

INFORMATION:

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The Astronomer

Founded 1964

NOVA SERPENTIS 1978

Kozai reports that Honda has discovered a nova in Serpens Cauda and Kosai and Hamajima have measured the following position:

RA $17^h 48^m 59^s.74$ DEC $-14^\circ 43' 08''.2$ (1950).

The following photographic magnitudes are available: 1978 Mar 1, approx 9 (Honda); Mar 4, 8.3 (Kosai); Mar 5, approx 8 (Kosai), Mar 9, 8.7^v (Hurst). Marsden telexes that a spectrum obtained on 1978 Mar 7 indicates that the nova is just past maximum.

The chart shows a tentative plotted position and the preliminary TA sequence is based purely on SAOC magnitudes and is therefore uncertain.

COMET BRADFIELD (1978c)

Birtwhistle has calculated the following 2 day ephemeris:

			Mag	Elongation from Sun
Mar.	9	$21^h 38^m.5$ $-10^\circ 39'$		
	11	$21^h 50^m.6$ $-07^\circ 13'$	3.6	$22^\circ 9'$
	13	$22^h 03^m.1$ $-03^\circ 48'$		
	15	$22^h 15^m.9$ $-00^\circ 28'$	3.4	$20^\circ 3'$
	17	$22^h 29^m.2$ $+02^\circ 46'$		
	19	$22^h 42^m.9$ $+05^\circ 50'$	3.4	$18^\circ 4'$
	21	$22^h 56^m.9$ $+08^\circ 42'$		
	23	$23^h 11^m.1$ $+11^\circ 21'$	3.7	$17^\circ 3'$
	25	$23^h 25^m.5$ $+13^\circ 45'$		
	27	$23^h 39^m.2$ $+15^\circ 55'$	4.1	$17^\circ 0'$
	29	$23^h 54^m.2$ $+17^\circ 51'$		
	31	$0^h 08^m.3$ $+19^\circ 33'$	4.7	$17^\circ 0'$

Additional data by Birtwhistle to assist observers:

	Sunrise	Altitude for various times before sunrise				
	=S (ET)	S-0h	S-30m	S-1h	S-1½h	S-2h
Mch 3	6h42m	+3°	-			
	7 6 34	+7	+3°	-		
	11 6 25	+10	+6	+2°	-	
	15 6 15	+13	+9	+4	-	
	19 6 06	+15	+11	+6	+1°	-
	23 5 58	+16	+12	+7	+3	-
	27 5 48	+16	+12	+7	+3	-
	31 5 38	+16	+11	+7	+3	-

S-0h corresponds to sunrise, S-2h being 2 hours before sunrise. A - indicates comet below horizon. Twilight during month approx:

Civil Twilight 30m from sunrise; Nautical 1½h before; Astronomical 2h before.

1978 DA (Object Schuster): Latest report by Marsden suggests predicted mag about mag 1.0 brighter than quoted on TA EWC 22.

