

Editor: C.F.Radley, [redacted], Wherstead, Ipswich, IP2 8NQ  
Tel: Ipswich [redacted].

The committee would like to express grateful thanks to Mr. George Sargent of [redacted], Ipswich, for his excellent work in repairing the shutter of the Observatory dome, which is working now better than it ever has before. Without Mr. Sargent the cost of this work would have put the Society in the red. Assisting Mr. Sargent were Mr. David Bearcroft, and Mr. Vernon Wilkes, to whom we must also add our grateful thanks.

Observatory Open Day:- On Whit Sunday 1972 (May 28th) there will be an open day at the Observatory of Orwell Park School, to celebrate the centenary (it was built in 1872). The charge will be 10p per head and refreshments should be on sale, at a modest price, alongside leaflets telling the history of the buildings. The Observatory is being decorated, and anyone wishing to help decorate, show people round on the day, or lend moon/star maps etc., should contact Mr. David Bearcroft of [redacted], tel Ips [redacted], as soon as possible. PLEASE INVITE ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES ALONG. There will be a General Meeting of the Society on May 24th. <sup>at 8 p.m. 3.5.72</sup>

"What's Up?" The Night Sky in May/June.

The Planets:-

Mercury should be visible low in the western sky after sunset at the end of May and into the middle of June, being best visible on June 22nd to 28th. Binoculars, yellow coloured glasses and/or polarised sunglasses are a help in finding Mercury, and your search should begin directly after sunset on or around the appropriate dates.

Venus is still fairly prominent, setting in the west some time after sunset, and in the constellation of Taurus. Don't mistake it for Mercury! At the end of May, Venus will set at about 22.40 G.M.T., and will appear as a fairly large crescent in a telescope.

Mars is still visible in Taurus, but is a great distance away, shows no apparent disk in a telescope, and is uninteresting to look at.

Jupiter is becoming better and better placed for observation. It rises at midnight in early May, and at sunset in mid-June. It rises in the south-east in the constellation of Sagittarius. Jupiter has no less than 12 moons ranging from  $\frac{1}{2}$  5000kms across. Four of these moons are easily visible in almost any telescope, or binoculars even. They often move in front of or behind the disk of Jupiter, this phenomenon can be seen in a telescope of more than 2 inches aperture.

Saturn is in Taurus, but becoming less well placed for observation, like Mars and Venus, and will not be seen at all by the end of ~~May~~ May. It will be visible at the start of August as a morning star.

The Moon reaches New Moon phase on the 13th May, and on the 14th May onwards should be visible in the west after sunset. The moon will reach First Quarter (half full) phase on May 20th, and Full Moon will be on May 28th. Last Quarter will be on the 4th June, then the next New Moon will be on the 11th June. The Moon is most easily observed between just after New moon and just before Full Moon.

Summer Constellations:- It has been suggested that I include star maps and notes on constellations visible each month, a tentative attempt at this is below:-

Although the nights are growing shorter, and summer approaches, there is no need to become despondent. The summer night sky is short in duration but is certainly not lacking in interesting objects. With this issue of the Journal, a star map is included. From now on each issue should contain a star map. They should be kept for future reference, and should eventually build up to a fairly substantial star atlas.

Page 1

Notes for this Month's star map follow:-

This month, Arcturus is perhaps the most prominent star. It is 100 times as luminous as the Sun, is 36 light years away from Earth and is magnitude 0.06; it is in Boötes, its official name being Alpha Boötis.

The MX M-63 nebula, between Cor Caroli in Canes Venatici, and Alkaid (the last star in the tail of the Plough/Ursa Major) is a spiral galaxy. It appears as an oval in a large telescope. The  $\times$  nearby stars: 20, 23, & 19 Canum Venaticorum are useful signposts nearby to find M-63.

M-51 is not very far from M-63, being near Alkaid, and is another spiral galaxy.

V24 near the "S" of Coma Berenices, is a large spiral galaxy seen edgewise, visible in a largish telescope.

The most prominent of all clusters on this map is M-13, in Hercules, near his 'shoulder'. It is just visible to the unaided eye, obvious in binoculars, and striking in a telescope. It is a globular cluster of stars, being very dense in the middle.

All the above-mentioned objects are on the star map.

Society Meetings:- Planetary Section, meets every other Thursday (May 11th, 25th, June 1st, June 15th) at around 8.15 B.S.T. (19.15hrs G.M.T) at the Observatory. For enquiries contact Mr. David Bearcroft (Director) at [redacted], tel Ips [redacted]. Meetings can be cancelled by bad weather.

