# Occultation Newsletter 

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## FROM THE PUBLISHER

For subscription purposes, this is the fourth issue of 1987.
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Graze limit and profile prediction (each graze) 1.50
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Observers from Europe and the British Isles should join IOTA/ES, sending DM 40..- to the account

IOTA/ES Bartold-Knaust Strasse 8, 3000 Hannover 91, Postgiro Hannover 555 829-303, bank-code-number (Bankleitzahl) 250100 30. Full membership in IOTA/ES includes the supplement for European Observers (total and grazing occultations).
${ }^{1}$ Single issue at $\frac{1}{2}$ of price shown
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${ }^{5}$ Area " $B$ " includes the rest of South America, Mediterranean Africa, and Europe (except Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and U.S.S.R.).

## IOTA NEWS

## David W. Dunham

During 1987, IOTA produced new and bigger o.s. issues and supplements, accelerating our expenditures so that they are significantly exceeding our income. As noted by C. Herold in the minutes of IOTA's meeting, held on October 10th (see p. 136), there has been a dangerous drop in IOTA's balance during the year, in spite of last year's $\$ 1$ dues and subscription increase. So, reluctantly, we find it necessary to once again raise our dues and rates, to the values given in "From the Publisher" on this page. At the meeting, a larger raise was decided upon, in order to postpone the need for another raise. The rates are still quite reasonable compared with those of organizations providing similar services. Unfortunately, like last year, the old rates were published in the R.A.S.C. Observer's Handbook for 1988, but the new rates will appear in my articles in the January issue of sky and relescope. Also at the meeting, we decided to abandon the two-tier cost structure for credit card payments, which causes some confusion.

In the meantime, Hans-Joachim Bode reports that the European Section (IOTA/ES) has decided to lower their main membership rate from DM 50.-- to DM 40.-for annual dues, as noted in "From the Publisher." This brings their dues more in line with our parent IOTA dues for overseas members.

If anyone has, or knows where we can get, a database of coordinates of Canadian provincial boundaries, please let me know; see p. 141. Databases of boundaries of Australian states and Soviet republics also
would be useful, although not as urgently needed as the Canadian data.

A form, "1987 Survey of NBS Time and Frequency Service Users," and an associated letter, are enclosed for North American readers. Copies will be supplied to others upon request. Please complete and mail this form to the National Bureau of Standards, especially those in the U.S.A., who do not need to affix any postage. Don Oliver sent me these forms after responding to a request broadcast on WWV. We don't want WWV to go the way of VNG. The Time and Frequency Division has worked with us in the past, broadcasting last-minute asteroid occultation updates on a couple of occasions.

On December 19th, my company, Computer Sciences Corp., moved my office to a new building called Greentec II, in Lanham-Seabrook, Maryland, about 15 miles east of Silver Spring. The full address is Computer Sciences Corp.; Greentec II; 10110 Aerospace Road; Lanham-Seabrook, MD 20706. My new office telephone number is 301,794-1392 (direct); the switchboard number is 301,794-4460. In a few months, we plan to buy a house near Greentec II and close our Silver Spring post office box; new addresses and telephones will be announced in O.N. as soon as they are available.

Unfortunately, this issue has been delayed by various projects that took more time than expected, so that it will be received by most North Americans after the first one or two asteroid occultations in the North American Asteroidal Occultation Supplement. Our successful trip to China for the September 23 rd eclipse; work on as teroidal occultations; my recent office move; and various software problems described in other articles in this issue, contributed to the delays. Especially unfortunate has been my inability to produce the grazing occultation supplements for distribution with this issue; see page
141. We plan to distribute the next issue, Number 7, either late in January or early in February, along with the grazing occultation supplements. That issue will contain Jim Stamm's report on asteroidal occultations and appulses during the first half of 1987, and an article about the February 24th Pleiades passage that is very favorable for North America.

MINUTES OF 1987 IOTA MEETING
Charles H. Herold, Jr. Executive Secretary, IOTA

Date: 1987 October 10
Time: 9:05 am, CDT
Place: Lunar and Planetary Institute; Houston, TX
The regular yearly IOTA meeting was held on Saturday, 1987 Oct 12, in the conference room of the LPI Building. There were fifteen members present, including three of IOTA's directors: Dr. David Dunham, President; Paul Maley, Executive Vice President; and Charles Herold, Executive Secretary. The Secretary-Treasurer, Homer DaBoll, was not present.

At 9:05 am, Dr. Dunham opened the meeting and introduced everyone in attendance. Members from the Johnson Space Center Astronomy Society, the Houston Astronomical Society, the Brazos Bend Astronomy Society, and the Saguaro Astronomy Club of Phoenix,
$A Z$, were present. The meeting was held in two parts, business and scientific. First to be conducted was the business session.

Business Session.

1) Dr. Dunham presented the Treasurer's report: Bank balance as of 1986 Sept. $22 \$ 1,481.50$ Receipts 5,002.82 Expenditures 5,557.22
Bank balance as of 1987 Sept. 22
$\$ 927.10$
2) Dr. Dunham mentioned the problem of rising cost of paper, postage, and sundry items, with the idea of possibly raising rates in the future. C. Herold made a motion to increase domestic subscription and dues rates to $\$ 10.00$ and $\$ 15.00$, respectively, now, with appropriate foreign rates to be set by the Sec-retary-Treasurer, to avoid financial problems in the near future. Joan Dunham seconded the motion. During the discussion, Gene Lucas noted that there is a lot of good data, needed by the member, for an extremely low price, and consequently, he thought the motion was reasonable. A vote was taken, and all 15 of the members present voted yes, to increase rates, starting with the next [Ed: this] issue of O.N.

Scientific Session.

1) A preview of asteroid and comet occultations for 1988 was given by Dr. Dunham. Many were discussed. See occultation Newsletter and Sky and Telescope for more details.
2) A preview of grazing occultations for 1988 was next. See O.N. for more information.
3) Past expeditions, with some results.
A) Video of Antares graze in Arizona on 1987 Jan 25 was presented by P. Manly, C. Herold, and G. Lucas.
B) Video of Spica graze in New Mexico on 1987 Feb 20 was presented by D. Dunham, C. Herold, P. Maley, and G. Nealis.
C) Video of Alcyone graze in Corpus Christi, TX, on 1987 Mar 20 was presented by C. Herold, P. Maley, and G. Nealis.
D) Many videorecordings of past occultations and eclipses were also shown. Reductions of these events will. appear in future issues of O.N.
E) Video of the total-annular eclipse in Gabon on 1987 Mar 26 was presented by P. Maley and G. Nealis. They had some problems with $30-\mathrm{knot}$ winds and clouds. But they did get some good data which supported the new simulation program at the U.S.N.O.
F) Videos of the annular solar eclipse in China on 1987 Sep 23 were presented by D. Dunham, J. Dunham, P. Maley, C. Herold, and G. Nealis; they also showed videotapes by members not present, Denise and Derald Nye, and Robert and Sallie Coke. Photographs and other recorded data were shown by the 10TA members, and by G. Dormerman. D. Dunham, J. Dunham, and G. Nealis drove to Pei-Cheng Chen, a small town about 15 km south of Chang Zhi , to record data at the southern limb. All others were positioned along a line at Taiyuan, the northern limb.
4) Plans for future eclipses.
A) Plans for the eclipse in Mar 1988 are still not finalized, due to the turmoil in the Philippines. It may be necessary to go to Indonesia, perhaps eastern Borneo.
B) Plans for the eclipse trip in Jul 1990 to Russia may not be feasible because fixing our position to the desired accuracy may not be possible. Therefore, Finland may be the only choice, but there is a problem there, in that the Sun will be at only $3: 5$ altitude at eclipse time.
5) Other topics.
A) P. Maley described efforts by A. Saulietis and himself, using a 24 -inch reflector at the Santa Fe Observatory, to record the ISEE-2 spacecraft. This satellite entered the atmosphere over Brazil on 1987 Sep 26. The two were successful in recording the satellite before burn-up, using the same methods as for recording satellite occultations. They also recorded the companion satellite ISEE-1 at a slant range of $20,000 \mathrm{~km}$. The magnitude of the satellite was approximately +12 , with a rotation rate 20 rpm .
B) P. Maley and C. Herold talked about the 100th anniversary of the Societe Astronomique de France, which was celebrated in June 1987. IOTA was an invited co-sponsor of the week-long event. P. Maley chaired one of the technical sessions, and presented two papers on IOTA-related topics.
C) Don Stockbauer reminded everyone that it is important to send graze reports to him and to ILOC, and that all total occultation reports should be sent to ILOC.
D) The deadline for submission of projects for HST (Hubble Space Telescope) has been extended to the date of the next shuttle launch.
E) It was suggested that someone should investigate the possibility of IOTA members and other groups, to communicate on SPAN or BIT-NET network systems. This could reduce the cost of transmitting large amounts of data.

