



SCORPIUS

THE JOURNAL OF THE
MORNINGTON PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INC.

Volume XVIII, No. 5 (September/October 2009)

The Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society (formerly the Astronomical Society of Frankston) was founded in 1969 with the aim of fostering the study and understanding of Astronomy by amateurs and promoting the hobby of amateur Astronomy to the general community at all levels.

The Society holds a focused general meeting each month for the exchange of ideas and information. Regular public and private observing nights are arranged to observe currently available celestial objects and phenomena. In addition, the society encourages the services of its members for educational presentations and observing nights for schools and community groups.

In 2009, we celebrate the society's 40th Anniversary.



More Special Releases for IYA2009

Back in the November/December 2008 issue of Scorpius, we showed you the release of special 2009 International Year of Astronomy 20c and \$1 coins by the Royal Australian Mint. These coins have recently been followed up with three additional coins of special release. First is a 50c coin which commemorates the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. This moon landing 50c coin ties in with the 40th anniversary of the 50c coin itself.



The next recently released coin by the Royal Australian Mint is a \$5 Silver Proof Coin with pieces of meteorite embedded into the coin. The meteorite was part of the Campo del Cielo: translated to (field of heaven), a meteorite shower that fell to Earth around 4,000 years ago in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The placing of meteorite fragments into a coin is believed to be a world first.



Another coin recently released, but not directly relating to the IYA2009 is the \$5 silver proof hologram coin shows a silhouette of a sailing ship surrounded by the amazing colours of the Aurora Australis. The colour of the hologram changes to represent this celestial phenomenon. This coin is being release as part of the International Polar Year 2007-2008



Not to be left behind, in late August was Australia Post's contribution to the International Year of Astronomy, with a set of astronomy stamps. According to Australia Post, these stamps highlight the beauty of astronomical objects revealed through the art of astrophotography, and it celebrates a science that has had an enormous impact on culture and society worldwide.



The celestial items depicted on the stamps are:

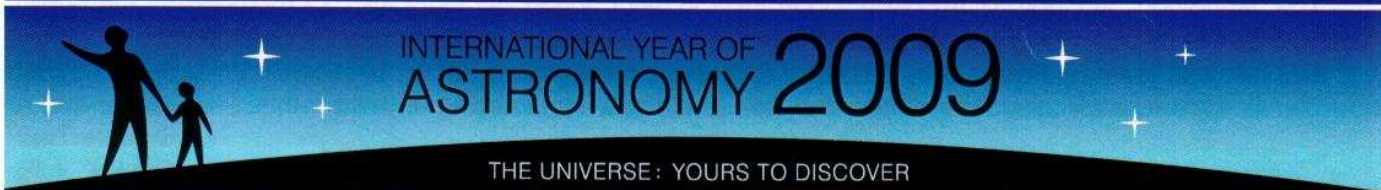
- Sombrero Galaxy M104 - 55c Stamp
- Reflection Nebula M78 - \$1.45 Stamp
- Spiral Galaxy M83 - \$2.10 Stamp

For more information regarding these coins, please visit www.ramint.gov.au
For more information regarding these stamps, please visit www.stamps.com.au

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Also in **SCORPIUS** for September & October...

- Upcoming Events • Astro News • Society Reports •



THE UNIVERSE: YOURS TO DISCOVER

www.astronomy2009.org.au

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Society News



YOURS TO DISCOVER IN SEPTEMBER 2009

- Thurs 3rd - The Peninsula School Viewing Night (8pm)*
 Wooralla Drive, Mt. Eliza. (Map 105 F5)
 (All year levels. Anticipated numbers are around 120.)
- Fri 4th - Public Viewing Night at The Briars (8pm)*
- Wed 16th - General Meeting at The Peninsula School (8pm)
 Session 1 - Speaker - **Tony Schalken** presenting 'Why photograph the moon'
 Session 2 - Open Forum & 'Sky for the Month'
- Sat 19th - Members Viewing Night at The Briars
- Wed 23rd - Committee Meeting
- Sat 26th - Lunar Night at The Briars

YOURS TO DISCOVER IN OCTOBER 2009

- Fri 2nd - Public Viewing Night at The Briars (8pm)*
- Sat 17th - President's Birthday Night at The Briars
- Wed 21st - General Meeting at The Peninsula School (8pm)
 Session 1 - Speaker - **To be confirmed**
 Session 2 - Open Forum & 'Sky for the Month'
- Sat 24th - Members Viewing Night at The Briars
- Tues 27th - Padua College School Viewing Night (8pm)*
 Mornington. - **To Be Confirmed**
 (check E-Scorpius closer to this date)
- Wed 28th - Committee Meeting

YOURS TO DISCOVER IN NOVEMBER 2009

- *** **SPECIAL ADVANCE NOTICE EVENT** ***
- Nov. Wed 18th - Annual General meeting at The Peninsula School (8pm)
 Wooralla Drive, Mt Eliza.
 (Election of the 2010 Committee)

* Denotes assistance in the form of telescopes and general evening operating assistance (i.e. - parking, answering queries, organising supper, etc.) for the public/school nights would be appreciated.



This is the second edition in a row I've had to apologise, but you may have noticed this edition of Scorpius lacks the usual 'Skywatcher' pages. A late glitch in production has meant I've had to drop those pages for these months. But just like a James Bond film, it will return!

Public Night Reports - by Peter Skilton

The following viewing night extracts are from Peter Skilton's E-Scorpius reports from July, and August. Remember, if you think you can help out at any of these public viewing nights then please come along. An extra scope or body to assist with the running of these nights is always appreciated.

Workshop at Cube 37 in Frankston - Friday 24th of July, 2009.

The "workshop" at Cube 37 Art Gallery in Frankston went ahead last night with 13 members of the public present, drawn in by publicity in the Arts leaflet that Frankston council circulates across the community.

The talk was given by Peter Lowe and Peter Skilton, with telescopes set up by Alex Cherney, Fiona Murray and Peter S. Unfortunately, cloud conditions and light levels prevented seeing anything other than Jupiter and a

(Continued Next Page)





Society News



The Committee
and Society
welcome the following
new members.

Wishing you all
clear skies.



Kenneth Daff

Joy & Web Crossley

Colleen Nazareth



Public Night Reports - by Peter Skilton (Continued)

Workshop at Cube 37 in Frankston - Friday 24th of July, 2009. (Continued)

Galilean moon or two, and that was low down before the cloud rolled in thickly. Nevertheless, as it was a little cool outside, resplendent with numerous screeching sea gulls throughout, no-one seemed to mind spending most of the time inside in the warmth too much. The evening was nevertheless felt to be successful and a few new people may be making their way to see us at The Briars as a result.

Flinders College Viewing Night - Monday 29th of July, 2009.

We had in excess of 170 people at Flinders College earlier tonight, with 99% cloud cover for all but the first 5 minutes. There were 156 chairs out apparently and most kids were sitting on the floor with some adults adorning the walls once the chairs were full.

Peter Lowe ably hosted the talk on-stage with microphone, assisted by myself in game show "barrel girl" mode on the laptop. The attendees were amazingly well behaved. Special thanks go to those outside in the sometimes drizzling and cool conditions, being Greg Walton, Fiona Murray, Simon Birch and David Stock. Some views of the Moon and Jupiter were possible fleetingly later in the night, including on video with Greg's setup, but unfortunately nothing lasting long enough to show the year 8's, year 2's and their parents and siblings.

