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Issue 45

# FEDERATION OF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETIES

**Don't Forget the FAS Autumn Convention  
Held in Cambridge on the 5th of October  
Come along and relax after NAW  
by listening to some top Speakers  
- browse the trade stands - meet friends.**

There will be a flyer to your Secretary in a month will details of speakers and traders, ask him about it!

Tickets and programmes will be available Mid-August from:

Ray Ravenscroft, Glenville, Salters Lane, Lower Moor, Pershore, Worcs, WR10 2PQ  
Entrance £4 if booked in advance - £5 on the door. Luncheons will be available but must be booked in advance.

## A FEW POINTS WHERE YOU CAN HELP.

The RAS and RGO have produced the first analysis of the Starwatch UK results - interesting but please continue to observe and submit your results as it is an ongoing project.

The RAS are to run a competition for NAW involving schoolchildren on the theme "The Neptune Story". More details in the August Newsletter. Start thinking

If you are worried about the "Name a Star" boom there are several things that you can do:

Write to BBC Watchdog asking them to look at it.

Write to Trading Standards querying the legality - they will say that it is legal but if enough people wrote they might think again.

Find the actual catalogue number of any star that you know has been "sold" - after all if two people have been sold Sirius it will be dishonest!

## Particularly Important

Why not write to the Millenium Commission at and complain about the waste of money and energy involved in floodlighting - stressing the damage to the environment of Power Station emissions plus the damage to the night sky.

## EDITORIAL

Well we are now well into the Hale-Bopp season for 1996 after what was a fantastic and fascinating Spring with the rather superb shortlived Hayakutake B2 and one of the best and most widely seen Lunar Eclipses. What has the rest of the Summer to show us - Perseids, Hale-Bopp and of course there is always the possibility of Hayakutake 3. Enjoy them if they occur.

I must apologise for the rather late appearance of this Newsletter - the AGM being a bit later (but in the event on the wrong weekend) and the subsequent Council meeting having been moved well into June (to avoid the Spring Bank Holiday Weekend) has meant that I am about three weeks late! Actually we can almost confess that a few days have to be added because of Chris's IUAA commitments which mean that she has to be in Lucerne for a week and there is no way that she can go to Switzerland and leave me at home. Anyway please accept my apologies.

I hope that you are all involved in the NAW planning of events - summer seems like a good time to do the planning - sit in the shade with a long cool drink and thrash out the problems. Good planning. Clear Skies, Ken Sheldon

**FAS AGM and CONVENTION**  
held at Liverpool University on May 11th 1996  
A day that was full of promise when originally set up but because of the absence at Wembley of Liverpool AFC and Manchester United AFC rather thinly attended by people from the area -

after all if I had been at home I would have watched the Cup Final myself - none the less it must have been disappointing for the traders, some of who made long journeys to Liverpool. The AGM started on time with about 60 people in the huge lecture theatre, capacity around 450, so it looked thin.

## Minutes of AGM

The Meeting opened at 10.00a.m.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Border AS, Guernsey AS, Bristol AS, PPARC, Dr Margaret Penston and Paul Harper.

The President, Pam Spence, introduced the members of the Council to the meeting.

**The minutes of the 1995 AGM** were circulated to all the members present, having been sent to all societies one month before the meeting. They were taken as read. They were approved unanimously and were signed.

## Matters arising from the minutes.

Tony Balfour pointed out that the insurance income was held in a separate account away from the main funds.

## Officer's Reports.

The reports of Officers were included in the Spring Newsletter, but officers each gave a short report. Pam thanked the Officers for all their hard work throughout the year.

Pam said that she wished to step down as President at the next AGM but was willing to serve on Council again if elected.

Chris and Tony said they did not wish to serve on the Council after 1996/97.

## Treasurer's Report

Ray presented the interim accounts for the

education. The accounts showed a healthy increase due mainly to an increase in income from the Cambridge Convention.

