



SCORPIUS



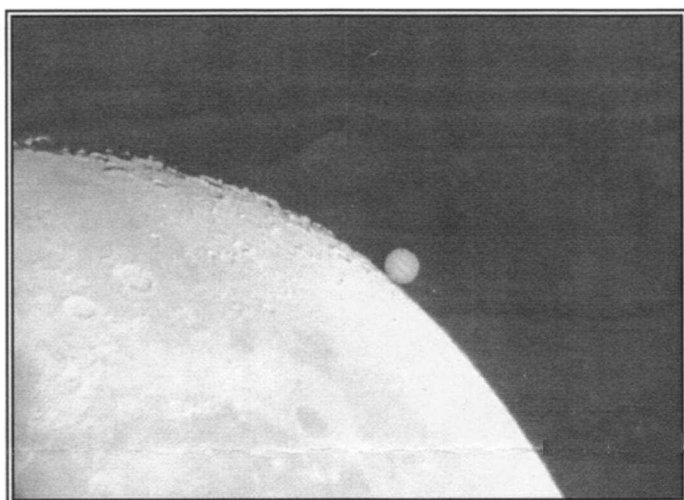
The Journal of the
Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society Inc.

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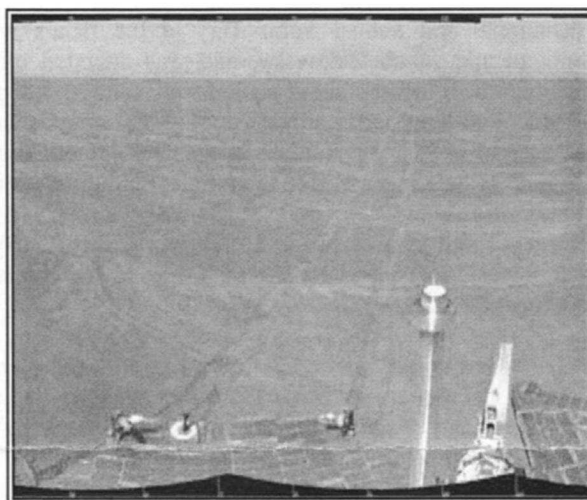
Volume XIV, No. 2 (March 2005)

The Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society (formerly the Astronomical Society of Frankston) was founded in 1969 with the aim of fostering the study of Astronomy by amateurs and promoting the hobby of amateur Astronomy to the general public. The Society holds a General Meeting each month for the exchange of ideas and information. Regular observing nights, both private and public, are arranged to observe currently available celestial objects. For decades the Society has provided *Astronomy on the Move* educational presentations and observing nights for schools and community groups exclusively in the Peninsula and surrounding regions to Moorabbin, Dandenong & Tooradin.

Successful observations of the lunar occultation of Jupiter



Mars rovers break driving records



Plus :

Jupiter sized sun discovered.
Latest discoveries from Titan.
Supply ship heads for the ISS.
The fate of the Hubble Space Telescope.

(Front page photo of Jupiter taken by Adam Marsh)

March / April field nights and events

4th March – Public viewing night at Briars
16th March – General Meeting
17th March – Rye school viewing night
19th March - KB Scope Day at Briars
21st March – Mt. Eliza Sec. College viewing night

1st April – Public viewing night at Briars
9th/10th April - VASTROC
16th April – Lunar Night at Briars
20th April – General Meeting

Society News

School and Public Nights

The public viewing night at The Briars on 7th January was held under total cloud cover, but saw 12 in attendance. The multimedia DVD presentation and presentation about Saturn's moon Titan was given by Richard Pollard and Peter Lowe. Thanks for assistance to Don Leggett, Peter Skilton, John Cleverdon and Kevin Rossiter.

The public viewing night at The Briars on 14th January was filled to overflowing with 60 in attendance on a completely clouded evening. The talk was given by Richard Pollard and Peter Lowe, concentrating on Saturn's moon Titan because the Huygen's probe was due to land on the surface on Titan.

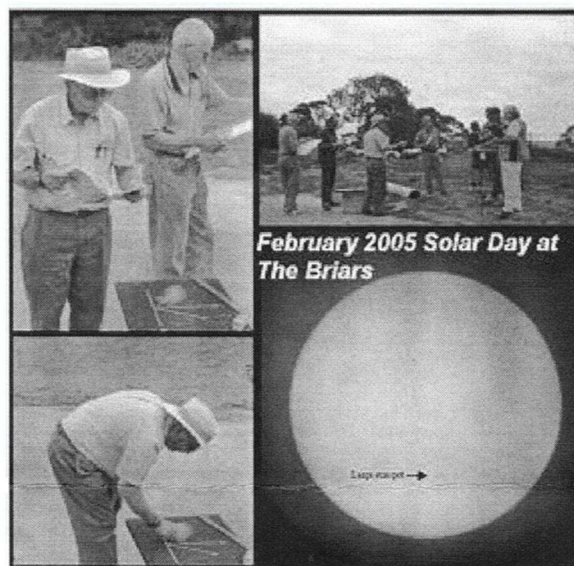
The public viewing night at The Briars on 21st January was attended by 46 with perfectly clear conditions. The talk was handled by Peter Lowe and Peter Skilton and featured a 3-D walk through of the planets and of the Mars rover explorations. Helping in the field with telescopes were Richard Pollard, John Cleverdon, Kevin Rossiter, Greg and

The public viewing night on 4th February was attended by 55 with very clear conditions. While thunderstorms rumbled around the Melbourne metropolitan area, the skies from Frankston to Mt.Martha remained very clear throughout the evening. The 3-dimensional talk on Mars was presented by Peter Lowe and Richard Pollard, and the capacity crowd included visitors touring from England. Following the talk everyone quickly moved out to the observing field to witness an Iridium satellite flash, however, it failed to eventuate as predicted. Nevertheless, other satellites were on show during the evening, as was the magnificent planet, Saturn, and numerous dark sky objects, with the Moon not being visible. Helping in the field with telescopes, the laser skypointer and other tasks were Kevin Rossiter, Bob Heale, Greg Walton, John Cleverdon, Peter Skilton, Don Leggett, Bruce Tregaskis and Simon Birch

MPAS events

On a warm Saturday afternoon, February 19th, the educational and annual **Solar Day** at the Briars was led by Ian Sullivan and Jakub Bukovsky, and was attended by over a dozen members who learned about analemmas, sundial design, the equation of time, and how not to adjust your sundial for your latitude when it was manufactured for another latitude. Although sundial noon was not able to be measured due to complete cloud cover at the time, the clouds did eventually part sufficiently to enable several solar telescopes of various types to be set up. A particularly large sunspot was present, approximately the same size as the planet Venus during its transit last year.

The society visited the libraries at Mornington, Hastings and Carrum in February as part of its outreach activities to speak about astronomy and space to the assembled audiences. Thanks to Peter Lowe, Richard Pollard and Don Leggett for lecturing.



General Meetings

The general meeting at The Peninsula School on 16th February was chaired by the President, and saw 41 in attendance. This meeting began with the Annual General Meeting, delayed since November last year, where Peter Lowe outlined the achievements of the year, Marty Rudd detailed an analysis of the profit and loss and balance sheet of the society, and the new committee was elected. Following closure of the AGM, Barry Adcock addressed the audience about the upcoming VASTROC to be held in the town on Heathcote, close to Bendigo, and calling for registrants and speakers. Bob Heale presented Sky for the Month, with mention of the Ghost of Jupiter (N3242), an unusual planetary nebula in Hydra which resembles the planet Jupiter in the eyepiece. Ian Sullivan advised of the upcoming annual Solar Day at the Briars, as shown in the annual calendar provided in last month's edition of scorpisus. Peter Skilton provided hand out sheets of the upcoming early morning occultation of asteroid (7) IRIS, and calling for all observers to record its shadow's certain passage over Victoria. Following the tea break, the group reassembled to hear Peter Lowe present an illustrated talk on his recent visit to Mt. Stromlo. If you recall, the Canberra bushfires totally devastated this premier observatory site, and the ruins were presented for all to see. The plans going forward are not to use it as a research facility, but rather to turn it into a public outreach facility for education purposes, and possibly use if for student science projects. He pointed out that the only two functioning instruments on the mountain (now stripped totally bare of all trees) were a sundial made of rocks, and the 16 inch Meade telescope which had been donated to the Canberra amateur society following the loss of all their possessions in the fire (as they were housed atop Mt.Stromlo). Meeting closed at 10:05pm.

