



BLOEMFONTEINSENTRUM (ASSA)
Posbus 1599
Bloemfontein
9300

21 Augustus 1995

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Aan alle sterrevriende.

VOLGENDE VERGADERING

Ons volgende byeenkoms word gehou Maandag 28 Augustus om 19H00 by Boyden sterrewag. Met die lente in die lug behoort dit 'n baie aangename aand te wees en ek hoop om jou daar te sien, bring gerus die familie saam.

STERREKUNDE SIMPOSUIM

Die sterrekunde simposuim word by die Onderwys sentrum gehou op die 27, 28 en 29 September. Die reëlins verloop vlot en die voorlopige program en 'n inskrywingsvorm is hierby ingesluit.

Die simposuim is van groot waarde vir amateurs en belangstellendes wat baie uit die aanbiedinge kan leer. Baie mense is bang om dit by te woon want hulle glo dat slegs wetenskaplikes die aanbiedinge sal kan verstaan. Dit is nie waar nie. Die sprekers is almal bewus daarvan dat amateurs 'n groot deel van die gehoor uitmaak en baie praatjies maak dus hiervoor voorsiening.

Die sluitingsdatum vir registrasie vir die simposuim is uitgestel tot Vrydag 15 September. Woon gerus die simposuim by indien jy kan. Die tariewe is uiters billik en beloop as volg:

Volle registrasie (nie student of skolier)	R 70.00	per persoon
Volle registrasie vir student of skolier	R 40.00	per persoon
Gedeeltlike registrasie (slegs een dag)	R40.00	per persoon

Die genoemde koste sluit nie etes, verblyf of aandfunksies in nie.

GEKOOPTEERDE VOORSITTER

Hannes Calitz kan, weens werksverpligtinge, nie voortgaan om as voorsitter op te tree nie en Barnie Fourie het ingewillig om as voorsitter op te tree. Baie dankie Hannes vir jou bydra en Barnie vir jou bereidwilligheid.

Groetnis

Deon Steyn

ASSA SYMPOSIUM

BLOEMFONTEIN

27, 28, and 29 SEPTEMBER 1995

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1995

08:00	Registration
09:00	The Large-Scale Distribution Of Galaxies In Three Dimensions Prof. AP Fairall - University of Cape Town
09:30	Internal Absorption In Spiral Galaxies Prof. WF Wargau and Dr B Cunow - University of South Africa
10:00 Topic to be announced Mrs Vanessa Pieterse - University of South Africa
10:30	Tea - break
11:00	Principles In Cosmology Prof. A Beesham - University of Zululand
11:30	Music From The Spheres Dr P Martinez - University of Cape Town
12:30	Lunch
14:00	Brag - Session Reports from different Centres Natal, Rhodes, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Bloemfontein
15:30	Tea - break
17:30	Bus departs for Evening-session at Lamont Hussey Observatory

NB During the symposium the following will be on display:

- Computers and astronomical software
- Telescopes - professional and amateur models
- Books on various aspects of astronomy

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1995

- 09:00 Schoemaker-Levy / Jupiter Collision
Dr RS Stobie - Director, SAAO
Mr Smit - Hartebeeshoek
Mr Nicolson - Hartebeeshoek
Amateurs - Johannesburg
- 10:30 Tea - break
- 11:00 Session On Cosmology
Pancl - discussion
- 12:30 Lunch - break
- 14:00 Grazing Occultations
Mr Brian Fraser - Johannesburg
- 14:30 Famous South African Astronomers
Mr Hurley - Cape Town
- 15:00 Boyden Observatory
Mr Matic Hoffman - University of the OFS
Mr Chris De Coning - Vista University, OFS
- 15:30 Tea - break
- 17:30 Bus leaves for Boyden Observatory

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1995

- 09:00 Sections Report Back
Occultation Section - Mr Danie Overbeek
- Comet and Meteor Section
The Rate Profile Of The Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower - Mr Tim Cooper
- 10:00 Eclipses
Mr Hurley - Cape Town
- 10:30 Tea - break
- 11:00 Comet and Meteor Section
Recent Comet Observations From Southern Africa
Mr Tim Cooper - Johannesburg
- 11:30 Poster Paper
John Herschel's Southern Non-existent RNGC Objects
Mr Auke Slotgraaf - Cape Town
- 12:00 Astronomy In The Educational System
- 12:30 Closing Lunch

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

New Members to be elected at the Council meeting to be held on
Monday 21st August 1995

Mr A.Versveld 62 Thornhurst Drive, Bisley, 3201.

Mr T.W.Button 15 Elsenham Ave., Somerset West, 7130.

Mr H.J.Eschberger P.O.Box 14, Klein Brakrivier, 6503.

Dr P.T.Wedepohl P.O.Box 78, Pinegowrie, 2123.

Prof J.Shochot P.O.Box 63, Wits, 2050.

Mr I.Norval Mullerstraat 38, Villiersdorp, 6848.

Mr G.G.Peters P.O.Box 388, Cresta, 2118.

Mr A.J.Sanders P.O.Box 8549, Pretoria, 0001.

Mr J.A.Schermacher 31 Fishermans Bend, Llandudno, 7800.