Formal Talks.

1) P. Manly, of IOTA and Litton Industries, gave an in-depth talk on the use of image intensification for astronomical work. According to him, an eight-inch telescope with an intensifier can give the same results as a forty-inch without one! (Imagine recording 13th-mag. stars in real-time video with an eight-inch) It may be possible to get a copy of his talk by writing him or me.
2) G. Nealis talked about reducing videotapes of grazes and other astronomical events. Careful consideration needs to be given when calculating disappearances and reappearances. Video equipment records at different rates, and it is important to record at the SP rate of the recorder. Disappearances and reappearances always occur in three steps with the Ultricon; never full on or off. It seems to be intrinsic in the hardware.
3) G. Lucas, IOTA and Saguaro Astronomy Club, talked about limiting the amount of light reflected into the eyepiece. A way to place a cardboard baffle to reduce the glare in a Schmidt-Cass was discussed, and more information will be published in astronomy magazine and in a future issue of O.N.

Post-Adjournment Proceedings.
Our reserved time at the LPI ran out, and we adjourned to a restaurant to continue our discussions. We had some programs to evaluate and exchange, and some unfinished business, so we continued the meeting at my home, where we wore each other out, and
finally broke up at 11:45 pm CDT. Next year, we may need two days to conduct business.

## ECLIPSE NEWS

Paul D. Maley
This is a brief status summary on solar eclipse efforts by IOTA. More details will follow in the next issue of O.N.

1987 September 23 Annular Solar Eclipse. IOTA teams led by me entered China on September 19 and returned on October 3, completing a very productive eclipse expedition. Three stations at the northern limit of this annular eclipse had clear skies at Taiyuan (southwest of Beijing) while David Dunham and Gary Neal is (Houston, TX) observed at Pei-Cheng Chen at the south edge and had the same good fortune. Video records were obtained on VHS tape by Chuck Herold (Houston, TX), Derald and Denise Nye (Tucson, AZ), and me, and by Robert and Sallie Coke (Macon, GA) who used 8 mm and afocal projection. Chinese astronomers at Shanghai Observatory mounted an independent effort and sent cinematography stations to both limits north and west of coastal Shanghai. IOTA teams recorded Baily's beads at every site. Sky and Telescope is expected to publish our account in February 1988.

1988 March 18 Total Solar Eclipse. Plans for a U.S.-based expedition remained stalled due to several factors. Political conditions continue to deteriorate in the Philippines. At Bangka Island, Indonesia hotel space remains a problem, as are flights, but we continue to work the situation. Persons interested in a tax-deductible effort at the northern limit should contact me at 713,488-6871.

Hans Bode (IOTA/ES) is preparing to go to the southern limit in Kalimantan, while Australians David Herald and Brian Soulsby plan to observe at the southern edge also, on Belitung Island,

## 1979 TOTAL OCCULTATION TALLY

## Joseph E. Carroll

The following two tables - one by country and one by individual - present the ordered counting of total occultations reported for the year 1979. In the individual list, B. F. Sincheskul of the USSR is the leader, followed by N. P. Wieth-Knudsen of Denmark and R. Hays of the USA. Evans, et al, and Japan Photoelectric, represent multiple observers.

The values were again computed (as since 1975) via the formula: Value $=$ Total $+\mathrm{C} *$ Reappearances, where $C$ is the ratio of total disappearances to total reappearances minus one. In 1979, 394 plus observers (when multiple observers are counted) from 27 countries reported 7478 observations, of which 2015 were reappearances. That makes $C=1.7111662$, or reappearances are weighted over disappearances by the factor 2.7111662 .

In the table of individual observers, station and observer numbers occur for names in those cases where observations were listed on the available HMNAO tapes but no names were available. In addition, some Japanese names are abbreviated, since that's how they were presented on the available
listing, and I could make only a few complete correlations.
B. F. Sincheskul, the leading observer for 1979, was also eighth in 1975, and might have placed in the top 10 in 1978, were it not for the fact that only the total USSR occultation observations were available. Wieth-Knudsen and Hays continue their consistent observing since 1975. They have been in the top four each of those years. It is also interesting to note that, for the first time since these tallies have been published (1975), there are an equal number of top 10 observers south of the equator as north of it.

The listing by country shows that 27 countries had active observers, with the USA leading in the value column. The USSR is next, and also has the largest number of observers. New Zealand is then third in the value column, but has the second largest number of occultations observed. On a per-observer basis, however, Denmark and Argentina are certainly the most productive of all reporting countries, and this is due primarily to their two dominant observers.

From a personal standpoint, I wish to express my apologies for the long lapse between publication of the 1978 and 1979 tallies: 5 years!! This was due to a number of events, principal among them a double change of computers (rapid technology advances). The current (and future?) tallies are being done on my Macintosh Plus whereas the 1977 and 1978 tallies were accomplished on a large main-frame. I hope to catch up rapidly for the years 1980 through about 1985. Then we can proceed once a year, with about a 2 -year lag. Please keep the coupons coming; they will probably constitute the only data source for

## Country Listing of 1979 Occultation Tally

| Rank | Value | Total | R's | Country | Obsrv's | Value/Obs |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | 2888.2 | 1983 | 529 | USA | 55 | 52.5 |
| 2 | 1503.7 | 862 | 375 | USSR | 76 | 19.8 |
| 3 | 1464.0 | 1156 | 180 | New Zealand | 42 | 34.9 |
| 4 | 1439.2 | 931 | 297 | Japan | 27 | 53.3 |
| 5 | 586.8 | 491 | 56 | Italy | 20 | 29.3 |
| 6 | 557.7 | 260 | 174 | Denmark | 3 | 185.9 |
| 7 | 486.4 | 370 | 68 | Australia | 13 | 37.4 |
| 8 | 408.2 | 285 | 72 | Czechoslovakia | 56 | 7.3 |
| 9 | 258.9 | 223 | 21 | England | 19 | 13.6 |
| 10 | 229.9 | 158 | 42 | Brazil | 10 | 23.0 |
| 11 | 178.8 | 83 | 56 | Argentina | 1 | 178.8 |
| 12 | 167.7 | 89 | 46 | Poland | 12 | 14.0 |
| 13 | 165.5 | 121 | 26 | Philippines | 3 | 55.2 |
| 14 | 125.9 | 90 | 21 | Finland | 11 | 11.4 |
| 15 | 104.7 | 91 | 8 | South Africa | 4 | 26.2 |
| 16 | 103.7 | 90 | 8 | Netherlands | 9 | 11.5 |
| 17 | 58.8 | 28 | 18 | Yugoslavia | 5 | 11.8 |
| 18 | 52.8 | 34 | 11 | Greece | 1 | 52.8 |
| 20 | 36.4 | 33 | 2 | German Fed. Rep. | 2 | 18.2 |
| 19 | 32.4 | 29 | 2 | German Dem. Rep. | 8 | 4.1 |
| 21 | 24.4 | 21 | 2 | Portugal | 5 | 4.9 |
| 22 | 18.0 | 18 | 0 | Zimbabwe | 1 | 18.0 |
| 23 | 11.7 | 10 | 1 | Canada | 3 | 3.9 |
| 24 | 7.0 | 7 | 0 | Belgium | 1 | 7.0 |
| 25 | 7.0 | 7 | 0 | Malta | 5 | 1.4 |
| 26 | 5.0 | 5 | 0 | Dominican Republic 1 | 5.0 |  |
| 27 | 3.0 | 3 | 0 | Scotland | 1 | 3.0 |
| Totals: |  | 7478 | 2015 |  |  | 394 |

the future tallies. Tapes are too hard to deal with, need to be hand-correlated with the coupons, and are most often incomplete.






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1979 World-Wide Occultation Statistics:

| Number of Observers: | 394 |
| :--- | ---: |
| Total Observed Occultations: | $\mathbf{7 , 4 7 8}$ |
| Total Observed Reappearances: | 2,015 |

## ANOTHER RECEIVER FOR TIME SIGNALS

Homer F. DaBoll
Anyone seeking a new, replacement, or backup time signal source might want to investigate the Emerson model PSW4010 10-band AM FM-stereo SW band-spread radio receiver. About $3 \frac{1}{2} \times 7 \times 1 \frac{1}{4}$ inches when the antenna is retracted, it weighs less than 15 ounces with the 3 AA batteries in place. I have received time signals on $2.5,3.33,5,7.335$, and 10 MHz with it. I have not been able to raise WWV on 15 MHz , to date, although that seems to be such a short distance from the calibrated portion of dial segment 6, that I will keep trying occasionally. 14.67 and 20 MHz are well beyond the ends of any of the segments.