Ray suggested that the Insurance reserve should be used to cover any increase in Premium. Ray also suggested that the subscriptions should remain the same.

#### **Amendment to the Constitution.**

The Council had approved the following motion put forward by the Treasurer:-

"That the financial year begin on 1st September in line with Subscription and Insurance renewals" This would allow the accounts to be audited before the next AGM in May of the following year. The motion was seconded by Arthur Davis from the floor.

It was carried unanimously.

#### **Election of Officers for 1996-97**

Pam said that all the present Council Members are willing to stand again except the Membership Secretary. We have a nomination-Eric Hutton from Letchworth AS. No nominations were received from the floor. Proposed by Richard Hall, Seconded by Arthur Davis "that the Council be elected en bloc" This was carried unanimously.

#### **Any other business.**

Pam Spence said that the Federation was looking for donation of slides to help the setting up of a slide library. Gerard Gilligan asked if the Federation as a body would write to the Millennium Committee stating its concern with regards to the lighting up of Public buildings and the light pollution it would cause. The meeting closed at 10.55a.m. After a break the day of speakers started and a super day it was too, with something to grab everyone - observers, astrophotographers, radio astronomy and automatic telescopes. The welcome was extended by Ron Kelley, Chairman of LAS and prime mover of the event. Then onto the event itself. In fact the first speaker, Eric Jones from Liverpool AS (incidentally Eric did an enormous amount of fetching of tables and chairs for exhibitors and traders before the event started) was talking about Solar Eclipses. I am sure that everyone had eclipses in mind after the Lunar Eclipse and the fact that we have a good partial in October and the Total in Cornwall is getting appreciably nearer.

Eric's shots of his pursuit of the Sun in darkness and the work that he has done made me, for one, keen to get to an eclipse sometime. After lunch Bob Mizon made us all very envious of his second-hand camera shop in Wimborne. Bob showed us a sequence of good astrophotographs and made the point that we all taken with simple mechanical cameras (Pentacorn/Zenith?), using "cheap" second-hand lenses and a home-made Scotch Mount... It certainly was enough to make you think that high-tech was not really necessary or even desirable. The third speaker was Ian Morison from Jodrell Bank who went to the other end of the technology spectrum (and the electromagnetic one too!) and talked about the things that Radio astronomers can do! In fact Ian made the need for radio astronomy really apparent (and when you look at the cost, truly good economics - compared with space shots - Poor Ariane!) Lets hope that the international

co-operation on projects like the VLB systems does bear fruit. The final speaker was Mike Bode of LJM University and he was talking about the new automatic telescopes (upto 2-m) designed at LJM and being built in a custom designed and built facility in the Wirral. In view of the collapse of the American AutoScope Group the Liverpool Project certainly seems to be doing it the right way with several good orders in the pipeline.

Pam then thanked everyone, particularly Mike Inglis, and wished everyone a safe journey home.

Chris, Ray and I were lucky to start our journey by calling on Eric Strach and enjoying a cup of tea and a chat before we tackled the M62/M6/M5 home. It was a good day but a poor turnout!

**Ken Sheldon**

Please Note that Membership Renewals should be paid to Eric Hutton. His address is:  
14 Folly Close, HITCHIN, Herts SG4 9DG  
and his phone is 01462 626032.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

### **The Modern Amateur Astronomer**

Edited by Patrick Moore.

Published by Springer-Verlag.

166 pages. 15 pounds 95 pence.

This is a companion book to *The Observational Amateur Astronomer*. Chapter titles are: Optical Principles, Buying a Telescope, Commercially made Telescopes, Observatories and Telescopes, Making your own Telescope, Auxiliary Equipment, Electronics and the Amateur Astronomer, First steps in Astronomical Calculations, Astronomical Spectroscopies, Astrophotography, and Astronomical Societies. This book has been written to bridge the gulf between those books that introduce the subject of practical astronomy to beginners, and those that cater for advanced amateurs at a high, technical level. Well known amateurs contributing chapters to this book include Denis Buczynski, Martin Mobberley and Maurice Gavin to name but three. The editor has "been careful to leave the writers' ideas, preferences and writing styles alone". Some subjects are therefore duplicated and the standard of English varies throughout the book.

