

# ORWELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY ISTANBUL



WELL SOMEBODY MUST KNOW  
WHO DID IT .... UNLESS OF COURSE  
WE HAVE ACTUALLY MOVED THE  
H.Q.

## SOCIETY NEWS

### 1 Next Committee Meeting

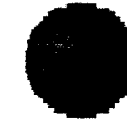
The next meeting will be held on Saturday 8th April at the observatory, starting at 7.30. This is open to all members.

## NIGHT SKY

(ALL TIMES G.M.T.)

SUN Rises approximately between 05.40 to 04.30  
Sets approximately between 18.30 to 19.30

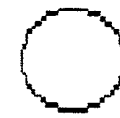
### MOON



6th



12th



21st



28th

MERCURY Mercury is at superior conjunction on the 4th. At the end of the month Mercury will be setting at about 2 hours after sunset.

VENUS Venus is at superior conjunction on the 5th. At the end of the month it will be setting about 1 hour after sunset.

MARS Mars will be setting a little before midnight. Mag. 1.6

JUPITER Jupiter will be setting at about 22.45 in mid month. Mag. -2.0

SATURN Saturn is visible in the morning sky, rising at about 01.00 in mid month. Mag. 0.4

URANUS Uranus is also in the morning sky. It rises about 30 minutes before Saturn.

NEPTUNE Neptune is in the morning sky, located a few degrees to the east of Saturn.

R. GOODING

## Lights in the Sky

David Payne

Probably the most magnificent Auroral display for at least fifty years occurred on the evening of Monday 13th March 89. The evening started by not looking very promising, from an astronomical point of view, with a significant amount of patchy cloud around. I had in fact discounted the evening for observations and would probably have missed the display if it had not been for a telephone call from Dave Barnard at about 7:30 pm. Dave informed me that there was an Auroral display around Ursa Major (viewed from Ipswich). I immediately went outside to see this amazing spectacle.

There was still cloud about but mainly to the west and north. The sky was clear around Ursa Major but there was no sign of the Aurora, had I missed it? There was a 5 day old moon high in the west and my eyes had not yet dark adapted. After a few minutes I could see a faint shaft of light running north-south, not over Ursa Major but almost due north and at an altitude between 50 and 70 degrees. This first beam was pale and white but a few minutes later there appeared a much brighter 'beam' to the west of the previous white 'beam'. This time there was a strong pink-purple colour to it. While this was still glowing strongly another much broader and even brighter beam of the same colour appeared further west near the moon. This display was truly magnificent, even with the bright five day old moon present these two shafts of light glowed brightly and clearly. Shortly after this the patchy cloud began to amass and obscured the view.

The next major display was about 9:00 when a green arc stretched across the sky from north-east to north-west and at an altitude of about 40 degrees at the crest. Because of the fuzzy almost misty nature of the glowing band I initially thought it was the edge of a cloud bank being illuminated by the moon. However the green colour and some 'curtain' structure in the north east plus the fact that a few stars could be seen through it showed it's true nature. This particular display moved higher in altitude peaking above the Polaris before it began to fade and cloud once again came to obscure it. The cloud was clearly distinguishable from the aurora - it was dark against a bright glowing sky.

The final display that I saw was between 10:30 and 11:00 pm this time it was the classic curtains in the north at an altitude of 20 - 40 degrees. These were white with a tinge of green. At the same time but much higher (50 - 90 degrees at least!), there were beams of light. They were fainter than the purple shafts earlier in the evening but now appeared red at high altitude turning to green towards the north and lower altitudes. They were not static but faded in and out and at different positions. This display was again obscured by cloud around 11:00pm this time it looked fairly dense and probable was not going to clear for some time.

This was the first time I had positively seen the Aurora, it was magnificent something I will never forget. If it had been a moonless night without cloud it would have been even more spectacular. We have not yet reached Solar maximum this cycle and it appears to be a particularly active maxima. We therefore may well be treated to further displays later in the year.