If you can't find it elsewhere for less than $\$ 49.90$ $+\$ 3$ P\&H (+ tax for CA residents), take your VISA or MasterCard in hand and phone DAK at 800,325-0800.

## gRAZING OCCULTATION PREDICTIONS

David w. Dunham
Northern-Limit North Shifts. As noted in the "Grazing Occultations" article, most northern-limit wan-ing-phase grazing occultations have been systematically shifting north during the past several months. It is probably due to a discontinuity in Watts' lunar profile data near the lunar north pole, since it was hard for Watts to link the lunar Eastern and Western hemispheres, since the two are rarely both sunlit (and both photographable). So for 1988, you should apply a 0.3 northward correction (that is, the shadow should be shifted north on the ground, measured perpendicularly to the limit) to all north-ern-limit waning-phase grazes that occur with central graze at Watts angles between $320^{\circ}$ and $358^{\circ}$. Divide 0.3 by the vertical profile scale (VPS) given in the central bottom part of the profile to determine the number of miles or kilometers of shift on
the ground. Do not apply any other empirical corrections to the 80 H version graze predictions, which along with the 86 December and 87 November versions of the ACLPPP, were IOTA's prediction basis throughout 1987 and will remain so also for 1988. This correction will be incorporated into ACLPPP in the future, perhaps in time for the predictions for the second half of 1988 . You will know about this from the version date of ACLPPP; if it is 1988, then the correction probably has been incorporated. The 87 November version of ACLPPP only corrected a minor bug in the printing of the worst terminator, found by Donald 01 iver, and includes exactly the same empirical corrections as are in the 1986 December version, used for all 1987 predictions. I will announce any change in o.N.

Zodiacal zone Catalog. Under the direction of Robert Harrington, the USNO took astrographic plates covering the zodiacal zones to produce a catalog in support of the Galileo mission, to be used in reducing observations made with the spacecraft cameras for navigation. The plan was to obtain improved positions and proper motions of all SAO stars within $16^{\circ}$ of the ecliptic. Both the new plates (exposed at Washington during the early 1980s) and the original plates taken for the Yale catalogs in the 1930s were measured with USNO's automatic STARSCAN measuring engine. The measurements for the Northern Hemisphere were reduced with AGK3R data, while those for the south were reduced with the preliminary SRS (Southern Reference Star) data, of which the Perth 70 catalog is a part. The new catalog, called the zodiacal zone (ZZ) catalog, was completed a few months ago. It is not ready for release, since Harrington and his co-workers plan to re-reduce all of the southern data as soon as the SRS is completed, which should happen during the middle or latter part of 1988. In the meantime, I can access the catalog, which resides in a USNO computer disk file, and have used it to check some graze predictions and observations. For example, H. Povenmire led a large expedition for the 1987 October 29 th graze of 60 Sagittarii ( $=$ ZC 2914) in Florida. He had obtained Yale catalog shifts for this graze, as well as for a graze of a 7 th-magnitude star that occurred earlier that evening. The Yale shift for the first event was about $1!0$ north, while that for 60 Sgr was $1: 0$ south. Povenmire reported that the first shift occurred close to the prediction, but the shift for 60 Sgr did not occur, the actual shadow being very close to the nominal prediction (near zero shift). Unfortunately, he positioned most of his observers south of the southern limit to catch the Yale-shifted profile, but instead nearly all of them had no occultation. Data from the zodiacal zone catalog predicted a shift of about $0 " .2$ south, much closer to the actual case. Analysis of other recent southernlimit grazes (these are not affected by the limb data for northern-limit grazes discussed above) have confirmed the accuracy of the ZZ to around the 0."2 to 0.3 level. The measurements seem to smooth out individual star position errors in even the AGK3R and Perth 70 catalogs. No improvement is possible only for the FK4 stars. For future grazes of nonFK4 stars that will be attempted by three or more observers, Wayne Warren or I will compute the expected $Z Z$ shift, if you inform me of your request a month or more in advance, and specify the date, star number (ZC or X number preferred), limit, and position angle of graze. Send requests to me at P.0. Box 7488; Silver Spring, MD 20907; U.S.A., or give
them by telephone to 301,585-0989 or 301,495-9062 (IOTA occultation line). Shortly after April, I will update the $X Z$ catalog with the $Z Z$ data so that the ACLPPP profiles can be produced using these improved stellar data. I will then answer several requests for the $X Z$, and perhaps it can be used for the ACLPPP runs for the second half of 1988.

Graze Supplements Late. Data for the 1987 grazing occultation supplements were generated with the MEEUSMAP program and plotted with the GRAZEMAP, as explained in the supplements and in previous issues. I started working on the data for 1988 in August, and even produced a magnetic tape with the data for the supplement. I also changed the program so that it produces data needed by ACLPPP to generate predicted profiles. I used the system to produce regional maps of brighter grazes in the U.S.A. (for my January Sky and relescope article) and for the western U.S.S.R., which I sent to Prof. Osipov, in Kiev. But that was as far as I got before leaving for China for the September 23rd eclipse, and I was not able to pick up the work again until late November. At that time, I changed MEEUSMAP to avoid problems with repeated sequence numbers and times messed up for graze paths containing oh U.T., problems which necessitated manual editing of the large graze path data sets. I also added a code to optionally reject faint star grazes at highly gibbous phases, following the code of another program that was used to select events for the 1587 supplement. Although the program's changes seem to have accomplished their objectives, they somehow introduced a bug that causes numerous spurious bad points in the data for some events. I have not had time to correct this problem before this issue had to go to press. Also, I have either misplaced or written over the data that I had generated in August, which I did not want to use in any case due to the editing that would be required. I will fix the MEEUSMAP to produce 1988 graze supplements to be distributed with the next issue.

IOTA members in the "A" region (northeastern U.S.A., Ontario, and southern Quebec) will also receive their graze predictions for the first half of 1988 late, shortly after the beginning of the year. I apologize for the delay; the members should receive their data before the first A-region graze, which occurs on January 12th.

Canadian Boundary Data Needed. The graze maps for 1988 published in the R.A.S.C. Observer's Handbook contain no country, state, or province boundaries, making them hard to use for observers not living near the coasts or near one of the plotted standard stations. Roy Bishop made a suggestion for measuring coordinates of the lines, but I would suggest using the latitude and longitude scales to plot your position on one of the maps. Then, use a piece of paper to mark the distance of your station north of the map's south edge and west of its east edge (or use the north or west edges as reference), and transfer your position to each of the maps.

But it would be much better to have maps showing the boundaries, and I can produce them with MEEUSMAP and GRAZEMAP. However, the world database that I use includes the state boundaries but not the boundaries of the Canadian provinces, which Roy Bishop very much wants to have included for their national handbook. If anyone could supply me with a dataset of Canadian provincial boundary latitudes and longi-
tudes, I would greatly appreciate it. Perhaps one of our Canadian readers could make inquiries to those using computer graphics, who might have such data.

Double Star Data. Don Stockbauer worked with me to re-format IOTA's double star information, and wrote a program to automatically insert these data into the basic data that are used by our graze program to generate limit predictions. Although it took some effort to get this system operational, and delayed the start of the 1988 graze prediction process, it eliminates the major part of the work that had to be done manually in the past to generate predictions. The long-term savings in labor will be enormous. Now that the double star data are in a unified database, it will be easier to update and maintain. In the future, it might be used with USNO's EVANS total occultation program to include step durations, and ILOC is interested in the data for their reductions and analyses.

Improved Graze Program Documentation Produced. Donald Oliver and Pat Trueblood typed all information, that was not obviously out of date, from all of the old computer bulletins, to produce a comprehensive ASCII PC file documenting use of IOTA's GRAZE and ACLPPP programs. I added final touches to this work in August. The program documentation is now much more manageable and comprehensible than the previous series of papers that contained much old misinformation. Oliver has recently written additional documentation specifically for those using the PC versions of the programs.

## GRAZING OCCULTATIONS

## Don Stockbauer and David W. Dunham

Reports of successful grazing occultations should be sent to Don Stockbauer at 2846 Mayflower Landing; Webster, TX 77598; U.S.A. Also sending a copy to ILOC is greatly appreciated; their address is: International Lunar Occultation Centre; Geodesy and Geophysics Division; Hydrographic Department; Tsukiji-5, Chuo-ku; Tokyo, 104 Japan.

