

British Astronomical Association



VARIABLE STAR SECTION CIRCULAR

No 116, June 2003

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Office: Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1V 9AG

NEW CHARTS

JOHN TOONE

036·02

5° FIELD INVERTED

U BOOTIS

14h 54m 20·0s +17°41'44" (2000)

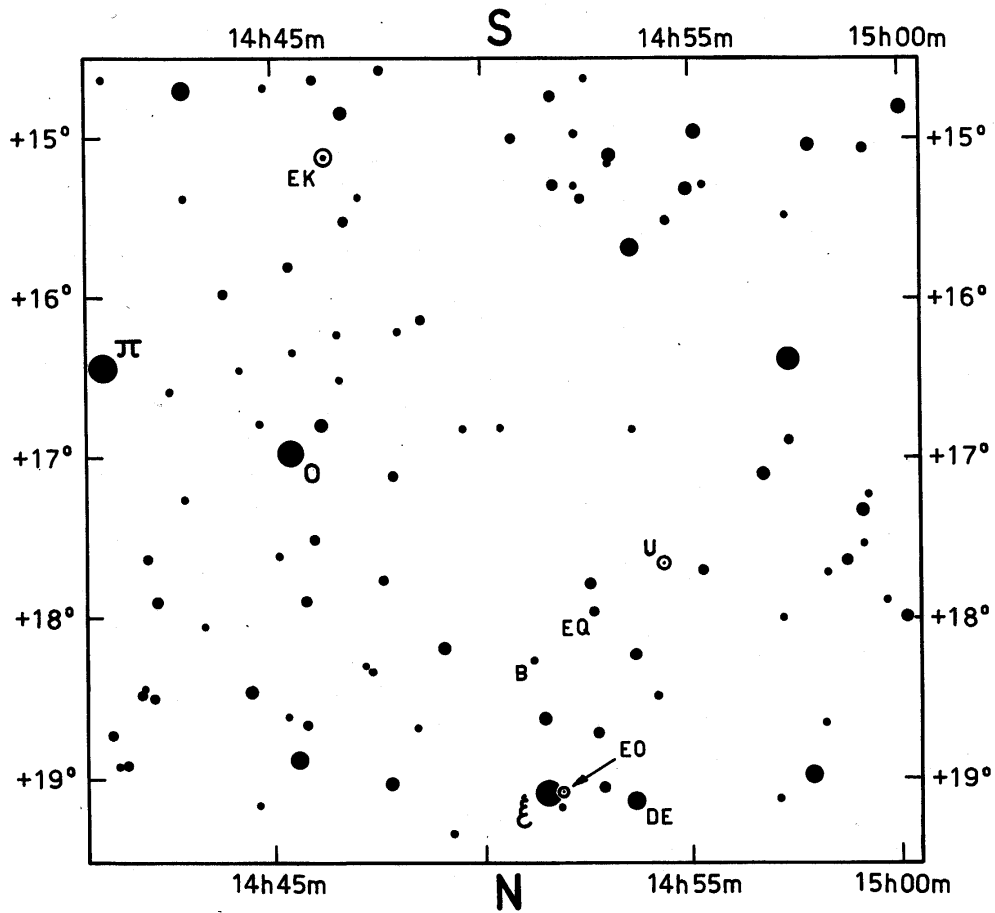


CHART:
ATLAS ECLIPTICALIS
SEQUENCE:
RLL 1981 FEB

B 9·1

BAA VSS
EPOCH: 2000
DRAWN: JT 23-02-03
APPROVED: RDP

FROM THE DIRECTOR

ROGER PICKARD

Director's New Address

After 33 years at the same address, the Director has finally moved to the quiet of a village in Herefordshire, close to the Welsh border; see the back cover of this circular for details. Note though, the e-mail address remains unchanged. Sadly, this has meant that, at the time of writing, I'm without a telescope. Hopefully, this will be rectified before you read the next Circular.

Web Master

Following the announcement in the last Circular that Peter Moreton wished to resign from this post, I'm pleased to advise that Dave Grover has agreed to take over. Dave is not specifically a VS man (yet!), but he is a professional web page designer and currently looks after the Crayford Manor House AS web page. I'm hopeful that a new front page will be in place by the time you read this, and invite any comments.

LX Cyg and Members E-addresses

At the end of March following email exchanges with James Bryan in the US regarding amateur spectroscopy, Dr Albert Zijlstra of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology asked to be kept advised of the state of this Mira variable. This was because he wanted a spectrum, and he was unlikely to get one with professional equipment on such a (relatively) bright star. Maurice Gavin in this country was also kept informed. This star is not on the VSS programme, and it was too late to ask but a handful of observers to keep an eye on LX Cyg, and this threw up a problem. Many observers must now have e-mail addresses, but the Director has only a few, mostly of Section Officers. Could I therefore ask all Section members who are unsure whether I have their e-addresses to email me at the address on the back cover.

Observer Profiles

Karen Holland asked for Section Officers to provide these for occasional publication in the Circulars and as Director I felt I should have been first. However, I'm delighted that Mike Simonsen has done that, especially as he's an "unofficial officer" helping out John Toone with the production of new charts, mostly of stars on the Recurrent Objects Programme. Thank you Mike - on both counts.

BAA Observer Workshops and Exhibition Meeting

I'm pleased to advise that the Section has had a prominent profile at these workshops with new observers taking advantage of the Mentor Scheme. The second Workshop formed part of the BAA Winchester Weekend and gave the opportunity to display some of our work over a longer period and to a larger audience. Sadly, apart from the material which had been displayed at the first workshop and some new material from Gary Poyner (who always supports these occasions with new material) there was little that was new. Could I therefore ask all

Section Members to send me any material, be it visual observations or CCD, in time for the Exhibition Meeting at the end of June.

Section Meeting

It is almost two years since the last Section Meeting which was a two-day meeting at Alston Hall near Preston in October 2000, and it is high time for another. I'm therefore organising a one-day meeting on Saturday 8th November at the Humfrey Rooms, in Northampton. This will be of a similar format to other Section Meetings, although there will be more time left for informal discussion. I hope to be able to announce full details in the September Circular but in the meantime, please think about those poster papers or any other presentation you may care to give.

CHART NEWS

JOHN TOONE

The following new charts are now available from the Chart Secretary:

Main Programme - Telescopic Stars

030.02 R Aql

Formally 030.01. New 9 degree and 1 degree field charts have been drawn. The original sequence that dates from Hagen has been extensively revised to incorporate Tycho 2 photometry.