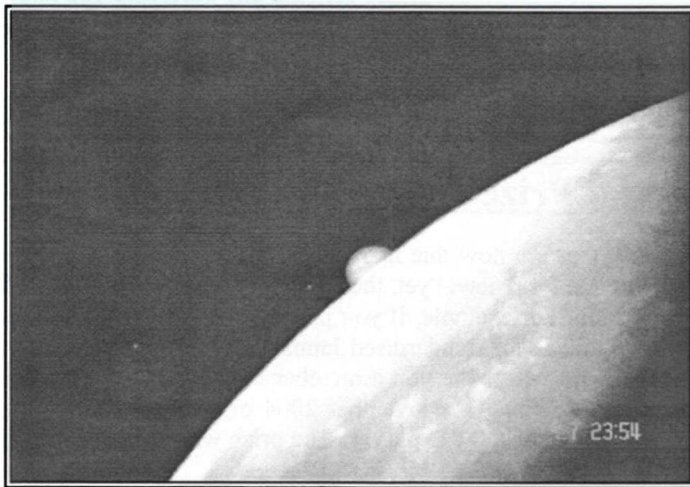
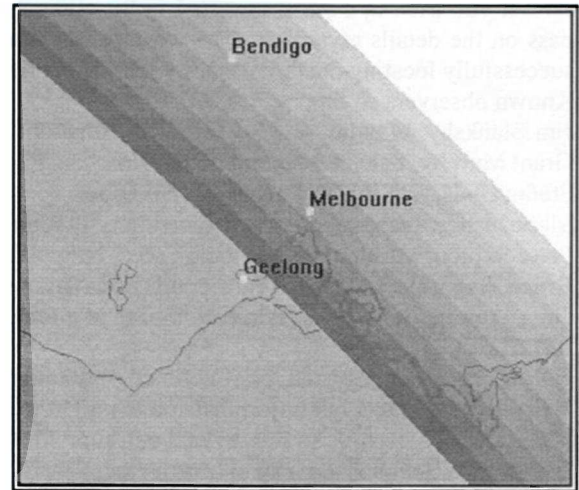
Occultation of Jupiter

On the evening of February 27th, Jupiter was occulted by the Moon. The occultation was only visible from areas in the south of Australia. Viewers in Tasmania, and Adelaide saw the occultation while observers in the Melbourne précis saw either a short occultation or a graze with Jupiter skimming the edge of the Moon.

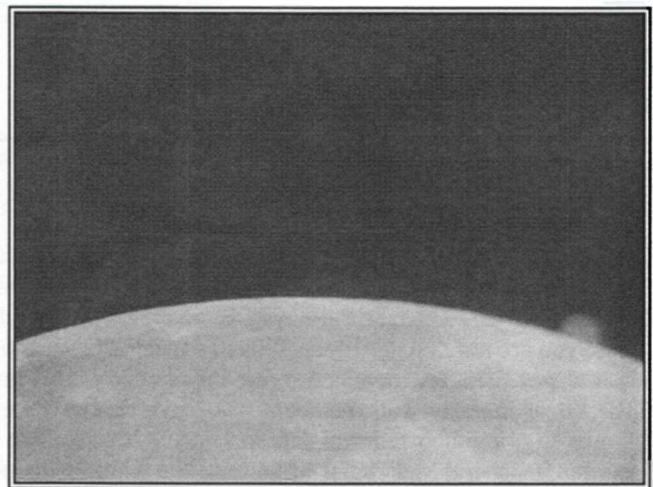
The picture right shows the occultation path as indicated in shades of grey. Closer to the white area gives less occultation while closer to the darker grey line gives more occultation of Jupiter, with total occultation occurring for viewers below that line.

For us on the Peninsula, first contact of Jupiter with the Moon occurred at approximately 11:51pm summer time. Only nine minutes later it was all over with Jupiter having last contact with the Moon.

Many members and their friends made observations and recordings of the event from various sites including Red Hill, Frankston and Dandenong North. Luckily enough the weather was great for the event, with clear skies all about.



Jupiter occulted by the Moon. Callisto and Europa are already behind the Moon while Io (closest to Jupiter) and Ganymede are still visible. Photo by Adam Marsh, Police Park Reserve, Dandenong North. (Digital camera through a 6" f12 Intes MK-67 Mak-Cass)



Jupiter begins to re-emerge from a 70% lunar occultation. Photo by Marty Rudd, Police Park, Dandenong North (Ricoh Caplio G3 digital camera through 10" f/4.5 Newt.).

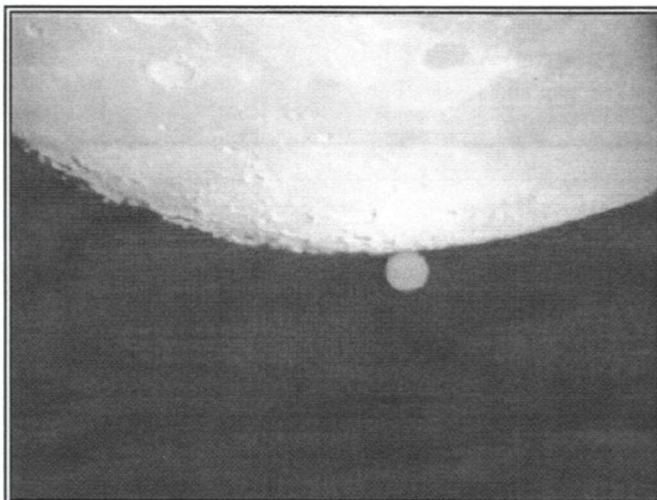
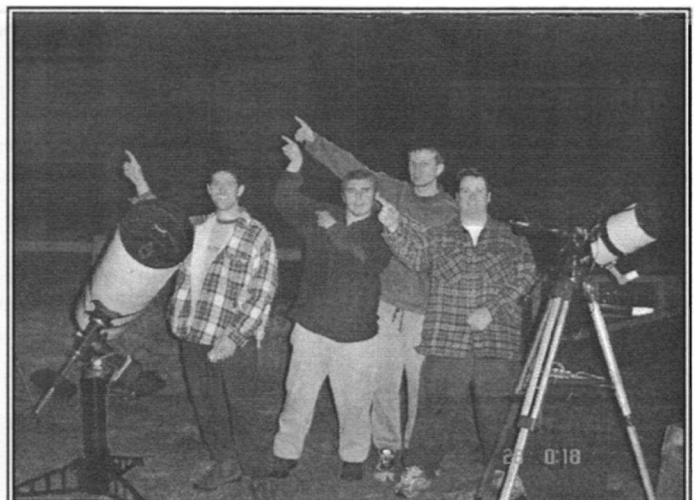


Photo by Peter Skilton. 6 inch f/5 Newtonian. Unguided, using a Sony DSC-P72 digital camera and a Scopetronix Ez-Piz camera adaptor.



If you weren't sure where to look for the occultation of Jupiter all you had to do was ask one of these guys. (And yes, their scopes are pointing in the opposite direction but they were looking at Saturn at the time of the shot). (L to R : Marty Rudd, Adam Marsh, Roger Vodicka, Lance Kelly)

(7) IRIS Occultation

Thanks to all who tried the (7) IRIS minor planet occultation early Friday morning, Feb 18th.

*** If you tried it, even if thwarted in the attempt on the night, then do please email me your details and location as I will pass on the details regardless. The weather was mostly kind to observers, however, equipment difficulties on the night, and successfully locating the target star by the correct time, proved an unexpected challenge for many for varying reasons.

Known observers so far:

Jim Blanksby, Wandin, saw 7.4 second occultation.

Grant Murphy, Sale, 4.9 second occultation.

Stefan Buda, St.Kilda, 8.7 second occultation.

Mark Justice, Ivanhoe, approx. 9 second occultation recorded, but yet to be reported.

Peter Skilton, Mt.Martha, occultation seen, but possible thin cloud/misted eyepiece made times doubtful.

Bruce Tregaskis, Mt.Eliza, few seconds occultation seen, but only began recording mid-event.

Greg Walton, Bonbeach, definite dimming of a few seconds in his 23 inch Dobsonian, but times doubtful due to level of surprise.

Russell Cockman, Elwood, brief untimed occultation through 11x80 binoculars.

Valiantly attempted, but unfortunate on the night were:

Maurice Valimberti, John Sunderland at Churchill, Jana Kviz near Geelong, Bruce Tregaskis at Mt.Eliza, Peter Lowe at Langwarrin, Jakub Bukovsky at Mordialloc, Peter Nelson at Churchill.

