

Astronomy Times, Newsletter 10th August 2004



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The Chairman will inform members of the proposed changes to the format of our Meetings

Meeting of the 17th August.

Members will be asked to describe their own personal experiences about their observations of the Transit of Venus. This will be followed by a CD, obtained by Klaus Schiller, relating to the History of Transits. The CD will be about 75 minutes long and is both enjoyable and informative, according to Klaus.

Meeting of the 21st September.

1. The content of this section of the meeting has not yet been decided.
2. Mark Toner will continue by enquiring, "What is an orbit, anyway?"

Meeting of the 19th October.

1. Neil Booker will continue with our new theme of looking, in depth, at some of the current visible constellations, by describing **Ursa Major**.
2. Klaus Schiller will then explore our current knowledge of **Asteroids**.

Meeting of the 16th November.

This has yet to be arranged but it is hoped that someone from the University of Glasgow will be giving this evenings talk.

Meeting of the 21st December.

It is hoped that we may be able to peruse a variety of astronomical software this evening. Further information will be given at a later

date. The session will close with our usual Christmas Quiz.

The DAS Annual Trip.

This will take place on the 11th September. We will be visiting the Glasgow University Observatory where Dr Martin Hendry will show us round. He will also give a talk on, "Debunking the Moon Hoax Conspiracy Theory." Afterwards we will visit the GSC and observe a planetarium show. The price of the excursion will be given at a later date.

Telescope for sale.

This is a Meade DS 2114 ATS.

Specifications:

- Type: Reflector
- . Mount: Motorized Alt Azimuth
- . Objective Diameter: 114mm
- . Focal Length: 1000mm
- . Focal Ratio: f/10.0
- . Eyepiece(s) supplied: MA 9 & 25mm
- . Max. Magnification: 40 and 111 times
- . Finder: 6 times 30

Autostar Handset, Aluminium Tripod and Navigator Software included.

It retails at £300 but would accept £200

If interested please contact:

callyphillips@ecosse.net

Please note the following.

The first Meeting of the new session will take place at the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust, Caerlaverock. This is because the Crichton University proposed increasing the lease of our usual room to over £40 for one meeting. Taking into account our present level of membership this would very quickly become unsustainable. The Committee looked at several options but eventually it was decided that the WWT, in spite of being out of town, offered very definite astronomical advantages – including an impromptu observing night if we do not have a guest speaker.

Would anyone either without transport, or lacking knowledge of the situation of the WWT, please contact a member of the Committee?

It is proposed that a Viewing Night, scheduled for the first Friday of every month, should also take place at the WWT. Further information will be given later.