003.03 SS Aur

Formally 003.02. New 3 degree and 20 minute charts have been drawn. The previous mv sequence has been replaced and extended by a V sequence sourced from Tycho 2, Henden and West. SS Aur in March 2003 was seen to fade below magnitude 16, so observers should take care to identify the variable correctly when it is in quiescence.

036.02 U Boo (see inside cover of this circular for a copy of one of these new charts)

Formally 036.01. New 5 degree and 1 degree field charts have been drawn. The sequence remains unchanged.

004.03 Z Cam

Formally 004.02. New 3 degree and 30 minute field charts have been drawn. The previous mv sequence has been replaced and extended by a V sequence sourced from Zissell, Lenouvel and Daguillon.

005.03 SS Cyg (see page 5 of this circular for a copy of one of these charts)

Formally 005.02. New 5 degree and 1 degree field charts have been drawn. The previous mv sequence has been replaced and extended by a V sequence sourced from Tycho 2, Henden, Lenouvel and Daguillon.

007.04 AB Dra (see back inside cover of this circular for a copy of one of these charts)

Formally 007.03. New 3 degree and 20 minute field charts have been drawn. The previous mv sequence has been replaced and extended by a V sequence sourced from Bailey, Misselt and Zissell.

018·03

3° FIELD INVERTED

SU URSAE MAJORIS 08h 12m 28·3s +62° 36' 23" (2000)

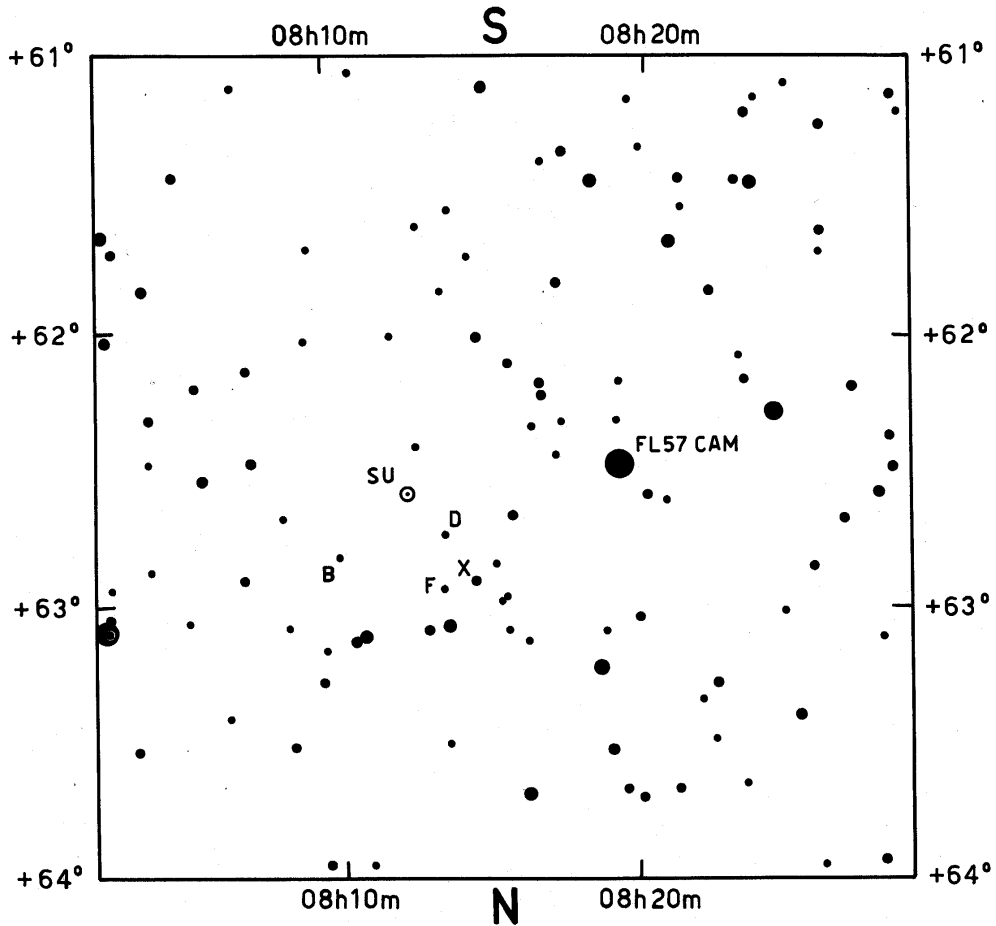


CHART:
MILLENNIUM SA
SEQUENCE:
TYCHO 2 VJ

X 9·3 D 10·7
B 10·4 F 11·3

BAA VSS
EPOCH: 2000
DRAWN: JT 02-03-03
APPROVED: RDP

018.03 SU UMa (see page 3 of this circular for a copy of one of these new charts)
Formally 018.02. New 3 degree and 20 minute field charts have been drawn. The previous sequence (used by both the BAA VSS and AAVSO for many years) was known to be poorly calibrated at the faint end, and has now been replaced with a V sequence sourced from Tycho 2 and Henden.

Recurrent Object Programme Stars

116.02 LS And

Formally TA chart GMH 880219, no previous BAA VSS chart existed. A 15 minute field chart has been drawn with a V sequence by Henden introduced.

185.02 V630 Cas

Formally TA chart GMH 880219, no previous BAA VSS chart existed. A 15 minute field chart has been drawn with a V sequence by Henden introduced.

262.01 CG Dra

No previous BAA VSS chart existed for this star which was added to the ROP in September 2001. A 15 minute field chart has been drawn complete with a V sequence by Henden.

264.01 KV Dra

Formally known as RXJ 1450+6403 and added to the ROP in September 2001. A 15 minute field chart is drawn for the first time complete with a V sequence by Henden.

265.01 CI Gem

No previous BAA VSS chart existed for this star. A 15 minute field chart has been drawn complete with a V sequence by Henden.

266.01 V589 Her

No previous BAA VSS chart existed for this star. A 15 minute field chart has been drawn complete with a V sequence by Henden.

267.01 V336 Per

No previous BAA VSS chart existed for this star which was added to the ROP in September 2001. A 15 minute field chart has been drawn complete with a V sequence by Henden.

Thanks are due to Mike Simonsen who prepared all of the Recurrent Objects Programme charts.