There are some errors, notably in the first chapter, where, more than once, CCD pixel elements and sizes are given as millimetres instead of microns! There are omissions: The book contains a brief reference to 'equatorial platforms', stating that they can be obtained from a number of suppliers but are expensive. There is no mention of building one to Poncet's original design, which can be done quite simply and cheaply. The 'Scotch' or 'barn door' mount does not get a mention in the astrophotography chapter either: a serious omission in my opinion!

The book covers a wide range of subjects, some in quite a lot of depth: calculations and spectroscopy for example. The chapter on local societies refers the reader to the 'Yearbook' and 'Astronomy Now' for up-to-date lists but sadly neglects to mention the FAS!

The reference information could be improved, for example it is noted that some firms can supply hyper-sensitised Technical Pan film, but specific names and addresses are not given. The pages have a wide inner margin, used for the photograph and diagram captions in places, but otherwise this is wasted space. There is a generous number of good illustrations, explaining a particular concept or otherwise complementing the text.

At almost sixteen pounds this is quite an expensive book, and not quite to the standard I would have expected from a publisher such as Springer! I believe the book would have benefited from some tighter editing. It would be a worthwhile addition to a local society's library.

*Nick Quinn* *Worthing AS and Regional Rep for Southern Area Group of Astronomical Soccs.*

### **An Introduction to Practical Astronomy**

Written by C.R.Kitchen Edited by Patrick Moore

Published as part of a series of Practical Astronomy books published by Springer-Verlag This book has been written with the intention of giving a student studying astronomy or the interested person a good grounding in the techniques used in astronomy. Dr Kitchen opens with a nice, easy going chapter on telescopes, before plunging the reader in more depth in chapter 2. There are quite a lot of equations and figures involved, but then every science subject has a vast underlying field of mathematics which, like it or not, determine what we see and how it all fits together. The diagrams were all well thought out and clear, although a few more lines of explanation would have made things even clearer to those who may have found contents difficult. The author has assumed that the reader already has good grounding in Astronomy and doesn't attempt to explain some of the terms that he uses. Dr Kitchen has effectively gathered together virtually all the techniques used by the modern astronomer and explained how they work, and more importantly, how to go about them. The book is set out, not surprisingly, in similar style to a college textbook, with a great deal of relevant material. The author also uses a chatty style of writing, but the marriage of the two styles made me confused as to the readership for whom it is intended. Some of the information on particular particular subjects was spread across a number of chapters, and there were frequent cross-references to other chapters which I personally found annoying. The thing that let the book down for me was the Appendix. Among the list of Astronomical Societies the Society for Popular Astronomy was still listed as the Junior Astronomical Society and the FAS address was years out of date. The book doesn't make good armchair astronomy, but it will be very useful to dip into now and again and to get detailed aspects of telescopes or techniques that would be hard to find elsewhere.

*Dave Eagle* *Bedford AS and Regional Rep for Chiltern & Thames Valley.*

I am quite happy to receive Society news as an E-mail message - it saves me re-typing and the associated types. Up to 3 column inches, about 200 words is fine! **For those Societies with Home Pages, and there are now rather a lot, I will give a listing in the next (August) Newsletter.**

**PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES IF YOU DO NOT FEATURE - SPACE IS AT A PREMIUM**

**AYLESBURY AS** Still doing lots of things including their involvement with the University of the Third Age - that seems like a good idea if you want some mental stimulation but don't want the OU's fairly strict regime. The April meeting had a talk by John and Daphne Smithers from the USA on ISO. May was the AGM and once again the hard-working officers were (re-)appointed. For information on AAS's activities contact Peter Biswell on 01296 85125 for programme.