At the moment, Stockbauer does not have access to a PC, and does not have any use, himself, for graze data in soft form. We encourage you to report grazes on floppies to ILOC, if you have the Capability, but if you do so, please just send Don a listing of your data file.

The graze of El Nath (= Beta Tauri = ZC 810), visible across the southeastern U.S. on the morning of 1987 October 12, now holds the record as the most successfully observed; 343 timings were obtained from four expeditions. The previous record holder was Merope on 1973 February 10, with 310 timings (total of three separate expeditions). The shift observed during the Alcyone graze on 1987 September 13 was a key factor in placing El Nath participants in the most advantageous positions. Grazes of stars with well-determined positions are shifting 0"35 north of their 80 H predictions for Watts angles near $350^{\circ}$ and large negative latitude librations. This was confirmed also by the graze of the FK4 star Upsilon Geminorum observed in Florida in September, and by grazes of ZC stars observed in Maryland and Florida in July and August. David Dunham will determine the general empirical correction. El Nath's
suspected duplicity was confirmed by the large number of stepwise phenomena recorded. The system probably consists of a close pair with $\Delta m$ about 1.0 , plus one or more fainter stars of 7th to 9 th magnitude. Also see Ron Dawes' article on p. 143 about his graze. Not listed in the table are the 14 timings, from two stations, obtained by H . Povenmire's expedition near Garland, AL, reported on obsolete forms.

Dietmar Bultner has brought our attention to several subjects which deserve comment:

1. The uncertainty code of the limb profile points (*, 1, 2, etc.) refers to their absolute probable error, not error relative to other points in the profile. This is why isolated lower-accuracy points will often be discontinuous with those of higher accuracy. A string of identically coded lower-accuracy points may represent the true shape of the profile (although possibly shifted), assuming that they were measured as a group.
2. Grazes are not routinely reduced by IOTA or ILOC as unified group observations. However, ILOC does treat each graze timing as a total occultation, and sends residuals to the person submitting the report. This will de-
tect only gross error, such as an incorrect star number, etc. David occasionally reduces certain past grazes, usually to improve the prediction of an upcoming event. The current method is to hand-plot tabular data produced by the OCC program, and visually inspect the results. Robert Sandy's plots, which appear in o.N., are examples of reduction profiles. He uses the same basic processes as those in Don's graze shift paper, al though straightening out the mean limb makes the combination of separate expedition results much easier. Robert Bolster's reduction profile program for the Apple II is a step toward automating the process (see O.N. 4 (5), p. 109).
3. The Watts data are currently being updated only when serious errors are found. The ideal situation would be to have all certain observations update the Watts limb corrections, but without their

automated analysis, this is not possible.
4. The software version of the predicted profile should be reported along with a graze shadow shift. However, this has not been done before, and there have been thousands of past expeditions. At this point, we have to assume the USNO version in effect at the time was used, although this is certainly not always the case.
5. Clarifications to Don's graze shift calculation paper:
a. The elevation correction, as calculated by the formulae should always be applied perpendicularly to the sea-level limit, not in any fixed compass direction.
b. The calculations given for time of central graze are valid only for small elevations. The intersection points of the map edges with the sea-lev-
el-limit line should be shifted in the direction of the Moon's azimuth to the corrected limit before using them to interpolate for the time of central graze. This is important for an automated calculation of the shift of a high-altitude (above sea level) graze. However, for a manual solution, we find that it is better to adjust the timings, as a group, right or left, to obtain the best fit, in which case, a precise central graze time is not as important. There are "horizontal" errors in the Watts data which are best compensated for by ignoring, to some extent, the profile's dictate of the time at which a lunar feature should be seen. The paper describing how to calculate a graze shadow shift (i.e., your graze's overall residual) is available from Don upon request.

The 1988 IOTA meeting will probably be held in conjunction with one of two very favorable grazes potentially visible near Houston next November. Depending on the appearance of the predicted profiles, preliminary plans are to observe either 3.4 -mag. Tau Sagittarii on Sunday evening, Nov. 13, or 1.3-mag. Regulus on Wednes day morning, Nov. 30. Paul Maley will provide overall coordination; the meetings should attract more attendees if a good observing opportunity is provided.

Corrections: In the graze table of O.N. 4 (5), 103, ZC 184 on 1986 July 27 had an observed shift of 0.2 . north. For the same table, David states that for ZC 2298 on 1987 March 20, Toshio Hirose was the expedition leader, rather than David, himself. This graze and the one for ZC 2366 on 1987 January 25 should also be coded "V," for videotape.

Harold Povenmire had much difficulty trying to observe a graze of X10832 $=$ SAO 79256. The star's catalog magnitude is 7.5 , but Povenmire believes that it is more like 8.6.

Shifts are available for a few grazes, listed below, which can not be included in the main list either because they were reported on non-standard forms, or all of the information has not been determined. They are included here to help in planning for future grazes of these stars.


This is a profile of the El Nath graze as drawn by computer. Each tick along the left and right sides represents 100 feet. The vertical lines are at 10second intervals beginning at 9:08:30 U.T. The upper graph is expanded $50: 1$ vertically and covers a range, on the ground, of 3100 feet. Below it is a 1:1 representation of the lunar profile. The graph spans roughly 100 miles of lunar surface.

| 1987 | Date | Star | Limit | Shift | Organizer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| May | 01 | 076764 | $N$ | 0.7 S | D. Dunham |
| Aug | 18 | 0771 | $N$ | 0.3 N | H. Povenmire |
| Sep | 17 | 1149 | N | 0.4 N | H. Povenmire |
| Oct | 29 | 2914 | S | 0.0 | H. Povenmire |
| Nov | 01 | 3347 | S | 0.2 S | D. Dunham |
| Nov | 30 | 0035 | S | 0.2 S | G. Rattley |

Thanks for the reports received; Don is looking forward to reporting on many more in the future.


## REDUCING OCCULTATION DATA USING BASIC AND A HOME COMPUTER

## Ron Dawes

The traditional means by which occultation timing data are reduced is with a stopwatch, pencil, paper, and maybe a hand-held calculator. This, according to Paul Maley, is the tried-and-true method. I recently had the opportunity not only to witness my first grazing occultation, but to reduce the data of some 18 observers. I did it on a home computer, and the results, according to a few who have trudged through the traditional method, are worth noting.

The cassette tapes gathered from the graze of E1 Nath on 1987 October 12 were to be turned over to Paul immediately after the occultation and he would, at some time in the near future, analyze them and inform us of the results. He was already overcommitted, though, and asked us to do the data reduction ourselves. Robert Reeves, who headed our expedition, got this bad news shortly after the occultation ended, and called me the following morning with
a "brainstorm" (read that "plea"). Knowing I had a home computer and that I was interested in astronomical computing, he proposed a method by which we might reduce this data, and asked whether this was something I could do. I was as anxious as anyone to see what we had accomplished, so I jumped on it. The next day I had a BASIC program which solved the problem.

Having a built-in clock in my PC, things fell together in short order. The idea behind the program is simply to record the computer's clock whenever a key is pressed. From what I understand of the traditional method, this reduces significantly the drudgery of listening to the tapes. Using a stopwatch, a tape would, typically, be played at least twice for every event ( 12 events $=24$ tape plays. . times the number of tapes). I only needed to play each tape two or three times.

The process of reducing the data on a computer is fairly straightforward. The first task that the program performs is to synchronize the computer's clock with the recorded WWV time signal. The user is prompted to enter the WWV time and press [ENTER] at the time hack. This resets the computer's clock to WWV. From that point until the final time hack, the tape runs continuously. Whenever a "disappear" is announced, the user presses a "D"; a "reappear" is a " $K$ " (for ease and speed of entry - it is the same finger of the opposite hand on the keyboard). The program records the computer's clock for each D and K pressed. The letter which was pressed (D or $K$ ) is also recorded for display later. When all timings have been entered, an " $X$ " is pressed to terminate entry. Then a final WVV time signal is marked just as before. Since there may be a difference between recorded elapsed time and the true (computer's) elapsed time, an adjustment is made to the timings to compensate for slow or fast recorders. The program takes the ratio of the two elapsed times and applies it to each of the event timings. These corrected data are then stored permanently on disk in a file which identifies the observer, his location, and the instrument used. The next tape is then processed in a similar fashion.

Once all the data are entered and stored, the fun begins. In a separate routine, all these data are retrieved and mapped onto a grid. The $X$ axis represents time, and the $Y$ axis the observer's position. Each observer's timings are displayed on the screen in such a way as to show when the star was visible and when it was hidden by the lunar limb. A horizontal line indicates periods of visibility. Blank sections indicate the star was hidden. In a matter of seconds, the lunar profile is readily apparent, and the display is capable of resolving the timings to better than half a second.