Other known anticipated observers were Judith Bailey, Ian Grant, Renato Alessio, Barry Adcock, David Witham, Ian Musgrave and possibly others on this minor planet distribution list in the region. Do please forward any outcomes you had if you attempted the observation

Thanks to all,

Peter Skilton

Membership Renewal Prize Draw

To help make membership renewals easier to track, all membership fees are now due in January of each year. If you are a current member who paid a membership fee during 2004, and are not due for renewal yet, then you may wish to pay a pro-rata membership fee, which will cover your membership until January 2006. For example, if you paid a membership fee in June 2004, you are not due until June 2005. To bring your membership up to date for standardised January renewals, you may then wish to pay for a six months pro-rata membership. This pro-rata amount will make you a member until January 2006. As a little bit of incentive, all members who have renewed their membership since 1st November 2004 or have paid a pro-rata amount to bring their renewal date to January 2006 go into the prize draw for a **DVD player**. The prize will be drawn during the March General Meeting at which time the winning member will be announced.

If you have any questions about how to pay the pro-rata amount or about membership renewals in general, then please contact the treasurer, Marty Rudd, on (AH) 5977 8863.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members :

Leanne Hundt
Kevin Rossiter
John Thomas

David Booth
Scott and Fiona Burbidge
Mark, Beatrix, Megan and Jessica Perry

2005 MPAS Committee

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Peninsula School on the 16th February., during which the new 2005 Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society committee was elected. The new committee for 2005 is made up of :

President	-	Peter Lowe	aggro@pen.hotkey.net.au
Vice President	-	Ian Sullivan	sully@labyrinth.net.au
Secretary	-	Don Leggett	donleg@optusnet.com.au
Treasurer	-	Marty Rudd	quasar3671@aol.com
Public Officer	-	Rhonda Sawosz	
Ordinary Members	-	Peter Skilton	Kevin Rossiter
		Bob Heale	Terry Ryan
Scorpius Editor	-	Marty Rudd	
Phone contact	-	Peter Skilton	
Web Master	-	Richard Pollard	
Librarian	-	Andrew Thornton	

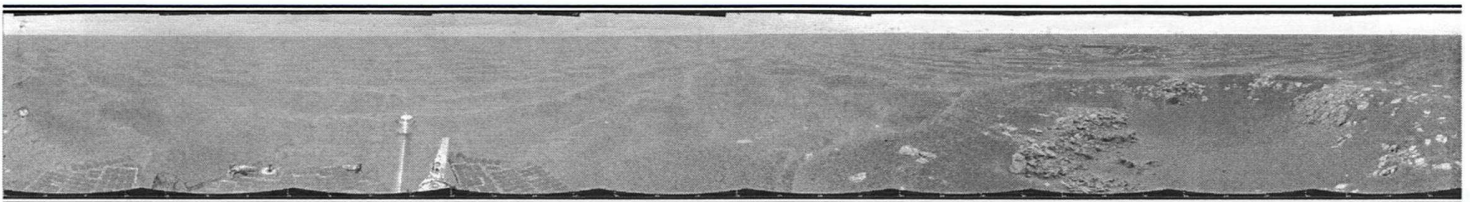
Astro News

Mars rover break records

NASA's Mars Exploration Rover, Opportunity, covered more total ground in three consecutive days than it or its sister rover, Spirit, had done in their first seventy days on Mars. NASA engineer's transmitted a three day exploration plan to Opportunity as well as upgraded software. On day one, being Feb 19th, Opportunity set a one-day distance record by driving 177.5 meters. On day two, the rover used its new software to start drive navigating for itself. This was the first time either rover had started a second day with continued autonomous driving. Opportunity drove for four hours.

On day three the rover continued to navigate itself for a further 109 meters for a total of 390 meters over the three day period. That 390 meters is more than half of the 600 meters that had been part of each rover's initial three month, 600 meter mission success criteria.

Opportunity has now traversed 3,014 meters of Martian terrain and Spirit an even further 4,157 meters. Currently, Opportunity is heading south toward an area called 'etched terrain'. Spirit, in the meantime, is climbing 'Husband Hill' where it will pause on a ridge overlooking a valley north of the summit to see whether there are any potential targets below worth investigating.



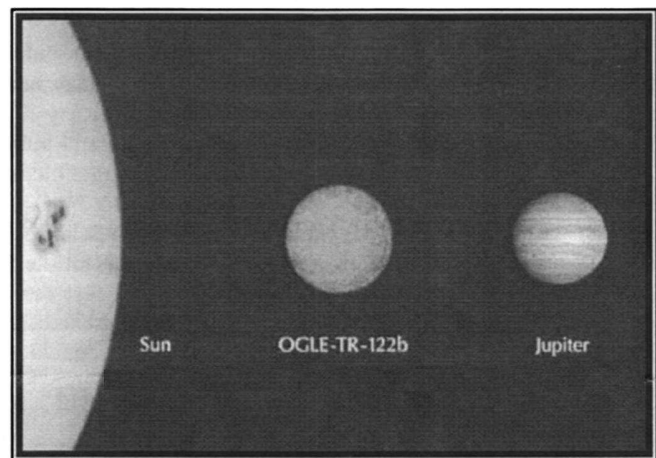
NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity used its navigation camera to take the images combined into this view of the rover's surroundings on Opportunity's 387th martian day, or sol (Feb. 24, 2005). Opportunity had driven about 73 meters (240 feet) and reached the eastern edge of a small crater dubbed "Naturaliste," seen in the right foreground. This view is presented in a cylindrical projection with geometric and brightness seam correction.

Image Credit: NASA/JPL

Jupiter sized star discovered

A remote star in the constellation Carina has drawn a lot of attention. Observations of the star, named OGLE-TR-122, in March 2004, revealed a 1.5% decrease in brightness every 7 days, 6 hours and 27 minutes and lasting 3 hours. The FLAMES multi-fibre spectrograph on the 8.2-m VLT Kueyen telescope at the ESO Paranal Observatory (Chile) made measurements of the star during 6 nights in March 2004, revealing radial velocity variations of this period with an amplitude of about 20 km/s. This is the clear signature of a very low-mass star, close to the Hydrogen-burning limit, orbiting OGLE-TR-122. This companion received the name OGLE-TR-122b.

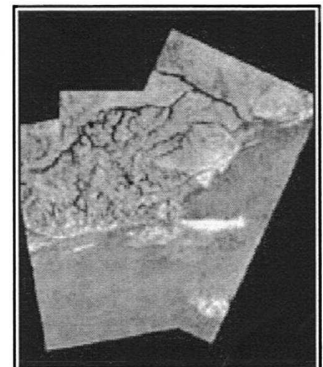
This companion is 96 times heavier than planet Jupiter but only 16% larger. It is the first time that direct observations demonstrate that stars less massive than 1/10th of the solar mass are of nearly the same size as giant planets. This fact will obviously have to be taken into account during the current search for transiting exoplanets.



Latest from Titan

Titan is wet! As the Huygens probe descended through the atmosphere of Saturn's moon Titan, it photographed river channels, beaches, coastlines and islands until it finally landed, in mud. The liquid on Titan is methane (CH₄). Water would be frozen on Titan as the surface temperature is 179°C below zero whereas methane, on the other hand, is a flowing liquid. At the time of Huygen's landing no flowing liquid was observed but liquids had been there recently. Smooth and round rocks sitting in little depressions were seen strewn about the landing site, not unlike river rocks on Earth.