005·03

5° FIELD INVERTED

SS CYGNI

21h 42m 42.8s +43° 35' 10" (2000)

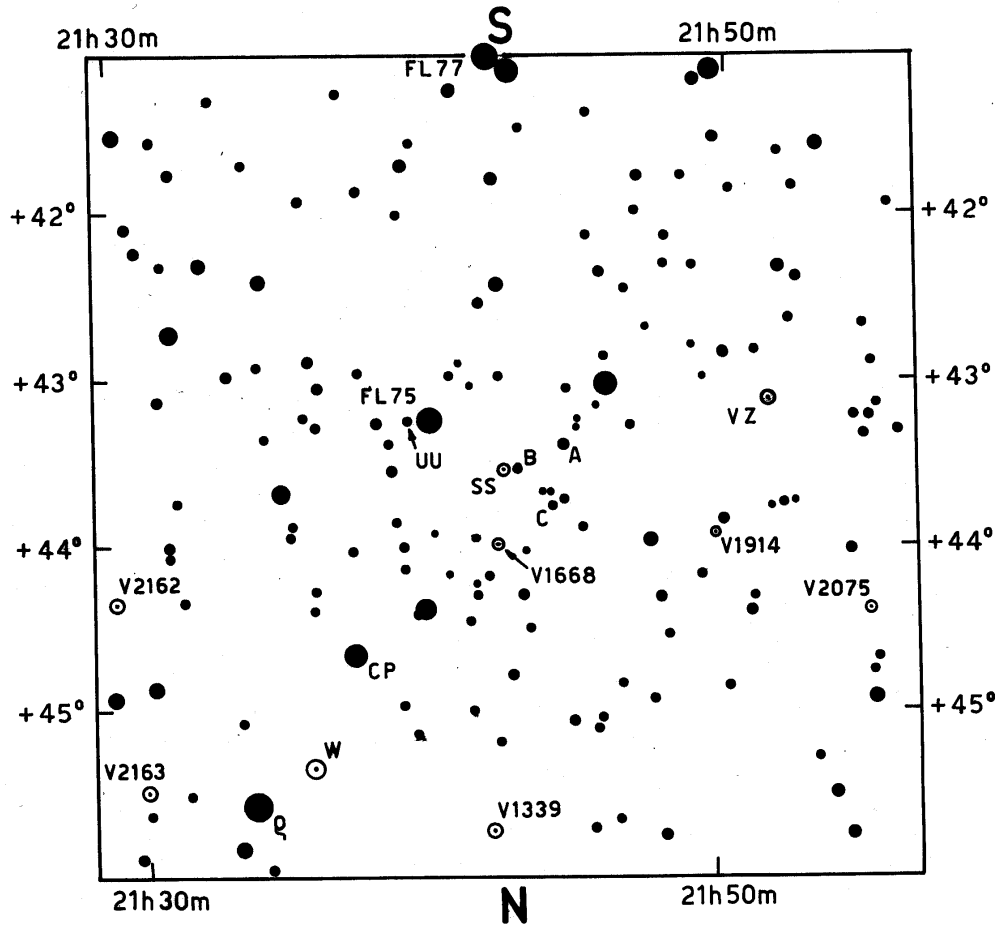


CHART:
ATLAS BOREALIS

BAA VSS
EPOCH: 2000
DRAWN: JT16-02-03
APPROVED: RDP

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

MIKE SIMONSEN

Driving to the observatory through the Michigan countryside gives me plenty of time to reflect on the long and winding road that has brought me to this point in my life. Leaving my urban neighborhood of closely packed homes, I pause at the main road and gaze west into the sunset. I remember the kid who raced home to get to dinner on time, after spending hours in the library reading every astronomy book and periodical I could lay my hands on. I usually read the magazines from cover to cover first, because we weren't allowed to take them home. Then I'd hop on my bicycle with another Patrick Moore book in my bag and race to make it home before the streetlights came on.

It was instilled in me early on, that to take notes and record everything I saw carefully and accurately was the only way to be a good observer. Those magical popular astronomy books by Moore and James Muirden were probably the biggest influence in my life as an amateur astronomer. A couple of years ago I discovered my notebooks from this time, whilst rummaging through boxes I had in storage. I was surprised at how faithfully I had recorded sunspots, lunar craters and the positions of the Galilean satellites from night to night with my 70mm refractor.

I head east for a mile or so and come to the road that leads north towards the countryside. The sharp left turn I make here is analogous to the sharp left turn I took in life entering college. After spending my high school years focused on mathematics, physics and music I came to a crossroad in life. Weeks before leaving home to study electrical engineering at Michigan Tech, I decided to turn down financial assistance and a relatively certain future to study music at another university.

I was already playing in a band professionally, and my decision was no doubt influenced by the fact that young girls found musicians much more exciting than engineers! Playing saxophone and keyboards in nightclubs until the wee hours of the morning five nights a week, left little time for astronomy. My *observing* was soon limited to pointing out constellations and planets to girls I was trying to impress. I spent the next twenty years playing jazz, rock and roll, blues and country music, and thought little about my astronomical interests.

I follow this road north out of the city for quite a while, until I come to a small town typical of the villages in this part of the country. At the north end of town I make another left turn, and head west through farm fields. Similarly, life took another turn in the late 80's for me.

Through an unexpected chain of events, I found myself turning my passion for gardening into a profession. Eventually, I retired from the music business and started my own landscape design/build firm. I now had the time and money to purchase a *big* telescope and pursue my long dormant interests in astronomy.

I wasted no time in reviving my hibernating enthusiasm for astronomy, and observing variable stars. I joined the AAVSO, and my local astronomical society, and soon after, started a variable star sub-group. The sub-group eventually evolved into an independent group of observers we call Sirius Astronomy. We have our own website at <http://sirius-astronomy.com/> and an observing site with three domed observatories, and a collection of telescopes. We



Mike in his observatory with his telescope

don't bother with meetings very often. The main focus of the group is observing astronomical objects, rather than talking about them.

Another quick turn to the north, past an apple orchard, and I find myself under a dark enough sky to see the evening's first bright stars through the windows of my car. I'm getting closer to my destination.

The single most important factor in my rapid development as a variable star observer has been the Internet. I was fortunate to be mentored through email by two of the world's leading observers, Gary Poyner and Gene Hanson. They graciously shared the wealth of their experience and knowledge, and saved me countless hours, learning things the hard way.

Our informative, lively, and quite often humorous discussions, led to the creation of an informal email discussion group that includes many of the world's leading visual observers of cataclysmic variables. I have friends all over the planet now, who share similar interests. Many of them I have never met face to face. It was a great thrill for me to finally meet Hazel McGee and Rod Stubbings in Hawaii, after having known them through email only. One of the main topics of discussion has always been the inadequate, or non-existent, charts for many of the CVs we were observing. This eventually led to my other astronomical passion, the creation of accurate sequences and charts for variables.