I don't know the time savings realized using this procedure, but in only a few cases did I have to listen to a tape more than two or three times. I found it best to do a dry run first and get a "feel" for the observer's style. Then I ran the program. I started entering data on Friday evening and finished early Saturday afternoon. This included a full night's sleep and the delays encountered in just having to look at the results of each tape as it was entered. In less than 12 working hours 1 was looking at a finished lunar profile.

Paul Maley is one who has trod the weary path of the stopwatch and was duly impressed. His concern, naturally, was with the accuracy of the method, so he took several of the tapes to run a comparison. He reports that the computer method compares very favorably with the "tried-and-true" stopwatch method. Since this is a new area for me, I would be interested in hearing from anyone who has done similar reductions, for possible improvements to the program.

For computing astronomers, here are a few facts about the program. It is written in Microsoft QuickBASIC under MS-DOS 3.1 on an IBM PC/XT clone with an internal clock. Timing was done using the "elapse-timer" as opposed to the "clock timer." This timer provides elapsed time since midnight and is measured in hundredths of a second on my machine. It saves having to perform time-consuming conversions while the program is executing. The data are stored in this same format, but can be readily converted if so desired. The program is about 200 lines long, many of which are either comments or "whistles and bells." I tried using a more generic basic, but couldn't get the color and resolution I wanted. I think it is straightforward enough that it can be translated to whatever machine or version of basic you may have. Write for more information.

4438 Bikini Dr.; San Antonio, TX 78218

## Comments by referees:

The plot is a fine pictorial representation; if augmented by a scale to represent graze height in seconds, and a means of anchoring it to the predicted limit, it would be useful for determining the shift.

The drudgery of reading out a tape with a stopwatch seems exaggerated, in that it does not consider playing the entire tape just once, and then re-playing only those minutes which contain event signals. It may be that Dawes assumes that the stopwatch is actually stopped for each event; this certainly would not be the ideal way; the time should be read while the watch continues to run, so that there is no additional personal equation involved.

The article assumes ideal conditions, which apparently obtained for all observers during the El Nath graze. It is often necessary to deal with clouds and other interruptions. Dawes has not indicated a system for dealing with these, and his technique may be only borderline for handling flashes and blinks.

Although inaccuracies of a second or so do not keep a graze observation from being useful, one should try to be as accurate as possible. Dawes method assumes a uniform reaction time when hitting the key, plus a uniformly recorded and played-back tape. Merely applying a ratio to compensate for a tape playing back at a rate which differs from real time seems too simplistic (and optimistic). Since he has the minute hacks as data, he could see if they are linear; if not, he could use least squares fitting to establish the maximum error, or perhaps fit a higher-order polynomial. The bottom line is that the stopwatch method introduces no extra uncertainty due to reaction time while reducing the tape, and will spot a tape which is non-linear (say, from weak batteries). Dawes' method is an excellent one when all goes correctly.

Someone using this method must be careful to have the same reaction time to a called event as to the WWV or CHU minute hacks. Since the minute hacks can be anticipated, there may be a tendency for their reaction times to be shorter than to called events.

The stopwatch method allows one to judge the uniformity of the recording within a single minute. An unfortunate combination of fast and slow speeds could go undetected using Dawes' method.

Noticeable in the plot are some impossibly shaped mountains. Perhaps this is due to problems with the tape reductions, although there is a greater probability that erroneous observer reaction times are at fault. In the ideal case, all observers would be experienced, and would read out their own tapes, applying personal equations they deem to be appropriate to the individual events.

## DECEMBER 8TH BAMBERGA OCCULTATION OBSERVED

## David W. Dunham

The December 8th occultation of SAO 41263 by (324) Bamberga was successfully timed by eight visual observers in Texas, organized by Paul Maley; and by two portable photoelectric stations set up in New Mexico and Texas by Lowell Observatory astronomers; and by one portable photoelectric station of the University of Arizona, in New Mexico. Astrometries at Lick and Lowell observatories both indicated that the path would shift 0.45 south of my nominal prediction (a regional map was published in the last issue). Based on this information, I sent a detailed notice about the occultation to about 150 o.N. readers, astronomy clubs, colleges, and individual Astronomical League members between 0.1 S and 0.8 S . The error in the final prediction computed at Lowell Observatory from all the data, indicated a probable error of $\pm 0$ 0.08. Unfortunately, there were no very short chords observed near the limit, which must have been near 0".25 S (near Rocky Harper's site at La Porte, TX) and 0.48 S (near Brent Sorensen's site near Cedar City, UT). Both Harper and Sorensen reported misses. So the actual center must have been near $0.36 \mathrm{~S}, 0.09$ north of the final prediction. The maximum reported duration was 25 seconds. Both this and the observed path width show that Bamberga had a diameter of 210 to 220 km , less than the 256 km expected. Paul Maley reports that 45 Texan observers, mostly from Houston and San Antonio, and most of them local, bracketed the path from shift values of 0.19 S to 0.160 S . Unfortunately, a majority of them could not observe, due to unpredicted fog that developed in many areas; several others were outside the path and reported a miss; and a few had equipment problems.

Following my suggestion, Wayne Warren, National Space Science Data Center, Goddard Spaceflight Center, made arrangements to send a TELEX informing Shanghai Observatory, China, that they were in the updated path. A couple of days after the event, a TELEX was received from Prof. He Miafu, saying that the occultation was observed in Shanghai, and that details would be sent later.

Peter Manly videorecorded a sharp secondary extinction lasting about $1 \leq \frac{5}{5}$ at his home in Tempe, AZ, well south of the path. Unfortunately, others in the Phoenix area and elsewhere along his path were
not able to monitor the star for various reasons, so Manly's event was neither confirmed nor refuted. There also may be a brief secondary extinction in one of the photoelectric records.

Robert Millis, Lowell Observatory, plans to give a presentation about results of the Bamberga occultation at the Asteroids II meeting in Tucson in early March. Jim Starm will also publish details in a summary article covering the period.

## COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OCCULTATION OF 1 VELPECULAE BY PALLAS SOUGHT

## David W. Dunham

I have finally taken some time to resume analysis of the 1983 May 29th occultation of 1 Vulpeculae by (2) Pallas, with the aim of submitting a paper to the Astronomical Journal about this best-observed asteroidal occultation. In November, notices were distributed to photoelectric and video observers of the event, as well as to regional and local coordinators, giving detailed information and charts based on my 1983 August - October preliminary analysis. In the article we want to document the total effort for this historic event. We intend to publish all timed observations, but also we want to publish the names and approximate locations of those who observed a miss, and even the names of those who saw the occultation and made no timings, as well as those who set up to try to observe the event but were clouded out or were not able to get timings for other reasons. If you are in one of these categories and have not reported data to me, or know of others who are in this situation, please send pertinent information to me at P.O. Box 7488; Silver Spring, MD 20907. I thank those who have sent me information in response to my November notices. I am behind the schedule I gave in those notices, and will probably not be able to distribute first drafts of the paper until the end of January.

## LUNAR OCCULTATIONS OF M4

## David W. Dunham

The 6.4-magnitude globular cluster M4 is $14^{\prime}$ in diameter, about half that of the Moon. The crescentMoon occultations in the table will provide interesting views about 2 hours before Antares is hidden.

$$
\text { U.T. Date U.T. } \text { iSnl }^{\text {Sn }} \text { Area of Visibility }
$$

| February | 12 | $4^{\text {h }}$ | $37-$ northeastern Brazil |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| August | 21 | 12 | $59+$ Australia |
| September | 17 | 19 | $36+$ South Africa |
| October | 15 | 1 | $16+$ Chile, Argentina |

## LUNAR OCCULTATIONS OF PLANETS

The maps showing the regions of visibility of lunar occultations of planets are reprinted by permission, from the Japanese ephemeris for 1988, published by the Hydrographic Department of the Maritime Safety Agency of Japan. In region 1, only the reappearance is visible; in region 3, only the disappearance may be seen. Reappearance occurs at sunset along a dashed curve, while disappearance is at sunrise along a curve of alternating dots and dashes. We have added a legend to each map indicating the phase of the Moon at event time.

Those interested in observing partial occultations should request predictions at least three months in
advance (if possible) from Joseph Senne; P.O. Box 643; Rolla, MO 65401; U.S.A.; phone 314,363-6233.


