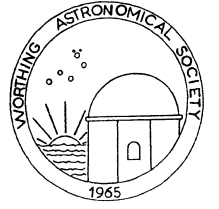




WAS NEWS

Monthly Newsletter of the **W**orthing **A**stronomical **S**ociety
www.was.org.uk



Number 221

July 2008



Jupiter 22nd April 2006 - 3 * 0.01 secs infrared filter (Europa's shadow)

Keith Peters and Graham Boots

Using the Faulkes North 2 metre telescope on a Hawaiian mountain top over the internet

ALMANAC

All times U.T.

July/August/September

LUNAR

July	Date	Time	Rise	Set
Perigee	1 st	21.20	359,503km	
New moon	3 rd	02.19	03.36	21.08
First Quarter	10 th	04.35	13.12	22.57
Apogee	14 th	04.07	405,480km	
Full Moon	18 th	07.59	20.31	03.43
Last Quarter	25 th	18.42	22.11	12.55
Perigee	29 th	23.16	363,863km	
August				
New moon	1 st	10.13	04.04	19.56
First Quarter	8 th	20.20	13.23	21.36
Apogee	10 th	20.15	404,594km	
Full Moon	16 th	21.16	19.11	04.01
Last Quarter	23 rd	23.49	21.09	13.36
Perigee	26 th	03.51	368,664km	
New moon	30 th	19.58	04.32	18.32
September				
First Quarter	7 th	14.04	14.33	21.13
Apogee	7 th	14.57	404,254km	
Full Moon	15 th	09.13	17.56	05.37
Perigee	20 th	03.35	368,854km	
Last Quarter	22 nd	05.04	21.58	14.57
New moon	29 th	08.12	06.10	17.16

EARTH

July	Sunrise	Sunset
3 rd	03.49	20.20
10 th	03.56	20.15
18 th	04.05	20.08
25 th	04.14	19.59
August		
1 st	04.24	19.48
8 th	04.35	19.36
16 th	04.48	19.20
23 rd	04.59	19.06
30 th	05.10	18.50
September		
7 th	05.23	18.32
15 th	05.36	18.14
22 nd	05.47	17.58
29 th	05.58	17.42

PLANETS (As at 16th August)

	Constellation	Rises	Sets	Mag.
Mercury	Leo	06.23	19.56	-0.4
Unsuitably placed				
Venus	Leo	06.34	20.02	-3.9
Evening object in the west				
Mars	Virgo	08.05	20.24	+1.7
Unsuitably placed				
Jupiter	Sagittarius	17.19	01.19	-2.6
Evening object in the west				
Saturn	Leo	06.18	19.58	+0.9
Unsuitably placed				
Uranus	Aquarius	20.06	07.36	+5.7
Evening object in the south				
Neptune	Capricornus	19.09	04.54	+7.8
Evening object in the south				
Pluto	Sagittarius	15.39	00.51	+13.9

Have you imaged it yet

PHENOMENA

Day	Hour	July
29 th	20	Mercury in superior conjunction
August		
1 st	10	Partial eclipse
1 st	16	Mercury 1°N. of moon
2 nd	13	Venus 2°N. of moon

3 rd	11	Saturn 3°N. of moon
4 th	09	Mars 4°N. of moon
13 th	15	Jupiter 3°N. of moon
13 th	17	Saturn 0°.2N. of Venus
15 th	08	Neptune at opposition
15 th	20	Saturn 0°.6N. of Mercury
16 th	21	Partial eclipse of moon
21 st	16	Venus 1°N. of Mercury
31 st	02	Saturn 4°N. of moon
September		
1 st	16	Venus 5°N. of moon
1 st	21	Mercury 3°N. of moon
2 nd	04	Mars 5°N. of moon
4 th	02	Saturn in conjunction
8 th	04	Jupiter at stationary point
8 th	18	Mars 3°N. of Mercury
9 th	21	Jupiter 3°N. of moon
11 th	04	Mercury at greatest elongation E. 27°
12 th	02	Mars 0°.3S. of Venus
13 th	02	Uranus at opposition
15 th	02	Venus 4°N. of Mercury
23 rd	11	Mars 4°N. of Mercury
24 th	07	Mercury at stationary point
27 th	16	Saturn 4°N. of moon
30 th	10	Mercury 1°N. of moon

