QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ASTRONOMY CLUB NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING
Date: November 27, 1973
Time: 8:30 p.m.
Place: Room 323 Ellis Hall
Agenda: A film "Crab Nebula" will be shown. It has been recommended to us by Mrs. Mary Grey, the Secretary of the Ottawa Centre, where the film was well received. We will be seeing it courtesy of the Earth Physics Branch of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Celestial Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Nov 27	00	Mercury greatest elong. W. (20°)
28	08	Moon at apogee (252,200 mi.)
	23	Venus 5° S of Moon
30	06	Jupiter 4° S of Moon
Dec 2	20:29	First Quarter
6	10	Mars 4° S of Moon
9	20:34	Full Moon. Partial eclipse of Moon.
10	17	Moon at perigee (222,500 mi.)
	19	Saturn 0.7° S of Moon. Occultation.
13	22	Geminid meteors; single observer's hourly rate of 50.
14	12	Mercury 5° N of Antares
16	12:13	Last Quarter.
19	01	Venus greatest brilliancy
21	19:08	Solstice. Winter begins
22	15	Ursid meteors; single observer's hourly rate of 15.
23	01	Saturn at opposition
24	10:07	New Moon. Partial eclipse of sun, visible at sunrise.
25	17	Moon at apogee (252,600 mi.)
27	17	Venus 3° S of Moon
27	00	Jupiter 5° S of Moon.

If you are not a member of the Kingston Centre of the R.A.S.C. and if you want a copy of the Observer's Handbook 1974, then send a cheque or money order for $3.00 (payable to the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada) to Geoffrey Wyght, Rm. 356, Gordon House, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

The Observer's Handbood 1974, which is edited by John R. Percy, is the 66th edition. It includes important information concerning the coming year such as "Sky and Astronomical Phenomena Month by Month", times of sunrise, sunset, and twilight, in addition to general information on planets, the sun and a host of other celestial bodies...

G. Wyght, Secretary.

OBSERVERS GROUP REPORT

On Saturday, Nov 10 observers in many parts of the world were favoured with a transit of Mercury across the sun's disk. The event began before sunrise for North American observers but much of it was still visible immediately after sunrise.

Approximately 10 members of the Q.U.A.C. and R.A.S.C. dragged themselves out of bed at entirely unreasonable hours to see this phenomena.

Although some heavy cloud obscured the sun for parts of the time, the event was viewed quite satisfactorily. The image of the sun was projected through the eyepiece of the telescope onto a screen, where it could be viewed safely and easily. Mercury, appearing as a black dot, moved slowly across the disk. The final contact was observed under good cloud conditions (i.e. their absence!) at 8:18 as predicted by the Ephemeris.

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I should point out that several of the group present that morning arrived even much earlier than 6:30 a.m. (5:00) in order to do some general observing before morning twilight set in. Saturn was the main object of interest observed. That pretty well sums up another of our famous observing sessions.

What I didn't mention was how it messed up my weekend to have gotten several hours less sleep Friday that the maximum number countable on the fingers of a single hand. But, such are the sacrifices of an astronomer.

Jamie Myra

I heard from the head of the observers group, Sandy Mac Hattie, that when he was out on Saturday morning (the 17th) he saw Kohoutek. He hopes to go up every Saturday morning, weather permitting, and later on, every morning. I'm sure he would enjoy some company, so anyone wishing to go up should contact him to find out what time he will be there. I for one am interested in watching this comet's progress, and if it lives up to our expectations, it should be spectacular indeed.

Editor

I bet you didn't know that syzygy is a word in the Oxford Dictionary much less an astronomical term, and even less a mathematical term. In an astronomical sense the term is applied to three celestial bodies in a straight line (Euchlidean Geometry is assumed). The moon at new moon and full moon phase is in syzygy.

According to the Oxford Illustrated Dictionary a syzygy is a group of rational integral functions so related that if they are severally multiplied by other rational integral functions, the sum of the products vanishes identically. will hope to give a better definition than the above after some research.

G. Wyght

Answers to Contest #1

1. Comet Kohoutek, 1973F
2. This was a trick question. From Earth, Jupiter never transits across the Sun's disk.
3. Part of this one was tricky. The name of the rocket launching complex is now Cape Canaveral. Launching date, which had been reset for the Skylab 3 astronauts Gerald Carr, William Pogue, and Edward Gibson, was November 16, 73

This meeting will be the last of the calendar year. The first meeting of the new year will be on the first Tuesday of classes.

The executive of the Q.U.A.C.-R.A.S.C. wish you a Merry Christmas, and good luck on your exams.