Lunar Section meets every Wednesday except 10th May, 31st May, and 21st June. Meetings are at 8.15 B.S.T. (19.15hrs G.M.T.) at the Observatory. For enquiries contact the Director, Mr. Roy Cheesman, [redacted], Ips, or Mr. David Bearcroft, Tel Ips [redacted]. Meetings usually held regardless of weather.

Stars and Nebulae Section meet every Saturday at the Observatory at 8.30 p.m. B.S.T. (19.30hrs G.M.T) Enquiries, contact the Director, Mr. Richard Hazelwood, Tel Ips [redacted], [redacted], Ips.

Club meetings are at the Observatory every Friday at around 3.30 p.m. B.S.T. (19.30hrs G.M.T.) or later.

Norwich Astronomical Society Meets at Wymondham on May 20th at X Wymondham Methodist Church Hall, (Norfolk), Town Green at 7.30 p.m. B.S.T., with discussions on amateur astronomical research. There will also be an exhibition of the N.A.S. at Wymondham Secondary School on the same day earlier in the afternoon. Discussion will be started by a talk on the results of Mariner-9.

Letter to the Editor from Mr. Roy M. Cheesman (Lunar Section Director):-

It was very sad that the Orwell Park School Observatory door was jammed during the miners' strike, and the subsequent ban on street lighting, as during this period there were many clear nights which gave us the opportunity of observing right down to the horizon without distortions of glare from the street towns lighting. I feel sure that you, as I did, took full advantage of these ideal viewing conditions with your own reflectors and refractors.

Since the Observatory door has been repaired I have held several meetings of my Lunar Section on Wednesday nights but the attendance has been disappointing mainly because A) Not many members were aware that the Observatory was operational again and B) Those members of the Society wishing to come to my meetings were not <sup>sure</sup> of the Wednesdays on which my section was held.

As there were only a few members at my lunar section meetings it gave me a chance to use the refractor for some photographic work and I hope that when the automatic tracking system is fully operational again a more serious attempt can be made at photographic work with the refractor. Those films which I have taken I will bring to my Wednesday meetings when they are developed.

Unfortunately because of business commitments I can only hold my Wednesday meetings  $\times$  every two out of three ~~meetings~~ Wednesdays,

and given below are the weeks that my Lunar Section will be held NOT  
be held:-

week commencing 17th April

8th May

19th June etc. etc. etc.

As the nights draw out for summer will be at the Observatory until  
at dusk until approximately 10p.m. (21.00hrs G.M.T.) providing it is a clear  
night. If the moon is out earlier than when night falls then I shall be  
at the Observatory after 7.30p.m. as the moon in daylight, I feel, is a  
most spectacular sight through a refractor/reflector.

If the moon is <sup>not</sup> observable on my evenings but the sky offers good  
viewing I will still hold my meeting in the form of either a discussion or  
observing other sections of the sky heavens.

Other than weekends and the weeks mentioned above, if anyone wishes  
to come up to mine to see me and do some astronomical work with my refractor  
they are most welcome to do so.

For any further information please write to or call and see me at:-  
3. Tasmania Rd., Ipswich.

R.N. Cheesman

Lunar Section

Orwell Astronomical Society.

Addendum:- Meteor Shower Eta( $\eta$ ) Aquarids, radiating from the  
north of Aquarius, the south of Pegasus. Lasts from May 1st until  
May the 8th, reaching a maximum hourly rate of 18 meteors per hour on  
the 4th & 5th of May. Meteors with persistent trails are expected,  
the shower is very favourable this year.

Add the following names to some of the unnamed stars on this month's  
Sky Chart:-

- 1)  $\gamma$  Draco = Etamin      2)  $\beta$  Draco (Alwaid) = Rostaban
- 3) Beneath the 2nd "o" of "Norton's Star Atlas" at the top of the chart, put an "X" for  
an unmarked  $4\frac{1}{2}$  magnitude star named: Thuban.
- 4)  $\frac{1}{8}$ " below & left of nebula 43<sup>5</sup> add dim variable star:  $\gamma^h$  or La Superba
- 5) Name of 20 Canum Venaticorum in Pistorion, it is near nebula M-63.
- 6) Other end of red line from Cor Caroli (of Canum Venaticorum) is Chara of Canum  
Venaticorum
- 7)  $\eta$  (Eta) Bootis (right of Arcturus) is called Muphrid
- 8) 3rd mag star, bottom right of chart mark  $\epsilon$  (Epsilon Virginis) is called:  
Vindemiatrix.

All star charts included are oriented North at the top, East at the left.