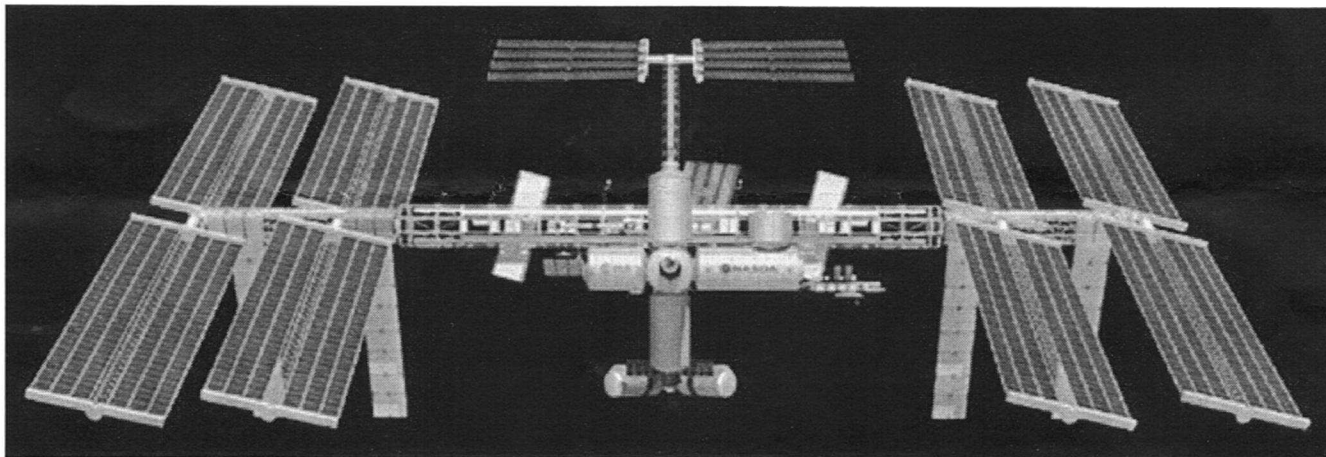
Titan area in which Huygens landed may be a mostly dry area with intense wet seasons. This wet may be caused by intense rain downpours of methane. This may be due to the fact that Titan's atmosphere is very humid, as the amount of vapor in the atmosphere is many times than that of Earth. These rain downpours may even produce rainbows, as the basic ingredients for any rainbow are sunlight and raindrops., but seeing Titan's skies are very hazy, and rainbows require direct sunlight, visible rainbows on Titan might be a rarity.



Supply ship heads for ISS

On March 1st, the International Space Station Progress 17 resupply ship launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Less than ten minutes after launch, Progress 17 settled into orbit and automatic commands deployed its solar arrays and navigational antennas. Engine firings then put Progress 17 into a higher orbit which refined its path to the ISS. The craft took two days to reach the ISS where upon arrival, it completed automatic docking to the aft port of the Zvezda Service Module. Progress 17 is carried over two tonnes of supplies including 86 food containers to replenish the stations pantry, 175 kg of fuel, 110 kg of oxygen and air, 490 kg of water and 1330 kg of spare parts.

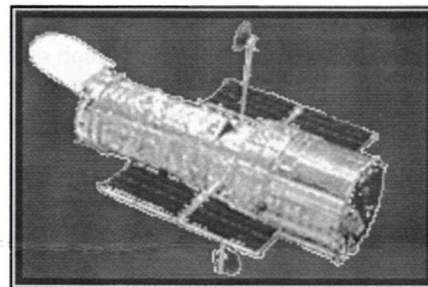
Also aboard Progress 17 was a new set of cameras and lenses that will be used by the crew of Expedition 11 to capture digital images of the thermal protection system of the Space Shuttle Discovery during its approach to the ISS for docking during the scheduled STS-114 mission in May. The photos taken will be used as part of the 'Return to Flight' effort which will insure the Shuttle has not incurred any threatening damage to its tiles or carbon-carbon coating on its wings during ascent.



Good news for the Hubble Space Telescope

Just when you thought it was all over for the Hubble Space Telescope (HST), the controversy of the future of the telescope has been reignited. In January 2004, NASA head administrator, Sean O'Keefe, cancelled all future servicing missions to the HST out of concerns for astronaut safety in the wake of the Columbia Shuttle accident. After much protest from astronomers, the scientific community, the general public and members of the American Congress that NASA began to look at a possible robotic option for future HST maintenance missions.

In the meantime, the National Academy of Sciences put together a panel of top engineers and scientists to determine whether or not the HST was worth saving. Their conclusion : a big 'YES'. The panel stated that the "HST has made many extraordinary accomplishments that have had major scientific and public impact and has the capacity to do so for years to come". It was concluded that cancelled repair and maintenance missions to the HST were critically important. It also reported that a robotic mission could not be prepared and be sent in time to save the HST.



On December 13th last year, the man who doomed the HST, Sean O'Keefe, resigned as NASA administrator. The fate of the HST may now lay in the hands of the person who George W. Bush chooses to replace O'Keefe; but, with O'Keefe gone and the encouragement generated by the report, it appears Hubble may have a chance of being around for a long time.

Dawn to investigate asteroids

In about a year, the spacecraft Dawn will be launched from Florida, bound for two asteroids, Ceres and Vesta. The craft will bring along with it a vast array of scientific instrumentation in an attempt to help scientists to discover what the Solar System was like 4.6 billion years ago. Although they are both asteroids, Vesta and Ceres are quite different. Ceres, the largest asteroid at 957km across, is believed to have formed in a cool, moist environment and that some of that water may still be present in the form of ice caps, a thin atmosphere or trapped on the surface.

On the other hand, Vesta, the brightest asteroid (visible to the naked eye) at 530km across, formed closer to the Sun in a hot and dry environment and may share many features of the inner planets. The instruments on board will be used to study the asteroids in great detail. As well as taking pictures their mass, spin rate, chemical and elemental composition, volume and gravity will be determined.

Leaving for its destinations in 2006, Dawn will arrive at Vesta first in 2009 or 2010, where it will orbit and study the asteroid for a year before flying off to study Ceres where it will arrive three years later. Dawn will be the first spacecraft ever to orbit two separate objects in the solar system. Dawn will be fitted with a revolutionary engine, an ion engine. It uses solar electricity to ionize xenon atoms and then hurl them out the back of the spacecraft. The thrust is tiny but fuel efficient, and the engine can keep running for months or even years providing a tremendous velocity.

WEB SITES

Further information on some of the stories in this edition of Scorpius can be found at the following addresses :

- Cassini and the Huygens Probe : <http://www.esa.int/SPECIALS/Cassini-Huygens/index.html>
 : <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/home/index.cfm>
- Mars rovers and their images : <http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov/home/index.html>
 : http://www.nasa.gov/vision/universe/solarsystem/mer_main.html
- International Space Station : <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/>
 Hubble Space Telescope : <http://hubblesite.org/>
 : <http://hubble.nasa.gov/index.php>
- Comet finder charts : <http://www.shopplaza.nl/astro/comets/comets.htm>
- Other great web sites :
- Parkes Radio Telescope : <http://www.parkes.atnf.csiro.au/>
 Royal Astronomical Soc. of N.Z. : <http://www.rasnz.org.nz/>
- Links for NASA TV live feeds : Real Media http://www.nasa.gov/ram/35037main_portal.ram
 : Windows Media Player http://www.nasa.gov/55644main_NASATV_Windows.asx
- Astronomy in general : <http://www.astronomy.com/>
 : <http://www.space.com/>
 : <http://skyandtelescope.com/>
 : <http://www.sky-watch.com/>

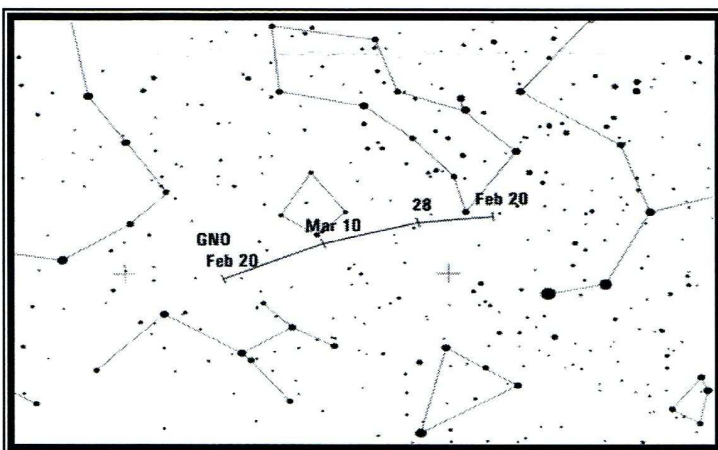
Skywatchers Events

March

- 4th Moon last quarter
- 10th New Moon
- 13th Gamma-Normids meteors peak (3-8 p/hour)
- 18th First quarter Moon
- 23rd Comet C/2003 T4 at 7th mag, 3° from M2
- 26th Full Moon

April

- 2nd Last quarter Moon
- 9th New Moon
- 17th First quarter Moon
- 23rd Jupiter 0.6°N of Moon
- 24th Full Moon



The Gamma-normids meteor shower is a little observed shower. Similar to sporadic meteors in appearance, their hourly rate is also similar to that of sporadic background rates of about 3-4 meteors per hour.

