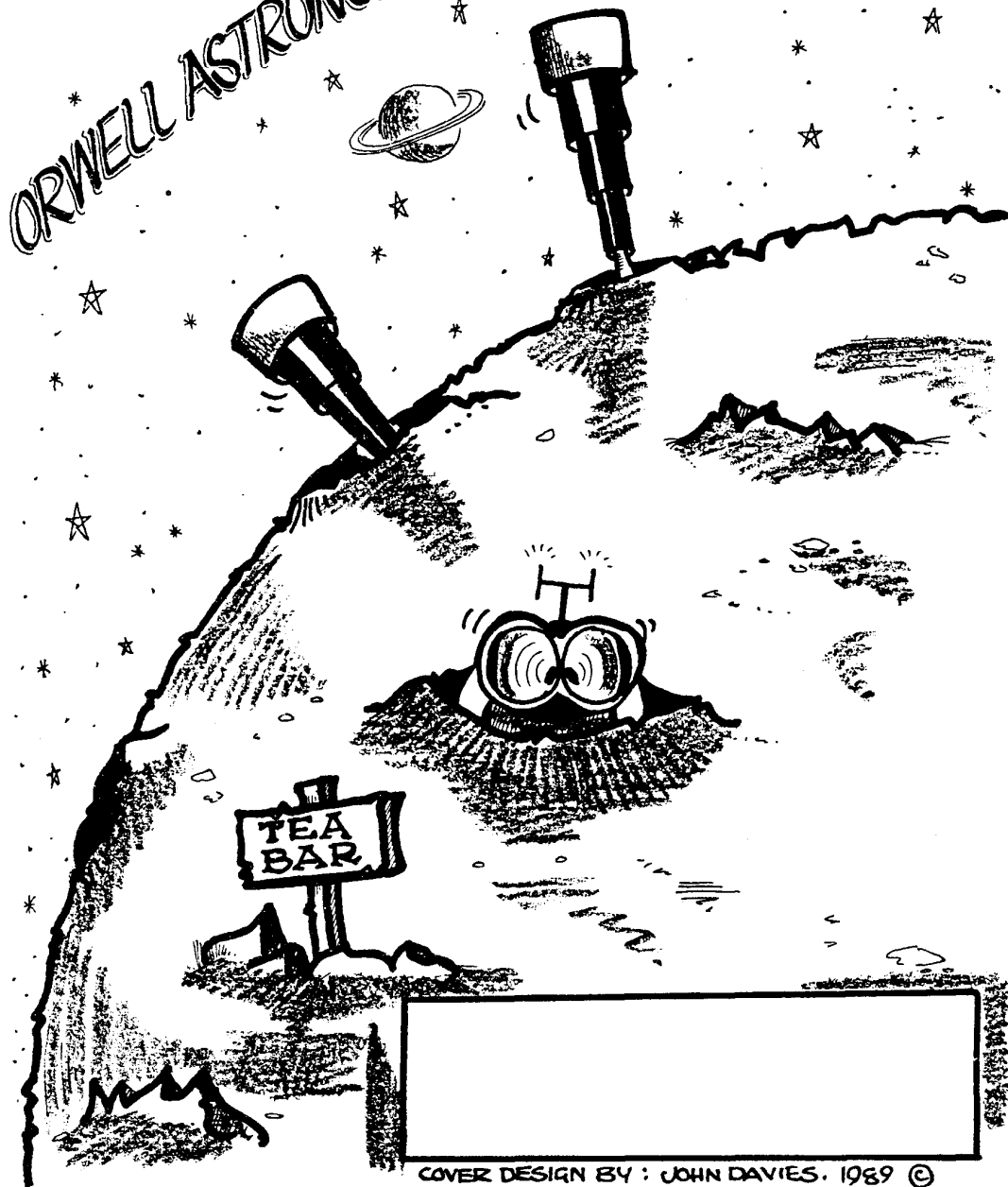


JULY 1989

# ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY IPSWICH



## SOCIETY NEWS

### 1 Next Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 15th July at the observatory, starting at 7.30. This is open to all members.

