

THE ASTRONOMER Electronic Circular No 461 1990 Nov 17 07.59UT  
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# PERIODIC COMET TAYLOR (1990n)

J. V. Scotti, University of Arizona, has recovered this comet with the Spacewatch telescope at Kitt Peak. On Nov. 11, the comet was diffuse with an 8" coma and indications of a 9" tail in p.a. about 350 deg. The following selected positions in close agreement with the predicted elements on MPC 12136 (ephemeris on MPC 16704):

1990 UT	R.A. (1950)	Decl.	ml
Nov. 11.50556	7 24 10.87	+ 9 14 16.4	19.7
12.54031	7 25 04.07	+ 9 19 20.4	

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# COMET SHOEMAKER-LEVY (1990o)

Carolyn and Eugene Shoemaker and David H. Levy report their discovery with the Palomar 0.46-m Schmidt telescope of a comet that has a strong central condensation. Positions measured Mueller and Levy:

1990 UT	R.A. (1950)	Decl.	ml
Nov. 15.28975	1 48 50.34	- 0 25 36.7	13
16.27881	1 48 15.35	+ 0 10 37.3	

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# NOVA IN M31

J. Bryan, Georgetown, TX, reports his discovery of another nova in M31, located at R.A. = 0h39m52s, Decl. = +40 55'.4 (equinox 1950.0), or 97" west and 261" south of the galaxy's centre. Bryan provides the following B magnitude estimates: Oct. 19.10 UT, [19.1; 24.12, 18.0; 25.27, 18.0; 28.16, 17.9; Nov. 10.30, 17.9; 12.07, 17.6.

A. V. Filippenko and J. C. Shields, University of California at Berkeley, report: "A CCD spectrum (range 390-710 nm, resolution 1.2 nm), obtained on Nov. 11 UT with the Shane 3-m reflector at Lick Observatory, reveals that Bryan's object is indeed a nova."

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# T PYXIS

Alfredo Pereira, Portugal, e-mails: "This recurrent nova is likely to erupt within the next year. The average of intervals between outbursts is 19 years and the longest gap 24 years. The last eruption took place in the winter of 1966-67 and thus it is nearly 24 years since that event".

He urges observers to monitor the star for activity. A chart is available from the editor.

# OCULTATION BY 838 SERAPHINA OF SAOC 91832

Hans Bengtsson, Sweden, e-mails details of this event:

Asteroid: 838 Seraphina  $V = 14.36$  Diam = 31.2 km = 0.02"

Star: SAO 91832 = HD 1419 = AGK3 +10 0029

Position (1950.0) = 0 h 15 m 42.493 s +10 deg 55' 43.41"  
 $V = 6.05$   $B = 7.08$

Event: 17:18 UT Shadow enters Earth (Greenland).

(Nov 20) 17:21 UT Shadow over central Scandinavia.

17:26 UT Shadow over Crimea.

17:36.5 UT Mid-eclipse (Yemen).

17:56 UT Shadow leaves Earth (Southern Indian Ocean).

Magnitude drop at occultation: 8.3.

Max duration of event: 5.6 seconds.

Angular distance of Sun: 129 degrees.

Angular distance of 10 percent Moon: 94 degrees.

Due to the difficulties in making precise predictions, observers in Europe are recommended to watch the star from about 17:14 UT to about 17:34 UT.

Guy M Hurst