I turn left onto the road that is the last leg of my dark sky journey. There is an old schoolhouse at the corner that has been converted into a home. Decades ago these little one-room schoolhouses were the centres of learning for kids in the country.

I soon learned that making variable star charts with accurate sequences was not as easy as it looks to the uninformed amateur observer. I was fortunate enough to get in touch with Arne Henden and Bruce Sumner a few years ago. They took me under their wings and taught me more than I ever wanted to know about photometry and sequences.

It still tickles me to be consulting with Arne, an astronomer at the US Naval Observatory in Flagstaff, regarding observing targets for a metre class telescope, with a state of the art CCD and the world's leading photometrist at the controls.

I now have hundreds of charts and sequences published on our website based on Henden photometry, and am currently working with John Toone, Roger Pickard and Gary Poyner to utilize this information to create BAAVSS charts for ROP stars.

I turn in the driveway that leads to the observatory. The dome is located on the homestead of my friends Dawna and Dennis. At star parties and gatherings, I am often introduced as *Mike, the guy who lives in our back yard*, by them.

I park the car and step out into the night air. Most nights, all the stars in the Little Dipper are plainly visible and the dark rift in the Milky Way is quite obvious before eyes have become dark-adapted. M31 is often an easy naked eye object.

The observatory is a seven-foot diameter fibreglass cylinder, with a manually rotated fibreglass dome. It houses an equatorially mounted 12" LX200. I make no apologies for using a go-to telescope and punching in coordinates to locate the fields of my programme stars. I have done plenty of star-hopping in my time, and not having to handle a metal telescope at



The 12" LX 200 in Mike's Observatory

ambient winter temperatures that can exceed -30C is a distinct advantage in my opinion.

On average nights my limiting magnitude is 15.5V or better. I have seen 16th magnitude and fainter on exceptional nights. My primary programme stars are CVs that outburst at 15V or brighter. I also observe about 500 LPVs with faint minima more or less regularly.

My favorite objects are CVs that I can follow through most, or all of their cycle, and which are fairly active. These would include **KT Per**, **TZ Per**, **Z Cam**, **YZ Cnc**, **AT Cnc**, **SY Cnc**, **SU UMa**, **ER UMa** and **AB Dra**. Some stars I like to visit because of the field: **CY Lyr** is in the midst of a nice cluster, and the Mira **RX Lyr** has the ghostly smoke ring of M57 in the same low-power field of view.

Observing sessions are usually two to eight hours long, depending on the weather and the seasonal variation in the length of night. Driving half an hour each way, my goal is always to observe as long as I can. I've averaged about 130 nights per year for the last three years. Needless to say, I have a very understanding and supportive wife.

It's not unusual for me to watch dawn turn to sunrise as I drive home, sometimes faster than I should, anxious to report outbursts observed during the night.

In many ways I have come full circle, only now I feel like a kid trying to get home in time for breakfast.



CEPHEID VARIABLE STARS IN M13: V2 AND V6

FRANCISCO A. VIOLAT BORDONAU AND TONI BENNASARANDREU

Asociacion de Variabilistas de Espana, Asesores Astronomicos Cacerenos

During a period of 129 days (June 15 to October 21, 2001: JD 2076 - JD 2204), Toni Bennasar Andreu, in Palma, Mallorca, and Francisco Violat Bordonau, in Caceres, Spain, studied the globular cluster M13 in Hercules. They used telescopes of 305 mm and 203mm aperture, together with Starlight Xpress MX 916 and MX5 CCD cameras respectively. The periods, amplitudes (V magnitude), and light curves for two Cepheid variable stars, V2 and V6 were determined, and the results are presented here.

In order to process the CCD images that were obtained, the IRIS software package, written by engineer and French amateur, Christian Buil, was used. This software is easy to use, powerful, and gives reliable results. For the generation of periodograms and light curves, and for the determination of oscillation amplitude, we used the AVE software (Analysis of Stellar Variability), which is produced by the *Grupo de Estudios Astronomicos* (Astronomy Group). The AVE software has also proved itself to be easy to use, powerful and reliable, and it has a long history of use in the discovery and study of variable stars of all types.

A total of 32 stars of the M13 cluster were measured, night to night; two non-variable stars were used as comparison stars, for the photometric calibration of the images. The remaining 30 stars were variable stars or suspect variable stars; of these, two were the very well-known Cepheid variable stars V2 and V6.

V2

Professional publications indicate that V2 is a W Virginis type (of subtype BL Herculis) Cepheid of Population II origin.

It varies with a period of 5.110939 days (Osborn, 1969; Pike and Meston, 1976), or more recently 5.11070 days (Wehlau and Bohlender, 1982). The variation has an amplitude of 1.26 magnitudes in blue light (Osborn, 1977), but only 0.99 magnitudes in the visual (Demers, 1970).

We analysed the two data sets independently, since the telescopes and CCD cameras were very different. It was possible to determine the light curves for each author, and from these to extract the period and amplitude of oscillation. The curves are essentially identical, showing the characteristic asymmetry between the ascent and descent of the light curve. The amplitude of oscillation was measured as 0.923 magnitudes for Toni's dataset, and 1.052 for Francisco's dataset; this difference of barely 0.129 magnitudes was typical of the kind of values that professional work achieves (Demers, Meston, Welty, Osborn).

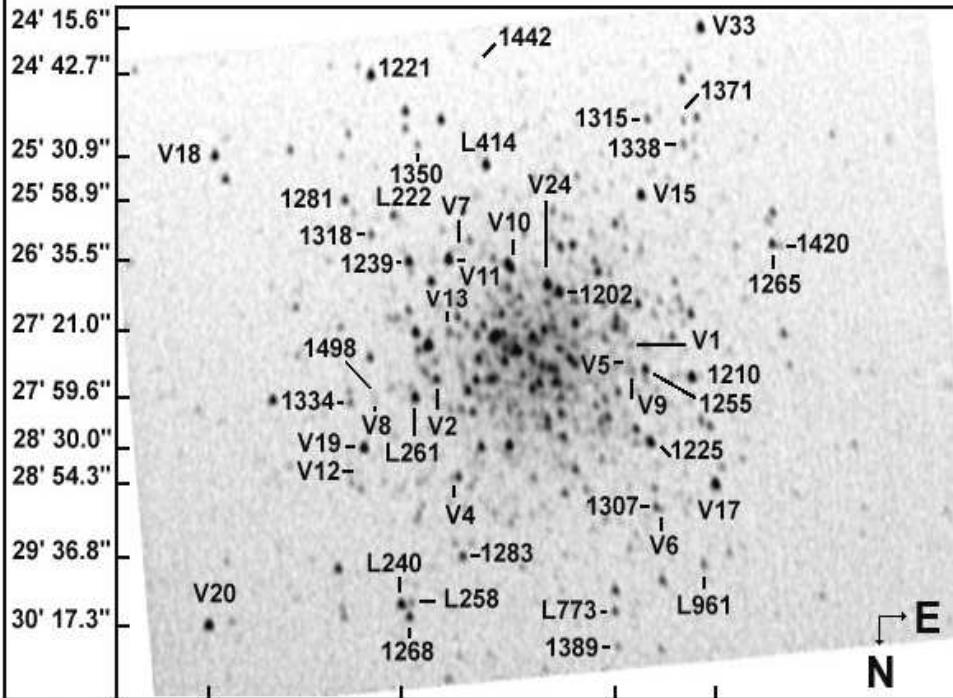
Using both data sets separately, it was possible to determine the period and the range as shown:

CI 1641+36

(2000) 16h 41m +36° 27'



VARIABLE STARS IN M13



16h 41m 23,55s 33,94s 45,46s 50,93s

Draw by: F. VIOLAT BORDONAU

Photo: Meade 8"+MX5 (20s)

From: OSBORN (AJ 119, 2902, 2000)

V: variable

Date: 2001, May.

L: suspected (Ludendorff's Cat.)

Preliminary chart (a)

©: A.V.E. 2001

ASOCIACIÓN DE VARIABILISTAS DE ESPAÑA

Chart produced and used by author showing CCD(V) values for stars in M13 ; the decimal point is omitted from the magnitude values.

	Amplitude	Period
Bennasar	0.923	5.0436
Violat	1.052	5.1332
Both	1.052	5.1097

The error in the period (compared with Osborn's value of 5.110939 days), was 0.0673 days for Toni, and 0.0222 days for Francisco, but was only 0.0012 days if the combined dataset was used; a complete success! Let us compare this with the data of professional work:

	Year	Amplitude	Period
Barnard	1900	1.000	5.10
Arp	1955	1.23 (V)	5.10
Osborn	1969		5.110939
Demers	1970	0.990	5.110939
Pike-Meston	1977	0.76 (V)	5.110939
Osborn	1977	1.26 (B)	5.112
Wehlau-Bohlender	1982	1.08 (B)	5.11070
Us	2001	1.052 (V)	5.1097

Why, when we measure from night to night do we not obtain the same magnitudes? Instead, we actually measure slightly different values. The answer to this is determined by a consideration of the cycle: this system takes 5.110939 days to complete one cycle. However, we are forced to observe at roughly 24 hour intervals during the night. So after 5 nights of observing, the star will be 0.110939 days (2.66 hours) into its next cycle. Because of the fact that the period is not an exact multiple of a day, we see a different magnitude each night. So how many days are needed, until the light curve begins to repeat itself? This is given by:

$$1 : 0.110939 \text{ d} = 9.013962628 \text{ cycles}$$

$$9.013962628 \text{ cycles} \times 5.110939 \text{ d} = \mathbf{46.0698 \text{ days}}$$

So after 9 cycles we will return, almost exactly, to observe the same light curve that we studied on the first day. This indicates that although 5 days observing are necessary in order to cover one complete light curve, 46 days or more of observing are required to obtain complete information about this system.

In view of these excellent results, and encouraged by an e-mail from Dr. Osborn, we felt happy to move on to study V6 with the same enthusiasm.

V6

This is a relatively bright Cepheid star (13.71 to 14.33 V magnitude), and has a short period (only 2.112867 days); it is also a W Virginis type Cepheid, of subtype BL Herculis. A star of this magnitude and period should have been an easy target for our team. Regrettably, it was very close to a star of magnitude 13.07. It was easy to identify as it appeared near to the bright red variable V17, which is immediately to the north of a reddish star of magnitude 12.25 (slightly variable according to a private communication from Dr. Osborn).

It turned out that the amplitude of variation in this case, was so small, that we decided to stop observing it. It would have required a focal length of 3 to 4 metres to obtain useful results! However, an e-mail conversation encouraged us to measure our images with the maximum of care; in this way we obtained the combined magnitude of both stars, and determined the light curve of the Cepheid that was superimposed on the brighter star's light curve.

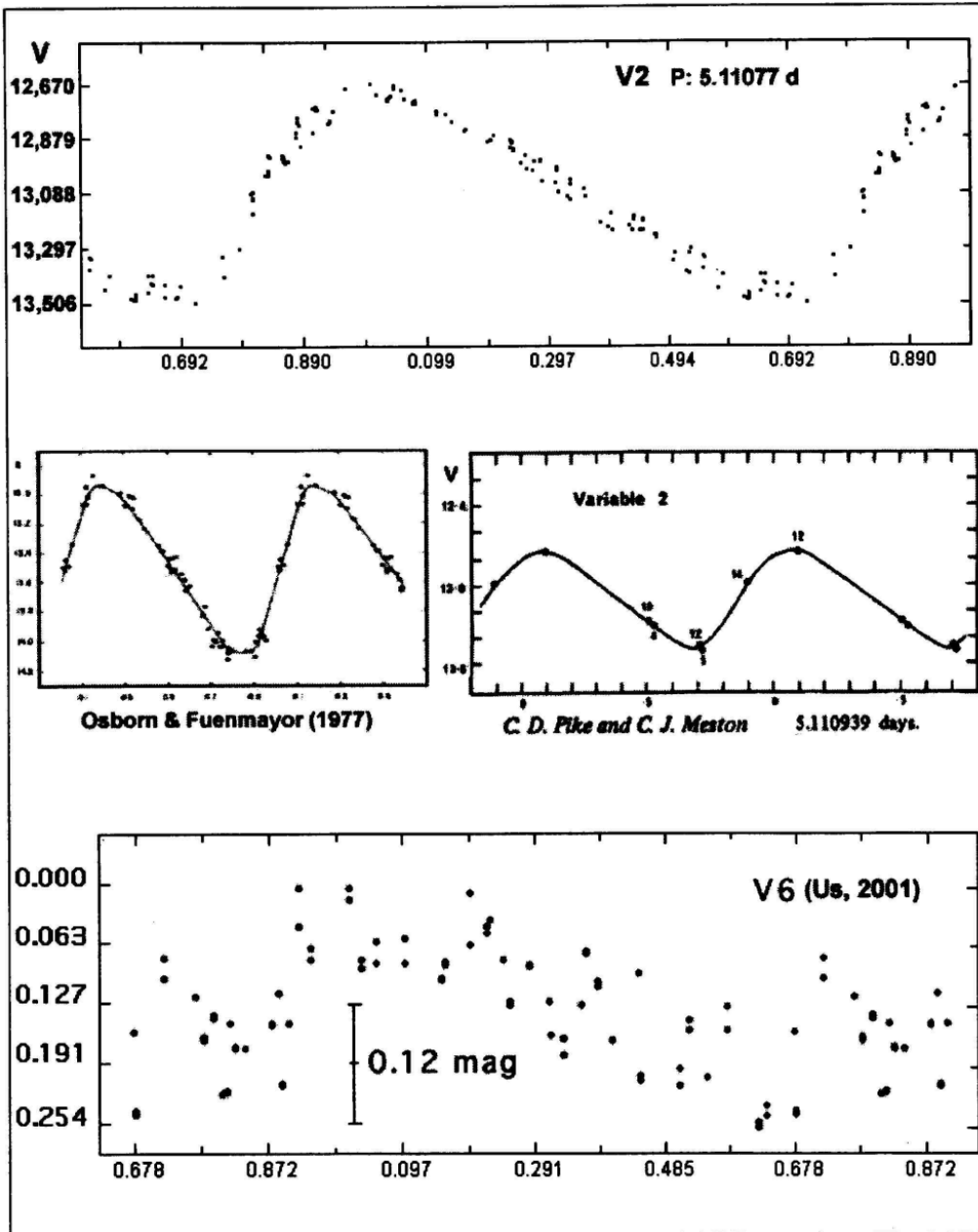
In total, we gathered a total of 75 brightness measurements (58 from Toni and 23 from Francisco). We kept in mind that it was a difficult star, not so much because of its amplitude range, but more because of its proximity to a much brighter star. Let us see the professional data on V6