With the peak occurring on the 13th of March, some recent data may now put the peak on the 17th. Even so, the moon is favourable for observing on both of these nights.

The gamma-normids are active from February 25th to March 22nd and one may observe up to 8 gamma-normid meteors per hour.

The star chart to the left shows the radiant position for various dates.

Comet C/2003 T4 reaches perihelion on 3rd April at 0.85 AU from the Sun. In early March and in the early morning sky, the comet can be found at magnitude 8 in the constellation Delphinus. During March and April, the comet will continue its path through Aquarius (in late March passing close by Beta Aquarii) then on into Sculptor.

Initially predicted as a possible naked eye comet, its development has been rather slow, so predictions now suggest that the comet will reach a maximum magnitude of 7 when it is at its best in late March.

Comet charts are available at : <http://www.shopplaza.nl/astro/comets/comets.htm>

Ken Bryant Scope Day

Ken Bryant Scope Day (KBSD) is our premier telescope event. KBSD will begin at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 19th, and will continue on into the night. KBSD will be held at the Briars site. There will be short talks throughout the day, raffle draws and prizes for the best display. All members and their families are welcome.

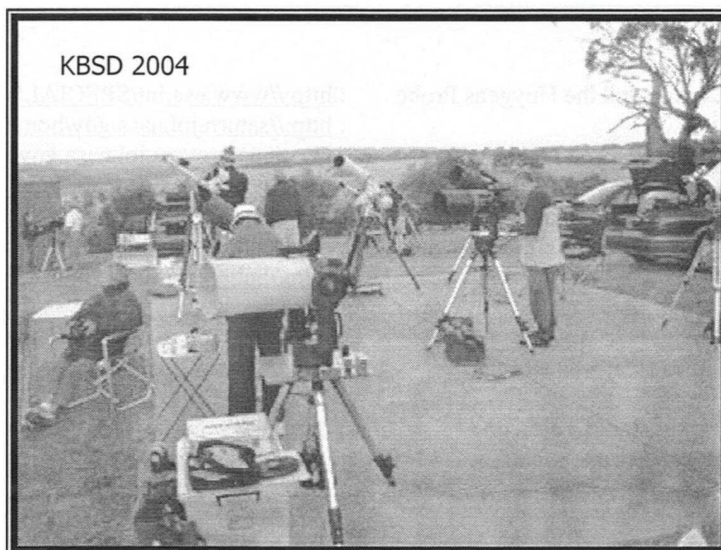
Safe Solar observing will also be demonstrated and if you want to, you can stay on into the night and continue with night observing.

- If you have anything of astronomical interest for sale, then please bring it along
- Anyone who is doing any astronomical work eg: Variable Star, Meteor, Solar Viewing or Astrophotography, why not come along and show everyone your work
- If you have something astronomical you wish to demonstrate or display, then set up a display and be in the running for the 'Best Display' prize.

New members and members, if you have got a telescope and you are not sure how to use it properly, then bring it down and be shown how to set it up, polar align it and use it to its best ability.

BYO lunch and dinner available (book a week in advance for dinner).

Coffee and tea available throughout the day.



Fur further information please contact Peter Lowe on (0419 355 819)

ASTRONOMY CLASSES

Astronomy Classes at Mornington Library. SAT Mar 26th. These classes, run by Ian Sullivan, will be held at the library in Vancouver St, (Melways 104 D10), from 1.00-4.00 pm. Ian will make provision for new students each session, as well as continuing work for those returning. The cost is \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members (payable on the day). If you wish to attend, please contact Ian at the meeting, or by phone (03 9555 6913).

Astronomy 2005

It's March already and we've already had some fantastic astronomical events. To help plan for future astronomical events the excellent annual Australian publication, **Astronomy 2005**, is still available. The book shows what's in the night sky throughout 2005, and is aimed at all levels of amateur astronomer, from newcomer to expert.

RRP is \$22 to the public, though society members can get it at the discounted rate of \$20.

Orders and payments can be made in person at any MPAS gathering, by cheque to P.O. Box 596, Frankston 3199, or by phone by leaving a message on 0419 253 252.

These sky almanacs will be available at any society gathering.

Hurry.

The society only orders in a specific quantity each year, and it's first come, first served.

VASTROC 2005

The A.S.V. is responsible for VASTROC 2005. The Conference will be held at the RSL Hall in the town of Heathcote on the weekend of April 9 & 10 – 2005. For more info contact the Convener of the VASTROC 2005 organising committee, Barry Adcock at the ASV, on (03) 9459 4015.

Office bearers of the Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society

President	:	Peter Lowe – 0419 355 819	Secretary	:	Don Leggett
Vice President	:	Ian Sullivan	Treasurer	:	Marty Rudd – 5977 8863
Editor	:	Marty Rudd	Public Officer	:	Rhonda Sawosz
Committee	:	Peter Skilton			
		Terry Ryan			
Librarian	:	Andrew Thornton	Web Master	:	Richard Pollard
Phone Contact	:	Peter Skilton			

Meetings

Meeting Venue: *Peninsula School*, Wooralla Drive, Mt. Eliza (Melways map 105/F5) in the Senior School at 8pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month except December.

Phone: 0419 253 252

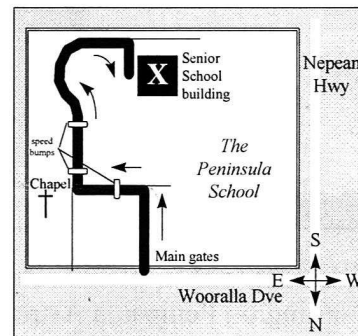
Mail: P.O. Box 596, Frankston 3199, Victoria, Australia

Internet: <http://www.mpas.websyte.com.au>

E-mail: quasar3671@aol.com

Subscriptions

Full Member	\$50.00	Family	\$65.00
Pensioner	\$45.00	Family Pensioner	\$60.00
Student	\$35.00	Newsletter Only	\$22.00

**Loan Equipment**

The Society has an 8-inch reflector, 80mm refractor and binoculars available for loan.

Contact a committee member to arrange the loan of equipment.

The Society also has books and videos for loan from its library, made available during General Meetings.

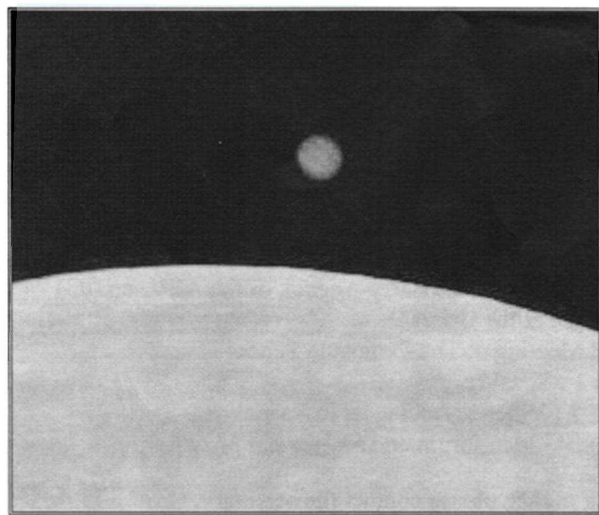
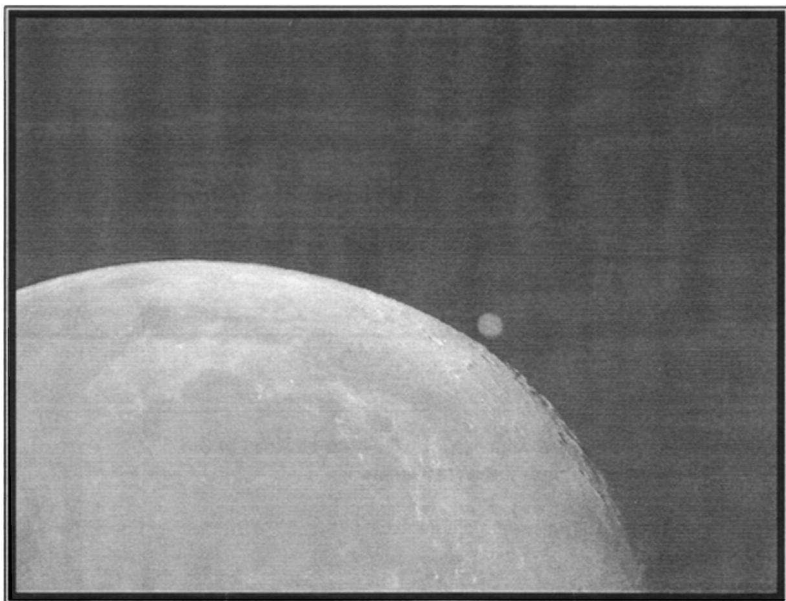
Viewing Nights

Members only: Any night, at The Briars, Nepean Hwy, Mt. Martha, starting at dusk. If you would like to know if others are observing at the site, then call the society's site mobile on (0408) 127 443. Members visiting The Briars for the first time must contact John Cleverdon on 5987 1535 if they need help in getting to the site. Upon arrival at the site, remember to sign the attendance book in the observatory building and verify that the mobile is turned on.

