

(Section A, TA Supplementary Subscription Service. Editor: Guy M Hurst).

The Astronomer

Editor: Guy M. Hurst, Manor Park Observatory, 1 Whernside, Manor Park, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 3QQ, England

Telephone: 0933 676444 International: +44933676444

FOUNDED 1964

Price 25p + postage.

MONTHLY

Please reply to: Editor.

COMET IRAS-ARAKI-ALCOCK (1983d)

Further to the announcement on EW057, identity of 'Alcock's Comet' with the IRAS observation is confirmed and additionally an independent discovery was made in Japan.

The following observations have been telephoned in:

1983 May 3.95UT, mag 6.2; coma dia 12" (Hurst, re-reduction); May 4.22, 6.0; 12" (Morris, USA); May 4.95, 6.4; (McNaught); May 4.97, 6.3; 14" (Koitich).

Elements by Marsden give $T = 1983 \text{ May } 21.24$, $q = 0.9913 \text{ AU}$. Ephemeris:

			Earth	Sun	Long	m
May 7	18 ^h 33 ^m .4	+58° 21'	0.118	1.02	93° 50'	5.2
8	18 15.6	+61 45	0.095	1.02	94 40	4.7
9	17 35.6	+66 58	0.071	1.01	91 40	4.2
10	15 20.4	+73 41	0.050	1.01	89 40	3.4
11	10 30.4	+61 34	0.034	1.01	84 40	2.8
12	8 48.8	+21 13	0.033	1.00	78 40	2.9
13	8 15.8	-06 42	0.048	1.00	77 40	3.7
14	8 08.0	-19 36	0.07	0.99	78 40	4.4

The above prediction was made by the Editor using a micro-computer and ephemerides programme kindly developed by Brian Manning for TA. Closest approach to Earth is expected to be May 11.5UT at 0.031AU. Mags and dia ests are urgently required.

EDITORIAL Apologies for production delay TA April which should arrive shortly.