

# The Astronomer

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MONTHLY

Please reply to: Editor.

## Periodic Comet Boethin (1985n)

Recent visual observations by Keitch and Hurst indicate that the total magnitude of this comet is currently about 8.0 and that it is an easy object in binoculars. This conflicts with original predictions which give m1 as about 12.5 at this time but the observations confirm earlier data from Robert McNaught who observed it from Australia. A detailed ephemeris follows:

Date	RA	DEC	Earth	Sun	Elong	m1
Jan. 14	23 <sup>h</sup> 15 <sup>m</sup> 55	- 3° 57' 92	1.329	1.114	54.7	8.1
16	23 23.08	- 2 57.78	1.326	1.114	54.7	8.1
18	23 30.67	- 1 56.88	1.324	1.114	54.9	8.1
20	23 38.33	- 0 55.32	1.322	1.115	55.0	8.1
22	23 46.05	+ 0 06.77	1.321	1.117	55.1	8.1
24	23 53.84	+ 1 09.29	1.320	1.119	55.3	8.1
26	0 01.69	+ 2 12.12	1.320	1.122	55.5	8.1
28	0 09.59	+ 3 15.12	1.320	1.126	55.7	8.1
30	0 17.55	+ 4 18.15	1.322	1.131	55.9	8.1

## Circulars Charges

In order to cover increased international costs, it is necessary to alter the price of these circulars to 30p + postage from 1986 January 1. The last increase was 1983 April.

## THE ASTRONOMER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1986 - SPECIAL HALLEY CONFERENCE

This meeting will be held at the Basingstoke Country Hotel, Hook, nr Basingstoke on Saturday 1986 February 22nd, chosen when the comet is not visible. The hotel is situated at Nately Scures near Hook, 1½ miles from Hook Station (London, Waterloo 58mins) and a few miles from Junction 5, of the M3 Motorway (London 40 miles).

The admission charge is £3.50 per person to cover whole day attendance and this also includes the cost of morning coffee and afternoon tea with biscuits. As an optional extra, a hotel 2 course cooked luncheon can be booked via TA at £8.40 per person.

Hotel accommodation is £26.45 B&B single, £41.40 double but this must be booked direct with the hotel (025672)4161, ask for Jenny Sutcliffe and mention the meeting.

The agenda is in the course of being finalised but will be largely devoted to discussing the results of Halley observations, the showing of slides, photos and drawings and the latest news concerning the comet. Some other astronomical talks may also be given. Please book now using the form below and a programme will be sent by Feb 12:

To: G.M. Hurst, Editor, The Astronomer, 16, Westminster Close, Kempshott Rise, Basingstoke, Hants, RG22 4PP. (Tel: 0256 471074).

I wish to book ..... admissions (£3.50 each) to the AGM on Feb' 22.

I wish to book ..... hotel luncheons (£8.40 each).

I enclose a total remittance of ..... payable to 'The Astronomer'.

Name .....

Telephone .....

Address.....

Names of those attending and included in this booking.....

I intend to bring the following exhibits (please describe and est size):

OR I am unable to attend and enclose the following with SAE for their return