Mr I.C.van Niekerk P.O.Box 21516, Helderkruijn, 1733.

Dr B.Cunow Unisa, Dept of Maths, P.O.Box 392, Pretoria, 0001.

Mr B.J.Heath 3 Briar Way, Oakridge, 7800.

Mrs B.Walker P.O.Box 12822, Elspark, 1418.

Mr H.P.W.Groenewald Benonistr 46, Rustenburg, 0300.

Ms S.R.Schmitt 403 Queen's Crescent, Lynnwood, 0081.

The Pretoria Centre of A.S.S.A. P.O.Box 40654, Arcadia, 0007.

Mr J.R. St Clair P.O.Box 26986, Hout Bay, 7872.

Mr R.Gröss 160 Radio Street, Dinwiddie, Germiston, 1401.

Mr B.Croucamp P.O.Box 6358, Dunswart, 1508.

1. Mr P.F.Caldwell P.O.Box 1457, Roosevelt Park, 2129.

2. Zaasvoel Buitelughoerskool, Zastron, 9950.

3. Mr Brandon Webb P.O.Box 589, Odendaalsrus, 9480.

Annual Report: Occultation Sections

I Planetary Occultations

The astronomical community is showing increasing interest in the minor planets and accordingly, occultation work in this field is of topical interest. The number of observers is small but the majority of them are highly motivated and it has been a pleasure to work with them.

If other population centres could emulate the highly motivated Gauteng group and form similar networks, the Society's coverage of these events will be much more valuable.

During 1994, one definite occultation and several appulse time estimates were reported. The observers K and S Aspinall, S Begg, J and P Curran, D Blane, T Cooper, F de Jager, S Enke, R Field, B Fraser, M Mulder, L Rens, N Robinson, J Smit, C Turk and P van Blommestein are thanked for their efforts.

- #1 1994 Jan 6 PPM 155583 by 107 Camilla. From Edenvale and Pretoria, D Overbeek and J Smit reported misses.
- #2 1994 Feb 6 GSC 4917 00502 by 41 Daphne. Benoni and Edenvale reported cloud.
- #3 1994 Mar 3 PPM 226817 by 501 Urhixidur. Benoni, Edenvale and Pretoria reported cloud.
- #4 1994 Mar 10 GSC 0248 01674 by 2060 Chiron. In Edenvale, the Director got the date wrong. From Pretoria, J Smit reported a miss.
- #5 1994 Mar 14 GSC 0246 00164 by 41 Daphne. Edenvale and Pretoria reported cloud.
- #6 1994 Mar 27 GSC 7324 00087 by 704 Interamnia. Benoni reported cloud. From Edenvale, D Overbeek reported a miss between intermittent cloud. From Pretoria, J Smit reported an appulse about 3 minutes late. Simon's Town had cloud.
- #7 1994 Apr 1 GSC 1390 01732 by 52 Europa. In Benoni, T Cooper reported the star too low. From Edenvale and Simon's Town, D Overbeek and P van Blommestein reported misses. Pretoria and Vanderbijlpark had cloud.
- #8 1994 Apr 9 PPM 122217 by 230 Athamantis. In Pretoria, N Robinson reported a miss and J Smit reported cloud. Benoni, Edenvale and Vanderbijlpark also reported cloud.
- #9 1994 Apr 14 PPM 264120 by 613 Ginevra. In Benoni and Edenvale, T Cooper and D Overbeek reported misses.
- #10 1994 Apr 22 PPM 129394 by 1048 Feodosia. Benoni, Edenvale and Pretoria reported cloud.
- #11 1994 Apr 22 PPM 232942 by 740 Cantabria. From Edenvale and Vanderbijlpark, D Overbeek and F de Jager reported misses.
- #12 1994 Apr 23 Lick 2 1050 by 859 Bouzareah. From Benoni, Pretoria and Vanderbijlpark, T Cooper, J Smit and F de Jager reported misses.
- #13 1994 Apr 29 DM +17 2057 by 333 Badenia. Benoni and Edenvale reported cloud.
- #14 1994 May 2 PPM 264651 by 454 Mathesis. From Pretoria, J Smit reported an appulse perhaps a few minutes early.
- #15 1994 1973 01072 by 5145 Pholus. In Benoni, T Cooper found the moon too bright. From Pretoria, J Smit reported a miss.
- #16 1994 Jun 1 PPM 272898 by 1467 Mashona. From Edenvale and Pretoria, D Overbeek and J Smit reported misses.
- #17 1994 Jun 2 PPM 265795 by 222 Lucia. From Pretoria and Vanderbijlpark, J Smit and F de Jager reported misses.
- #18 1994 Jun 4 PPM 265594 by 116 Sirona. From Edenvale, Pretoria and Vanderbijlpark, D Overbeek, J Smit and F de Jager reported misses.
- #19 1994 Jun 5 ACRS 178247 by 91 Aegina. From Edenvale, Pretoria and Vanderbijlpark, D Overbeek, J Smit and F de Jager reported misses.

