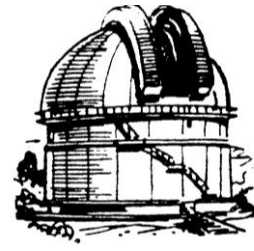

Journal

of the



Nottingham Astronomical Society

November 2006

Inside this issue

- Sky Notes for November
- Notice of AGM
- Diary Dates
- Vote on meetings venue
- Advertisements
- E-Services
- Membership application form
- Society Information

Thursday 2 November

at the

**Djanogly City Academy, Room 105
Sherwood Rise
Nottingham**

doors open 7.30pm

Tonight we have our

**Annual General Meeting
for 2006**

THE FUTURE OF THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE

By the time our AGM takes place, a decision should have been announced on the future of the HST. On October 27th the NASA Administrator received a briefing on the requirements and risks of the proposed final shuttle servicing mission to the telescope planned for 2008, and he is expected to announce his decision on whether to go ahead with the mission at a news conference on October 31st. The flight was considered to be too risky after the Columbia disaster, but without it the HST will soon become unusable.

Sky Notes

2006 November

Compiled by Roy Gretton



PHASES OF THE MOON

Full Moon occurs shortly after midday on the 5th
Last Quarter occurs in the early evening of the 12th
New Moon occurs on the evening of the 20th
First Quarter occurs shortly before dawn on the 28th

This month the Moon is closest to Earth on the 4th, and furthest from Earth on the 15th.

OCCULTATION OF THE PLEIADES

The Moon will pass in front of some of the stars of the Pleiades open cluster on November 6th. The magnitude 5.1 star Pleione will reappear from behind the dark limb of the Moon at 5.10 p.m., and the magnitude 3.6 Atlas will similarly reappear six minutes later. Unfortunately these events will take place only about 6 degrees above the eastern horizon for observers in Britain.

THE PLANETS

There is a good opportunity to observe **Mercury** near the end of this month. The planet is at greatest eastern elongation (20 degrees) on November 25th, and will appear as a magnitude -0.5 object in the constellation of Libra, rising about an hour and a half before the Sun. Through a telescope it will show a gibbous phase 6.7 arcseconds across, and will continue to be visible well into December.

Venus is also a morning object, but too close to the Sun for observation this month.

Mars is also unobservable in November, having recently passed through conjunction with the Sun.

Jupiter reaches conjunction with the Sun on November 21st, and consequently cannot be observed this month.

Saturn is a morning object, shining at magnitude 0.6 in the constellation of Leo, a few degrees west of the star Regulus. The last quarter Moon passes between Saturn and Regulus on the morning of November 13th.

Uranus continues to be well-placed for observation in the late evening. It is a magnitude 5.7 object about one degree east of Lambda Aquarii, and fairly easy to

locate with binoculars or a small telescope. Through a larger telescope it appears as a small greenish disc about 4 arcseconds in diameter.

Neptune, is a magnitude 7.9 evening object in the constellation of Capricornus.

METEORS

The **Taurids** reach maximum activity on November 3rd, when up to ten events per hour may be observed. However, this is very close to the date of the Full Moon, which will make observation difficult. The **Leonids** have much more favourable conditions, as their twin maxima (on November 17th and 19th) occur close to the New Moon. Some sources suggest that the shower may be particularly active just before 5 a.m. on the 19th, when the Earth will pass through the debris trail of Comet Temple-Tuttle's 1932 return. The meteors will be entering our atmosphere at high speeds (70 km/s) and are expected to leave long-duration trails.

COMET

Comet 2006 M4 (SWAN) underwent an unexpected outburst in the third week of October, and brightened to naked eye visibility. This month it will be an evening object travelling through the constellations of Hercules and Aquila.

Annual General Meeting 2006

The 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Nottingham Astronomical Society will be held on **Thursday, 2 November** at **Djanogly City Academy, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham**. Doors open at 7.30pm.

The committee for the year 2006-07 will be elected and new members of the committee are always welcome. Committee meetings last about an hour and a half and are held once every 4 to 6 weeks on dates convenient to the committee members. *A detailed knowledge of astronomy is **not** necessary!*

Feel free to contact the Secretary or any committee member if you would like to know more about committee membership. Committee details are on the back page of the Journal. Alternatively, just step forward at the AGM!

Public Relations Officer – a new post

The committee believe that the Society would benefit from having a new post of "Public Relations Officer". This would be a committee member who can help to promote the Society in the Nottingham area, arranging for our meetings and activities to be better publicised. All of the current committee are fully occupied with their various posts, so the Public Relations Officer would need to be a new committee member. If you are interested in this new post, please let the Secretary or President know.

Membership vote on moving our meetings to BGS Keyworth

At the AGM we shall hold a vote of members to confirm the committee's recommendation that the Society should make a permanent move of our meetings to the British Geological Survey, Keyworth, from December 2006.

The British Geological Survey has offered the NAS permanent use of the room free of charge for our monthly meetings. This would result in a saving of expenditure for the Society and means that the annual subscription rate for 2006-07 could be held at £25 (£12.50 for juniors and concessions).