Minima of Algol

July	3 rd 03.36	6 th 00.24	8 th 21.12	26 th 02.06	28 th 22.54
August	15 th 03.48	18 th 00.36	20 th 21.24		
September	7 th 02.12	9 th 23.00	27 th 03.54	30 th 00.42	

Lunar Occultation's

Times as at NEW W.A.S. Observatory site				
Date	U.T.	S.A.O. No	Mag	Phase
July	h. m. s.			
19 th	22.39.01	164249	6.2	Reapp
23 rd	23.39.39	109207	8.4	Reapp
25 th	23.40.47	92808	8.8	Reapp
August				
11 th	20.33.01	185400	7.3	Diss
11 th	21.32.11	185420	7.8	Diss
13 th	22.22.39	187898	7.4	Diss
17 th	22.46.12	146188	7.1	Reapp
18 th	22.58.02	146693	7.8	Reapp
19 th	21.42.57	109052	7.9	Reapp
23 rd	22.08.57	76210	8.3	Reapp
23 rd	22.15.07	76216	6.6	Reapp
23 rd	22.31.55	76234	7.5	Reapp
23 rd	22.33.03	76236	6.6	Reapp
23 rd	22.42.24	76249	7.5	Reapp
23 rd	22.58.36	76259	7.5	Reapp
September				
9 th	19.36.08	187388	6.3	Diss
9 th	20.22.01	187438	7.8	Diss
16 th	23.40.54	109466	8.5	Reapp
18 th	20.39.48	92988	8.2	Reapp
18 th	23.35.42	93031	8.1	Reapp
18 th	23.52.47	75489	8.7	Reapp
19 th	21.00.56	75977	8.3	Reapp
19 th	21.09.26	75979	7.4	Reapp
19 th	21.29.56	75987	7.2	Reapp
19 th	21.32.22	75988	7.7	Reapp
19 th	21.49.31	75990	7.6	Reapp

The list above is a selection of the more easily observed evening events, (about 20 % of the list available,) there are more in the wee small hours for the insomniacs amongst us

Dave Wells

Editors Note

Konnichiha!

Further to my tease last month about the new look issue 222 I can now reveal more....Due to rising costs of printing this Newsletter a plan has been hatched to attempt to save money - Two WASNews! A quarterly (*WASNews-Quarterly*) and a monthly (*WASNews-lite*)

From September the WAS newsletter will appear as a quarterly in an 8 page, A5 format. The contents would be observation notes laid out for the following three months (sky notes, star maps, other observation notes and members results etc) perhaps details of forthcoming speakers.

A similar WASNews would appear every quarter after that - December, March, June etc.

During the interim months, one A4 double sided sheet would be produced - again, this would contain up to the minute observing notes (comets, new discoveries), observers reports, details of speakers and the Diary of society events, a brief description of the previous months speaker etc.

I shall ensure that anyone who has an email address will automatically receive an electronic version of the newsletters. Members who have not previously received an electronic copy of the Newsletter will receive it in .pdf (Adobe) format, unless you contact me and ask for a different file version.

The quarterly would be sent to members without email, via the post or hand delivery where possible. This will make a considerable saving on the postage and indeed paper. The monthly newsletter would be disseminated by email, at meetings or by hand. They won't be posted by the mail, therefore only a limited quantity would need to be printed.

This decision was not of course the preferred choice but I'm sure all members will appreciate that printing paper and postage are not immune to the rising prices that we all see around us at the moment.

However be assured that the normal high quality of articles & information that you've come to know and love will not be reduced.

Sayonara

Rob

Dates for your Diary

WAS Outing To Winchester Planetarium & Intech Science Centre

Graham Boots

On Saturday the 27th September I plan an outing for WAS members and friends to the newly opened, state of the art, Winchester Planetarium and Intech Science Exhibition which is 2 miles outside of Winchester at the Intech Science Centre. It is open from 10.00am to 4.00pm. There is free parking for 180 cars. Refreshments are available. Winchester is 62 miles from Worthing and the estimated journey time is 1 hour 11minutes.