ASTRONOMY AND PERSONAL COMPUTERS
Joan Bixby Dunham
USNO time Service BBS. The USNO has a bulletin board for time services at (202)653-1079, and a separate, computer-accessible, time service for digital clocks at (202)653-0352. Both of these services ex-
pect 7-bit ASCII with even parity and full duplex communications at 300 or 1200 baud. The bulletin board commands begin with an "@" with @TCO the command to produce a table for codes for the digital data access system. The information provided includes UT and polar motion data, codes, and explanations for various time transmission services (NBS, OMEGA, VLF, GPS, TRANSIT, LORAN, TV), standard times
for all countries, an explanation for Julian Date conversion, sidereal time, sunrise, sunset, and twilight computations, and time information for those who do not need high-accuracy time. The bulletin board also contains information on measuring transmission delays in the telephone communications. The Floppy Almanac can also be ordered through this bulletin board.

The bulletin board documentation warns users that time taken from that bulletin board is not suitable for precise uses, due to delays from the bulletin board system and, for long-distance callers, delays from the telephone system. The standard long-distance telephone connections to USNO may go either via satellite or land line. Satellite communications add a delay of 250 ms , making telephone time useless for precision timing. The USNO maintains voice announcements at (900)410-TIME, which go exclusively by land lines ( $50 \mathrm{q} / \mathrm{min}$. for the calls) to avoid the satellite communications delays.

There is a method to measure and remove these telephone communication path delays, which can be used with the service at (202)653-0516 to get more precise timing information. The bulletin board contains an explanation of the service and an example program in BASIC. The technique involves use of computer hardware or a modem that supports the CCITT V. 54 Remote Digital Loopback (RDLB), where RDLB allows the calling computer to measure the telephone time delay and apply it as a correction to the time mark. The service can also be accessed with a standard modem, but the time delays cannot be measured then.

The service at (202)653-0351 expects 7-bit ASCII, even parity, at 1200 baud. The time is broadcast in a continuous stream with the format

## MJD DOY HHMMSS-UTC <cr><lf>*<cr><lf>

The ${ }^{*}$ is the time mark for the preceding information and is delayed from UTC by $1.7 \mathrm{~ms} \pm .4 \mathrm{~ms}$. This timing generator is independent of computers and is driven directly from master-clock reference signals. The <cr> is the ASCII carriage return, and <lf> stands for line feed. MJD is the mean Julian Date, DOY is the day of year. On UTC December 20, it appears as

$$
\begin{array}{llll}
47148 & 353 & 050532 \text { UTC } \\
\underset{\star}{47148} & 353 & 050533 & \text { UTC }
\end{array}
$$

and so on.
The USNO bulletin board also mentions a public domain timing program for PCs by a Bruce D. Anderson: Bruce D. Anderson; BRAND Consultants; P.O. Box 2425; Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Floppy Almanac 88 and 89. The floppy almanac for 1988 and for 1989 is now ready for distribution. This program gives information from much of the astronomical almanac to full precision. The price is $\$ 20$ for $5 \frac{1}{4}$ or $3 \frac{1}{2}$ MS-DOS diskette plus users guide, and $\$ 4$ for additional copies of the users guide.
The software is in the public domain, which means it is legal to share with friends. Copies obtained from the USNO come with the users guide, which explains how to create special catalogs for use with the FA, and details about how the computations are
performed. (The Floppy Almanac is also available for the DEC MicroVAX II, on $5 \frac{1}{4}$-inch 400 k RX50 disk ( $\$ 20$ ) and for IBM mainframes $370,43 x x, 30 x x$, on $9-$ track 1600 bpi computer tape, VM/CMS format (\$25).)

This is a new version of the Floppy Almanac. Changes include a new user interface and combining the two MS-DOS versions (plain and coprocessor) into one. If a mathematic coprocessor is detected, it will be used, but the program will run on machines that do not have one. An external file that contains the default coordinates has been added, allowing users to set specific default coordinates.

To purchase, send a check payable to "U. S. Naval Observatory" to: Nautical Almanac Office; Code FA; U. S. Naval Observatory; Washington, DC 20390-5100.

Generating Star Field Plots. Generating plots of star fields, for use as finder charts and for comparing with observations and photographs, requires knowledge of both astronomy and computer graphics hardware. First, the right ascensions and declinations of the stars to be plotted have to be converted from the mean positions of the star catalogs to the apparent positions at the time of observation. Accurate conversion to apparent place includes applying the corrections from precession, nutation, annual and diurnal aberration, proper motion, refraction, orbital motion (for double stars), parallax, and polar motion, although for finder charts the precession corrections alone are sufficient. These are discussed in many textbooks on as tronomy and the Astronomical Almanac. Meeus' Astronomical Formulae for Calculators gives formulae and examples. Trueblood and Genet's Microcomputer Control of Telescopes has a nice discussion as well as example programs.
The next step is to convert the apparent place positions to the plot coordinates. Right ascension and declination are coordinates on a sphere, like longitude and latitude, and they need to be projected to a flat surface to be plotted. Map makers' projections can be used, especially if large areas of sky are to be plotted. For smaller areas, standard coordinates or plate coordinates can be computed by considering the area to be plotted as projected onto a plane tangent to the celestial sphere at the center of the plot. Formulae for computing standard coordinates are given in textbooks on positional astronomy, such as Smart's Spherical Astronomy or McNally's Positional Astronomy. The standard coordinates most closely approximate what is seen through a telescope. With information on focal length, fratio, and corrections for lens errors and field curvature, the plots can match photographs made of star fields.
The final computations are those needed to convert the plot coordinates to commands or units the specific graphics device uses. Since virtually every plotter, dot matrix printer, and graphics display device differs from every other, software must be developed for each device used. There are general purpose plotting software packages available for some combinations of computers, printers and/or screens, and many languages, such as BASIC or $C$, are sold with plotting capabilities. Any program that allows plotting of points on an $X-Y$ graph can be used, although not all allow labels on the stars or an indication of magnitudes. Examples of plots or
documentation specific to plotting may not be easy to find. This final step is the easiest to discuss, but potentially the most difficult to implement. It is important to remember when deciding among various approaches that, if the choice is between plotting on a display screen and plotting to a hard-copy output device, the paper copy of the plots is a lot more useful as a finder chart than a display screen of the field.

Plots on a PC. The detailed finder charts that David prepares for asteroid occultations are done with software written in FORTRAN for a mainframe computer using a Calcomp or a Zeta pen plotter. We have recently converted some of the finder chart software to run on a PC, using a Sweet Pea 6 -pen plotter or a dot matrix printer. We also have been writing software on the PC to produce reduction data plots of asteroid occultation observations, with the intent of later running them on a mainframe computer. I have written some FORTRAN subroutines to allow the Sweet Pea (using the Hewlett Packard HGL commands) to emulate a Zeta plotter. Also, a co-worker asked us to test a package he has written that allows an Epson dot matrix printer to emulate a Calcomp plotter for FORTRAN software.

One of the surprises we had in doing this work was how well the dot matrix printer does in comparison with the pen plotter, even in comparison with the Zeta and Calcomp plotters on Mainframes. In our case, the pen plotter was roughly four times the cost of the printer, yet the only advantage it offers is the use of color pens - not much of an advantage in our judgment, since color reproduction is very expensive. I doubt that I could ever recommend the purchase of a pen plotter, and we regret having purchased one ourselves.

While the Calcomp and Zeta plotters, and their plot commands, are not particularly difficult to use, they also are far from user friendly. If you are writing software that is going to be used only on a PC, I would recommend that you not follow our approach. There are many plotting packages available for PCs, as well as languages written for PCs that include graphics commands. However, I am willing to distribute the subroutines we have to those who want to try to convert mainframe FORTRAN plotting software to a PC, or need to write software on a PC that will later run on a mainframe.

The plotrite package that allows a dot matrix printer to emulate a Calcomp is approximately $\$ 50-\$ 55$, and is available from: Ed Hedman; C\&B Software; Box 1019; Bowie, MD 20715.

Software Envelopes. Those sold for mailing floppy disks are highly overpriced, © $\$ 1$ or more apiece. I found it quite annoying to send a $35 \$$ floppy in a $\$ 1$ mailer. I recently found an office supply dealer selling standard $6 \times 9$ clasp envelopes $\rho 14 \notin$ each, and am going to use those as floppy mailers for now. To obtain the software, you may either send me diskettes and stamped, self-addressed mailers, or $\$ 1.00$ for each floppy ( $\$ 1.50$ for two), which will cover the costs of the diskette, envelope, and US postage. These are MS-DOS $5 \frac{1}{4}$ DSDD diskettes.