National Science Week Viewing Nights - Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd of August, 2009.

A cold wind and blustery weather appear to have conspired to keep the general public away from our national science week viewing nights this year. On the Friday evening, we had 23 in attendance to hear Trevor Hand speaking, but this included over 50% members, and the Saturday camera evening we had our first ever "no show" where no members of the public turned up!

Thanks for those members attending on the Friday and/or Saturday evenings in the wintery conditions, including Trevor and Kathryn Hand, Brett, Helmuth, Peter Lowe, John Cleverdon, Rod Brackenridge, Alois Djornik, Rhonda Sawosz and son, Peter & Christopher Skilton, Jamie Poole, Bob Heale and Phil Holt. Apologies to anyone that I've inadvertently missed or whom I didn't see.

Somers Primary School Viewing Night - Friday 28th of August, 2009.

There was a HUGE turnout at Somers Primary School in Somers yesterday evening. A total of 271 were expected, and indeed at least 271 turned up, and well before any of our members did! When I arrived, there were cars parked everywhere outside this small school, reminiscent of a typical country Victoria establishment. It turns out that our viewing night was the icing on the cake for a science day they were holding as part of National Science Week. Everyone had been there since school ended, doing other science activities (including some students from Dromana Secondary), and were keenly watching the skies and hoping they'd stay clear for our arrival.

Well, the skies were clear enough up-front for about 5 minutes and we showed a small number of Kinder-aged pupils Jupiter through my telescope before the clouds rolled in with a vengeance. Then the rain started so I began the talk inside the small school hall (about the size of a double classroom - cosy for 271 people, but OK if you all inhaled/exhaled at the same time). In the meantime the other members arrived and set up their instruments, and I overheard one comment that the Mornington Peninsula Drought Breakers had arrived!

Eventually the showers subsided and enough gaps opened in the clouds to halt my talk, just after finishing the slides about Jupiter, and everyone rushed outside to see Jupiter and the first quarter Moon and glimpses of the Crux region through the assembled instruments, minus the plastic garbage bags and umbrellas that were previously preventing them acting as rain gauges. Greg has his video gear showing the Moon. All were able to see and hold a couple of our meteorites inside as well, and there was no shortage of probing questions.

A big thank you to Neil Lyons, David Rolfe, Fiona Murray, Kevin Rositer, Phil Holt and Greg Walton for bringing their instruments along to this far south on the Peninsula on what can only be described as weather where only true optimists would venture outdoors for observing. It was overcast and damp, but not windy. I do apologise for missing your name off - do let me know please.



Society News



Proposed Multi-Year Society Fee Structure

The committee will be offering society members the chance to purchase multi-year society memberships for the 2010 year and onwards. Multiple year memberships offer society members a safe guard against any future fee increases that may occur during this time period, and (like a multi-year magazine subscription) allow members to simply pay and enjoy the benefits the society offers over a longer period of time.

The committee will still be offering the usual 1 year membership, but on top of this also offer society members with 2 year and 3 year society memberships. An additional 5 year membership will also be made available which will offer a 20% discount on the fees over that 5 year period (a 5 year society membership, for the cost of 4 years of society membership).

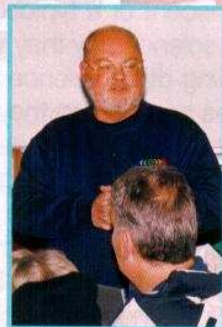
If you are interested in these offers, or would like to ask further questions about these extended memberships, please see one of the society committee members. This will also be explained further at our end of year Annual General Meeting, in November.



Society History

Continuing with our journey looking back at the Society over the past 40 years, our recent 40th Anniversary celebration held at the Briars facility.

Looking back and Looking Forward



Back in July this year, members braved the cold winter evening to descend on the Briars facility. It was around 40 years to the week that the society (known then as the Astronomical Society of Frankston) was established, way back in 1969. To mark this special occasion for us, the members gathered to celebrate the society's 40th Anniversary with a special roast dinner get together.

This evening enabled members, both new and old, to come together and recount stories and memories of events over the past 40 years. Peter Lowe spoke about highlights over the past 40 years, and throughout the evening, several members kept their scopes manned to take in the moonless night sky (this was a scheduled members viewing night). Thanks to everyone involved in the organisation and running of this event, and especially to everyone who attended, and made this the great event it turned out to be.

Just a note: I would like to collate as many pictures and stories from members of the society's history, so if you would like to add your part of the story to our society's please send me a note or better yet come and talk to me.

Peter Lowe.

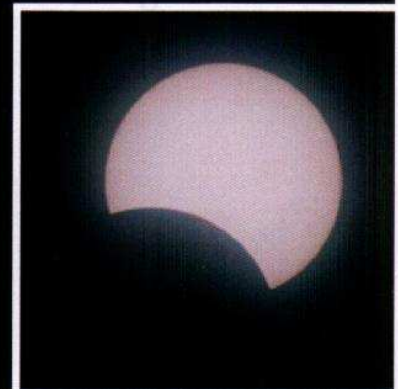


Society Reports

This edition of Scorpius sees 3 Society reports from members chasing their astronomical goals. Two were successful, one less so. Read all about it with the reports from Ian Sullivan, Greg walton, and Steve Mohr.

The Total Solar Eclipse of July 22nd - NOT viewed from NE China

Reflections on a 19 day Skywings Eclipse Tour



Main Picture & Insert: Ian Sullivan's friend, Lashi got these images that unfortunately eluded Ian's tour. Lashi was about 2 hours drive from Ian's location.

We are now accepting the fact that the longest eclipse of this century has eluded us.

Blindly we followed our flawed itinerary, locked into a commercial tour which ignored the great satellite weather forecast. We experienced six minutes of Chinese darkness, and were then rained on so heavily that we had to pack up and run. Only a slight break in cloud about twenty minutes after first contact gave us any hope at all.

Early morning in India it began racing across Asia, down the Yangtze River to Shanghai bringing darkness by around 9.30 am, and a difficult corona view to very few observers like Lashi, an ANU student who was two hours drive away from us. Sensible observers were up the Yangtze like the satellite forecast advised. However viewing in Hangzhou was better than out of town, where 'viewers' usually go, although nobody escaped some clouds and rain.

Only the great tidal bore of the Qiantang River, near Hangzhou, two hours later gave us a slight reason to continue living. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese were there to observe it, eclipse or no eclipse, as the tidal, lunar configuration has been propitious, periodically, for hundreds of years, and they associate much religious superstition in this phenomenon. Only the size of the wave is unknown until it happens.

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Our Eclipse Party.



Our viewing site near Qiantang River.