### 2 OPEN WEEKEND

This will be held from October 6,7,8,9th. As usual for these events HELP will be required to run each evening. From previous years experience at least 6 members are needed each night.

## NIGHT SKY

(ALL TIMES G.M.T.)

SUN Rises approximately at 03.40  
Sets approximately at 20.20

### MOON



3rd



11th



18th



25th

MERCURY Mercury will be rising at about 1 hour before the sun at the beginning of the month. Superior conjunction is on the 18th

VENUS Venus will be visible in the evening sky. It will be setting about 1½ hours through out the month. Mag. -3.9.

MARS At the end of the month Mars will be setting about an hour after the sun. Mag. 1.3.

JUPITER Jupiter will be rising at about 01.00 at the end of the month. Mag. -2.0.

SATURN Saturn will be rising before sunset, and sets at 02.00 by the end of the month. Mag. 0.1.

URANUS Uranus rises and sets about ½ hour before Saturn. Mag. 5.6.

NEPTUNE Neptune is located at about 2 degrees to the east of Saturn.

R. GOODING

COVER DESIGN BY : JOHN DAVIES. 1989 ©

As Orion disappears into the evening twilight and the summer constellations enter the night sky, the thoughts of many observers are of the forthcoming season of conventions and astro-camps. The vanguard of this season is the British Astronomical Associations 'Winchester Weekend' - the major event for bringing together amateur astronomers in the UK.

For 21 years King Alfreds college has been the venue for an occasion when large numbers of both BAA members and non-members ( a full capacity of 200 ) gather to hear lectures and get involved in practical demonstrations, given by top amateurs and professionals.

This year again, an OASI delegation was there comprising Mike Harlow, Roy Cheeseman and myself ( Pete Richards). I was pleased to see old friends from the Bristol Astronomical Society as well as those from earlier Winchesters.

The talks covered a wide range of subjects from solar observation techniques to 'next generation computing for amateur astronomy'. Ian Ridpath discussed the mythological goings-on behind the constellations ( see me for sordid details ) ; John Mason gave an 'astronomical update' - hot off the press, ( *News of the Universe*, stuff - including the news that the second Phobos Mars probe had gone missing which, with the lecture being on the morning of April 1st, seemed quite appropriate. The Alfred Curtis Memorial Lecture was given by Wil Tirion about his work as a Stellar Cartographer. An added bonus to hearing Wil Tirion, who inherits the mantle of Bayer [ author of the first printed star map ], Norton and Gall-Inglas etc., was to have a copy of his Sky Atlas 2000 autographed.

An opportunity to try printing astrophotographs was given by Mike Maunder in Saturdays practical session. More practical astronomy was engaged in when, as almost always, the night skies cleared for one night of the weekend to allow those bringing instruments, of all shapes and sizes, to observe and allow others to test the optics.

Another feature of Winchester weekends is the trade stands - after considerable browsing and discussion, a manual of advanced celestial astrophotography was bought for the club library ( a useful addition, I hope ).

1990 sees the BAA its centenary year, so next years' convention is likely to be better than ever and perhaps might see a bigger OASI contingent than ever before : so don't miss it !

D B Payne

Saturn is found due south in the constellation of Sagittarius during July reaching opposition on the 2nd. As well as being a good time for observing Saturn this is a good opportunity for easily finding Neptune which is also at opposition on the 2nd. The planet lies less than half a degree north of Saturn at the beginning of the month. After observing Saturn and Neptune look about seven degrees west of Saturn to find Uranus (see map below). While in this part of the sky it is worth taking the trouble to find the nearby Messier objects such as those shown on the Map (there are several others not shown lying slightly further south so if you have a good clear and dark southerly aspect then try for these also.