	Year	Amplitude	Period
Arp	1955	0.83 (V)	2.1
Osborn	1969		2.112867
Demers	1970	0.59	2.112867
Pike-Meston	1977	0.46 (V)	2.112867
Wehlau-Bohlender	1982	1.000 (B)	2.112867
Osborn	2000		2.11
Us	2001	0.254 (V)	2.0787

Using both data sets separately (since our apertures and CCD cameras were different) we determined the period and the amplitude of magnitude variation:

	Amplitude	Period
Bennasar:	0.254	2.0784 d
Violat:	0.213	2.0762 d
Both:	0.254	2.0787 d

Here, contrary to the V2 results, my measurements are of lower quality, which is due to the fact that my focal length is shorter than Toni's instrument, so that I cannot measure the Cepheid light curve variations quite as well. In spite of everything, a light curve is obtained that indicates a period of 2.0787 days, as opposed to the 2.112867 days predicted. This gives



Top: Authors' folded light curve for V2; centre: equivalent professional data;
 bottom: authors' folded light curve for V6

an error of 0.034167 days (49 minutes 12 seconds), which is indicative of the difficulty with which the measurement was made. I have inserted an error bar of 0.12 magnitudes, which is the standard deviation of the measurements. It is clear that, in general, the measurements show the light curve cycle quite well, with the exception of those measurements taken on poor nights.

We hope to continue to measure the last M13 Cepheid star, V1, which varies between magnitude 13.62 and 14.53, with a period of 1.459252 days; this makes this star the cepheid of shortest period in this globular cluster.

Acknowledgements

The author expresses his gratitude to Dr. Wayne Osborn (Central Michigan University), for the advice and assistance that he gave me, and Josep M. Gomez (Grupo de Estudios Astronomicos), for his helpful comments. I thank my collaborator and friend Tony Bennasar Andreu ('Ca Nostra' Observatory), thanks to whose images (all them excellent!) I have been able to improve and refine my measurements. The photometric reduction has been carried out using IRIS software, developed by engineer and French amateur Christian Buil. The analysis of the data has been carried out with Rafael's Barbera software A.V.E, of the G.E.A. (Grupo de Estudios Astronomicos).

Availability of the data: Upon request from fviolat@yahoo.es

References

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BINOCULAR PRIORITY LIST

MELVYN TAYLOR

Variable	Range	Type	Period	Chart	Variable	Range	Type	Period	Chart
<i>AQ And</i>	8.0-8.9	SRC	346d	82/08/16	<i>AH Dra</i>	7.1-7.9	SRB	158d?	106.01
<i>EG And</i>	7.1-7.8	ZA		072.01	<i>NQ Gem</i>	7.4-8.0	SR+ZA	70d?	077.01
<i>V Aql</i>	6.6-8.4	SRB	353d	026.03	<i>X Her</i>	6.3-7.4	SRB	95d?	223.01
<i>UU Aur</i>	5.1-6.8	SRB	234d	230.01	<i>SX Her</i>	8.0-9.2	SRD	103d	113.01
<i>AB Aur</i>	7.2-8.4	INA		83/10/01	<i>UW Her</i>	7.8-8.7	SRB	104d	107.01
<i>V Boo</i>	7-12	SRA	258d	037.01	<i>AC Her</i>	6.8-9.0	RVA	75d	048.03
<i>RW Boo</i>	6.4-7.9	SRB	209d	104.01	<i>IQ Her</i>	7.0-7.5	SRB	75d	048.03
<i>RX Boo</i>	6.9-9.1	SRB	160d	219.01	<i>OP Her</i>	5.9-6.7	SRB	120d	84/04/12
<i>ST Cam</i>	6.0-8.0	SRB	300d?	111.01	<i>R Hya</i>	3.5-10.9	M	389d	049.01
<i>XX Cam</i>	7.3-9.7?	RCB?		068.01	<i>RX Lep</i>	5.0-7.4	SRB	60d?	110.01
<i>X Cnc</i>	5.6-7.5	SRB	195d	231.01	<i>SS Lep</i>	4.8-5.1	ZA		075.01
<i>RS Cnc</i>	5.1-7.0	SRC	120d?	84/04/12	<i>Y Lyn</i>	6.9-8.0	SRC	110d	229.01
<i>V CVn</i>	6.5-8.6	SRA	192d	214.01	<i>SV Lyn</i>	6.6-7.5	SRB	70d?	108.01
<i>WZ Cas</i>	6.9-8.5	SRB	186d	82/08/16	<i>U Mon</i>	5.9-7.8	RVB	91d	029.03
<i>V465 Cas</i>	6.2-7.2	SRB	60d	233.01	<i>X Oph</i>	5.9-9.2	M	328d	099.01
<i>γ Cas</i>	1.6-3.0	GC		064.01	<i>BQ Ori</i>	6.9-8.9	SR	110d	84/04/12
<i>rho Cas</i>	4.1-6.2	SRD	320d	064.01	<i>AG Peg</i>	6.0-9.4	NC		094.01
<i>W Cep</i>	7.0-9.2	SRC		83/10/01	<i>X Per</i>	6.0-7.0	GC+XP		84/04/08
<i>AR Cep</i>	7.0-7.9	SRB		85/05/06	<i>R Sct</i>	4.2-8.6	RVA	146d	026.03
<i>mu Cep</i>	3.4-5.1	SRC	730d	112.01	<i>Y Tau</i>	6.5-9.2	SRB	242d	84/04/12
<i>O Cet</i>	2.0-10.1	M	332d	039.02	<i>W Tri</i>	7.5-8.8	SRC	108d	114.01
<i>R CrB</i>	5.7-14.8	RCB		041.02	<i>Z UMa</i>	6.2-9.4	SRB	196d	217.01
<i>W Cyg</i>	5.0-7.6	SRB	131d	062.1	<i>ST UMa</i>	6.0-7.6	SRB	110d?	102.01
<i>AF Cyg</i>	6.4-8.4	SRB	92d	232.01	<i>VY UMa</i>	5.9-7.0	LB		226.01
<i>CH Cyg</i>	5.6-10.0	ZA+SR		089.02	<i>VUMi</i>	7.2-9.1	SRB	72d	101.01
<i>U Del</i>	5.6-7.5	SRB	110d?	228.01	<i>SS Vir</i>	6.9-9.6	SRA	364d	097.01
<i>EU Del</i>	5.8-6.9	SRB	60d?	228.01	<i>SW Vir</i>	6.4-7.9	SRB	150d?	098.01
<i>TX Dra</i>	6.8-8.3	SRB	78d?	106.01					