Society Reports



The Total Solar Eclipse of July 22nd - NOT viewed from NE China

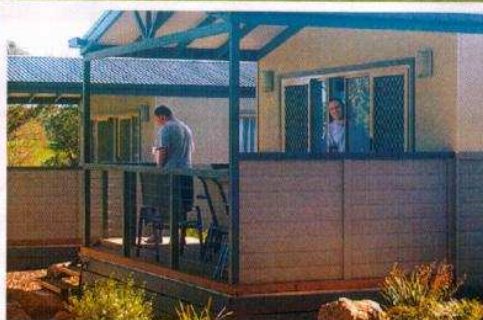
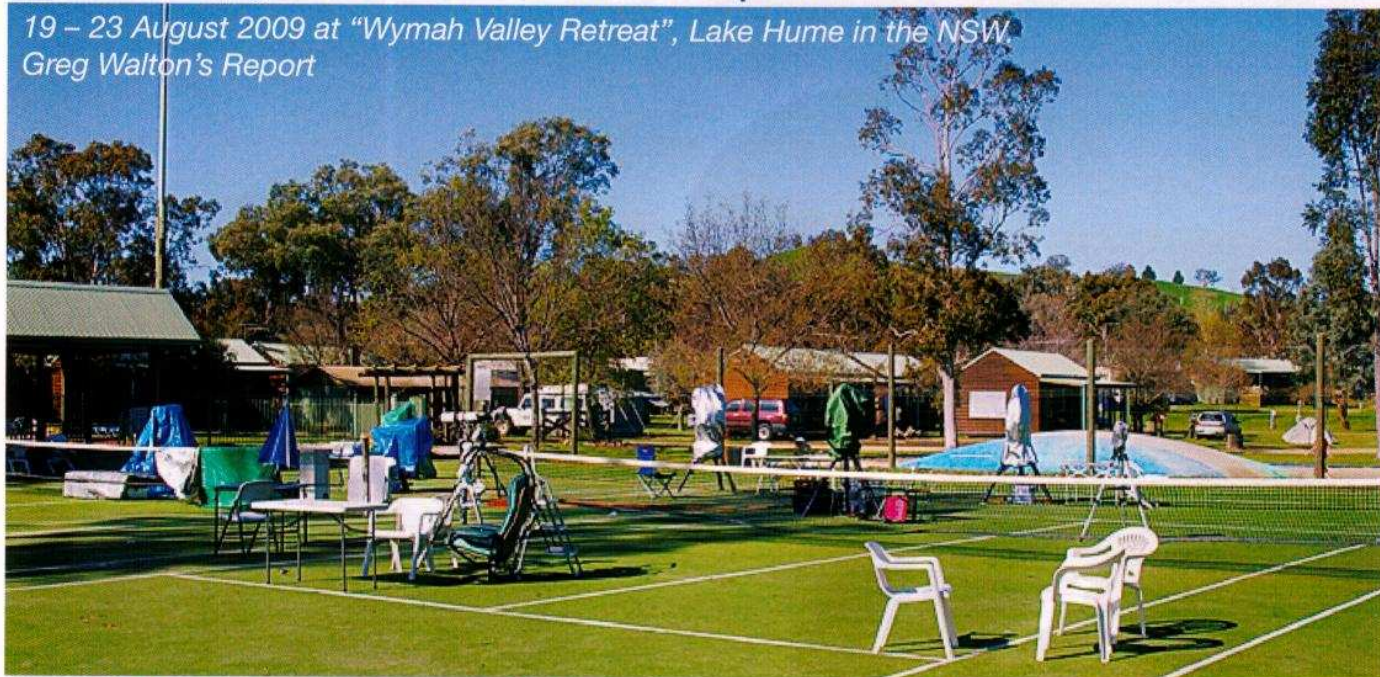
(Concluded)

Lashi showed us his photos on his laptop at the airport, although some members of our party did not want to look. He used a digital SLR with effective 672 mm FL. He caught some cloud, but captured a prominence, beating most eclipse chasers. We should have chased, and not sat and waited, or better still, flown back up the Yangtze the day before!

Ian Sullivan

Border Stargaze 2009: The MPAS Expedition North

19 – 23 August 2009 at "Wymah Valley Retreat", Lake Hume in the NSW
 Greg Walton's Report



Main Picture: The tennis court which became the observing pad for the weekend.

Left Insert Picture: The trailer pack with all the observing goodies. *Middle Insert Picture:* Steve Mohr sticking his head out of the cabin to see the daylight. *Right Insert Picture:* The pool picture, which unlike the tennis court above, does not have telescopes in it.

Once again the Mornington Peninsula drought breaking society worked its magic at the Border star gaze 30km north of Albury. The locals said, they had not seen rain like this since we were here last year. Although it rained on Friday all day and Saturday all night, (when all bottles were emptied) the sky was mostly clear on Thursday night and perfectly clear on Friday night.

Big Dave traveled there on the Wednesday, Greg, Kevin and Alex with family on the Thursday and Steve with family on the Friday. We had a hard job stopping everybody spending up big at the venders stands, Bintel and York had lots of shiny gadgets, we all know new things equals cloudy skies. There was also lots of wine for sale too.

There was to be a public night on the Friday but due to the wet conditions and clouds it was cancelled, which meant we had more time for ourselves. Big Dave said we should all set up on the tennis court, which turned out to be a good thing because the cars would have been bogged on the main observing field. Plus the tennis court were next to our cabins.

(Continued Next Page)



Society Reports

Border Stargaze 2009: The MPAS Expedition North (Continued)



Getting everyone together for the Border Gaze 2009 group photo (Image by Kevin Rositer)

On the Friday, once the clouds had cleared, we set up the scopes. When Steve set up his scope he did the right thing and broke the wire that goes between the scope and the computer rendering it useless, especially after driving 400km from Melbourne, this was to insure that everybody else got a cloud free night and it worked. (Thanks Steve) After about 2 hours of Steve crying, Big Dave came to the rescue and re soldered the wires and the scope jumped to life. After this, Kevin decided to leave his scope in the car that night to keep the clouds away and it worked. (Thanks Kevin) Steve, Dave and Greg got lots of astro photos while Kevin and Alex got loads of brilliant views at the eyepiece.

Meteors lit up the sky all night for those who just wanted to kick back in their chairs, while foxes called and Greg called back to them. Greg's 100mm Binocular chair was a big success M31 with M110 looked stunning, even though it only got too 12 degrees above the horizon. Nobody went to bed till after 4am and Alex stayed till the sun came up, the temperature got to below zero and we found ice on the scopes and cars in the morning.

There were barbecue lunches and roast dinners for \$15.00 put on each night, and coffee and cakes the rest of the time. There were plenty of speakers and workshops during the day to stop anyone from getting bored. John Wilkinson talked about the new solar system.

There were many door prizes of magazine subs, calendars, Tee-shirts which Steve won and an 80mm refractor telescope which was won by a lady who was knitting up the back, she ran forward to collect it with her knitting in hand. Some hoon named Greg yelled out, "She is already knitting a cover for it!". We also got to catch up with many astro friends from other societies. We all had a good time and look forward to doing it all again.

Greg Walton



Dave Rolfe's Helix Nebula (NGC7293) at Border Stargaze 09
5x5m each RGBL (100m Total Exposure)
WO FLT132 + STL11k self guiding
No Editing other than CCDSoft align, addition and dark subtraction



Dave Rolfe's M8 and M20 at Border Stargaze 09
2x5m each RGBL (40m Total Exposure)
WO FLT132 + STL11k self guiding
No Editing other than CCDSoft align, addition and dark subtraction

Society Reports



Border Stargaze 2009: The MPAS Expedition North (Continued)

Extract from Steve Mohr's E-Scorpius Article



Image by Alex Cherney

A couple of us MPAS members headed north of the border to the Border Stargaze event this weekend including David Rolf, Kevin Rositer and Greg Walton (an unfortunate clash with the MPAS science weekend astrophotography event).