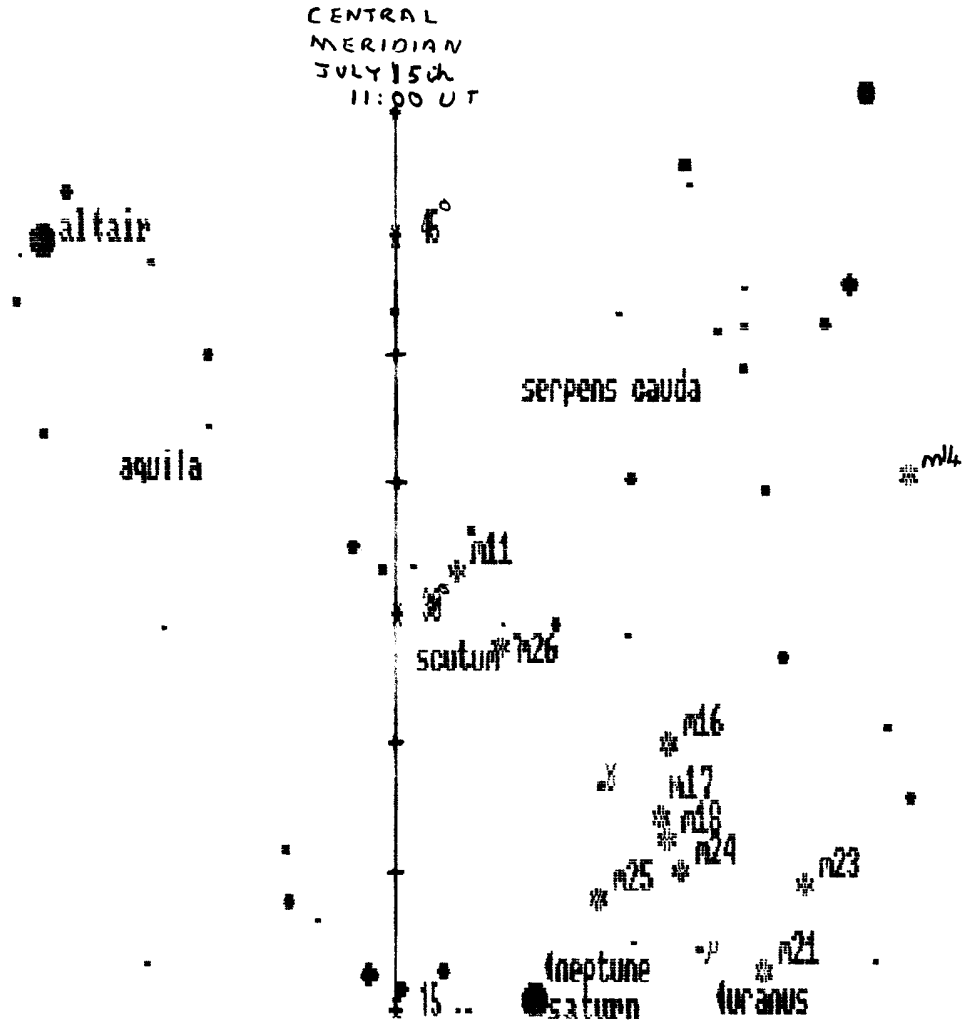
The Messier objects shown are M11, M14, M16, M17, M18, M21, M23, M24, M25 and M26. The galactic clusters M11 and M26 lie in the constellation Scutum. M11 is one of the richest galactic clusters visible from the northern hemisphere and is a splendid sight in telescopes 6 inches or greater. M26 is a much smaller but also compact group stars about 2' in diameter.

The globular cluster M14 is in the constellation Ophiuchus lying at a distance of 70,000 light years. It is fairly faint at mag 9 showing a fairly uniform glowing disk with some hint of resolution in a 10 inch telescope.

M16 in Serpens is a loose galactic cluster embedded in a vast diffuse nebula. It is at its best in a long time exposure photographs. In my 10 inch reflector I have yet to see any real sign of the nebulosity surrounding the embedded cluster. An easy object for binoculars.