- #20 1994 Jun 13 PPM 265635 by 222 Lucia (Again). From Durban, a miss was reported by K Aspinall, S Aspinall, S Begg, J Curran, P Curran, R Field and L Rens. We can certainly do with more team efforts like this. Edenvale had cloud.
- #21 1994 Jul 11 PPM 273049 by 29 Amphitrite. In Edenvale, D Overbeek saw an appulse 4 minutes early and in Pretoria, J Smit saw an appulse 2 minutes 30 seconds or more early. From Vanderbijlpark, F de Jager reported a miss. From Thabazimbi, M Mulder reported that the star was too low.
- #22 1994 Jul 14 PPM 129031 by 357 Ninina. In Edenvale, D Overbeek observed a miss but is not certain that the right star was seen in the bright sky. In Pretoria, J Smit found the sky too bright.
- #23 1994 Jul 21 PPM 175231 by 2 Pallas. In Edenvale, D Overbeek found the objects already separated by the time he started to observe. From Pretoria, J Smit reported a miss.
- #24 1994 Jul 21 PPM 299641 by 508 Princetonia. D Overbeek in Edenvale reported a miss but was not quite sure of the star's identification. From Johannesburg and Thabazimbi, B Fraser and M Mulder reported misses. In Pretoria, J Smit was bothered by moonlight.
- #25 1994 Jul 21 PPM 227261 by 55 Pandora. Edenvale, Johannesburg and Pretoria reported misses, observed by D Overbeek, B Fraser and J Smit.
- #26 1994 Jul 27 FK5 1536 by 318 Magdalena. In Edenvale, D Overbeek made a photoelectric observation and obtained a reasonably good trace indicating a miss.
- #27 1994 Jul 28 PPM 67962 by 96 Aegle. From Pretoria, J Smit reported a miss.
- #28 1994 Aug 9 PPM 237350 by 318 Magdalena again. Edenvale, Pretoria, Vanderbijlpark and Windhoek reported misses, observed by D Overbeek, J Smit, F de Jager and Sonja Enke.
- #29 1994 Aug 15 PPM 228378 by 405 Thia. Edenvale, Vanderbijlpark and Windhoek reported misses, as observed by D Overbeek, F de Jager and Sonja Enke who found the seeing bad.
- #30 1994 Aug 20 PPM 227018 by 324 Bambergia. From Pretoria, J Smit reported a miss. Cloud and a low star altitude frustrated the Edenvale, Johannesburg and Vanderbijlpark observers.
- #31 1994 Aug 23 DM-13 3763 by 10 Hygiea. In Edenvale, D Overbeek observed an appulse at approximately the right time. In Pretoria, J Smit observed a miss interrupted by intermittent cloud.
- #32 1994 Sep 8 Lick5 3526 by 1086 Nata. Benoni, Durban and Vanderbijlpark reported cloud. Edenvale, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Windhoek had misses as reported by D Overbeek, H Lund, J Smit and Sonja Enke.
- #33 1994 Sep 11 PPM 96852 by 410 Chloris. Benoni, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Windhoek had misses, as reported by T Cooper, H Lund, J Smit and Sonja Enke.
- #34 1994 Oct 17 Lick4 3280 by 19 Fortuna. This event produced a real tale of woes. In Benoni, T Cooper was ill, Cape Town received the notice late, Simon's Town had mist and F de Jager in Vanderbijlpark reported a miss
J Smit but was unsure of the star's identity.
- #35 1994 Oct 26 PPM 271854 by 624 Hektor. Benoni, Edenvale, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Vanderbijlpark reported cloud.
- #36 1994 Nov 3 PPM 236848 by 38 Leda. Edenvale, Johannesburg and Pretoria reported cloud.
- #37 1994 Dec 2 PPM 94769 by 142 Polana. Edenvale, Pretoria and Vanderbijlpark had misses as reported by D Overbeek, J Smit and F de Jager. Cape Town had cloud.
- #38 1994 Dec 15 PPM 121569 by 336 Lacadiera. In Edenvale, D Overbeek observed a definite occultation from UT 01h 26m 45s.6 to 1h 26m 49s.9. In Cape Town and Pretoria Drs Tom Lloyd Evans and J Smit observed definite misses. Unfortunately, other members of the "Gauteng Fence" were prevented from observing for one reason or another. It was not possible to determine a realistic upper limit for the size of

Lacadiera, as the Cape town observation was made too far south. The Edenvale observation gives a lower limit of 52 km. Perhaps the next positive event will be observed by a full complement of dedicated observers.

II Total Lunar Occultations.

Over the years, death and a severe stroke took their toll of some of the more productive occultation observers and it is my sad duty each year to report a decline of this most satisfying branch of positional astronomy. It is interesting to note that the average age of the observers listed below is over 70.

Observer	Disappearances	Reappearances
MD Overbeek	26, incl. 3 PEP	22
J Smit	45	20
P van Blommestein	97	2

III Grazing Occultations

This activity has also declined, not the least reason being the volatile security situation. No observer relishes the thought of being confronted by a trigger happy householder, landowner or passer by.

Date	Star	Place	Stations	Observations	Leader
1994 04 18	SAD 97120	Edenvale	1	3	MD Overbeek

Danie Overbeek
1995 07 25