Some six months earlier we made our bookings, and all looked forward to the event, and I was no exception. Like many of us, not having much time to spare to enjoy our hobby, I was big time prepared and very excited. The other fellows arrived before me, and had already enjoyed a reasonable Thursday nights viewing. I arrived Friday, and after a very wet and windy day, it all translated into an amazing evening. Greg and I hastily set up, as only 30 minutes had past since the clouds moved away (about 6-7pm)! We tried to call David and Kevin, but no success; they were all enjoying a lengthy meal, as it certainly didn't look good earlier.

For me, setting up is a specific procedure, and when it came to connecting the PC to the mount – it just wouldn't work! No matter what I did, it would not work! Then, OH MY GOD. I found the main connection cable (which I only have one of), had torn from its soldered position in a RS232 connector. On a scale from 1-10 (bad to kill yourself), this was an 11! I was devastated looking at the torn cable end. It was a game set match situation. Did I say I was devastated, and nearly pasted out. :(

Then a very happy David Rolf and Kevin Rositer came along (a number of reds happier!). I couldn't believe what happened next. Kevin started searching for replacement cables amongst the other participants (including David) – but no success! David said he could fix it, if he had a soldering iron, but what would the chances be to find one? Well, Kevin went off and found one!! After setting up his mount, David and Kevin went off to fix the cable (including some tools from Greg). After three attempts, David and Kevin had fixed it!



Steve' Mohr's M31 image.

What good blokes! As a result, they helped me to get going and I was able to image from 10:30pm to 4:00pm! I have shared an image of M31 in the photos area (*image Left*), under the directory "Border Stargaze 2009". At only 10 degrees above the horizon, it's a difficult target, impossible to take from the Briars, and even lower in the sky at Heathcote. So truly, thank you again for helping me, I am really grateful, as this kind of opportunity doesn't come around often.

(Continued Next Page)



Society Reports

Border Stargaze 2009: The MPAS Expedition North *(Concluded)*

In regard to David's efforts, in one case, he captured 5 hours of the Helix, I hope he can share his processed image in this directory (if he likes), as the unprocessed image was already very bright with great detail.

Anyway, that was my story about this journey.

Bye everyone, *Steve Mohr.*

Annual General Meeting - Committee Elections Wednesday, 18th of November, 2009.

Have you considered joining the society committee?

The Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society operates because we have a committee of management responsible for the general operation of the society. We're always on the look out for interested persons who can contribute to the society's success.

The Society's committee is structured under the constitution and has a number of specific officer positions together with a number of general committee members. Each committee member takes responsibility for handling some aspect of the society's business. The President and Vice President are responsible for the general planning and operation of the Society's business and represent the society to the members, other societies and the general public. The Secretary is the formal contact point of all formal society business and maintains the records of the society. The Treasurer monitors the society financial status and handles the various money transactions required.

Other committee members provide logistical support for the various society activities & development programs.

These include :

- Developing the forward society calendar of activities including speakers for the general meetings and special events both social and astronomical.
- Handling and planning school viewing nights
- Preparing the "What's On" handouts for members.
- Publishing the Scorpius and managing the E-Scorpius internet chat room.
- Maintaining the publicity and public notices we require to keep the general public apprised of our activities.
- Developing and creating the library.

Without this group of dedicated supporters the society would definitely slow down.

If you feel you would like to get involved in the society business or have a particular skill you think would be useful to the society as a whole please give some thought to becoming a committee member.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 18th of November, 2009**. In this edition of Scorpius (below), there is a 'Committee Election Form' that can be used for the submission of nominations for the next committee. This can be posted to M.P.A.S., PO Box 564, Frankston, VIC. 3199. Alternatively, nominations can also be submitted electronically to welcome@mpas.asn.au by stating which position on the committee you would like to nominate for.



Lat -38° 16' 22" Long 145° 2' 30"

Office bearers of the Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society

President: Peter Lowe - 0419 355 819
Vice President: Bob Heale
Scorpius Editor: Brett Bajada
Committee: Ian Sullivan, Trevor Hand,
 Brett Bajada, Fiona Murray
Phone Contact: Peter Skilton - 0419 253 252

Secretary: Peter Skilton - 0419 253 252
Treasurer: Marty Rudd - 5977 8863
Public Officer: Rhonda Sawosz
Web Master: Steven Mohr

GENERAL 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. Entry is via the main gates or Gate 2, off Wooralla Drive. Exit is via Gate 2 (see map).

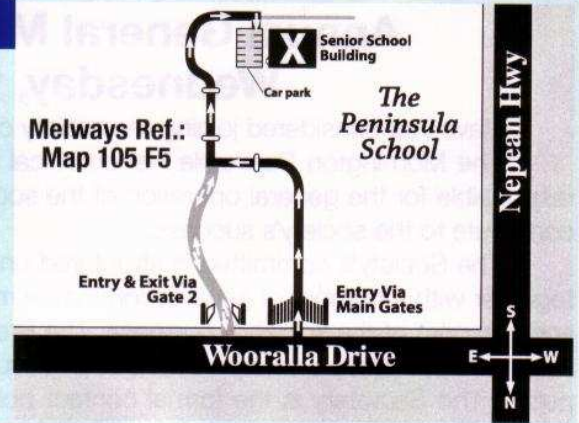
For additional details:

Phone: 0419 253 252

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

Internet: <http://www.mpas.asn.au>

email: welcome@mpas.asn.au



LOAN EQUIPMENT

The Society has a variety of telescopes including an *8-inch reflector*, *80mm refractor* and *binoculars*, all available for loan. A committee member to arrange the loan of equipment. The Society also has books and videos for loan from it's library, made available during General Meetings.

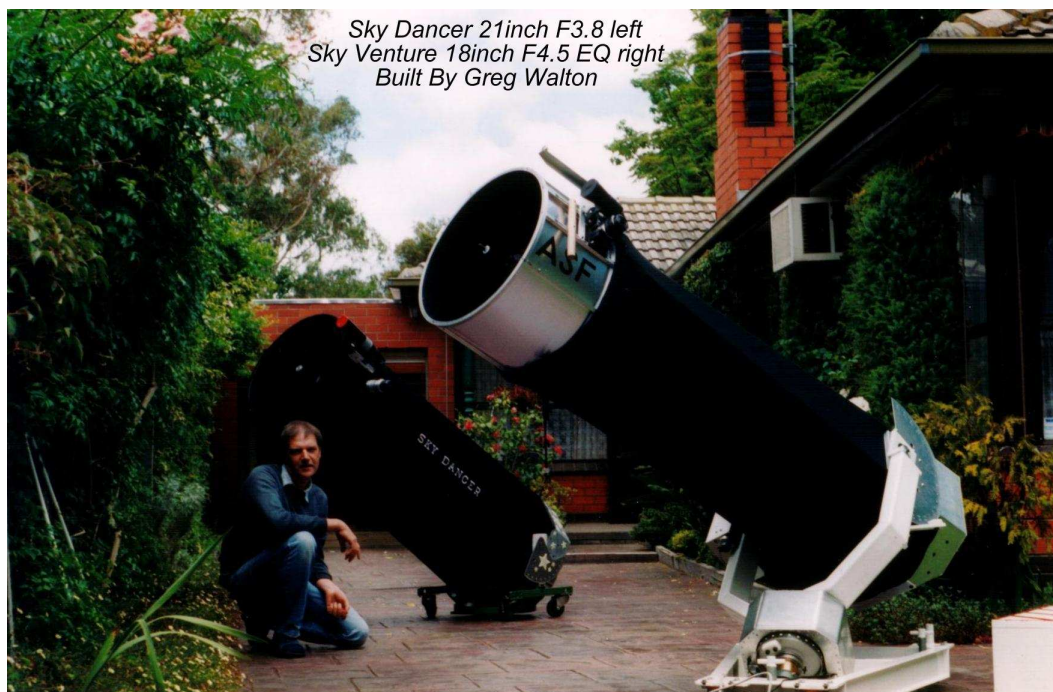
CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCORPIUS

If you would like to submit an article or written contribution to Scorpius, then please send your submission to M.P.A.S., P.O. Box 596, Frankston 3199, or you can now email to scorpius@mpas.asn.au.