The remaining objects M17, M18, M21, M23, M24 and M25 shown on the chart all lie in the constellation Sagittarius. M17 is a beautiful bright diffuse nebula also known as the 'Swan' or 'Omega' nebula the distinctive shape can be seen in good binoculars and the object is magnificent in a telescope with low powers.

M18 is a small open cluster of about 20-30 stars appearing as a small fuzzy patch in binoculars. M21 is a fairly compact galactic cluster lying about .7 degrees to the north east of the Trifid nebula M20 (not shown on the chart). M23 is a fairly rich galactic cluster 70-100 stars in 10inch. Appears as a fuzzy patch in binoculars. M24 is a large Milky Way star cloud good object for binoculars and requiring low powers in telescopes. Another open cluster is M25. This cluster has some members bright enough to be resolved in binoculars and is a fine sight in a ten inch with low power.



### ASTRONOMICAL ACTIVITY 'IN TENTS' IN NORFOLK

Deep in Thetford forest something stirs - could it be squirrels? deer? teddy bears!? No! It be them star gazers, boy!

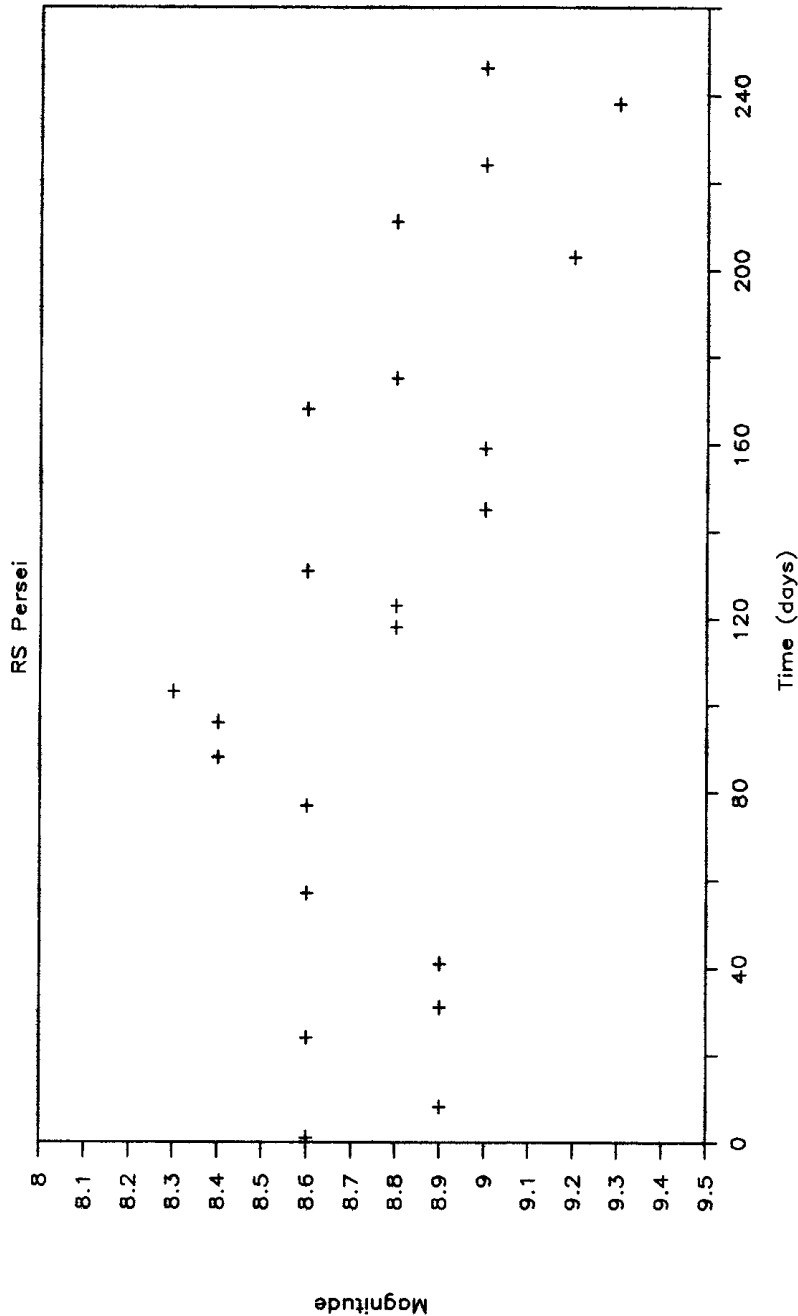
The second Thetford Sky-Camp was held on the May day bank holiday weekend. Equipped with telescopes and tents amateur astronomers across the region came to the Dower House camp site for the event. The Astronomical Society of Haringay, Loughton Astronomical Society, Lowestoft and Yarmouth Regional Astronomers and the Orwell Astronomical Society, Ipswich ( Gary Marriot and Pete Richards ) were there.