I suggest we leave Worthing around 8.30am so as to arrive early and make the best of the day. Some of you may use the day to shop in Winchester. Nearer the time I will supply road maps. For those with satellite navigation systems the postcode of Intech is SO21 1HZ. The web site address is <http://www.intech-uk.com>

The planetarium shows currently available are :-

Black Holes: Beyond Infinity 25 minutes

Cosmic Journey III 25 minutes

Neighbourhood Earth (live show) 30 minutes plus questions & answers

The cost of each show is £2 per person (adult & children) and can all be booked in one go on the day. These shows are shown throughout the day and you can choose the times to suit yourselves.

The entry charge into the Intech Science Centre is £6.75 per person and £4.50 per child up to age 16) so the total charges including all three planetarium shows is £12.75 per adult or £10.50 per child up to age 16. I am told one should allow 2 to 3 hours to see the exhibition. I will let you choose what you wish to see and will not be collecting any money. There is no charge made by WAS.

I plan this outing to be on a car sharing bases and upon arrival we will be free to choose the shows we wish to see at times to suit our selves. In other words I do not intend us to stay together as one large group. The Intech Science Centre has about 100 exhibits, many with hands on facilities so good for children. I will confirm the shows nearer the time and let you know through WAS News if there has been any changes and any new titles.

Further details from Graham Boots Tel: 01903 505346.

Was Summer BBQ

Brian Halls

The WAS Summer BBQ Meeting shall take place on 16th August - the night of a partial lunar eclipse - and this year, instead of the function taking place at a members' home, the Society has booked The Spur at Slindon.(below)



This picturesque and old coaching inn has a functions area, where the BBQ and buffet will be held, plus a skittle alley where we can all have a bit of fun trying to topple the nine-pins (below).



There will be prizes skittles team, best player etc.

There is a covered marquee area in the courtyard between the main inn and the functions room, so those attending can mingle.

As it is the night of the partial eclipse, there is a good view across Sussex countryside towards the east where the Moon shall rise, so bring a telescope, binoculars or cameras to record the evenings event.



We need 20 to attend as a minimum, so we really need to start booking our tickets now, or we shall lose this great opportunity to use this venue for a fantastic WAS summer Social event.

Tickets are £12 per head and are available from Paul Farmer (Chairman)

Closing date for tickets is 1st of August 2008.

Space 08

Graham Boots

Our society has secured four free tickets for the above event being staged by the European Space Agency. This is a full days event and is being held on Thursday the 4th September at the Barbican Centre, Islington, London.

This event would interest anyone who is interested in space science and the UK's involvement.

Leading universities in this field that will be present are Sussex and Leicester.

A full programme is available from Graham Boots who should also be contacted if you wish to attend. The programme can also be obtained on the web site of www.publicserviceevents.co.uk

Reports

Meeting Report - 16 June 2008 report by Jan Young

Lillian Hobbs, Remote Observing.

A very interesting and informative talk during which Lillian explained her set up in her back garden. She had installed two domes in her back garden and had set up her telescopes to a computer that could be controlled via an ordinary home network to her computer in her house, enabling her to operate her equipment while being in the warm on cold winter nights.

She explained that only a basic computer was needed, it did not even have to be particularly fast or up to date so long as it could collect the data and then transfer it to her home computer. She described various software programmes that she used and showed some of her magnificent results.

She also made clear that the equipment still has to be monitored to prevent accidents occurring, such as the mount getting snagged up on cables, being able to close the dome if rain should start falling and of course things could drop off the telescope.

Recently she has allowed, through the internet in a form of net-meeting, that she allows a friend who lives some distance away from her to operate the telescopes, such is the wonder of our modern technology.

After the break, Graham once again promoted the Winchester trip in September, advertised elsewhere here in WAS News, this was followed by a short talk from Brian Halls on Sunspots and lastly Jan Young gave a short talk looking back on the project to move the observatory in 2005.

WAS Ad

Polo & Sweat Shirts

What every well dressed member should be wearing this season, polo shirts and sweat shirt with the exclusive WAS logo. Prices for ladies and gents shirts start at £9.99 and sweats at £11.20. Normal colour is dark blue with, silver logo threading. Add 50p for 2XL and 3XL.