Any astronomical events that you have witnessed or tales you would like to tell, things you have for sale (eg: telescopes, eyepieces, etc.) then please send them in. And the 'Society Pics' page will always accept any images that you have taken and wish to share with other members. All contributions and any feedback you wish to make about the newsletter are welcome.

E-SCORPIUS NEWSGROUP

The M.P.A.S. has an online newsgroup called E-Scorpius. Here you will be kept up to date with the latest M.P.A.S. news and event information as well as being able to join in discussions and ask questions with other members. To join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and sign up to Yahoo groups. You require to sign up to Yahoo groups to join E-Scorpius.



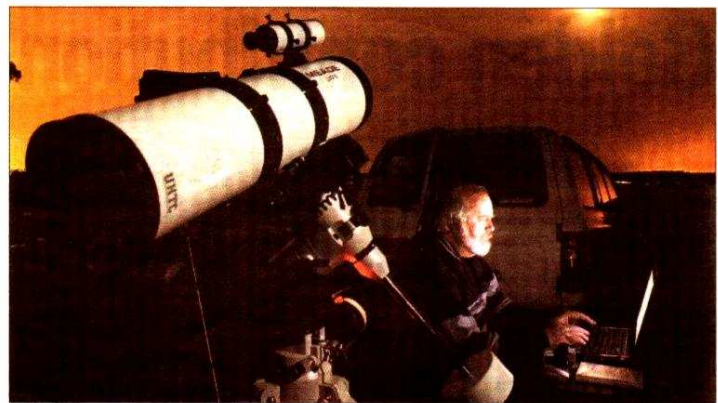
Sky Dancer 21inch F3.8 left
 Sky Venture 18inch F4.5 EQ right
 Built By Greg Walton

MPAS at LMDSS in 2009 photos by Fiona Murray





Images taken by Helmuth Schultes at the Briars



Great sight: Helmuth Schultes captured the eclipse on his computerised telescope. **Picture:** Gary Sissons

Keeping moon watch

It looked as if it was going to be a huge disappointment for astronomers gathered at The Briars to view last Tuesday's lunar eclipse.

Then the clouds parted to provide a clear view of a sparkling crescent as the earth's shadow completed its eclipse.

It wasn't until about two hours later, as the moon fully emerged following a spectacular display, that the clouds again converged, obscuring the moon again.

It couldn't have been better scripted, Mornington Peninsula Astronomical Society member Helmuth Schultes said.

"We were all looking forward to it."

"It's not often you get a lunar eclipse so early in the evening.

"Everyone was pretty happy, especially when the clouds went away."



More than 30 people gathered to watch the eclipse at The Briars in Mount Martha, where MPAS had 10 telescopes set up on its two observatory platforms.

Mr Schultes took more than 1000 photos of the eclipse with his computerised 'go to' telescope, so called because he can point to an object on a map of the universe on his computer

screen and the telescope will go to that object in the sky.

The six-inch telescope is capable of up to 300 times magnification and can accommodate a digital video camera to capture celestial events in high-definition video.

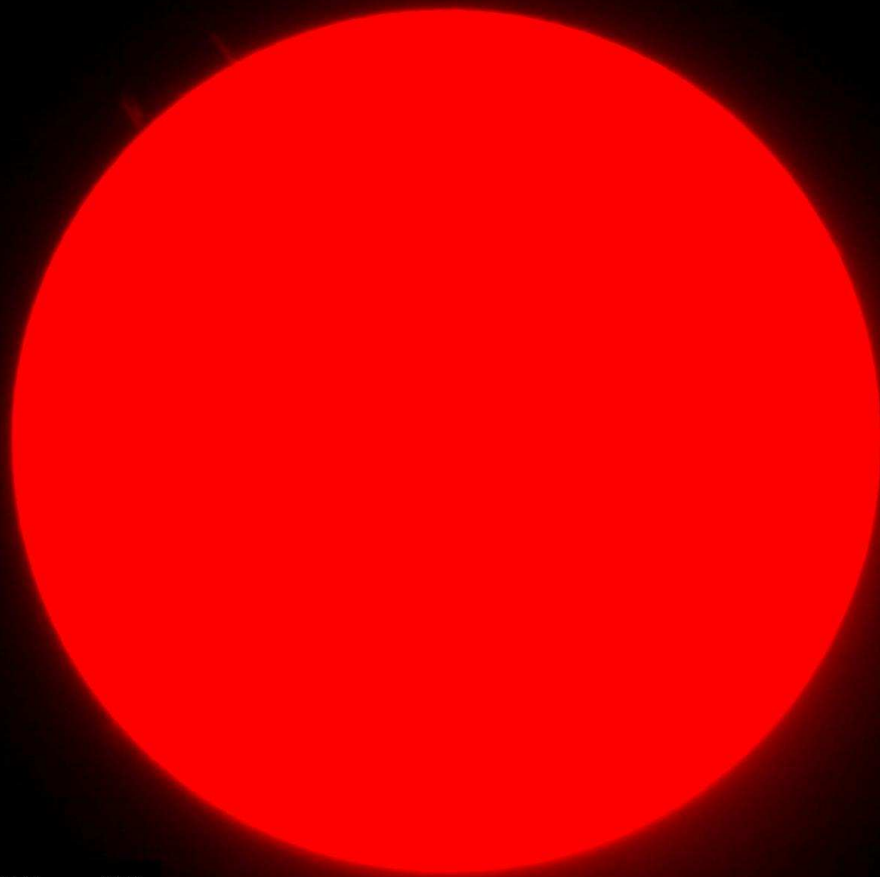
Mr Schultes is turning his attention to a meteor shower early next month.

With its base at The Briars, which is relatively undisturbed by the ambient light of the city, MPAS is one of Victoria's premier astronomy groups.

It holds public viewings on the first Friday of every month from 8pm at the Briars Visitors Centre.

For more information, call MPAS on 0419253252; email welcome@mpas.asn.au or check out www.mpas.asn.au, where you can view Mr Schultes' work.