**BEDFORD AS** Visits to COAA and Observing sessions feature prominently in the BAS programme. Talks in the pipeline for the monthly meeting The Cassini Mission, Computer Aided Astronomy and preparing for Hale-Bopp. The Bowling evening result (BAS v CAA) has not yet reached me! Contact Peter Cox on 01234 354552 for Society info and an up-to-date programme of events.

**BOSTON ASTRONOMERS** Since the last Newsletter BA have welcomed David Swaby of Lincoln AS on *US Astronomy - Part 1*, Dr Mike Leggett of Milton Keynes AS with *Astronomy in the Ancient World*, and Dr Cedric Martys with *Astrophotography with a Schmidt Camera*. Like many we managed good views of Comet Hyakutake with several good photos being taken by members. We are hoping to visit the London Planetarium in the summer and will no doubt be busy (like most other Societies) with NAW. Later in the year several members of BA will be visiting COAA, for a weeks observing, pleasant company and of course Jan's brilliant cooking. Our Chairman, Paul Money, a regular speaker to many FAS societies has been out of action on the astronomy circuit as he hurt his back at work in March (he says thank heaven that the Comet was a great naked eye object!) but he expects to be back on form by the time of this newsletter if not sooner. For more details of the Society, or to book Paul for a talk please contact 01507 524037 or write to Lorraine Kendall/Paul Money, 18 College Park, Horncastle, Lincs, LN9 6RE. Lorraine Kendall

**BRADFORD AS** The regular twice monthly meetings have lots to offer from *Practical Sessions on Star Maps, Charts, Time and Coordinates* (sorry that has gone!) on through *The Hydrogen Line* Dr Neil McEwan (Bradford Univ), *The Big Bang?* by Roy Caswell of Bolton AS, *What makes Stars Tick* by Dr Robin Jakeways (Sheffield Univ). July hopefully sees Paul Money (back injury permitting) with his *HST* talk and Neville Kidger with an *Astronautics Update*. August has Back to

Basics and Ken Irving of Salford AS on *Deep Sky Observing*. The Autumn session has the start lecture by Prof Wiltrop of the IOA talking on *Two Funny (Peculiar) Telescopes*. Contact David on 01274 638038 or John Bardsley on 01274 617702.

**BRIDGEND AS** Trips to Bath and Armagh are two of the features in the pipeline for BAS. Speakers include Dr Bob Owens (FAS Astrocalendar Editor) on "Hale-Bopp" and Martin Griffiths. Contact Clive Down on 01656 740754 for details of meetings which take place on alternate Fridays.

**CLEVELAND AND DARLINGTON AS** I had a letter from Neil Haggart to say that he is back in the North - he hopes to be back on the astro circuit before long and to tell me about the Cosmos North-East to be held On 20th November. Details to follow. For details contact Neil on 01332 702608.

**CAMBRIDGE AA and CAMBRIDGE YOUNG ASTRONOMERS** Busy times at CAA with the topping out of the Observatory to be a high-light. It needed a crane to do it. A Visit was organised to RAL at Chilcott (Very much to be recommended if you haven't done it - Ed) Speaker have included Dr Robin Catchpole "HST" and Robin Scagell "The Search for Dark Skies"

A 10-pin Bowling challenge is lying on the mat issued by Bedford - I'll find out the result for August. The Young Astronomers have their usual high activity rate and Cambridge City council are again offering some Astronomy activities for the school holiday period. Contact David Herbert at 67 Howard Close, Cambridge, CB5 8QU for membership and programme info.

**CORNWALL AS** Have had to move their meetings to the Godolphin Club in Helston. The meetings are twice a month with one lecture evening and one open Discussion meeting on a set topic. Just a thought - Can you keep them on topic? Speakers include Tim Gouldstone, Chris Harris, Mick Harvey, Peter Hedges and Tony James with topics ranging from Satellite Communications through Maps and Pictures, The Quantum Universe and Comets. There will be a BBQ on 28th June and a Perseid Watch on 10th August. Contact Mick Harvey on 01326 377294 for more details.