A limited edition of red shirt with gold thread WAS logo and Chinese dragon motif are available at no extra cost, to celebrate the Chinese August 1st eclipse.



wanting shirts (regular or special Chinese edition for those eclipse chasers out there) please see the Business Secretary to order.

Sussex Astronomy Centre

For all your astronomy needs
Meade, Celestron, SkyWatcher, Tal Telescopes
Large range of accessories, software, books etc
16 Mulberry Lane
Goring by sea
Worthing, West Sussex.
Telephone 01903-247317
Email worthingastronomy@tiscali.co.uk
Web Site. www.sussex-astronomy-centre.co.uk
Ask for Paul Farmer (Club Member)

Society for Popular Astronomy

Graham Boots

Our society is affiliated to the Society of Popular Astronomy and we receive their magazine called Popular Astronomy which is available to all members.

Discounts can apply when visiting or contacting any of the Discount Scheme supporters as advertised in their Popular Astronomy magazine.

I am able to give you our membership number which you will need to claim the discount. Contact me on 01903 505346.

Notices

A Very Big Thank You

Graham Darlington has had to cease printing our WAS News each month. Graham has been performing this task longer than we can remember.

After a discussion with Graham we think he has been doing this job for well over fifteen years at no expense to the society. He has been efficient and reliable beyond belief.

So we really must say a very big thank you to Graham Darlington for all his hard work and kindness over the very many years.

Thank you very much, Graham

From all at the society.....

New Junior Section

Paul Farmer - Chairman

The new junior section starts 6pm to 7pm on Monday 15th September followed by our regular meeting at 7.30pm

This section is open to any age up to 18. The cost will be £ 5.00 per year. Parents and siblings may take out a family membership for £ 26.50 a year.

The junior section is to encourage young astronomers and spark their interest in all aspects of astronomy in a fun way. There will be regular speakers and we hope to arrange field trips & viewing sessions.

Please contact me if you can help or wish to give a talk.

Please pass the word to any youngsters and their parents so we can make this a success.

Subscription Rates 2008-2009

It has been proposed by the present committee, that subscriptions are increased as listed below from 1st September 2008. This will be voted upon at the June 2008 meeting.

Jan Young, Treasurer.

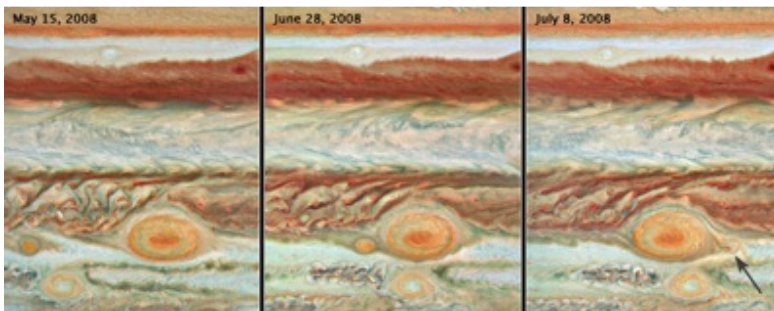
Family Membership (two or more members living at the same address): £26.00
Full Membership: £18.00
Junior membership: £5.00

WASNews News

All change for Jupiter's red spots

Dr Emily Baldwin - Astronomy Now

The Hubble Space Telescope has captured a serious shake up in Jupiter's turbulent atmosphere as the planet's two smaller red spots play cat and mouse with their big brother, the well-established Great Red Spot.