Future Events

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 4 th March, Friday | - Briars Public Viewing Night |
| 16 th March, Wednesday | - General Meeting at The Peninsula School |
| | - Session 1 : Dr. Russell Cockman speaks on 'Basic Astrophotography' |
| | Session 2 : DVD : 'Aurora – Alaska's Great Northern Lights' |
| | Session 3 : Open forum and <i>Sky for the Month</i> |
| 17 th March, Thursday | - Rye primary, Lyons St., Rye. Fifty year six students. At least four scopes needed. |
| 19 th March, Saturday | - Ken Bryant Scope Day |
| 21 st March, Monday | - Mt. Eliza Secondary College, (Mt. Eliza Way). 25 year 11 students. 2 or 3 scopes needed. |
| 1 st April, Friday | - Briars Public Viewing Night |
| 9 th April, Saturday | - VASTROC 2005 : The Conference will be held at the RSL Hall in the town of Heathcote |
| 10 th April, Sunday | For more info contact Barry Adcock of the ASV, on (03) 9459 4015. |
| 16 th April, Saturday | - Lunar night at the Briars |
| 20 th April, Wednesday | - General Meeting at The Peninsula School |
| | - Session 1 : Speaker |
| | Session 2 : Video : 'Accidents in Space' |
| | Session 3 : Open forum and <i>Sky for the Month</i> |

If you can assist with school viewing nights, please contact the secretary.



(Photos by Marty Rudd)



Left - Society dinner at the Dava Hotel on 22nd April 2005

Photo - By John Cleverdon

Below - Ken Bryant scope Day on 19th March 2005

Both Photos -
By John Cleverdon



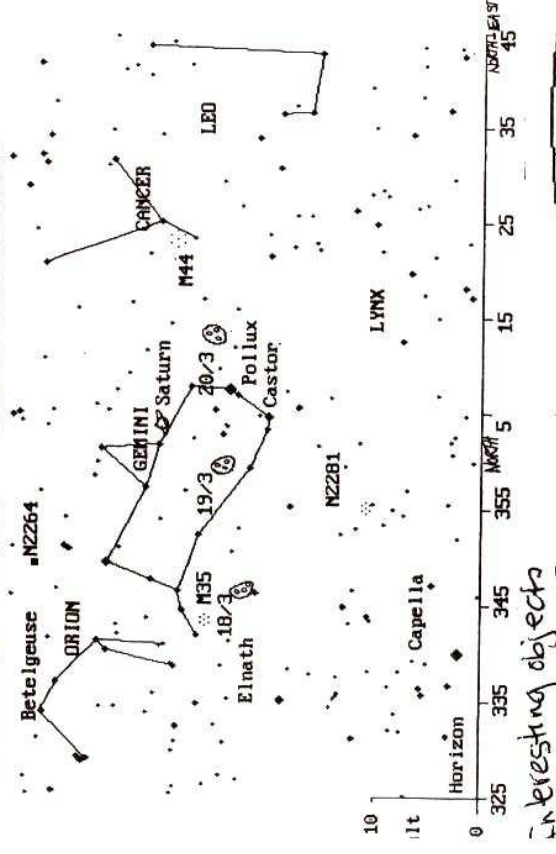
Scorpius Extra!!!!

Ken Bryant Scope Day 2005 at the Briars all photos - by Kevin Rossitor



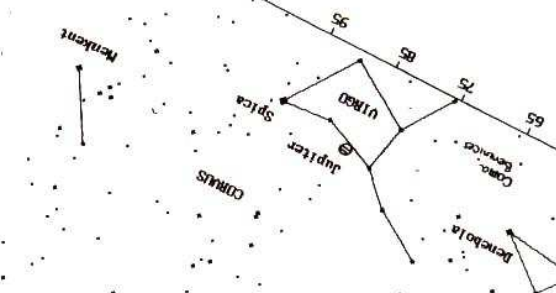
SKY FOR THE MONTH 16TH MARCH TO 19TH APRIL MORNINGTON PENINSULA 2005

8 45 pm Dark Sky 19th March 2005 Summer Time
 Faintest object is mag 5.5 U1.00 (c) Bob Heale 13/1/03



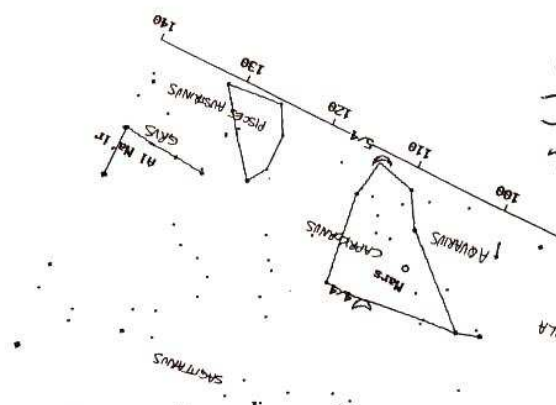
interesting objects
 high colour contrast
 145 Canis Majoris
 red, white
 optical double
 optical double
 17 Virgins
 yellow light
 blue

8 10 pm Near East Dark Sky 3rd April 2005 Summer Time
 Faintest object is mag 5.5 U1.00 (c) Bob Heale 13/1/03



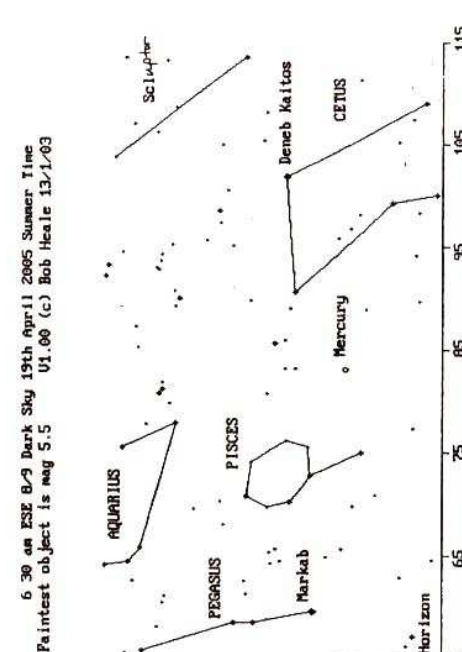
Mars will be 4 North of bright star Iota Capricorni 14/4/05

3 10 pm NE Dark Sky 4th April 2005 Summer Time
 Faintest object is mag 5.5 U1.00 (c) Bob Heale 13/1/03

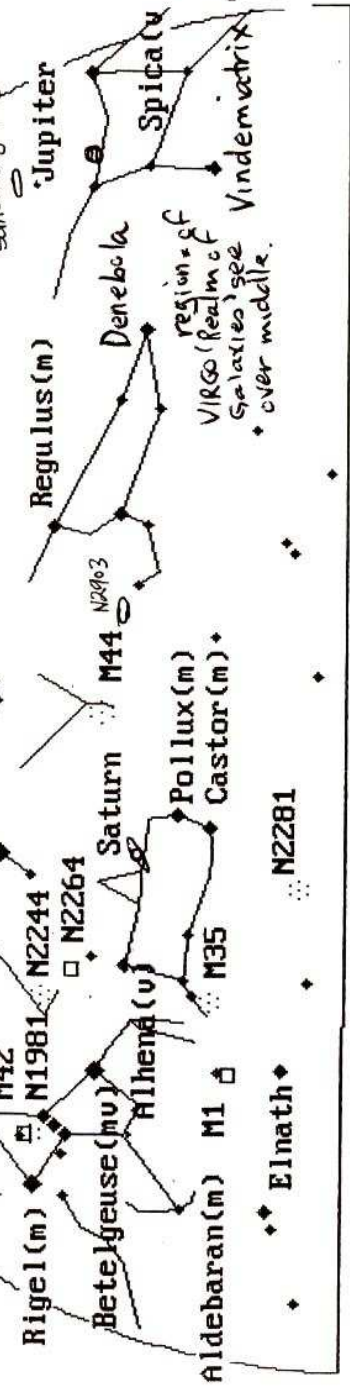


No (close) encounters with Mercury (chart below)