**CROYDON AS** Croydon have been in the media recently, two members were featured on the Spring showing of the India Eclipse programme as well as a good showing of our Observatory and 18" telescope at Kenley. Four days later Sky News covered the observatory and the members in an item on the Total Lunar Eclipse. This year sees the Society's 40th anniversary. Contact Roy Euston, 27 Bisenden Road, Croydon Surrey, CR0 6UN tel: 0181 688 0871. Roy Euston

**LA SOCIÉTÉ GUERNESIAISE ASTRONOMY SECTION** Well equipped now with a fantastic computer the Astronomy Section have got themselves on the Web and have a Home Page. In common with most Societies they had good views of the Comet and the Eclipse. Contact Geoff Falla the Hon. Secretary on Guernsey 724101 for more details

of the programme.

**HAMPSHIRE AG** Featured on the media - TV crews were at Clanfield to film the Eclipse and the Group did several inserts into the local Radio. A Trip to Paris (Astronomical - of course) featured in the latest *Hampshire Observer* it really looked good.

The NAW programme is well in hand - Robin Gorman is the driving force for this. The person to contact for details of the programme is Roy Dodd on 01705 646875

**AS of HARINGEY** Busy with the usual range of good speakers and a programme that goes forward to April 1997. The immediate activities relate to the NAW weekend at Alexandria Palace on September 21/22. Contact Jerry Workman on 0171 607 7751 for more details of the programme.

**HUDDESFIELD & DISTRICT AS** Things happen at HADAS including the idea of a Lottery Grant in the "Educational Round". They actually receive a annual grant from their local Authority to help in the running of the Society - so they are lucky - I think! The usual regular programme of lectures continues with a wide range of topics. One sad thing I noticed in *Omega* was the reduction in Junior Members in the past year - that is SAD!

**IRISH AS** Please note Change of Secretary It is now Stephen Ryan with the original address PO Box 2547, Dublin 11, and Stephen's telephone number is 01 864 1382 for information on meetings and publications. The latest issue of the IAS Newsletter *Orbit* has a couple of nice articles one on Starnames (relevant at the moment) and the other on Planets.

**LEEDS AS** Meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Centenary House, North St starting at 7.00pm. Contact Ray Emery on 0113 282 7350

**LETCHEWORTH & District AS** At the FAS AGM in Liverpool Eric Hutton was elected Membership Secretary of the FAS. With its own Observatory LADAS will be busy in NAW and for Hale-Bopp Eric Hutton on 01462 626032 for further details of meetings.

**LIVERPOOL AS** Contact Ken Clark at 31 Sandymount Drive, Wallasey, L45 0LJ with an SAE or on 0151 638 3270 for more details of the LAS programme. Alternatively try the Web: <http://www.liv.ac.uk/ggastro.home.html>

**MANCHESTER AS** A talk to come shortly takes place on Sept 21st and is Dr P C Smith "Film based Astrophotography and Post Processing by Computer - an introduction" Sounds very interesting. For details of our programme later this year refer to our Home Page at <http://www.u-net.com/ph/mas>.

**MID KENT AS** This year will be the 20th anniversary of MKAS The Society was formed in October 1976 and plans are underway for our anniversary celebrations. The Society are having a stall at the Riverside Country Fayre where telescopes will be set up for Solar Observing. MKAS will also be having a stall at the Rochester Dickens Festival on 1st/2nd June where telescopes will again be operational and members will be in Victorian costume. Society trips are planned for the Summer and members are getting ready for Hale-Bopp and NAW. (Yes - we do go to the pub afterwards and

crash out problems - I know that you mean Amanda, I feel that the pub afterwards often has more concentrated astronomy than most Open Meetings! - KenS) MKAS meets on the second and last Fridays of each month in Hut 92, Horsted College, Chatham at 7.45 pm. Contact Amanda Peters, 133 Carnation Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME22 7F or ring her on 01634 724875 Amanda Peters

