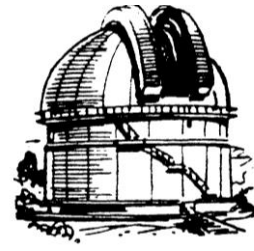

Journal

of the



Nottingham Astronomical Society

April 2004

Thursday 1st April

at the Djanogly City Technology College

Doors open from 7.30pm

Tonight we welcome

Dr Darren Baskill,

Dept of Physics & Astronomy, University of
Leicester

who will be speaking on

**“X (ray) Marks the Spot” –
X-ray Astronomy**

Inside this issue

- Sky Notes for April
- NAS Annual Dinner
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- Society Information

PLANETARY LINE-UP!

There is still the chance in the next few days to observe all five naked eye planets at once. The difficult one is Mercury, but the editor was able to observe it quite easily on March 25th, almost due west after sunset, shining brightly in the twilight. Moving your eyes upward, the next planet is Venus, followed by Mars (near the Pleiades – don't confuse it with Aldebaran), then Saturn and finally Jupiter, the bright star in the east.

Sky Notes

2004 April

Compiled by Roy Gretton

All times quoted are U.T.



THE MOON

Full Moon 5d 11h 03m
Last Quarter 12d 03h 46m
New Moon 19d 13h 21m
First Quarter 27d 17h 32m

THE PLANETS

Mercury was at greatest eastern elongation on March 29th, 19° from the Sun, and as April begins is still well-placed for observation, setting over an hour after the Sun. You will need a position with a low western skyline to have the best chance of seeing this planet.

Venus, coincidentally, was also at greatest eastern elongation on March 29th. It is a brilliant evening star, impossible to mistake, and is destined to grow even brighter until late April.

Mars. Of the five planets visible in the evening sky, Mars is now the faintest, although still brighter than magnitude 2.

Jupiter is visible throughout the night in its position under the lion. It will continue to be very conspicuous and well-placed for observation throughout the month.

Saturn, though fading, continues to be the brightest star in Gemini. It will be 5° south of the Moon on April 25th.

Uranus and **Neptune** are virtually unobservable this month.

METEORS

Conditions are favourable this year for observing the Lyrids, whose activity is expected to be at a maximum (perhaps 10 meteors per hour) on April 22nd.

Nottingham Astronomical Society Annual Dinner Tuesday, 27 April 2004

The venue is the Newstead Restaurant at NCN – Clarendon College, Pelham Avenue, Nottingham. The cost is £8 per person (with no charge for children under 5 years only).

Do please come to the dinner and make it a great evening! All members, their spouses, partners, children, relatives and friends are very welcome. If you wish to attend, please book at the Society's meeting on **1st April**. Payment in advance will be welcome and preferable - please make cheques payable to 'Nottingham Astronomical Society'.

The menu for our Annual Dinner is below and we need to let the restaurant know our choices in advance. If you are attending, please make your choices and let me know, either at the meeting on 1 April or as soon as possible by e-mail to: nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.uk

Many thanks,
Paul Stocks

MENU

Melon Fan with a Raspberry Coulis

Nicoise Salad

Lentil Soup



Fried Fillet of Plaice with Tartare Sauce

Roast Topside of Beef with Yorkshire pudding

Grilled Lamb Cutlets with Tomato and Mushroom

Ratatouille Goujere

Chef's Dish of the Day



Parmentier and Delmonico Potatoes

Glazed Carrots and Broccoli Mornay



Steamed Lemon Sponge Pudding with a Vanilla Sauce

Desserts from the Trolley

DIARY DATES

Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society

Thursday 1st April

Djanogly CTC

Doors open from 7.30pm

“X (rays) Marks the Spot” – X-ray astronomy

Dr Darren Baskill,

Dept of Physics & Astronomy, University of Leicester

(to be confirmed)

Tuesday 27th April

NAS Annual Dinner, 7.00pm

Please see the notice and menu in this issue of the Journal

Thursday 6th May

Djanogly CTC

Doors open from 7.30pm

[Topic and speaker to be confirmed]

Thursday 3rd June

Djanogly CTC

Doors open from 7.30pm

The Exploration of the Moon

Dr Mike Leggett FRAS FBIS

Thursday 2nd September

Djanogly CTC

Doors open from 7.30pm

Update on European/UK Space Science Programmes

Prof Ken Pounds

Dept of Physics & Astronomy, University of Leicester

Other events

Saturday 24th April

British Astronomical Association Meeting in Nottingham

“Practical Observing Tips for Amateurs”

See this issue of the NAS Journal for details of the programme

Venue:

Nottingham High School for Girls

Arboretum Street, Nottingham

Doors open at 11.00am

Tuesday 8th June

Transit of Venus

In this rare event, Venus will cross the Sun's disk as seen from Earth, for the first time since 1882.