6 30 am ESE 8-9 Dark Sky 19th April 2005 Summer Time
 Faintest object is mag 5.5 U1.00 (c) Bob Heale 13/1/03



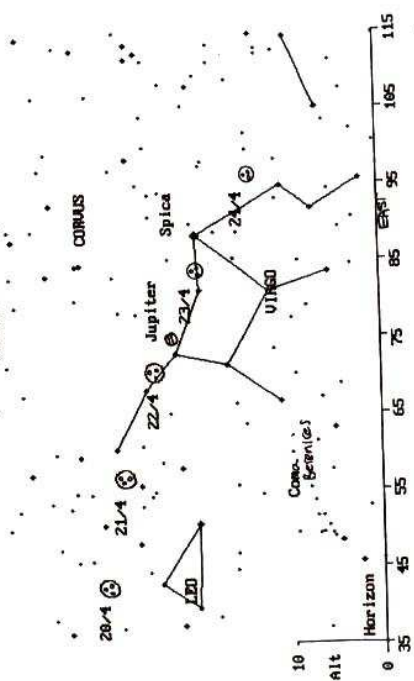
Bob Heale
 15/3/2005 MPAS



9 30 pm 2nd April North Dark Sky 2005 Summer Time, also 10pm 16th March and 8 20pm 19th April (not planets) Summer Time

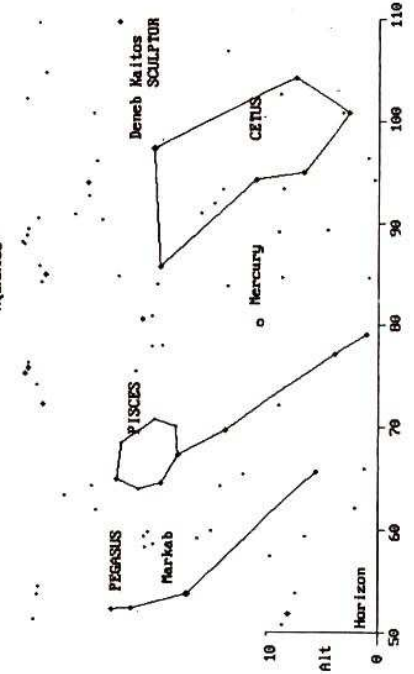
SKY FOR THE MONTH 20TH APRIL TO 17TH MAY (INCLUSIVE) MORNINGTON PENINSULA 2005

6:53 pm Dark Sky 22nd April 2005 Standard Time
 Faintest object is mag 5.5
 VI.00 (C) Bob Heale 13/1/03
 CANCER



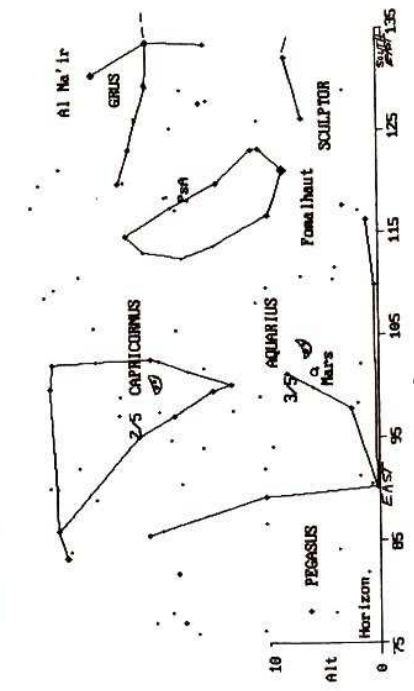
It's close, about 1 degree above Moon/Saturn 23/4/2005 ~ 5am but no occultation where us lot are

5:35 am DME B.9 Dark Sky 26th April 2005 Standard Time
 Faintest object is mag 5.5
 VI.00 (C) Bob Heale 13/1/03
 AQUARIUS

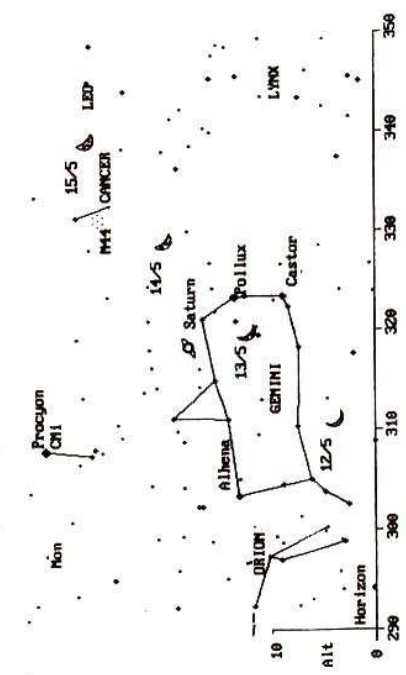


Don't forget Comet 9P/Tempel below, should get it in long binoculars or small telescope, easy path to pick up in bright star field

1:41 am East Dark Sky 3rd May 2005 Standard Time
 Faintest object is mag 5.5
 VI.00 (C) Bob Heale 13/1/03



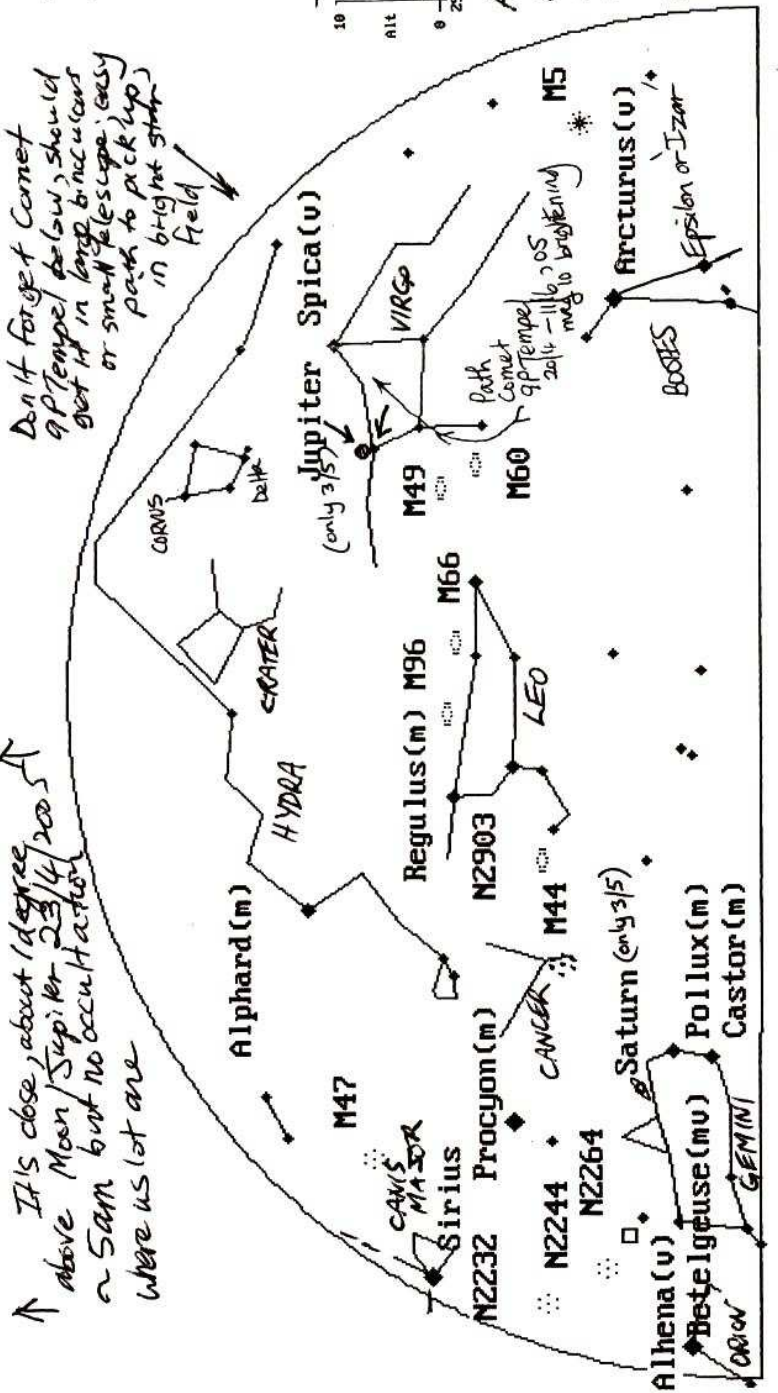
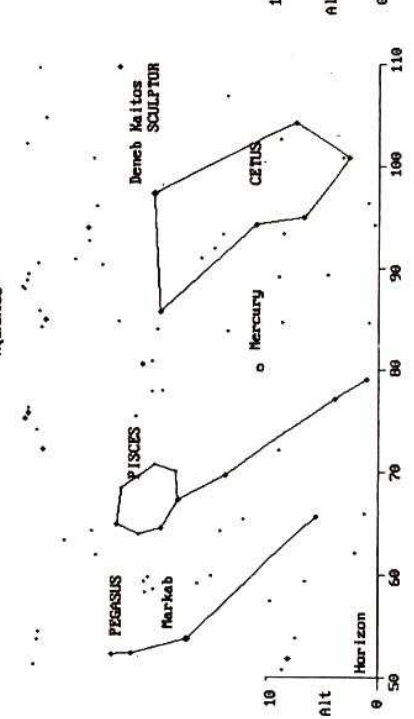
7:23 pm MW Dark Sky 13th May 2005 Standard Time
 Faintest object is mag 5.5
 VI.00 (C) Bob Heale 13/1/03