C.F.R.

Many volunteers are required to help decorate the Club Room NOW

# The MAY NIGHT SKY

Map 1a) shows the sky at 22.00 GMT at start of May 2000. MT. in the middle of May

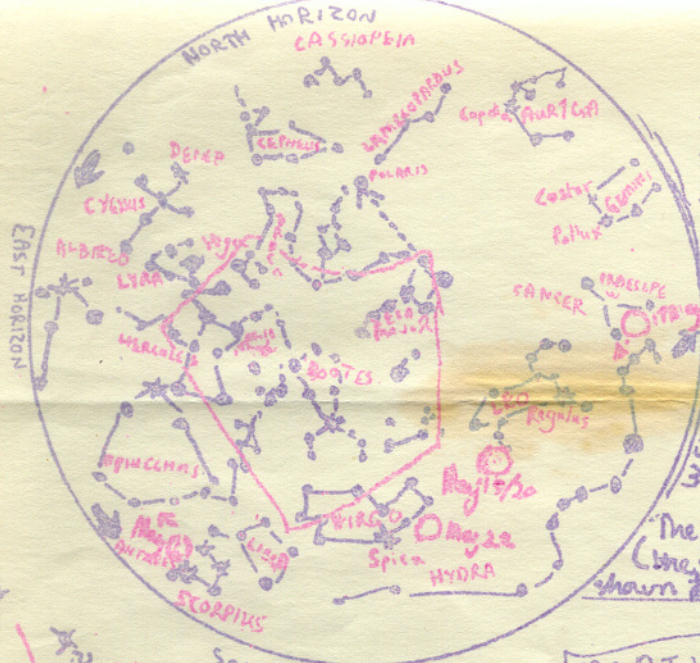
Map 1a) The Red area in Map 1a) is reproduced and enlarged below in Map 1b