1. Generate total occultation predictions, written in GWBASIC (2 diskettes) for 1988
2. FORTRAN subroutines to use a Sweet Pea or Hewlett Packard pen plotter with Calcomp plotter calls
3. Six diskettes of public domain or shareware astronomy software
P.O. Box 7488; Silver Spring, MD 20907

ASTROMETRIC UPDATES FOR ASTEROIDAL OCCULTATIONS

## David W. Dunham

$1985 \mathrm{Feb} 27, B D+10^{\circ} 2203$ and (53) Kalypso: A. K. Osipor states in his recently received report of 1985 Soviet occultation observations, that V. Shor of the Institute of Theoretical Astronomy, in Leningrad, updated the predictions for a number of asteroidal occultations during the year, and observations were attempted at several observatories. As a result of this activity, the occultation of $\mathrm{BD}+10^{\circ} 2203$ by Kalypso was observed at Odessa. The path should also have crossed southern Scandinavia, but no observations have been reported from there, probably because it was cloudy.

1987 Nov 25, Anonymous Star and (2060) Chiron: A 1986 observation indicated that the path for this event might shift north onto the Earth's surface, but plates taken by A. Klemola at Lick Observatory on November 23rd showed a 21 m (early) correction to the time and $0!3$ south shift, putting the path off the Earth's surface below Antarctica.

1987 Dec 16, SAO 61705 and (250) Bettina: Plates taken December 14 th by W. Penhallow at Quonochontaug, Rhode Island, showed that the path shifted about 1!1 west, farther off the Earth's surface.

1987 Dec 19, SAO 59964 and (481) Emita: Penhallow also obtained four exposures of this pair on December 14th. The corrections to Herget's ephemeris, which I used for my predictions, were very large, with the path $5.68 \pm 0.3$ south, and the time 11 m 2 early. This put the path over northern and eastern Kenya, the southern Sudan, and the Sahel region of western Africa. I tried to telephone the Kenya Astronomical Society in Nairobi, but the telephone number turned out to be that of a small school, and they did not know anything about the astronomical society, or about astronomical observing. A new orbit computed by Edwin Goffin early in 1987, and published in MPC 11621, agreed much better with Penhallow's observations. If Goffin's orbit had been used originally, the path shift would have been only 0 " 53 south and the time correction also would have been much smaller.

## SOLAR SYSTEM OCCULTATIONS DURING 1988

## David W. Dunham

Predictions of occultations of stars by major and minor planets, and by Comet P/Schwassmann-Wachmann 1 , during 1988 are given in two tables below, which are presented in a format similar to those for last year's events published in O.N. 4 (3), 41, and described in o.N. 4 (1) (July, 1986). See also o.N. 4 (3), p. 45-47 for star designations and new source codes. A new source code, U, is used for USNO's new zodiacal zone catalog mentioned on p. 140. For 1988, unlike the tables for 1987, the ephemeris source column has been moved back to Table l. Like
last time, no values are listed under im for occultations by major planets, since the extent of the planet, and the fact that events can occur against its dark side, make it meaningless. Similarly, no value is listed under the Table 2 RSOI column, since this is always greater than 99999 km . Like last time, no information relating to the estimated angular diameters of the occulted stars is given, as was the case for 1986 and 1987. This information has been computed and is available upon request to me at P.O. Box 7488; Silver Spring, MD 20907; It would be of use for analysis of high signal-to-noise photoelectric records. In the notes, I will include a remark about the stellar angular diameter if it is large enough for the edge of the asteroid to require more than 0.05 second to geometrically pass across the star during a central occultation. In this case, it might be noticed by visual observers, especially in the case of a nearly grazing event if the observer is near one of the edges of the occultation path.

Additions for Path Computation. Following a suggestion by Leif Kristensen, I have added columns giving the geocentric Universal Time and distance of closest approach of the center of the planet to the star. These are given under the columns "Min. Geocentric U. T." and "Sep." in Table 2, between the stellar duplicity and source catalog codes (columns headed " $D$ " and " S "), where the ephemeris source was given last time. Following the separation value is a letter indicating its direction, usually north or south. But in unusual cases (there are none during January through March) when the motion is nearly due north-south, with the motion in declination four or more times that in right ascension, the direction is given as east ( E ) or west ( W ). These quantities, along with the position angle of the object's motion and its distance from the Earth " $\Delta, A U$ " in Table 1; both this and the P.A. are now given to one more decimal place than previously), can be used with a linear approximation of the motion to calculate the path of the occultation on the Earth's surface, or the time and distance of closest approach for a specified station. Kristensen has promised to submit an article to O.N., telling how this might be done using these quantities. In the meantime, readers with some familiarity with astronomical computations probably can figure out how to do this from discussions of occultation calculations in books such as Jean Meeus' Astronomical Tables of the Sun, Moon, and Planets (Willmann-Bell, 1983); the Explanatory Supplement to the American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac; or Isao Sato's "Catalog of 3539 Zodiacal Stars for the Equinox J2000.0" described in the last issue (although he uses standard notation in his formulae, the discussion is in Japanese). A useful PC project would be to program the use of these quantities to produce paths or local circumstances, and distribute this software to other IOTA PC users. Then, they could quickly update paths or compute new local circumstances when an update is obtained from "last-minute" astrometry, which would be especially useful if a detailed regional map or IOTA local circumstance prediction is not available.

The "linear motion" approximation is very accurate for nearly all events; it is invalid only if the object's path in the sky is significantly curved during the time the object's shadow is on the Earth's surface. This can happen when the object is close to a stationary point and its motion is unusually
slow. The non-linear terms may be significant if the motion is less than 0.05 per day and the P.A. is within $30^{\circ}$ of either $0^{\circ}$ or $180^{\circ}$.

Local Circumstances/Appulse Predictions. Joseph E. Carroll; 4261 Queen's Way; Minnetonka, MN 55345, computes the IOTA appulse predictions for all IOTA members. Carroll's predictions are computed and listed in the same order as tables 1 and 2 here. I have modified the computer program to implement the changes described in O.N. 4 (3), 42 . The changes to the predictions include the elimination of comparison star data to make room for new columns. Columns headed "D" and "S," following the SAO number, give the double star code and star position source code, respectively. This is followed by the star's DM/ID NO, then the star MAG (my), OCC. DMAG (occultation $\Delta \mathrm{m}$ ), and DUR SEC (central occultation duration in seconds). This is followed by the previously given UT and distances (in arc seconds, kilometers on the sky plane, and in terms of object diameter) of local closest approach. The elongation (ELG, angular distance from the star) of the Sun and Moon are given, as is also the Moon's percent sunlit (PSNL). I believe that these revisions give virtually all the information needed by observers, so that they do not need to consult tables 1 and 2 here.

Coverage for Early 1988. Only data for January, February, and March are given here, with the two tables on facing pages. Tables covering the rest of the year will be included as a continuation of this article in the next issue. Finder charts are included here only for North American and European events that are not included in Edwin Goffin's supplements. I have mailed finder charts for other non-Goffin events, through March, to regional coordinators.

Since I was not able to send complete data for 1988 events to Matsuru Sôma until a few. days before I had to transmit this to the editor, his maps will not appear in this issue. We will publish his maps for future events in the next issue. In the meantime, when possible, rely on the similar maps by Goffin. There is also not time to produce regional maps for individual events. To overcome this lack of maps, I modified my map-plotting programs to produce new maps whose input is much easier to prepare. This time these are the only maps that show events not in Goffin's coverage. They are described below.

New Maps. Six maps show all the events listed in the tables. They are like the maps in the 1987 grazing occultation supplements, covering latitudes $-50^{\circ}$ to $+65^{\circ}$. The maps covering the Western Hemisphere has similar longitude boundaries, $30^{\circ}$ west to $180^{\circ}$. The Eastern Hemisphere had to be covered by two maps divided at longitude $70^{\circ}$ east. Hence, there are three maps for each of two time periods, January plus the first half of February, and the last part of February plus March.