We are thinking of setting up an early warning chain whereby if a display is observed by a member of the chain a series of telephone calls will be made to inform other members. If you are interested in joining in on such a scheme contact any of the committee members

## Fear and Panic around Mars.

by J. Walsh.

With the Phobos Probe already in orbit around Mars and the mission to the largest of the Martian Satellites only a few Days away. What new information will we bring back from the Martian System? Let us look at what we already know about those odd shaped little worlds Phobos and Deimos.

It was early in the Eighteenth Century that the suggestion of Mars having 2 Satellites appeared in a book by Johnathan Swift, in another novel by Voltaire it was said that if Earth had 1 Moon and Jupiter had 4, then Mars must have at least 2. It wasn't until 1877 that Asaph Hall using the then largest telescope in the world the 26" (66 CM ) Refractor at the U.S. Naval Observatory discovered the first of the Martian Satellites Deimos on the 10th August 1877, six Days later Phobos was discovered. The names Phobos and Deimos meaning Fear and Panic named after the two attendants of Mars, God of war was suggested by a Mr Madan of Eton.

Phobos the larger of the Satellites is very small and very dark, is shaped rather like a Potato measuring about 12 x 14 x 17 miles ( 20 x 23 x 28 KM ) orbiting Mars at a mean distance of 3,647 Miles (5,873 KM.) in a retrograde direction in about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. Earth time. The most prominent feature on Phobos is the Crater Strickney ( So named because Asaph Hall's Wife's Maiden Name was Strickney ). measuring 3 miles ( 5 KM ) this Crater when formed must have come close to totally destroying Phobos, judging by the cracks and faults leading to and from Strickney. There are six other main Craters on Phobos all are named, they are, D'Arrest, Hall, Roche, Sharpless, Todd and Wendall.

Deimos is smaller than Phobos, about 6 x 7 x 10 miles ( 10 x 12 x 16 KM ) and takes about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  Earth Days to orbit Mars at a mean distance of 12,420 miles (20,000 KM.). Deimos has a lot more surface dust than Phobos, and so lacks the more clearly defined surface features that you can see on Phobos. However, Deimos does have two large Craters named Voltaire and Swift.

Seen from the surface of Mars, Phobos would have half the apparent Diameter of our Moon as seen from Earth and would barely cast a shadow, Deimos would be about twice the apparent Diameter of Venus as seen from Earth, and you would need a telescope to see any phases. Phobos revolves around Mars 3 times a Sol (Martian Day) as seen from the Planets Surface. Deimos would take about 30 hrs. to orbit Mars.

Astro-camp is organised each year by Norman Fisher (from the company of the same name). It has been held in recent years in Ashford forest, which is approx. 4 miles south of East Grinstead, in Sussex. The camp usually runs for two weeks from the last week in July Through the first week in August (Luna cycle permitting).

The amenities on site are basic but clean, consisting of drinking water taps near the tents and a wash house with washing and shower facilities near by.

The camp is organised on very informal lines, in that you can stay from one night to the whole two weeks. All you have to when you arrive is register with Norman and when you leave pay Norman the site fees (approx £1 a night). There are many activities during the camp, which are organised by some of the regular astro-campers as well as group visits to places of interest.

If you think you might be interested then either get in touch with Norman Fisher on [REDACTED] or me on Ips [REDACTED] after 5.30pm.

## UPDATE ON STELLER EVOLUTION IN OXFORD

Each year since 1979 Oxford University Department of External Studies has run a weekend course on astronomy for the interested layman or amateur astronomer. These courses have proved extremely popular and a number of OASI members, who have attended previous courses, are going again this year. The subject for the 1989 Oxford Astronomy Weekend is 'Stellar Evolution' and, as usual, leading professional astronomers and astrophysicists in the field under discussion will be giving lectures.

The venue for the event is the OUDES residential hall - Rewley House - which is well situated, in amongst the main colleges, for exploration of Oxford.

The fee ranges from £20, for the course only without meals or accommodation, to £71.50 for all meals with a single room with on-suite facilities.