Orpington Astronomical Society has an informative webpage about the transit:

<http://www.chocky.demon.co.uk/oas/venus.html>

British Astronomical Association

Nottingham Meeting, 24 April 2004

at

Nottingham High School for Girls

Arboretum Street, Nottingham

Doors open 11.00am

“Practical Observing Tips for Amateurs”

Ordinary meeting followed by

“Observing Near Earth Asteroids” Roger Dymock

“Variable star observing from the city” Gary Poyner

“Drawing the Moon” Bob Marriott

“Following features on Jupiter” Mike Foulkes

“Web cam imaging of the planets” Martin Taylor

Organisers:

Nick Hewitt (BAA) and Paul Stocks (Nottingham Astronomical Society)

Open to all interested members of the public.

We are delighted to welcome the BAA to Nottingham.

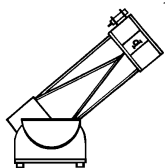
Details with directions and a map are on the BAA website at:

<http://www.britastro.org/main/meetings.html>

Small Advertisements

David Lukehurst

Astronomical Telescope Maker



Large, Highly Portable Dobsonians

From 6¼ to 30-inches

12-inch f/6 truss-tube Dobsonian: £995

Also:

Large Finders, Low-profile Helical and Rack & Pinion Focussers, Eyepieces, Barlow Lenses, Ronchi Testers, etc.

For details & price list:

Tel: 0115 9602266

gildor@ntlworld.com

For Sale

Maksutov 6-inch by Drew. 2x2-inch finderscopes, equatorial tripod mount with circles, eyepiece tray, carry box. Selection of eyepieces, Barlow lens, star diagonals.

Buyer collects. **£495** for prompt sale.

**Telephone Peter Davison
on 0115 923 0040**

The Widescreen Centre

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You are always made welcome at our shop or a telephone call to Lynda will bring you our latest catalogue

The Nottingham Astronomical Society: E – SERVICES

The Journal

To register for your FREE Journal, just E-mail Carl Brennan at carl.stella@virgin.net - You don't have to be a Society member to take advantage of this service.

Observatory Group

A web group page and message service has been set up at

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/nottinghamastronomicalsociety/>

It will be used for circulating information about the observatory construction and projects, large telescope up-dates, and use of the site by members of the Observatory Group. Please visit the web site and E-mail on line if you wish to join (NAS Members only)

Nottingham Astronomical Society

The Nottingham Astronomical Society, and/or the Editor accept no responsibility for any errors that may occur within this publication. Any views expressed in the NAS Journal are those of the individual authors and not necessarily endorsed by the Nottingham Astronomical Society, it's Committee or Members.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to join the Nottingham Astronomical Society, please complete and tear off this slip. Make your cheque/postal order payable to:

THE NOTTINGHAM ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Then send the slip and payment to Paul Stocks, Hon. Secretary, **Nottingham Astronomical Society**, 22 Killerton Park Drive, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7SB

Alternatively you may hand the slip and payment to the Secretary or Treasurer at one of the Society's regular meetings.

Your name _____

Full address _____

_____ Postcode _____

I wish to join the Nottingham Astronomical Society and enclose the membership fee for

(please tick appropriate box)

- Full Adult £23
- Junior (17 years or under) £11.50
- Concession (*full time student, UB40, Senior Citizen*) £11.50

Nottingham Astronomical Society

Affiliated to the British Astronomical Association
Member of the Federation of Astronomical Societies
Member of the Society for Popular Astronomy
Supporters of the Campaign for Dark Skies
Registered Charity No: 1066645

PRESIDENT:

Greg Eisenhauer

Tel: 01949 875857

e-mail: greg.eisenhauer@ntlworld.com

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT

Alan Heath (Ex. Dir. BAA Saturn Section)

VICE PRESIDENTS:

David Lukehurst

e-mail: gildor@ntlworld.com

Dr Roy Gretton

e-mail: roy@gretton.surfonwater.com

HONORARY SECRETARY:

Paul Stocks

Tel: 0115 914 8185

e-mail: nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.uk

TREASURER:

Dr Mike Provost

e-mail: mike.provost@ntlworld.com

JOURNAL EDITOR:

Dr Roy Gretton

e-mail: roy@gretton.surfonwater.com

CURATOR OF INSTRUMENTS

David Lukehurst

e-mail: gildor@ntlworld.com

CAMPAIGN FOR DARK SKIES:

Greg Eisenhauer

ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER:

Carl Brennan

Joe Sowerby

Dorothy Sowerby

Meetings

Formal monthly meetings, with speakers, are held on the first Thursday of each month (except August, and occasionally other months as announced) at

Djanogly City Technology College

Sherwood Rise, Nottingham NG7

Doors open	7.30pm
Meetings Start	7.45pm
Meetings end	10.00pm

Non-members are very welcome at our meetings and there is no charge for the first meeting. We make a small charge of £2.50 adults, £1.25 juniors to non-members after their first attendance. Invited guests are admitted free of charge.

Annual Subscriptions, 2003-04

Full Adult:	£23
Junior (17 years or under)	£11.50
Concessions	£11.50

(Full time student, UB40, Senior Citizens)

Subscriptions become due on 1 October. Half-price subscription is charged if joining after 1st April. Please make cheques payable to:
Nottingham Astronomical Society.

If you would like further information about the **Nottingham Astronomical Society**, or would like to become a member, please contact the Honorary Secretary, Paul Stocks, at the address given above, or speak to any NAS committee member at one of the regular monthly meetings. A membership application form appears inside this issue of the Journal.