The narrow paths on the maps are my predicted paths for the occultations. These are bracketed with wide paths that would be the centerlines in the cases of 1.0 -arc-second shifts to the north and south from my predicted path. "A-10" at the end of a path indicates that the star's altitude is 10 degrees, while " $\mathrm{S}=-8$ " shows that the Sun is 8 degrees below the horizon. The altitude limit in degrees is the same
as the star＇s magnitude，while the Sun altitude lim－ it in degrees is 2 minus the star＇s magnitude．The month，day，and asteroid＇s number and name are writ－ ten just above the center of the northern limit and above the 1 ＂． 0 －north－shift line（unless it is off the map，in which case，it is written above the 1.0
south－shift line）．A dashed line marks moonrise or moonset．I have put crosses through a few spurious lines where the plotter failed to lift the pen when it was supposed to do so；I may have missed some．I have also drawn lines through a few spurious labels． If a path crosses a map boundary it ends a short

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variable distance from the map edge，since the plot－ ted points are computed at approximately $2^{\circ}$ inter－ vals of the star＇s altitude，with no interpolation to the map edge；I will try to fix this deficiency in the future．For occultations by major planets， the centerline and northern and southern limits are plotted，as well as one or more intermediate isoski－ atics．Dashed lines show moonrise or moonset．I plan to publish maps like these in future issues，
since they are useful for immediately seeing all events potentially visible from a given area．But I feel that the current format is too cluttered．Next time，I will plot only the paths，leaving out the 1．O shift lines，which will be on Sôma＇s or Goffin＇s world maps．I included them this time only because we do not have world maps for several events．With less clutter，fewer maps can be published covering more months．Addition of time information along the









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Hippo
Juewa
Zelinda
Concordia
Psyche



paths would also make them too cluttered; this is also available on the world maps. If you have any other ideas for these maps, let me know.

Occultations by Major Planets. Only occultations by Venus and Mars were found, although Jupiter and Saturn were also included in the search. Predictions for the outer three planets are not included in my tables, but data about events through 1990 have been published by D. Mink and A. Klemola in Astron. J. 90 (9), 1894 ( 1985 September; I incorrectly gave December on p. 48). The brightest star listed by them to be occulted during 1988, by Neptune on October 22nd, visible from the western Pacific around gh UT, is magnitude 12.2. All the Uranus and Neptune events involve small magnitude drops, and are well beyond the range of capabilities of most O.N. readers. On June 9th, around 10 h UT, Pluto will occult a 13.2mag. star, with the area expected to be the northern Pacific. This is brighter than Pluto, so observers with large telescopes in Hawaii and around the edge of the Pacific are encouraged to watch for an occultation. The prediction will be improved early in 1988 with Lick Observatory astrometry. Nork is also being done on possible occultations by Neptune's satellite Triton, with a possible event in May or June; it will be mentioned in o.N. and publicised elsewhere when details become available.

Occultations by Minor planets. For the asteroids, I computed ephemerides for combined catalog searches for all objects with angular diameters larger than 0 ." 08 during 1988, according to a list supplied by Robert Millis at Lowell Observatory. Also, several smaller asteroids were selected on the basis that they will occult relatively bright stars, according to Goffin's predictions. A few other asteroids with diameters larger than 250 km were also included.
Searches were performed with Fresneau's astrographic catalog only for the larger or more important asteroids, including numbers $1-4,6,7,8,10,13,14$, $15,18,19,29,45,51,52,65,87,139,324,444$, $451,511,532,624,704,2060$, and 3123. Combined catalog searches were performed for these and also for numbers $11,12,16,20,25,31,41,43,48,49$, $53,54,57,58,59,63,66,70,71,78,80,81,89$, $90,93,94,98,101,103,104,105,111,112,114$, $115,121,128,134,137,144,145,150,152,159$, $175,192,194,200,202,209,211,216,230,241$, $250,275,313,345,356,360,361,381,386,387$, $393,409,415,423,426,466,498,506,508,521$, $545,554,566,579,626,643,654,690,712,735$, 772, 804, 899, and 1262. Events were rejected if:
Angular Diam. Less Than and Star Mag. Greater Than

| 0.080 | 9.0 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 0.055 | 8.5 |
| 0.045 | 8.0 |
| 0.035 | 7.0 |

0.035
7.

These tests were not performed for special relatively small objects, including numbers $12,18,46,49$, $51,532,624,1262,2060$, and 3123. By adding logic to compare right ascensions rather than declinations when the asteroid's motion in declination was three times larger than its R.A. motion, I was able to generate all of the events for 1988 published by $L$. H. Wasserman, E. Bowell, and R. L. Millis in "Occultations of Stars by Solar System Objects. VII. Occultations of Catalog Stars by Asteroids in 1988 and 1989," Astron. J. 94 (5), 1364 (November 1987), except for one occultation of a 10.2-mag. star by
(128) Nemesis on March 14. They also used a $0!08$ angular diameter criterion, but used a TRIAD diameter that was larger than a more recent value derived by E. Tedesco. Hence, their angular diameter was greater than $0!08$, while mine was less. The expected area of visibility is "southern Indian Ocean," so I did not make a special effort to get it. Since Goffin used different rejection criteria, he found many occultations of SAO and AGK3 stars not in my list. For example, he found an occultation of 8.9mag. AGK3 $+03^{\circ} 1002$ by (137) Meliboea predicted for southwestern Canada on January 3rd. My search rejected the occultation because the angular diameter was 0.075 , although Goffin rounded up to print 0.08 on his predictions. As Bob Millis says, "You have to draw the line somewhere."

During the last year and a half, Edwin Goffin has been doing valuable work improving many of the orbits of the larger asteroids useful for occultation work. Most of the orbits whose source is the Minor Planet Circulars (MPCs) with numbers greater than 10,000 are from this work. For three asteroids, Goffin provided me with preliminary orbital elements early in December; these are given as "Goffin87." He did not publish these because there have been no recent observations of these objects, the last being in 1982. Hence they are not quite as accurate as his other orbits. However, they should be much better than the older Herget and EMP orbits that they replace.

Astrometric Updates. The main source for astrometric updates is my recorded message on the IOTA occultation line, telephone 301,495-9062. Information can also be obtained from other recordings at 312, 259-2376 (Chicago), or 713,488-6871 (Houston). Call 301,585-0989 if you want to talk to me rather than just obtain a prediction update recording.

A list of early 1988 priority occultations worthy of concerted efforts to obtain astrometric updates and observational coverage is given below:

| Date | Asteroid | Star |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jan 09 | (654) Zelinda | SAO 77647 |
| Jan 09 | (58) Concordia | A.C. $+16^{\circ} 53206^{\star}$ |
| Jan 12 | (690) Wratislavia | SAO 128290 |
| Jan 15 | (12) Victoria | SAO 137799 |
| Jan 21 | (87) Sylvia | Anonymous* |
| Jan 25 | (87) Sylvia | Anonymous* |
| Feb 07 | (80) Sappho | SAO 115926 |
| Feb 13 | (654) Zelinda | SAO 94765 |
| Feb 27 | (209) Dido | SAO 99328 |
| Mar 01 | (4) Vesta | SAO 79685 |
| Mar 08 | (10) Hygiea | BD $+06^{\circ} 2274$ |
| Mar 24 | (14) Irene | SAO 99847 |

The positions of stars ending with an asterisk are taken from old Astrographic Catalog data. For them, an update to the star position from a plate taken any time during the last several years would be valuable to see whether the occultation is really potentially in an area with many observers, and worthy of last-minute astrometry.

Notes About Individual Events. Wayne Warren supplied important information about some stars, especially doubles.

Jan 9, (654) Zelinda and SAO 77647: The star is ZC 887. The star's angular diameter is 0"0014, requiring $0 \leqslant 09$ for the edge of the asteroid to cover,
for a central occultation. Gradual events reported by visual observers of lunar occultations suggest that the star may be a close double.

Jan 16, (690) Wratislavia and SAO 128351: The equally bright components are 3"1 apart in position angle (PA) $3^{\circ}$. Separate predictions are given for the two components. If the seeing is not good enough to resolve the stars, the apparent $\Delta m$ will be 0.8 , rather than the 4.0 given in the table, which assumes that the component is clearly resolved.

Jan 28, Feb 22, Mar 8, and Mar 21: (10) Hygiea is the fourth largest asteroid; no occultation by it has been observed previously.

Feb 3: The star's angular diameter is 0.0003 , requiring $0 \leqslant 08$ to centrally cover.

Feb 24: The star is ZC 2234. The star's angular diameter is 0.0010 , requiring $0 \$ 22$ to centrally cover.

Feb 28: This event was added too late to be included on the maps.

Mar 1: Vesta is either the second or third largest asteroid, and the largest for which there are no previous occultations of stars observed. A lunar occultation has been photoelectrically recorded, but lack of knowledge of the local lunar slope allows only a crude estimate of its diameter. Consequently, photoelectric observations of this occultation would be extremely valuable. Many European observatories are located within the wide nominal path.

Mar 5: Mars' 6-second disk will be $90 \%$ sunlit. The reappearance will be on the dark crescent, $0: 6$ wide, at most. In my "Planetary. Occultations" article in the January

issue of Sky and relescope, I incorrectly said that the disappearance would be on the dark crescent.

Mar 8: (121) Hermione and SAO 186959; the star is ZC 2689.
Mar 16, P/SN-WM-1 and SAO 164663: P/SN-INM-1 is periodic comet Schwassmann-Nachmann 1.