The bar, with an open fire, proved a pleasant venue for talk of observing programs, societies and the Universe ( big bang to big crunch - or whimper ) on the, cloudy, friday evening. The second evening was clear, however, and observers braved the cold and damp until the early hours, taking advantage of skies with almost no light pollution. A great variety of instruments were brought and used: reflectors and refractors; newtonians and catadioptrics; binoculars and telescopes up to 12 inch objective mirrors.

Local attractions were visited by those who managed to stay awake after the nights observing. Grimes Graves, a neolithic flint mine proved very interesting.

The next event of this type is the Astrocamp in Ashford Forest in Kent later this year.

# VARIABLE STAR OBSERVATIONS



## PROGRAMME FOR JULY

Mondays from 8pm	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION		
3-10-17 Mr R Newman	[Redacted]	Felixstowe, IP11 9DY.	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
24-31 Mr J King	[Redacted]	, Felixstowe, IP11 9LQ.	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
Tuesdays from 8pm	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION		
4-11 Mr R Newman	[Redacted]	Felixstowe, IP11 9DY	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
18-25 Mr J King	[Redacted]	, Felixstowe, IP11 9LQ	Tel. Fel. [Redacted]
Wednesdays from 8pm	NEBULA AND FAINT OBJECTS SECTION		
5-12 Mr M Cook	[Redacted]	, Ipswich, IP4 5PZ	Tel. [Redacted]
19-26 Mr D Payne	[Redacted]	, Wickham Market, IP13 OSD	Tel. W [Redacted]
Fridays from 8pm	GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION		
7-14 Mr P R Richards	[Redacted]	, Ipswich, IP4 1QB.	Tel. [Redacted]
21-28 Mr M Harlow	[Redacted]	, Trimley IP10 OXB.	Tel. [Redacted]
	Mr R A Lobbett	[Redacted], Felixstowe.	Tel. [Redacted]

All nights are open to all members, but, on nights other than Wednesday ring directors to confirm dates. [ Directors will also be able to inform you of whether a group visit is taking place that evening. ] All numbers Ipswich ( 0473 ) unless otherwise indicated.

### 1989 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	D Payne	( Address above )	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
VICE CHAIRMAN	D Barnard	[Redacted], Ipswich, IP4 5PP	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
SECRETARY	R Gooding	[Redacted], Ipswich, IP1 6AE.	Home: [Redacted]
TREASURER	M Nicholls	[Redacted], Capel St Mary, Ipswich, IP9 2EX.	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
MAINTENANCE	M Cook	( Address above )	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
JOURNAL CO-ORD LIBRARIAN	E Sims	[Redacted], Ipswich IP1 4HA	Home: [Redacted]
	P Richards	( Address above )	Home: [Redacted] Work: [Redacted]
EQUIPMENT CURATOR	J King	( Address above )	Home: [Redacted]
SPECIAL EVENTS CO-ORD	A Smith	[Redacted], Ipswich IP2 9ES	Home: [Redacted]