

JOURNAL

of

The Nottingham Astronomical Society

September 1993

EDITORIAL

This is only a brief issue. As I type this I do not know whether it can be printed. Normal service will not be resumed until the end of the school holidays.

You will see below a reminder of the FAS Autumn Convention. This has been a popular trip for NAS members in recent years; and a well worthwhile one. Brian's account of the meteor watch is a reminder of the varied climatic fortunes which astronomers enjoy in this country. I was experiencing another variation, illness; though I did manage to observe five probable Perseids through the window while lying on the settee listening to a Bellini opera on headphones. I think this observational technique deserves further development.

Dove Fletcher (Editor)

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

F.A.S. AUTUMN CONVENTION

VENUE:- The Cavendish Laboratory, Madingley Road, Cambridge

I don't have full details of the programme but in previous years there has been an excellent array of speakers together with tours of the nearby observatories and the R.G.O. facilities.

PERSEID METEOR WATCH

by Brian Griffin

The observing site was open on the nights of August 11/12th and August 12/13th in order to observe the the maximum of this shower. Sorry about the road works - the only access to the site was from the Lime Kiln end of the road.

Unfortunately the night of the the anticipated meteor storm (August 11/12th) was completely clouded out; even though clear skies were still with us at 7.00pm BST. A number of hopeful observers did turn up on that night but the call of the Lime Kiln became irresistible by 10.30pm BST. Andrew and Dave decided to travel further north in the hope of finding clearer skies.

(Continued on page 3)

S E P T E M B E R

For September 1993

by B. Griffin, Director of Observing

SOLAR & PLANETARY DATA

OBJECT	DATE	R. A. h.m	DEC. °. '	MAG.	DIA. "	ELONGATION, CONSTELLATION, VISIBILITY
Sun	Sept 5	10.55	+ 6.53			
	15	11.31	+ 3.06			
	25	12.07	+ 0.46			
Mercury	Sept	Very badly placed as evening object				
Venus	Sept 10	9.14	+16.26	-3.8	12.3	31°, Morning twilight, E
	30	10.49	+ 8.49	-3.8	11.5	27°, " " " E
Mars	Sept	Hidden in bright evening twilight				
Jupiter	Sept	Hidden in bright evening twilight				
Saturn	Sept 10	21.53	-14.30	+0.4	17.1	All night, Capricornus, SE
	30	21.49	-14.53	+0.5	16.7	" " " " SE
Uranus	Sept 15	19.20	-22.40	+5.6	3.9	Evening sky, Sagittarius, SE
Neptune	Sept 15	19.19	-21.30	+7.9	2.5	Evening sky, Sagittarius, SE

LUNAR DATA

Phases:

Full	1 d 02 h
Last Qtr	9 d 06 h
New	16 d 03 h
First Qtr	22 d 19 h
Full	30 d 19 h

Apsides:

Perigee 3 d and 30 d Apogee 16 d

RISING & SETTING TIMES (U.T.)

<u>August 31/September 1</u>	<u>September 30/October 1</u>
Sun sets 18 h 55 m	Sun sets 17 h 35 m
Mercury sets 19 h 05 m	Mercury sets 18 h 00 m
Mars sets 19 h 50 m	Jupiter sets 18 h 00 m
Jupiter sets 20 h 00 m	Mars sets 18 h 20 m
Uranus sets 00 h 40 m	Uranus sets 22 h 30 m
Neptune sets 00 h 50 m	Neptune sets 22 h 40 m
Venus rises 02 h 00 m	Saturn sets 01 h 50 m
Saturn sets 04 h 15 m	Venus rises 03 h 35 m
Sun rises 05 h 15 m	Sun rises 06 h 10 m

Perseid Meteor Watch

(Continued from front page)

By all accounts from the media on August 12th, the anticipated storm did not take place; so, not a lot was missed.

The night of August 12/13th fared a lot better. The sky was very clear, which produced about a dozen observers at the site. It has been a very long time since I had seen the Milky Way so well.

Quite a number of Perseids were seen (together with some sporadics). A few meteors left trains but there were no spectacularly bright meteors. A number of photographs were taken by various observers (I hope that we see their results at future monthly meetings. It was hoped that some meteor trails were captured on film.

The site was closed about 2.00am BST on August 13th. By this time the thick crescent moon had risen high enough to begin to interfere with observations. The Pleiades were also attaining an appreciable altitude; a sure sign that Winter is on the way.

Many thanks to all those who turned up on both nights. Although the first night ended in disappointment, those who came on the second saw the site at its best and, I hope, travelled home with some good memories.