

Sky Watcher

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11 July 2008

Viewing Events

29 July Solar Viewing - In place of the evening viewing, an afternoon event is planned. An H-alpha, CaK and several white light telescopes will be available to view our nearest star. Viewing to be held at Sheri's house from 2-4pm weather permitting. Please contact Sheri or Nigel for more details.

12/13 Aug Perseid Meteor Shower observing at Fleet Farm from 9pm onwards.

16 Aug Partial Lunar Eclipse observing from 6pm at Fleet Farm.

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Talks in the Area:

- ◆ 5 Aug WAS—
What ever happened to Pluto? —Speaker: Robin Gorman
- ◆ 30 Aug BNSS—
Tides: How do they really work—Speaker: James Fradgley



Club News

Last month brought us Arthur Davis from CADAS the Crewkerne and District Astronomical Society. His talk truly inspired us to think deeper about our place in the Milky Way.

Later this month we will be holding a viewing afternoon rather than the usual viewing night to take advantage of the great summer sunshine. British weather permitting of course! With the sun now beginning its gradual climb from solar minimum, we can be optimistic for some activity on the solar surface.

August will be our annual break from monthly meetings this year with several viewing

opportunities planned. The evening of 12/13 Aug is expected to be the peak of the Perseid meteor shower this year. After the waning gibbous moon sets there should be dark skies for observing. <http://britastro.org/baa/content/view/262/2/>

To round out the month, a partial lunar eclipse is occurring. Please see the article below. This provides another viewing opportunity at Fleet Farm at an earlier slot of 6pm in time for first contact. A lunar eclipse in daylight is a spectacular sight!

Enjoy the summer and look forward to seeing you when we resume meetings on the 26 Sept. We will be

welcoming back WAC member Rob Hodgkinson with more fabulous images and a historical perspective. Starry skies!



NGC 4565

by R Hodgkinson

Partial Lunar Eclipse

16 August 2008



The last eclipse of 2008 is a partial lunar eclipse at the Moon's ascending node in Capricornus. It is visible primarily from the Eastern Hemisphere as well as eastern South America (Figure 6). Greatest eclipse takes place at 21:10:06 UT when the eclipse magnitude will reach 0.8076. The timings of the major phases of the eclipse are listed below.

Penumbral Eclipse Begins:
18:24:49 UT

Partial Eclipse Begins:
19:36:07 UT

Greatest Eclipse:
21:10:09 UT

Partial Eclipse Ends:
22:44:16 UT

Penumbral Eclipse Ends:
23:55:25 UT

The Moon's trajectory takes it through the northern umbral shadow, resulting in a partial eclipse that lasts 3 hours 8 minutes. At mid-eclipse the Moon's northern limb passes 5.9 arc-minutes outside the umbra's northern edge. The Moon's southern edge is then 16.5 arc-minutes from the shadow's centre.

The next partial lunar eclipse visible from the UK will be New Year's Eve 2009. That will ring in 2010 with a sure bang! The next total lunar eclipse visible from the UK

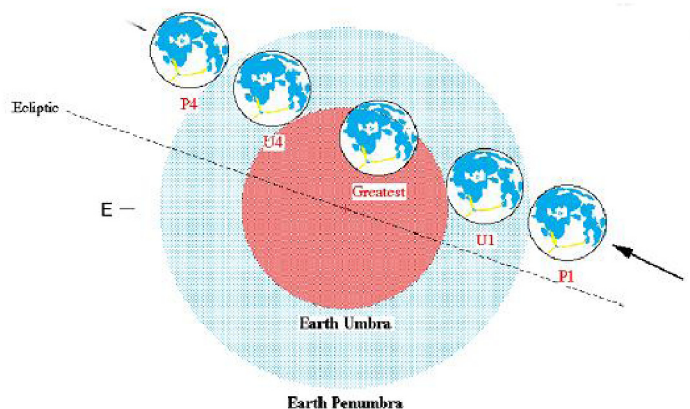
won't be until 21 Dec 2010.

Eclipse information can be found at the excellent site by Fred Espenak www.mreclipse.com.



7 Sept 2006

By S Barrington



Upcoming Events:

12/13 Aug Perseid Meteor Shower Observing night

26 Sept Rob Hodgkinson—
'Images through time'

17 Oct Members' Question Panel

21 Nov David Strange—
History of the NLO

More to Come!

OBSERVING NIGHTS

Fleet Farm — Open viewing is monthly on the last Saturday, weather permitting. Check the website for details.