

THE CELESTIAL OBSERVER

newsletter of the

Oshawa Astronomical Society

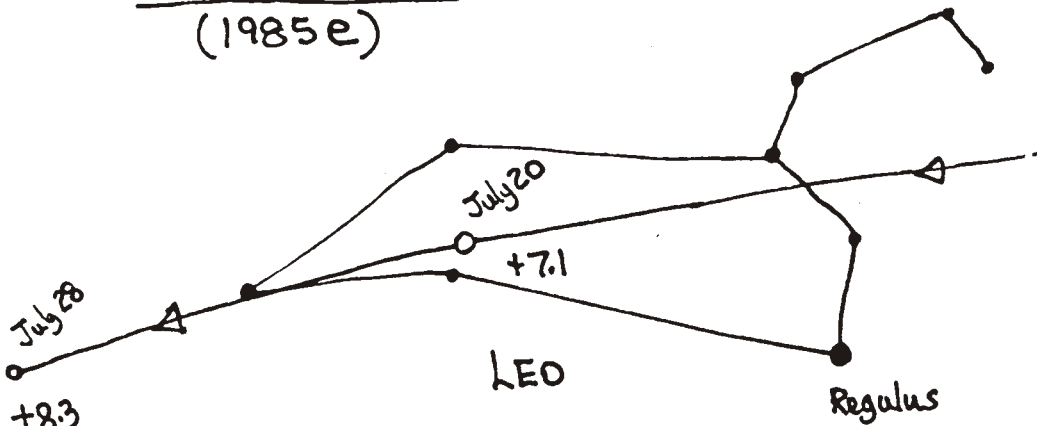
Vol.1 No.3

August 1985



The core of M31. This is a blow-up of a photo taken with a 50mm f1.7 lens, TP 2415 film, and 20 minute exposure. When Walter MacDonald and Steve Chomniak enlarged it in 1982, the enlarger lens was over 6 feet from the photographic paper!

Comet Machholz (1985e)



(Courtesy Ian McGregor, McLaughlin Planetarium)

Circular No. 4067

Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

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COMET MACHHOLZ (1985e)

Donald E. Machholz reports his discovery of a comet from near Big Bear City, CA; the following visual observations are available:

1985 UT	α_{1950}	δ_{1950}	m_1	Observer
May 27.4674	0 ^h 49 ^m 26	+15°08'	-9.5	Machholz
28.458	0 55.1	+15 35		Rattley
28.4708	0 55.3	+15 37	9.3	Machholz
28.493	0 55.2	+15 38	9.2	Morris

- D. E. Machholz. May 28 observation from San Jose, CA. Object diffuse, with no condensation or tail. 0.25-m f/3.8 reflector.
- C. Morris (near Mt. Wilson, CA). 0.25-m refl. Comet moderately condensed, but with no sharp condensation, coma diameter 4.1.
- G. Rattley (Magma, AZ). 0.25-m reflector. Coma diameter ~ 2'-3'.

Confirmation was also made by A. Hale ($m_1 = 9.1$, 0.20-m refl., near Mt. Wilson, CA) and by J. Marling, Livermore, CA.

The following improved parabolic elements, by the undersigned, are from 8 observations, May 28-June 5. The comet will be within 20° of the sun during June 21-July 7; while it may reach $m_1 \sim 1$ in late June, it will be much too close to the sun for viewing.

$$T = 1985 \text{ June } 28.7429 \text{ ET} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \omega = 274^\circ 49' 31'' \\ \Omega = 194^\circ 72' 16'' \\ i = 16.2854^\circ \end{array} \right\} 1950.0$$

$$q = 0.106373 \text{ AU}$$

1985 ET	α_{1950}	δ_{1950}	Δ	r	m_1
June 8	2 ^h 10 ^m 28	+20°27.7'	1.130	0.739	8.0
10	2 28.22	+21 17.8			
12	2 47.50	+22 03.0	1.083	0.631	7.2
14	3 08.12	+22 41.8			
16	3 30.09	+23 12.0	1.057	0.515	6.2
18	3 53.38	+23 31.8			
20	4 17.97	+23 39.5	1.056	0.388	5.0
22	4 43.95	+23 33.4			