Constellation names are red

## MAGNITUDES

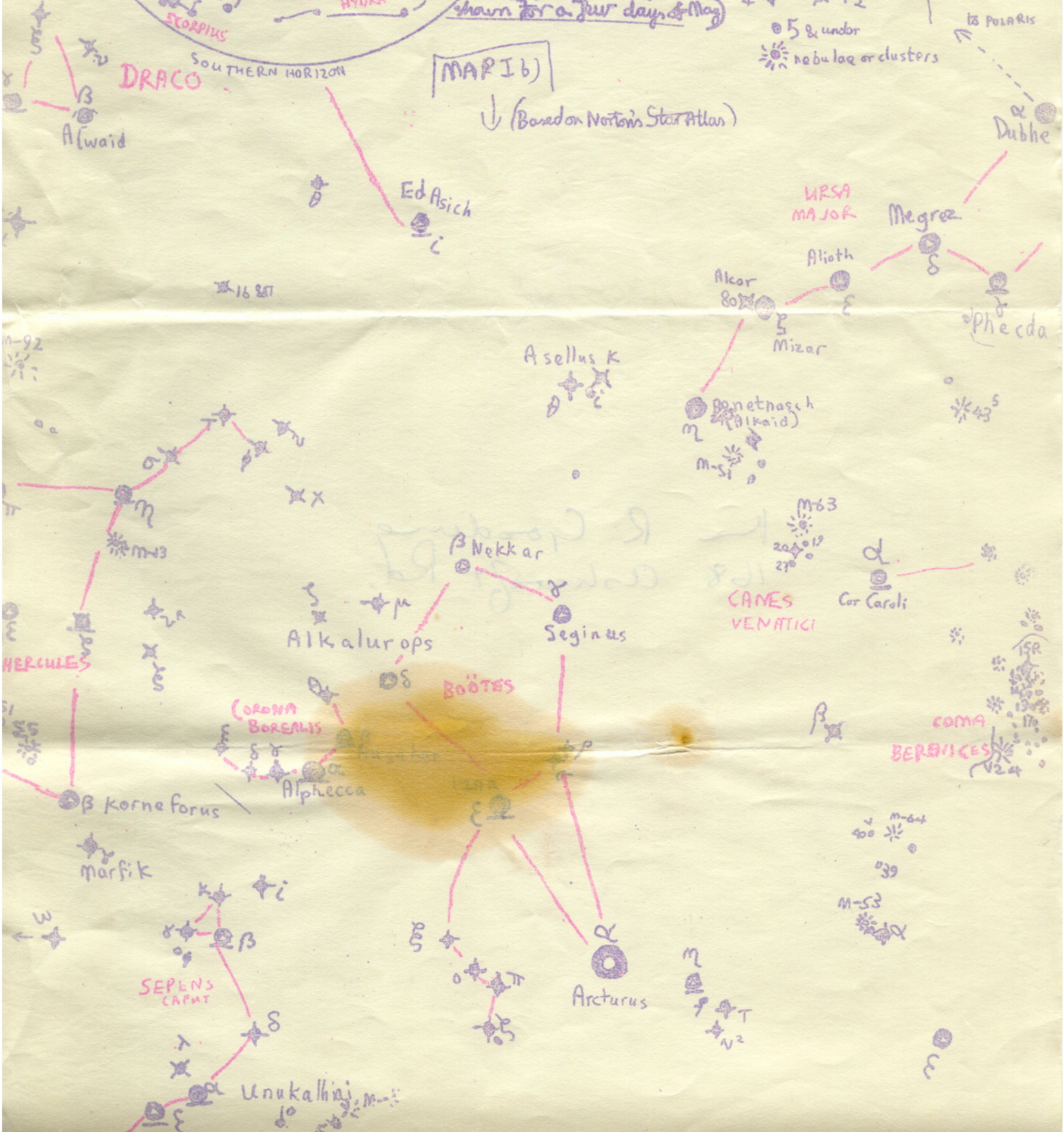
1			1 1/2
2			2 1/2
3			3 1/2
4			4 1/2

Magnitudes  
 \* Mag 1  
 • below mag 1  
 The position of the moon (line & red dots) is shown for a few days of May



## MAP 1b)

(Based on Norton's Star Atlas)



NEW SUPERNOVA DISCOVERED

Information received from BAA Circular No.542, dated May 25th, 1972.

A telegram has been received reporting the discovery of May 13th of a Supernova by C.F.Kowal, California Institute of Technology. It is magnitude 8.5, in an irregular Galaxy NGC 5253 (R.A. 13h 37.1m Dec -31° 24' at the start of 1950). The object, confirmed on May 15th is located 56" arc West, and 85" arc South of the nucleus. NGC 5253 was the site of a supernova in the year 1895, the star Z Centauri.

Its low declination makes it almost impossible to observe from Britain. By now it has probably faded. The extraordinary brilliance of this Supernova is accounted for by the fact that NGC 5253 is only a few million light years away. Being mag 8.5 (it outshines its parent galaxy?) it is visible in binoculars or small telescope in more southerly latitudes. The object was blue in colour when discovered, suggesting that it was discovered shortly after its maximum brilliancy. The UHURU satellite in Earth orbit is searching for X-rays from the supernova, and NASA's Orbiting Astronomical Observatory-2 is searching for ultraviolet radiation.

There is an interesting article about the Supernova on page 478 of the 'New Scientist', 1st June 1972, Volume 54, No.798, which is available on request from the reference section of the Borough Library.

Committee Members please note the following change of address on your lists of members. Member number 23, Mr. Geoffrey Orvis, has moved from [redacted] to [redacted], Rushmere St-Andrew, Ipswich.

The Licence Dictating the terms for use of the Observatory has now been drawn up. It will be read and discussed at a General Meeting on Wednesday 2nd July 1972. Everybody is very welcome to come along. Other business including possible open day arrangements also will probably be discussed.

ADVERTISEMENT:-

ADVERTISEMENTS 15-60x60mm zoom lens refractor. As new, £10  
Tel Woodbridge: [redacted]

Telescope, as new, magnification up to 600X, with 4mm eyepiece, also 9mm eyepiece (270X?), and 20mm eyepiece (120X). Cost new: £48 with extras. £35 O.n.O. Tel: Ipswich [redacted]

Aperture, & whether refractor or reflector is not stated!

THE NAME and Secretarial address alongside our details of the Society were posted to Mr. Patrick Moore O.B.E. asking that they be published in the list of Societies in the back of his 1973 edition of the "Yearbook of Astronomy". On the 8th June I received a post-card from Mr. Moore saying:- "Splendid - you were just in time for this year's (1973) issue! Best wishes to you all."

At last some progress has been made with our affiliation into the B.A.A. I received a letter saying that all back dated B.A.A. literature that we should be sent, has been despatched to the SECRETARY, Mr. Martin Topple. Anyone wishing to read this literature should contact him at [redacted] Trinity St-Martin, Ipswich, tel: Kinton [redacted]. News of our actual affiliation should come in about a month's time.

COMET! On Saturday 27th June, it seems that a meteorite disintegrated in the heavens causing a display of red, green and bluish fibres, which were mistaken for comets, and the Lowestoft lifeboat was launched.