**NORWICH AS** The Secretary is still Malcolm Jones so contact him on 01508 578392 for more details.

**NORTH EAST LONDON AS NELAS** enjoyed their 40th Anniversary in March. Originally they met as the NE Group of the JAS. They reformed as NELAS in 1965 meeting in members homes. The following year they moved to the Hoe Street WMC and shortly afterwards moved to their present premises. Fortunes have fluctuated but have included a joint exhibition with Walthamstow Borough Council and an abortive effort to establish a Society observatory. Joint meetings have been held with Croydon AS and the Golders Green group and visits have been made to several professional observatories. Bernard Beeston has been the longest serving Chairman of the 10 that NELAS have had. Speakers have included Peter Eggleston RGO, and to come include Jerry Workman of ASH, Jonathan Shanklin from the British Antarctic Survey and Matthew Hepburn of PONLAF. The contact for info about meetings held on the third Sunday of each month at Wanstead House is the Programme Secretary Andrew Lawrence on 01376 510329

**NORTHANTS AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS** formerly Kettering and District AAS. At the AGM two new vice-Presidents were installed Paul Money and Jerry Workman. Stephen Williams has handed on the Secretary job but stays as Chairman. Mervyn Lloyd is the contact and Events Sec. on 01536 521581. Speakers have included Ann Bonell with *Ladies of the Night* and Dr Ralph Wijers on *Black Holes and Binary Stars*. To come are Paul Money with *Genesis - Origin of the Universe* and Jerry Workman with *The HST*. There will be a convention on 28th September for NAW called *Discover your Universe*. Visits have been arranged to Madogs Well and RAL.

Stephen Williams  
**NOTTINGHAM AS** Meet on fortnightly basis - one formal at Djanogly CTC and one informal meeting usually at a members home. Speakers to include Andy Salmon, David Swaby and Dr Victor Clube. Contact Carl Brennan on: 0115 938 4521 for details of programme.

**ORWELL AS** Hyakutake - Comet of the Century is the theme in the latest Newsletter with an account of their viewing evenings ranging from cloud to clear but successful in spite of that. Contact Peter Richards on 01473 644828 for details of society activities. The Web page is:

<http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk:80/~ipswich/>

**PAPWORTH ASTRONOMY CLUB** Contact Keith Tritton on 01223 374867 (daytime) or 01767 677219 (evenings) or Doreen Perrins 01480 830341 ext 2237 (daytime) for more details.

**SOLENT AAS** forthcoming programme

includes Richard Fleet "Glow and Halos", Dr Allan Chapman with "The Victorian Amateur Astronomer", Alan Dowdell introducing "The Rev. T W Webb" and Robin Gorman with "transits of Venus".

**SOUTH EAST KENT AS** For more information contact Andrew McCarthy at 25 St Pauls Way, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3NT or on 01303 241933

**STRATFORD upon AVON AS** The years feast of excellent speakers has continued with Dr Jacqueline Mitton from the IOA - *Women in Astronomy* - and Dr Lloyd-Evans from Leeds Univ - *Astrophysics at the South Pole*. The second speakers evening was made by his first naked eye view of a comet - Hyakutake on the first night that it was seen in Stratford on the night of closest Earth approach. The Observatory progresses and plans are now fully in place for June Convention.

**SALFORD AS** After two weeks of total cloud on the run up to closest approach of Comet Hyakutake, the heavens relented. At 01:30 UT on March 25th Ken Irving saw it through a gap in the clouds and phoned the active observers. Everyone dashed out into their own gardens and there it was "BIG, BRIGHT and BEAUTIFUL", naked eye in Uma. The waiting had been well worth while and we all went our separate ways to find a darker site. The comet displayed a bright nucleus, a 1 degree coma and a 25 degree plus tail. It was seen briefly around 21:15 on the 26th, near Polaris. Most of us stayed up all night that week wanting more and were rewarded on the 27th and 28th shortly before dawn. Most members saw it again the following week with Friday 5th April being the clearest night. Observing continued when possible until the end of the month. Many photos and CCD images were taken. Tony O'Sullivan first saw Hyakutake in late February using 20x80 binos. Paul Marshall's photo on the morning of the 25th was shown by Fred Talbot on Granada Reports. Visitors to the "Hairy Star Party" on March 20 were given maps to help find the object. The night of the Eclipse attracted the public who also saw the comet. Salford have a new venture in the form of A Spring Newsletter.