Sun Bonbeach PST 2xBarlow Pentax ist with 2xconvertor ISO200 1/3sec



By Greg Walton 26sep09

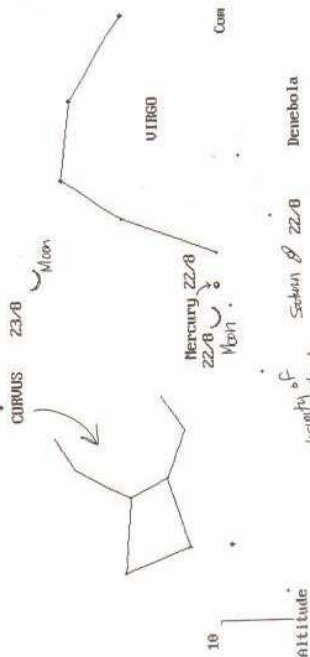
M8 at Briars Pentax ist with 300lens 5x30sec stak

By Grèg Walton 14Aug09

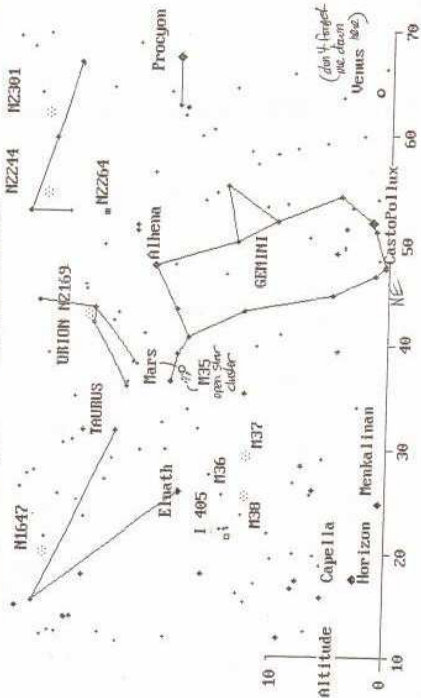


SKY FOR THE MONTH 19th AUGUST TO 16th SEPTEMBER 2009 MORNINGTON PENINSULA 145°02'E 38°16'S

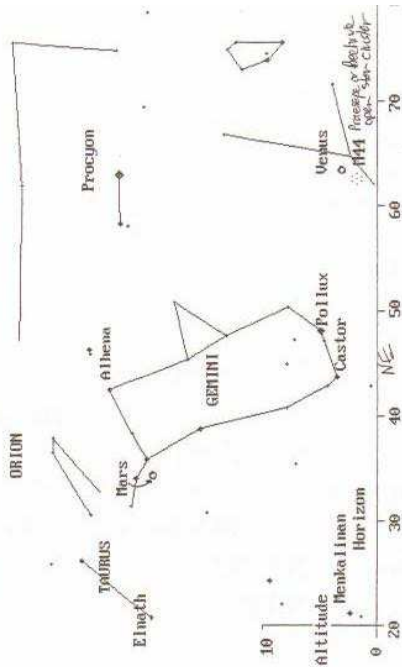
7:10pm Mer/Sat B/V Dark Sky 22nd August 2009 Standard Time
 Faintest object is mag 4.5
 Bob Heale 7/6/2009



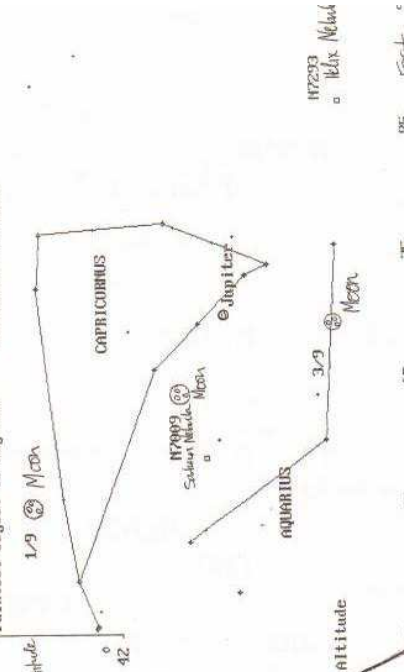
5:19pm HIRS Slightly East of H35 Dark Sky 30th August 2009 Standard Time
 Faintest object is mag 5
 Bob Heale 7/6/2009



5:30pm 7/2 Dark Sky 2nd September 2009 Standard Time
 Faintest object is mag 4.5
 Bob Heale 7/6/2009

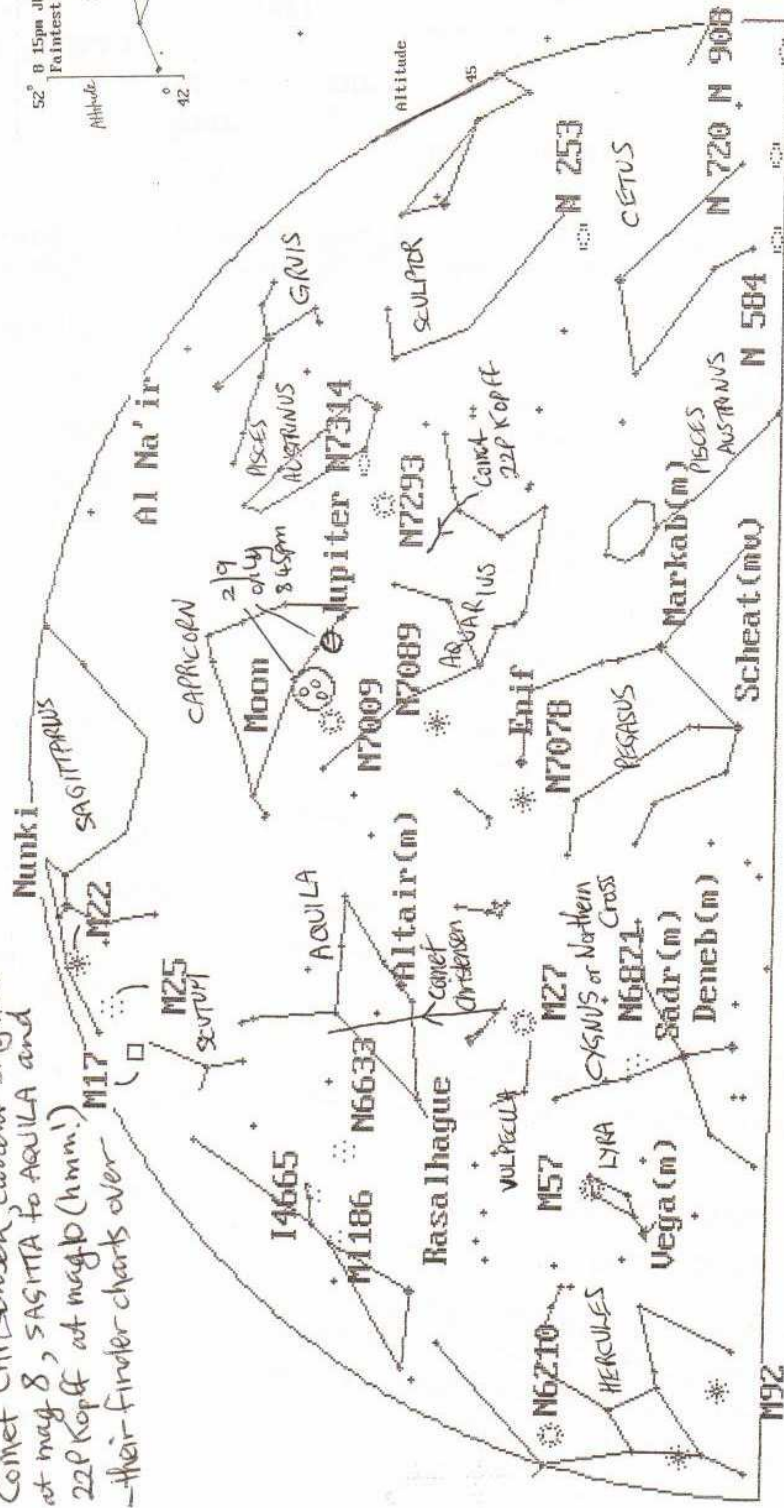


5:20pm 8:15pm JUPITER Dark Sky 2nd September 2009 Summer Time
 Faintest object is mag 5.5
 Bob Heale 7/6/2009



