

EARLY WARNING CIRCULAR No. 49.

1981 February 13.

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(Section A. TA Supplementary Subscription Service).

Telephone:
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The Astronomer

Founded 1964

P/Comet Borrelly (1980i)

John Bortle sends note by air-letter indicating this comet underwent an outburst in late January as follows: 1981 Jan.25.00UT, m1, 9.9; Jan 26.00,9.9. Ephemeris by Birtwhistle:

Feb 13	1 ^h 34 ^m .79	+03°44'18"			
15	1 39.82	+05 02.3	Earth 1.516	Sun 1.321	Mag 12.1?
17	1 44.90	+06 19.3			
19	1 50.05	+07 35.4			
21	1 55.25	+08 51.5			
23	2 00.51	+10 06.6.	(Extended further in TA 202).		

Comet Bradfield (1980t)

Visual observations by S. O'Meara and J. Bortle suggest that this comet has split. A secondary nucleus, essentially along the tail spine(p.a. 40°) was reported by O'Meara to be some 2'5 from the primary nucleus on Jan. 19.96, 20.95 and 21.95UT. The same feature was independently reported by Bortle on Jan. 21.98UT. Various observers also reported a magnitude outburst on Jan 13.

The comet is now badly placed and presumably faint but a short ephemeris is given and telescopic examination of the nuclear region is urgently required:

Feb 10	21 ^h 52 ^m .50	+ 07°14'11"			
15	21 58.58	+07 42.4	Earth 2.108	Sun 1.234	m1 11.5
20	22 04.04	+ 08 09.5			
25	22 08.98	+ 08 35.9	2.325	1.424	12.4

Comet Panther (1980u)

Extension to ephemeris on EWC 47 calculated by Birtwhistle from elements based on 14 observations Dec. 27-Jan.11:

Feb. 13	19 ^h 20 ^m .37	+62°15'19"			
15	19 22.18	+64 31.0	Earth 1.494	Sun 1.680	m1 9.1
17	19 24.05	+66 15.0			
19	19 26.00	+68 02.7			
21	19 28.05	+69 54.1			
23	19 30.2	+71 49.1			
25	19 32.6	+73 47.6	1.429	1.705	9.1

(Extended further in TA 202).

Variable Object in Scutum (c.f. EWC 48)

No further positive observations of this object have been reported. On 1981 Feb.1 G.M. Hurst reported the object fainter than mag 11.7 and not seen using 26cm spec. at Manor Park Observatory. Examination of past photos of region and urged and if images are suspected please send negatives to Editor for analysis. Position: 18^h44^m11^s.6 -04°59'56" (1950).

Editorial: My new telephone number is detailed above. From Feb 20-25 I shall be contactable at 17, Sherwood Road Mablethorpe, Lincs. Telephone available until 10.30pm is Mablethorpe 2483.

GUY. M. HURST.