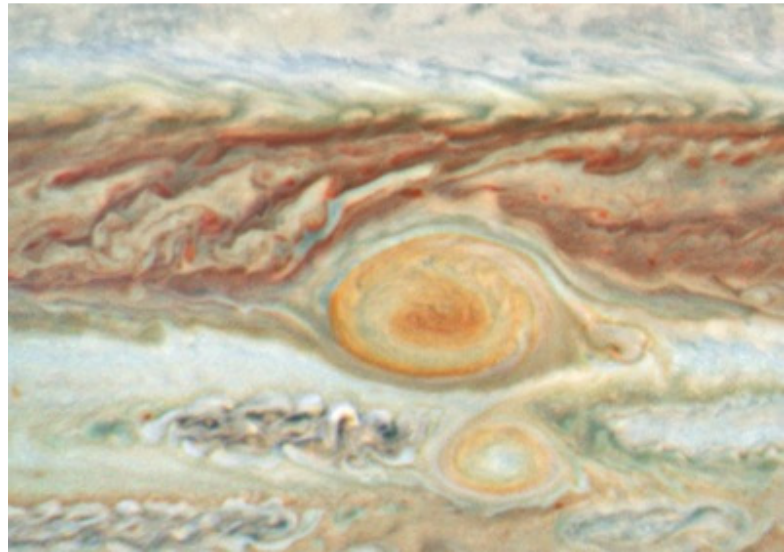


Events on Jupiter are played out in front of Hubble. Red Spot Junior skirts past the GRS unscathed, while the baby red spot is swallowed whole, and then regurgitated (marked by arrow top right, and shown in greater detail in image below). Image: NASA, ESA, A. Simon-Miller (Goddard Space Flight Center), N. Chanover (New Mexico State University), and G. Orton (Jet Propulsion Laboratory).

In a sequence of images spanning roughly three weeks, Hubble shows the passage of Red Spot Junior in a band of clouds just below the Great Red Spot (GRS). Red Spot Junior first appeared on Jupiter in early 2006 when a previously white storm turned red, and for the second time since then, remains unscathed from its close encounter with the GRS.

The 'baby red spot', however, which sprung up earlier this year, survived an even greater ordeal. Located in the same latitudinal cloud band as the GRS, it was always destined for a rough ride. Gradually creeping towards the GRS, it was finally pulled into the anticyclonic spin of the massive storm at the end of last month. The bets were on as to whether it would

survive the trauma, and after a nail biting few days, the GRS spat out the deformed, pale remains of its baby brother to the east.



Family portrait of the Jovian red spots, taken July 8, 2008. Image: NASA, ESA, A. Simon-Miller (Goddard Space Flight Center), N. Chanover (New Mexico State University), and G. Orton (Jet Propulsion Laboratory).

But the suffering may not be over yet, and the prediction is that the baby spot will now get pulled back into the GRS and disappear for good. The consumption of trespassing spots may be one possible mechanism that has powered and sustained the GRS for at least 150 years.

Sic Transit Gloria Mundi

Generally being on the periphery of an event obscures the facts, but sometimes distance can give one greater clarity of sight.

I was a member of Hove Astronomical Society 25 years ago when it self destructed amidst a torrent of recrimination and invective and I could not understand then and fail to understand now why it always comes to this.

I refer of course to the open letter sent to all members of the society by the committee.

So despite my jolly Editors Note I also resign my position – not in protest at any one member or group of members but because this type of in-fighting only ends one way and I will be no part of it.

Despite this It's been a pleasure....

87 and Out!

Rob

Diary

21 July 2008 Pulsars - Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask - John Murrell Croydon Astronomical Group

16 August 2008 Partial Lunar Eclipse BBQ & Skittles Night, The Spur, London Road, Slindon. Tickets £12 per head. The Spur will accommodate dietary needs - please advise the Business Secretary. If the weather holds good we may also be able to enjoy the partial eclipse event as well.

18 August 2008 Summer Recess

15 September 2008 Dwarf Novae - Alan Smith Christ Hospital School

27 September 2008 WAS annual outing to WINCHESTER PLANETARIUM & INTECH SCIENCE CENTRE arranged by Graham Boots

20 October 2008 Member's Evening Members talk about their astronomical activities and show their results & AGM

17 November 2008 Galaxy Zoo Professor Robert Nichol Portsmouth University

15 December 2008 Constellation Talks by Members Arranged by Jan Young

Executive Committee

Chairman: ~~Paul Farmer~~

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Email: worthingastronomy@tiscali.co.uk

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Note to Contributors

Contributions & Correspondence for the **September** issue of WAS NEWS should be with the Editor by the **end of the first full week of that month**. All material for inclusion should be sent to the Editor.

President

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