ECLIPSING BINARY PREDICTIONS

TONY MARKHAM

The following predictions, based on the latest Krakow elements, should be usable for observers throughout the British Isles. The times of mid-eclipse appear in parantheses, with the start and end times of visibility on either side. The times are hours UT, with a value greater than 24 indicating a time after midnight. D indicates that the eclipse starts/end in daylight, L indicates low altitude at the start/end of the visibility and << indicates that mid eclipse occurred on an earlier date.

Thus, for example, on Aug 30, TV Cas D20(21)25 indicates that an eclipse of TV Cas starts in daylight, but can be observed between approx 20h on Aug 30 and 01h UT on Aug 31, with mid eclipse occurring at approx 21h UT on Aug 30. Please contact the EB secretary if you require any further explanation of the format.

The variables covered by these predictions are :

TV Cas	7.2-8.2V	S Equ	8.0-10.08V	U Sge	6.45-9.28V
U Cep	6.75-9.24V	delta Lib	4.9-5.9V	RW Tau	7.98-11.59V
SS Cet	9.4-13.0v	V640 Ori	11.2-13.5V	HU Tau	5.92-6.70V
SW Cyg	9.24-11.83V	Z Per	9.7-12.4p	X Tri	8.88-11.27V
Z Dra	10.8-14.1p	ST Per	9.52-11.40V	TX UMa	7.06-8.80V
TW Dra	8.0-10.5v	Y Psc	9.44-12.23V	Z Vul	7.25-8.90V

Note that predictions for RZ Cas, Beta Per and Lambda Tau can be found in the BAA Handbook.

2003 Jul 1 Tue	Z Vul D22(26)26D	TV Cas D22(23)26D	Z Per D22(21)25
TV Cas D22(26)26D	U Cep 22(27)26D	Z Dra D22(23)25	Z Vul D22(22)26D
S Equ 22(28)26D	del Lib 23(29)24L	Z Vul D22(24)26D	SW Cyg D22(25)26D
Z Dra 24(26)26D	2003 Jul 8 Tue	U Cep D22(27)26D	U Cep D22(26)26D
2003 Jul 2 Wed	Z Dra D22(21)23	2003 Jul 14 Mon	2003 Jul 18 Fri
TW Dra D22(24)26D	SW Cyg D22(22)26D	TW Dra 01(06)02D	RW Tau L01(05)02D
U Cep 22(27)26D	S Equ D22(24)26D	Z Per D22(19)24	ST Per L22(20)24
Z Vul 23(28)26D	U Sge 24(29)26D	Y Psc L22(21)26	2003 Jul 19 Sat
ST Per L23(23)26D	2003 Jul 10 Thu	del Lib 23(29)23L	TX UMa D22(18)23
2003 Jul 3 Thu	RW Tau L01(<<)02	2003 Jul 15 Tue	TW Dra D22(21)26
TV Cas D22(21)25	Y Psc L23(27)26D	S Equ D22(21)26D	del Lib D22(21)23L
2003 Jul 5 Sat	ST Per L23(21)26	U Sge D22(24)26D	2003 Jul 20 Sun
TW Dra D22(20)25	TV Cas 23(27)26D	2003 Jul 16 Wed	TV Cas 01(05)02D
U Sge D22(20)26D	2003 Jul 11 Fri	ST Per 00(05)02D	Z Per D22(22)26D
del Lib D22(22)24L	Z Per D22(18)23	TW Dra D22(25)26D	Z Dra 24(26)26D
2003 Jul 7 Mon	2003 Jul 12 Sat	Z Dra 22(25)26D	2003 Jul 21 Mon
RW Tau L01(03)02D	del Lib D22(21)24L	2003 Jul 17 Thu	RW Tau L01(<<)02D