Bob Heale MPAS 15/8/2009
 CYGNUS or Northern Cross
 is above our horizon, but
 not for long

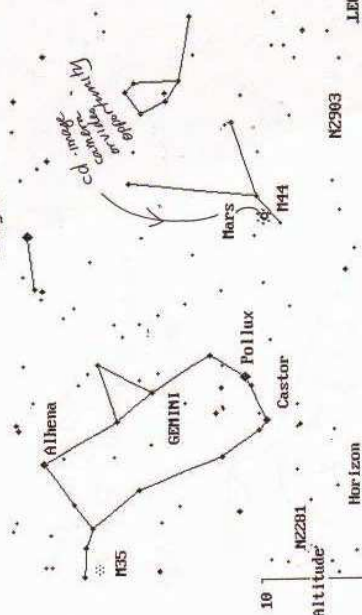
Comet Christensen current brightest at mag 8, SAGITTA to AQUILA and 22P Kopff at mag 0 (hmm!) - their finder charts over



19th August 2009 8:45pm 2nd September NE Dark Sky 2009 Standard Times also 9:45pm
 and 16th September 7:45pm

SKY FOR MONTH 21ST OCTOBER - 17TH NOVEMBER 2009 MORNINGTON PENINSULA 145° 2' 38" S 16'

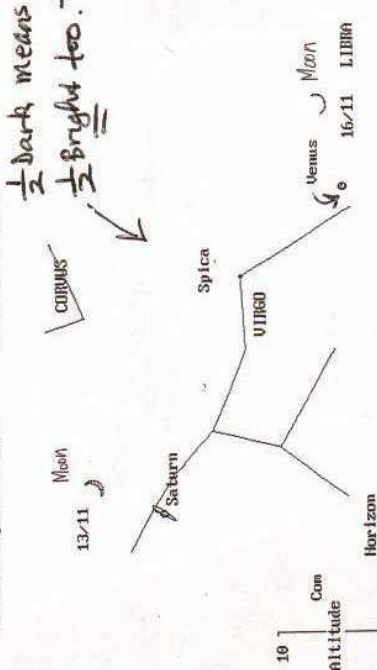
3 18am Haze Dark Sky 2nd November 2009 SUMMER Time
Faintest object is mag 5.5 Bob Heale 7/6/2009



Mars also passes close to star ~3° SW of M44, prior to passing in front of latter

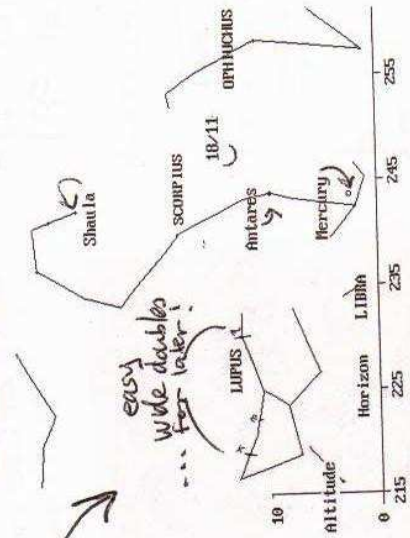
- ☉ galaxy
- * globular cluster
- open star cluster
- double star

5 45am SAT/VEN 1/2 Dark Sky, 13th November 2009 SUMMER Time
Faintest object is mag 2 Bob Heale 7/6/2009



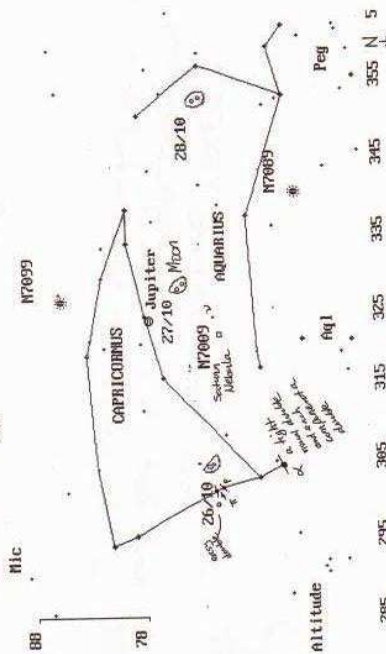
1/2 dark means 1/2 bright too.

8 34pm 1/2 Dark Sky 18th November 2009 SUMMER Time
Faintest object is mag 2 Bob Heale 7/6/2009



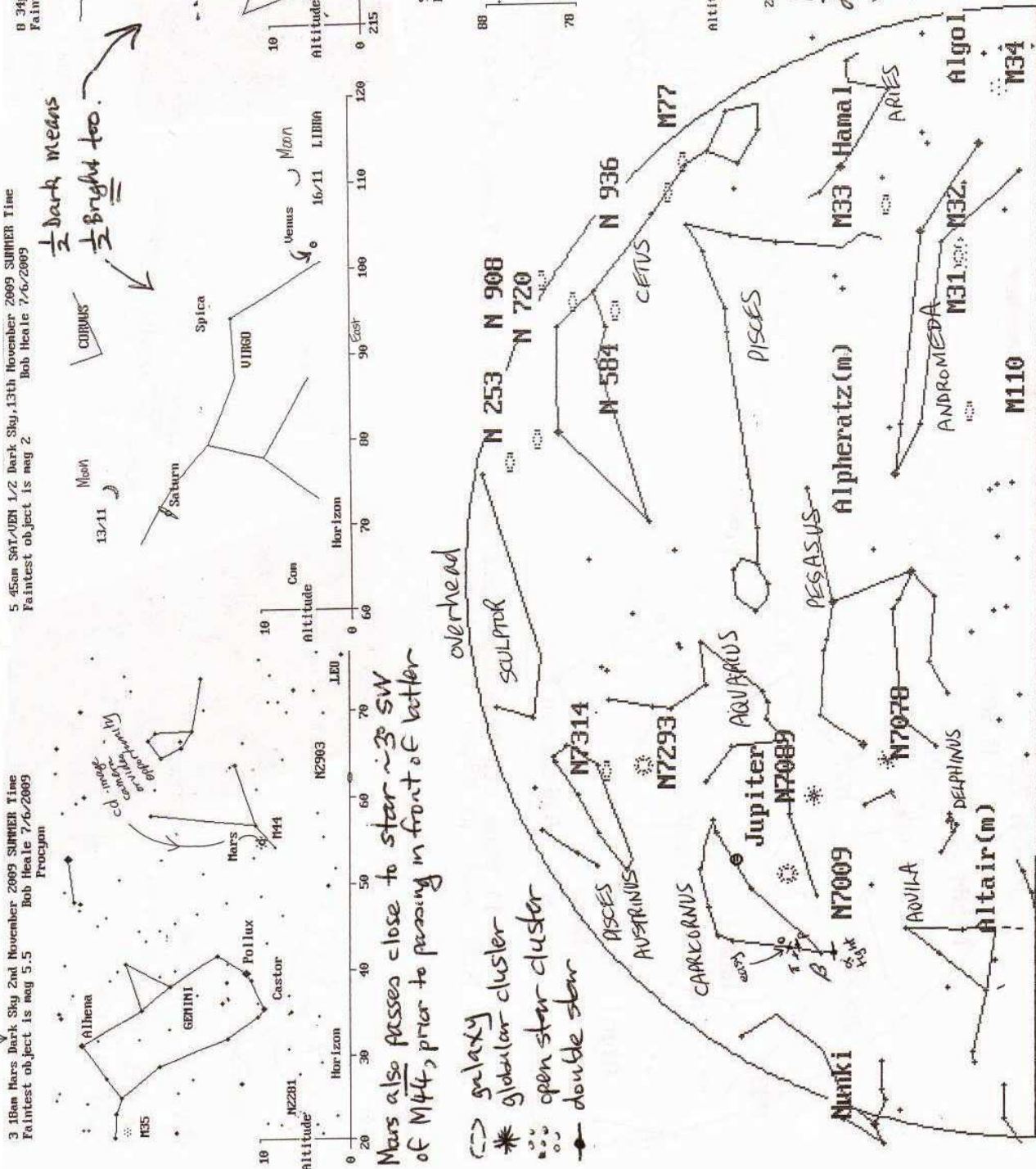
easy wide doubles for later!