Any one interested in attending this year should contact the OUDES as soon as possible : the course is usually fully booked some time prior to the commencement of the course ( this year - 12th to 14th May ).

OUDES phone number : 0865 27360

## CLUB SWEATERS AND SWEATSHIRTS

The order for OASI sweaters and sweatshirts has been placed and an acknowledgement received from the suppliers dated 16th March. The company informed me that the items will be sent to me within 4 to 6 weeks. I will be contacting members to arrange collection as soon as the items are received.

P.Richards.

## PROGRAMME FOR APRIL

|   |                 |                                   |                      |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Mondays from 8pm GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION</b>         |                 |                                   |                      |
|   | Mr R Newman     | [REDACTED] Felixstowe, IP11 9DY.  | Tel. Fel. [REDACTED] |
| 3-10  | Mr J King       | [REDACTED], Felixstowe, IP11 9LQ. | Tel. Fel. [REDACTED] |
| 17-24   |                 |                                   |                      |
| <b>Tuesdays from 8pm GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION</b>        |                 |                                   |                      |
|   | Mr R Newman     | [REDACTED] Felixstowe, IP11 9DY   | Tel. Fel. [REDACTED] |
| 4-11  | Mr J King       | [REDACTED], Felixstowe, IP11 9LQ  | Tel. Fel. [REDACTED] |
| 18-25   |                 |                                   |                      |
| <b>Wednesdays from 8pm NEBULA AND FAINT OBJECTS SECTION</b> |                 |                                   |                      |
|   | Mr M Cook       | [REDACTED], Ipswich, IP4 5PZ      | Tel. [REDACTED]      |
| 5-12  | Mr D Payne      | [REDACTED], Wickham Market,       | Tel.W [REDACTED]     |
| 19-26   |                 | [REDACTED] IP13 0SD.              |                      |
| <b>Fridays from 8pm GENERAL OBSERVATION SECTION</b>         |                 |                                   |                      |
|   | Mr P R Richards | [REDACTED] Ipswich, IP4 1QB.      | Tel. [REDACTED]      |
| 7-14  | Mr M Harlow     | [REDACTED], Trimley IP10 OXB.     | Tel. [REDACTED]      |
| 21-28   | Mr R A Lobbett  | [REDACTED] Felixstowe IP11 8UJ.   | Tel. [REDACTED]      |

All nights are open to all members, but, on nights other than Wednesday ring directors to confirm dates. [ Directors will also be able to inform you of whether a group visit is taking place that evening. ] All numbers, Ipswich ( 0473 ) unless otherwise indicated.

## 1989 COMMITTEE

|                          |            |   |                                      |
|--------------------------|------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| CHAIRMAN                 | D Payne    | ( Address above )                               | Home: [REDACTED]<br>Work: [REDACTED] |
| VICE CHAIRMAN            | D Barnard  | [REDACTED], Ipswich, IP4 5PP                    | Home: [REDACTED]<br>Work: [REDACTED] |
| SECRETARY                | R Gooding  | [REDACTED], Ipswich, IP1 6AE.                   | Home: [REDACTED]<br>Work: [REDACTED] |
| TREASURER                | M Nicholls | [REDACTED], Capel St Mary,<br>Ipswich, IP9 2EX. | Home: [REDACTED]<br>Work: [REDACTED] |
| MAINTENANCE              | M Cook     | ( Address above )                               | Home: [REDACTED]<br>Work: [REDACTED] |
| JOURNAL<br>CO-ORD        | E Sims     | [REDACTED], Ipswich IP1 4HA                     | Home: [REDACTED]                     |
| LIBRARIAN                | P Richards | ( Address above )                               | Home: [REDACTED]<br>Work: [REDACTED] |
| EQUIPMENT<br>CURATOR     | J King     | ( Address above )                               | Home: [REDACTED]                     |
| SPECIAL<br>EVENTS CO-ORD | A Smith    | [REDACTED], Ipswich IP2 9ES                     | Home: [REDACTED]<br>Work: [REDACTED] |