If we move our meetings to Keyworth, the committee also proposes that meetings should start at 8.00pm. This links better with the bus timetable for those travelling by public transport.

Thank you to those members who have already voted by e-mail.

If you have not yet voted, please either vote in person at the AGM, **or by e-mail before 2 November** at : nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.uk

Paul Stocks
NAS Secretary

DIARY DATES 2006-07

Meetings of the Nottingham Astronomical Society

Our programme for the coming months is below. Don't forget to check our website:

<http://beehive.thisisnottingham.co.uk/nottinghamastro>

for the latest information about the Society's activities.

Thursday 2 November

Doors open 7.30pm

Djanogly City Academy, Room 105

Sherwood Rise

Nottingham

Annual General Meeting 2006

Thursday 7 December

Doors open 7.30pm

(Venue to be decided by the vote at the AGM!)

The Barwell Meteorite

Professor Jack Meadows

Loughborough University

Thursday 4 January 2007

Members' Evening

Thursday 1 February 2007

[Speaker & topic to be arranged]

Thursday 1 March 2007

The Problem of Light Pollution

Darren Baskill

University of Leicester

Leeds Astromeet

'Leeds Astromeet' is justly regarded as one of the premier events in the national amateur astronomy calendar. Following last year's success, the event will be at Leeds University again this year, but at a more prestigious hall. An excellent line up of speakers and topics looks set to ensure a very enjoyable day for all.

The details are as follows:

Date: Saturday, 11th November 2006

Time: Doors open 9.00am

First speaker 10.00am

Last speaker 5.10pm

Tickets on door: £10.00

Venue:

The Clothworkers Centenary Concert Hall and Foyer, School of Music, Leeds University

(300 seat auditorium) See the venue at

<http://webprod2.leeds.ac.uk/campusmap/detail.asp?ID=13>

or a map at

<http://www.universallyleeds.co.uk/maps/campusmap.pdf>

Speakers:

Tom Boles (BAA) "Type I Supernovae - the new stars of Cosmology"

Professor John Brown (Astronomer Royal for Scotland) "The Uncertain Universe - Magic of the Cosmos"

Dr Allan Chapman (Oxford University) "Mary Somerville the Lady Astronomer"

Dr Simon Green (Open University) "Stardust - a new view of Comets"

Nik Szymanek (BAA) "Photographing the Night Sky"

Trade stalls already confirmed include:

Earth and Sky Books

Aurora Books

Chris Marriott's Skymap

Cape Instruments

Green Witch Telescopes

Opticstar Ltd

British Astronomical Association

Stockport Binocular and Telescope Centre

Astronomica

Further details can be found on the Leeds Astronomical Society website:

<http://www.leedsastronomy.org.uk>

Small Advertisements

For Sale

Maksutov 6-inch Telescope by Drew

2x2-inch finderscopes, equatorial tripod mount with circles, eyepiece tray, carry box.

Selection of eyepieces, Barlow lens, star diagonals. Buyer collects.

Now reduced to £200

An opportunity for a beginner to obtain some good equipment at a bargain price

**Telephone Peter Davison
on 0115 923 0040**

For Sale

8³/₄-inch Newtonian telescope on Dobsonian mount

Built by David Lukehurst.

65x and 250x eyepieces, finderscope.

5 years old.

Hardly used, very good condition.

£375 or near offer

**Telephone Terry Naylor
on 0115 9815968**

The Nottingham Astronomical Society: E - SERVICES

'Beehive' Website

Whether or not you are a NAS member, you can now keep up to date with details of the Society's meetings and other events by visiting the NAS 'Beehive' website:

<http://beehive.thisisnottingham.co.uk/nottinghamastro>

NAS Journal e-mailing list

To register for your monthly e-mailed copy of the NAS Journal, just e-mail

nottinghamastro@yahoo.co.uk

You don't have to be a Society member to take advantage of this service.

NAS Observatory Group

A web group page and message service (for NAS members only) is available at

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

It is used for circulating information to members about work at the observatory and use of the large telescope. If you are a member of the Society, you can join this online group by visiting the website and clicking on "Join this Group".

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, its 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 £25
- Junior (17 years or under) £12.50
- Concession (*full time student, UB40, etc*) £12.50

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:

Fred Hopper

e-mail: fwmh@nerc.ac.uk

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT

Alan Heath (Ex. Dir. BAA Saturn Section)

VICE PRESIDENTS:

David Lukehurst

e-mail: gildor@ntlworld.com

website: www.dobsonians.co.uk

Dr Roy Gretton

e-mail: roygretton@speed-mail.co.uk

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: roygretton@speed-mail.co.uk

CURATOR OF INSTRUMENTS

David Lukehurst

e-mail: gildor@ntlworld.com

DIRECTOR OF OBSERVING

John Hurst

Observatory line: 07726 940700

CAMPAIGN FOR DARK SKIES:

Duncan Collins

e-mail: duncan.collins@talk21.com

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).

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.

Proposed annual subscriptions, 2006-07

Full Adult:	£25
Junior (17 years or under)	£12.50
Concessions	£12.50

(Full time student, UB40, etc)

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.