9 17pm Dark Sky 27th October 2009 SUMMER Time
Faintest object is mag 5.5 Bob Heale 7/6/2009

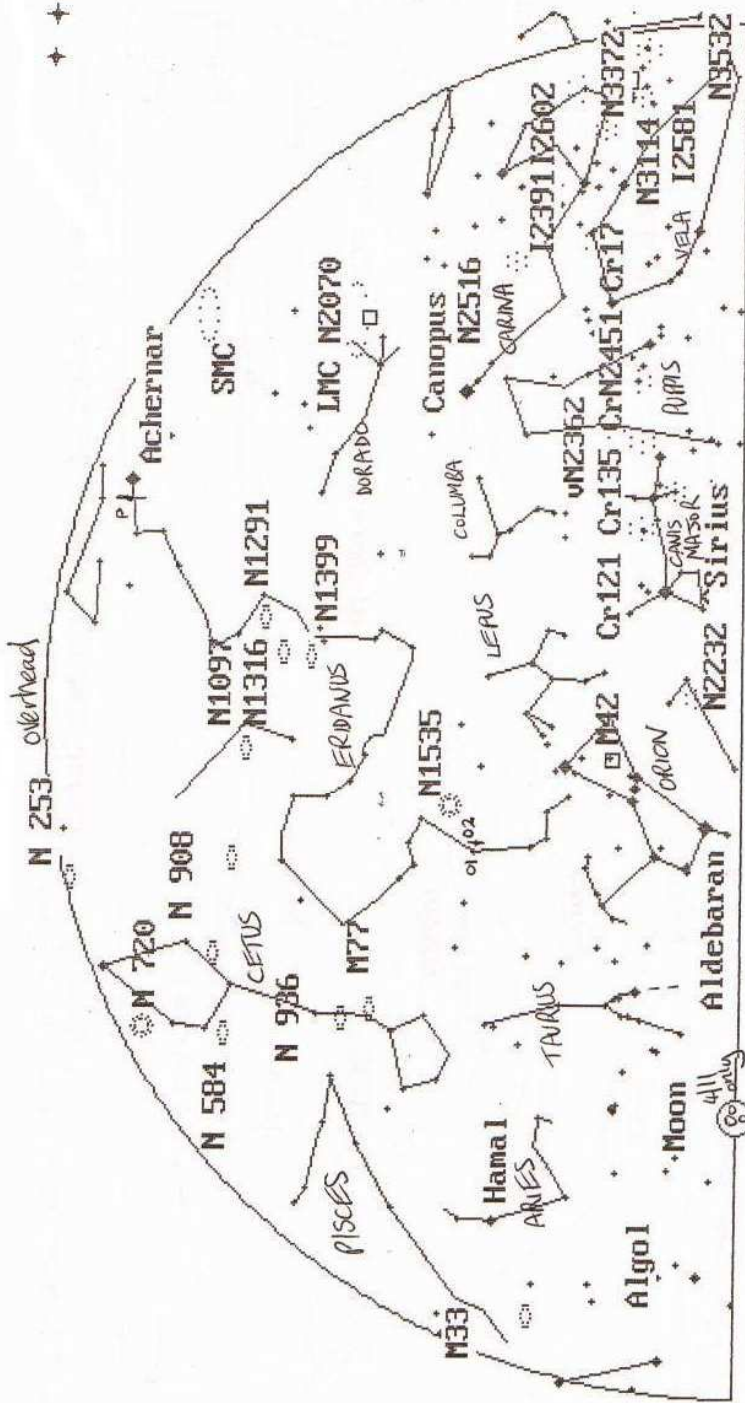


No new comets (periodic or recently discovered...), that are reasonable to visually see. The word are no brighter than mag 10! (they claim mag 9 online)

Bob Heale
MPAS 19/10/2009



11 05pm 4th November NNV Dark Sky 2009 SUMMER Time 12 05am
21st October 2009 and 10 05pm 18th November 2009



Primary Zeta Piscium with its secondary stars, close on its left as if viewed 40 parsecs from Sun-Earth System. Both stars are 30 parsecs from Sun-Earth System, so a reversed view is expected from the other side and is so (by computer).

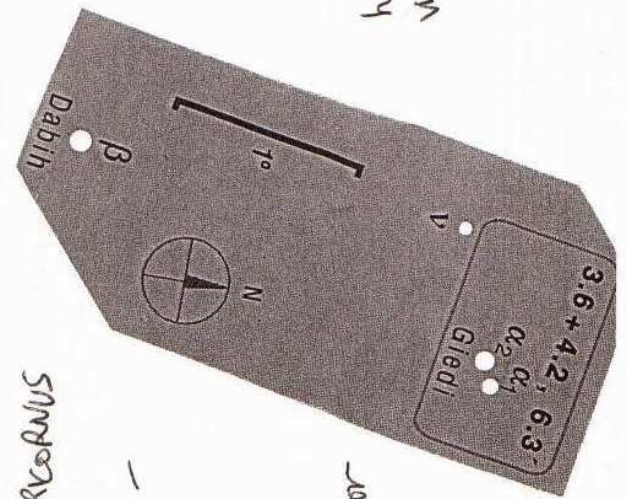
For above, refer over to PISCES and Zeta B, in any scope, secondary will be reversed in horizontal to above

21st October 2009 and 10:05pm 18th November 2009
 11:05pm 4th November East Dark Sky 2009 SUMMER TIMES 12:05pm

Referring to CAPRICORNUS over:

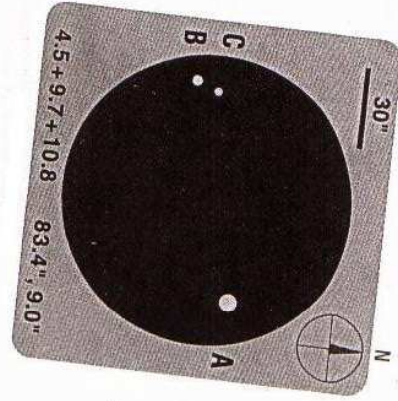
Beta β or Dabih
 Alpha α

Alpha is a tightish double good refractor or 11" reflector



Refer above
 ERIDANUS, easy double omicron 2 or 02 Eridanic

invert both charts here to verify eyepiece view through scope



Below: Triple star Omicron 2 Eridani as it appears in the telescope. Its components B and C are a white and a red dwarf respectively.

and if you can be bothered, P Eridanic is easy and quite wide ... near Achernar

Bob Heale
 MPAA
 6002/01/16/1