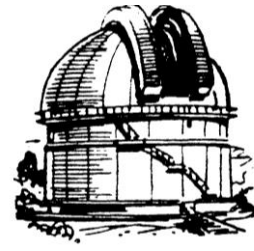

Journal

of the



Nottingham Astronomical Society
November 2004

Inside this issue

- Sky Notes for November
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- Membership application form

Thursday 4th November

at the Djanogly City Technology College

Doors open from 7.30pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Origin of the Earth-Moon System

For the past 30 years the most popular model for the formation of the Moon has been a collision between the early Earth and another planetary body about the size of Mars. The problem has been how to accommodate a Mars-sized planet in the inner Solar System, and then to bring it into collision with Earth. New computer simulations favour the idea that this other body was *in the same orbit as Earth*, but sixty degrees away at one of the Lagrange points (as some asteroids are in relation to Jupiter). Some perturbation was then required to throw the body out of its orbit and ultimately on to a collision course with Earth. The computer model apparently shows such a course of events is quite feasible.

Sky Notes

2004 November

Compiled by Roy Gretton

All times quoted are U.T.



PHASES OF THE MOON

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Last Quarter | 5d 05h 53m |
| New Moon | 12d 14h 27m |
| First Quarter | 19d 05h 50m |
| Full Moon | 26d 20h 07m |

THE PLANETS

Mercury is at greatest eastern elongation (22°) on November 21st, but even so will not be well placed for observation from the U.K., being very low down in the evening twilight.

Venus continues to be a brilliant object in the morning sky, but its elongation from the Sun is diminishing to less than 30° by the end of November. It will be just over half a degree from Jupiter on the 5th, less than a quarter of a degree from the Moon on the 10th.

Mars is just beginning to return to visibility in the morning twilight, but being low down and still a very long way away from Earth, it will be very difficult to observe.

Jupiter is also a morning object, difficult to observe at the beginning of November, but steadily drawing away from the Sun and becoming easy to spot by the end of the month. It is just under one degree from the Moon on the 9th.

Saturn is a prominent object in the morning sky, culminating about 04.00 hours in the middle of November. At magnitude zero, the planet is easy to identify due to its proximity to Castor and Pollux in the constellation of Gemini.

Uranus and **Neptune** are highest in the evening sky soon after sunset this month. Uranus at magnitude 5.7 is in Aquarius, and Neptune at magnitude 7.8 is in Capricornus.

METEORS

November is, of course, the month of the **Leonids**, which produced meteor storms in 1999, 2001 and 2002. A repeat of these is considered unlikely in 2004, but opportunities for observation are particularly favourable this year, since the maximum on November 17th falls between New Moon and First Quarter. Look out for these meteors between the 15th and the 20th.

The **Taurids** reach their maximum activity on November 3rd, but expect to see far fewer of them than the Leonids.



Nottingham Astronomical Society Membership subscription rates for 2004-05

For the year to 30 September 2005, the NAS committee are proposing the following fees:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| All adult members | £24 |
| Junior members (under age18) | £12 |
| Concessionary rate | £12 |

The committee also propose that the “concessionary rate” should apply only to adult members who are in full-time further education or whose main source of income is the state pension, or Jobseeker’s Allowance, or other state benefits. For all other adult members, the full rate of £24 applies. If you are uncertain about which subscription rate applies to your circumstances, please have a word with the Society’s Treasurer or Secretary.

New members joining after 1 April

A new member joining after 1 April is charged half the appropriate annual fee, to cover the remainder of the Society’s year to 30 September.

Non members attending NAS meetings

The first attendance of a non-member is free of charge. After that, any non-member attending our meetings is asked to pay a small fee of £2.50 adults, £1.25 juniors. Invited guests may attend meetings free of charge.

DIARY DATES

Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society

Thursday 4th November
Djanogly CTC
Doors open from 7.30pm
**Annual General Meeting
2004**

Thursday 2nd December
Djanogly CTC
Doors open 7.30pm
“X-Planes and Lifting Bodies”
James Ince
Bassetlaw Astronomical Society

Thursday 6th January 2005
Djanogly CTC
Doors open 7.30pm
Members' Evening

February 2005 onwards

I am now booking speakers for our 2005 programme of meetings.

New guest speakers are always welcome. If you know of anyone who could give a talk to the Society on astronomy, space science or perhaps another science topic (such as geology), please let me have their contact details!

Many thanks,
Paul Stocks
NAS Secretary
nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.uk

DIARY DATES continued

Other events

Saturday 6th November

Leeds Astromeet 2004

Brunswick Building, Leeds Metropolitan University (Off Merrion Way), Leeds

Programme:

9.00 - Doors open

10.00 - 'Observing Comets' - Nick James (BAA)

11.35 - 'Peering into the furnace - the microwave background and the accelerating universe' -
Dr Rob Jeffries (Keele University)

13.50 - 'How to build a galaxy' - Prof. Michael Merrifield (Nottingham University)

15.25 - 'Double neutron stars binaries' - Dr Duncan Lorimer (University of Manchester)

17.10 - 'John Flamsteed, 1646-1719, the first Astronomer Royal' - Dr Allan Chapman
(Oxford University)

Details and location map are available from the Astromeet website:

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/xavierv/LeedsAS/Astromeet.html>

TV series on
BBC One

Space Odyssey: Voyage to the Planets

The ultimate journey of human exploration comes to BBC ONE this November - **Space Odyssey: Voyage To The Planets**. From the makers of *Walking With Dinosaurs*, this new drama-documentary series, narrated by David Suchet, takes viewers on the ultimate space flight and, by pressing the red button on the remote control, transports them to the heart of the European Space Agency's mission control room. Details are in the press release on this website:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2004/10_october/13/space.shtml

Episode 1 is broadcast on **Thursday 11 November** (with a repeat on Sunday 14 November)

Episode 2 is broadcast on **Thursday 18 November** (with a repeat on Sunday 21 November)

There will be interactive digital TV features, a live broadcast from ESA mission control, a supporting documentary on BBC Four. Also a **tour** which will visit science centres around the UK, including the National Space Centre in Leicester. (No details of dates at the time of writing.)

Small Advertisements

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**

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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

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e-mail: gildor@ntlworld.com

website: www.dobsonians.co.uk

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 MEMBERS:

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

(under review for the coming year)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Full Adult: | £23 |
| Junior (<i>17 years or under</i>) | £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.