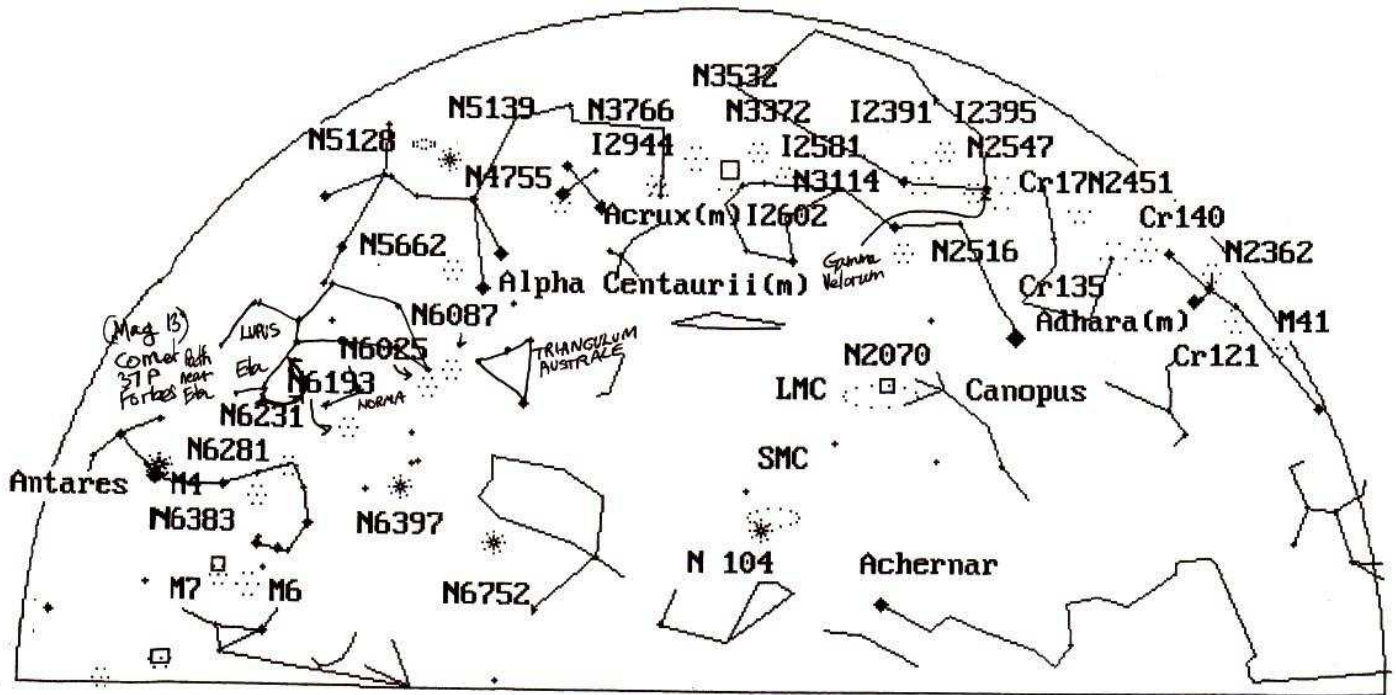
All galaxies at left easy and bright
 Easy colour contrasting double stars are Delta Corvi a wide blue-white, purple pair
 Arcturus SS (light years away)
 andy celebrated double Epsilon Boles in Icar
 orange Aland blue main sequence 210 light years away tree

Bob Heale 18/4/2005
 M.P.A.S

6:53 pm Dark Sky 30th April 2005 Standard Time
 Faintest object is mag 5.5
 VI.00 (C) Bob Heale 13/1/03
 CANCER

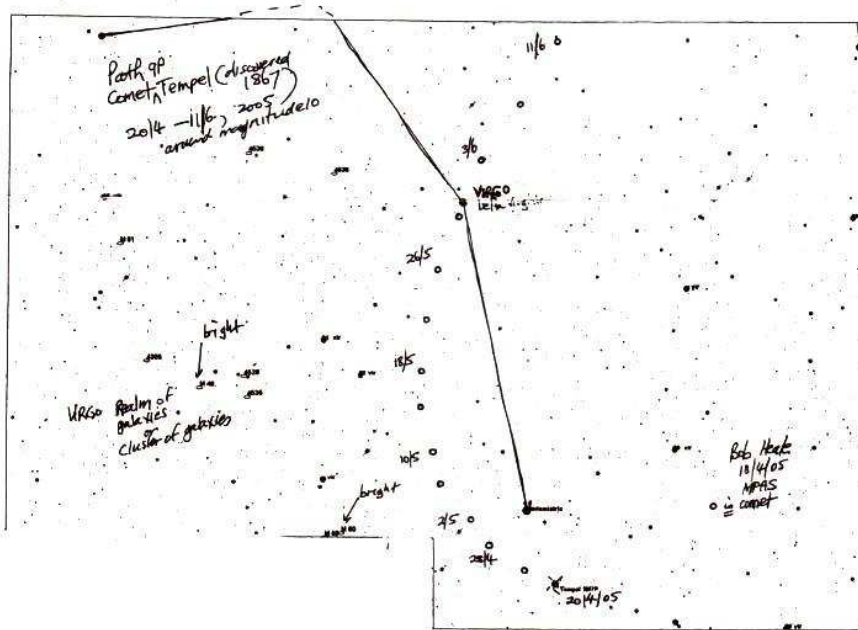


20th April and 17th May 7:30pm, also 9:30pm
 20th April and 17th May 7:30pm, also Standard Time



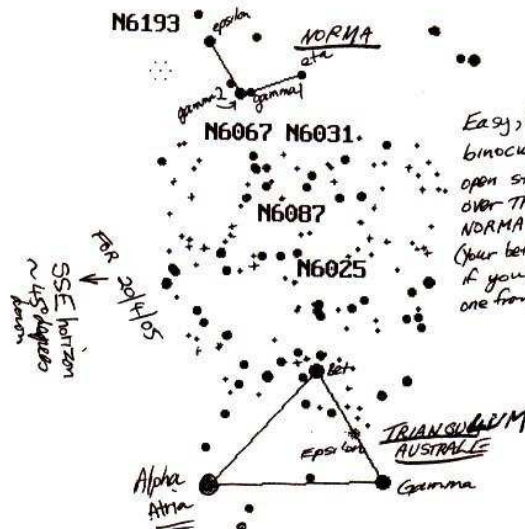
20th April and 17th May 8 30 pm 3rd May South Dark Sky 2005 Standard Time, also 9 30 pm 7 30 pm Standard Times

This →
is a close up
of part VIRGO
in Δ chart
other side
or
if keen, obtain
full sized
version on table



Good true double
above is Gamma
Velorum
2 com ponents
to give white/blue
pink.

This →
for Δ above
note orientation
For this month
April/May



Easy, bright
binocular (7X50's)
open star clusters
over TRIANGULUM -
NORMA border
(your better than me
if you can distinguish
one from the other - hhr!)

Bob Heale
18/4/2005
MPAAS