Kath Redford

**SAWTRY & DISTRICT AS** Still thriving and increasingly observational - if you like dark skies then for more details contact Brooke Norton on 01487 831683

**WEST OF LONDON AS** Iain Nicholson with a talk on the age of the Universe introduced the Hubble inConstant and how its changing value affects the age. June featured the AGM and Computers in Astronomy! Meet regularly in either Uxbridge or Wealdstone. Contact Maggie Daly on 01895 637400 for details of programme

**WEST YORKS AS** The usual super programme is in place for the rest of the year. If you haven't been to see the WYAS set-up you should make the effort! As usual Contact Pete Lunn on 01924 360064 for programme of meetings and to ask about the Rosse Observatory

**VECTIS AS** Lots happening to VAS with a visit in June to HAG and their Observatory and telescopes followed in July by Crayford

Manor House AS to IOW. I really enjoyed John Smith's story about photographing Hyakutake and the oak tree (chain saws are common - mine is in a carboot sale somewhere after a visitation last year) and also the brief account by Joan Huest of her viewing. Pam Spence was the guest speaker this month on her third visit to Vectis. John Smith is holding a Garden Party on July 27th towards the Observatory Project Fund. VAS will be 20 years old in November - Bonfire Night in fact! They hope to have a Celebratory Dinner for members and their guests. More later. For more news of events contact John Smith on 01983 865451 or write to him at 27 Fores Road, Winford, Sandown, I.W. PO36 0JY  
**WOLVERHAMPTON AS** Both the Secretary, Malcolm Astley and the Treasurer, Roy Bagley will be retiring this year from the WAS committee after a combined period of over 60 years in the posts! They will be sorely missed and their successors have a lot to follow. Best wishes to all four of them. The season restarts on Sept 9th.

**WORCESTER AS** A good range of talks plus a members Evening has rounded out the Spring session. The Two main speakers were Dr Quentin Stanley with the *Trek to Tunguska* - great fun - for us and Dr Eric Strach with his *Sun in Halpha*. The programme for the Summer has Dr George Sinnott (Birmingham Univ) with *Solar Physics* and Bob Bass of Cotswold AS on *Telescopes*.

**WORTHING AS** Talks by Konrad Malin-Smith, Maurice Gavin and Richard Flux have maintained the usual high standard of WAS formal meetings with all the normal observing programme still occurring. Contact Nick Quinn on or at [nick@nquinn.demon.co.uk](mailto:nick@nquinn.demon.co.uk) for full details of the programme.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**SAGAS** Summer meeting July 20th Contact Nick Quinn on 01903 814090 for details

**LOUGHTON AS** are holding a week of Astronomy at Thetford from the 7th of September. Contact Eric Hutton on 01462 626032

**ASH** have an NAW weekend at Alexandria Palace on September 21/22nd Contact Jerry Workman on 0171 607 7751 for details.

**NAAS** There will be a convention on 28th September for NAW called *Discover your Universe*. Contact Mervyn Lloyd on 01536 521581

## FAS AUTUMN CONVENTION

5th October, Cavendish Labs, Cambridge.  
**YORKSHIRE ASTRONIM** will be at Brough in October. More details in next Newsletter.

**LEEDS ASTRONIMET '96** 16th November Try 0113 282 7350 for more.

## COSMOS NORTHEAST

20th November

**1997 FAS AGM** Nottingham AS Anniversary Meeting

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