1985 June 7

Daniel W. E. Green



1985 ET	α_{1950}	δ_{1950}	Δ	r	m_1
July 6	8h 21m 46	+22° 09.2	0.918	0.338	4.1
8	8 47.07	+22 04.6			
10	9 12.60	+21 47.2	0.853	0.469	5.4
12	9 37.96	+21 16.2			
14	10 02.95	+20 31.8	0.824	0.589	6.3
16	10 27.27	+19 35.4			
18	10 50.64	+18 28.9	0.824	0.699	7.0
20	11 12.84	+17 14.7			
22	11 33.69	+15 55.6	0.852	0.803	7.7
24	11 53.11	+14 33.9			
26	12 11.10	+13 11.9	0.900	0.902	8.3
28	12 27.69	+11 51.1			
30	12 42.94	+10 32.8	0.965	0.996	8.9
Aug. 1	12 56.97	+ 9 17.7			

Total visual magnitude estimates: June 1.48 UT, 8.8 (A. Hale, Montrose, CA, 0.20-m reflector); 1.48, 9.1 (D. Machholz, San Jose, CA, 0.15-m refl.); 5.46, 9.4 (G. Battley, Magma, AZ, 0.25-m reflector); 5.46, 8.4 (Machholz, Loma Prieta, CA, 0.25-m reflector; moonlight); 6.46, 8.4 (Machholz). Observers are reporting coma diameters ~ 2' and no visible tail. C. S. Morris corrects the time of his and Hale's observations on IADC 4067 to May 28.451.

Long Sault Update

Oshawa observers have been using Long Sault Conservation Area for observing under relatively dark skies for four years now. The only problem sometimes has been finding someone to go observing with. Now this problem has been virtually solved: over the last year and a half, Long Sault's popularity has grown by leaps and bounds with members of the Toronto Centre RASC. It is now not uncommon to find other observers already there when you arrive, on a clear, moonless night! So if you find yourself wanting to go to Long Sault but have no one to go with, keep this new development in mind.

OAS Meeting Highlights

August 7, 1984: -Steve Chomniak discussed his permanent pier arrangement
 -Walter MacDonald and Scott Ramsay showed their slides from the May 30th Annular Solar Eclipse as seen from Cleveland, North Carolina

October 30, 1984: -Walter discussed slide copying techniques, and showed slides of the Holleford Meteor Crater, his observatory, and an aurora
 -Steve discussed gas hypering and showed shots (prime focus) of M8, 11, and 42/3.
 -Ghislain Chabot showed some of his wide angle astrophotography work

The OAS for 1985

The 1985 OAS membership is provided below to encourage communication among OAS members. Want to go observing or just "talk Astronomy"? Give someone a ring!

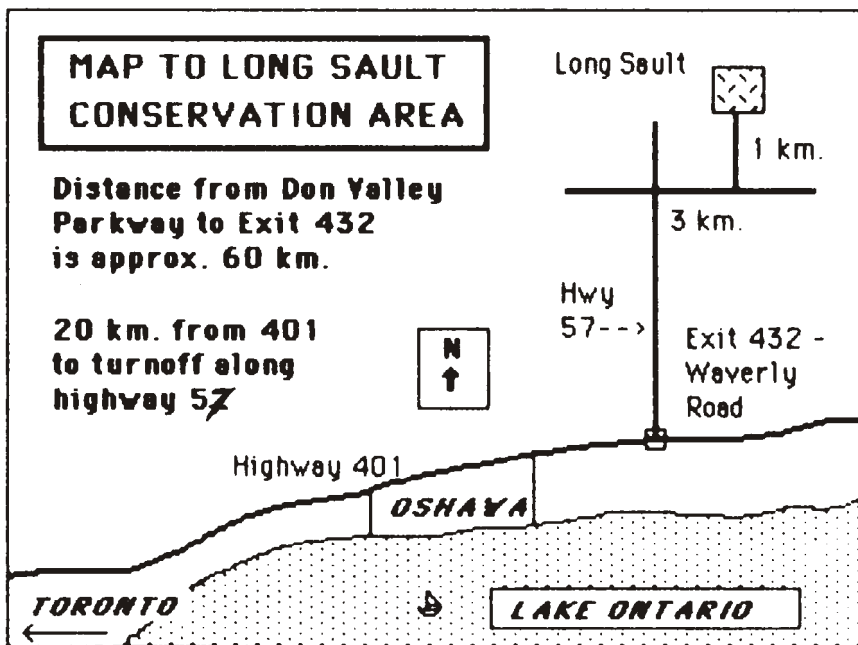
Ghislain Chabot		000-0000
Steve Chomniak		000-0000
Don Jamieson		000-0000
Kim Kanstein		000-0000
Walter MacDonald		000-0000
Scott Ramsay		000-0000
Al Spencer		000-0000
Lex Von treifeldt*		00-00 0000

* (Lex is our Australian member, so your call could be rather expensive!)

The Celestial Observer

Please send news and/or articles to:

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Map from 'Scope, newsletter of the Toronto Centre, RASC.