TV Cas D22(24)26D TV Cas 22(26)27D Z Dra 00(02)03D TW Dra D20(18)23
 del Lib 22(29)23L X Tri L22(23)26 HU Tau L01(01)03D TV Cas D20(24)28D
2003 Jul 22 Tue **2003 Jul 31 Thu** del Lib D21(19)22L Z Dra 21(23)25
 U Sge D21(18)24 SW Cyg D21(18)24 SW Cyg D21(22)27D **2003 Aug 21 Thu**
 S Equ D21(18)24 Z Dra D21(23)25 TX UMa 24(28)24L Z Vul 01(06)04D
 TX UMa D21(19)24 TX UMa D21(24)25L **2003 Aug 10 Sun** TV Cas D20(20)24
 Z Vul D21(19)25 X Tri L22(23)25 Y Psc 01(06)03D U Cep D20(24)28D
 U Cep D21(26)26D ST Per 22(26)27D TX UMa L03(04)03D U Sge 23(28)28D
2003 Jul 23 Wed RW Tau L24(25)27D TV Cas D21(23)27 **2003 Aug 22 Fri**
 Z Dra D21(19)22 **2003 Aug 1 Fri** **2003 Aug 11 Mon** ST Per 02(06)04D
 TV Cas D21(20)24 TV Cas D21(21)25 HU Tau L01(02)03D S Equ D20(17)22
 U Per D21(23)26D U Sge D21(21)27D TW Dra 02(07)03D RW Tau 24(28)28D
 ST Per 23(27)26D U Cep D21(25)27D Z Per 03(07)03D **2003 Aug 23 Sat**
2003 Jul 24 Thu S Equ D21(26)27D Z Dra D21(20)22 SW Cyg D20(15)21
 X Tri 02(04)02D X Tri L22(22)24 U Cep D21(25)27D Z Vul D20(17)23
2003 Jul 25 Fri Z Per 23(27)27D U Sge D21(25)27D del Lib D20(19)21L
 X Tri 01(03)03D **2003 Aug 2 Sat** del Lib 21(27)22L Z Dra 22(25)27
 Z Vul 01(06)03D del Lib D21(20)22L RW Tau L23(27)27D **2003 Aug 24 Sun**
 Z Dra 02(04)03D TW Dra D21(21)26 **2003 Aug 12 Tue** ST Per D20(22)26
 TX UMa D21(21)25L Y Psc L21(17)21 TV Cas D21(18)22 **2003 Aug 25 Mon**
 U Sge 21(27)27D X Tri L22(21)24 **2003 Aug 13 Wed** Y Psc 03(07)04D
 S Equ 23(29)27D **2003 Aug 3 Sun** HU Tau L00(03)03D X Tri 03(05)04D
 Y Psc 24(28)27D TX UMa D21(25)25L Z Dra 02(04)03D TW Dra 03(08)04D
2003 Jul 26 Sat Z Vul D21(26)27D TX UMa L02(06)03D del Lib D20(26)21L
 X Tri 00(03)03D ST Per L21(17)22 Z Vul D21(22)27 Y Psc D21(24)27D
 del Lib D21(20)23L X Tri L22(21)23 **2003 Aug 4 Mon** TW Dra 22(27)27D
 Z Per D21(25)27D del Lib 21(28)22L RW Tau L23(21)26 **2003 Aug 14 Thu**
 ST Per L22(19)23 X Tri L22(20)22 HU Tau L01(05)03D RW Tau L23(21)26
 SW Cyg 23(29)27D X Tri L22(20)22 S Equ D20(20)25 **2003 Aug 15 Fri**
 X Tri 23(26)27D Z Dra 22(25)27D HU Tau 01(05)03D S Equ D20(20)25
2003 Jul 27 Sun Z Per 24(29)27D **2003 Aug 5 Tue** Z Dra D20(21)24
 Z Vul D21(17)23 HU Tau L01(<<)02 **2003 Aug 16 Sat** del Lib D20(19)21L
 Z Dra D21(21)24 U Sge 01(07)03D TW Dra D20(22)27 **2003 Aug 28 Thu**
 U Cep D21(26)27D SW Cyg 02(08)03D ST Per D20(23)27D Z Dra 00(02)04D
 X Tri 23(25)27D TW Dra D21(17)22 U Cep D20(24)27D X Tri 01(03)04D
2003 Jul 28 Mon TW Dra D21(17)22 **2003 Aug 6 Wed** U Sge D20(23)27D
 TX UMa D21(22)25L U Cep D21(25)27D **2003 Aug 7 Thu** HU Tau L01(<<)03D
 del Lib 22(28)23L U Cep D21(25)27D **2003 Aug 8 Fri** TV Cas 01(05)03D
 X Tri 22(25)27D TX UMa 22(27)24L **2003 Aug 9 Sat** U Sge D20(19)25
2003 Jul 29 Tue HU Tau L01(<<)03D TV Cas 01(05)03D U Sge D20(19)25
 RW Tau 02(06)03D **2003 Aug 8 Fri** S Equ D21(23)27D Z Vul D20(19)25
 TV Cas 02(06)03D Z Per 01(06)03D S Equ D21(23)27D SW Cyg D20(25)27D
 Z Per D21(26)27D Y Psc L21(23)27D Z Vul D21(24)27D del Lib 20(27)21L
 Y Psc L21(23)27D X Tri L22(24)26 ST Per D21(25)27D **2003 Aug 17 Sun**
 X Tri L22(24)26 Z Vul D21(24)27D HU Tau 02(06)03D Y Psc D20(18)23
 Z Vul 23(28)27D ST Per D21(25)27D **2003 Aug 18 Mon** TV Cas 01(05)03D
2003 Jul 30 Wed TV Cas 23(27)27D **2003 Aug 19 Tue** S Equ 01(06)03D
 TW Dra D21(26)27D **2003 Aug 9 Sat** S Equ 01(06)03D TW Dra D20(23)28D

Z Vul 21(26)28L del Lib D19(26)20L TW Dra D19(19)24 Z Dra 04(06)05D
 X Tri 23(25)28 RW Tau L21(19)24 Y Psc D19(21)26 Z Vul D19(15)21
2003 Aug 31 Sun HU Tau L23(21)25 Z Per D19(24)28 SW Cyg D19(15)21
 U Cep D20(23)28D **2003 Sep 9 Tue** RW Tau 22(27)28D U Sge D19(24)26L
 X Tri 22(25)27 X Tri D19(19)21 HU Tau 22(26)28D TX UMa L24(27)29D
2003 Sep 1 Mon ST Per D19(19)23 **2003 Sep 17 Wed** **2003 Sep 25 Thu**
 Z Dra 02(04)04D TX UMa D19(20)22L Z Vul 01(07)03L TW Dra 00(05)05D
 U Sge 02(08)03L Z Vul D19(22)27 V640 Ori L02(02)04D SS Cet 00(05)05D
 Z Per D20(17)22 **2003 Sep 10 Wed** ST Per D19(18)22 V640 Ori L02(04)05D
 TV Cas D20(17)21 X Tri D19(18)20 TV Cas 20(24)28D TV Cas 02(06)05D
 SW Cyg D20(19)25 TV Cas D19(18)22 U Sge 24(29)26L HU Tau 04(08)05D
 Y Psc D20(20)24 SW Cyg D19(22)28 Z Dra D19(20)22 ST Per D19(17)21
 ST Per D20(21)25 U Cep D19(23)27 TX UMa 19(24)22L U Cep D19(22)26
 S Equ D20(24)27L HU Tau L22(22)26 S Equ 23(28)26L S Equ 20(25)26L
 del Lib D20(26)20L TW Dra 23(29)28D HU Tau 24(28)29D Z Per 23(28)29D
 X Tri 22(24)27 **2003 Sep 2 Tue** **2003 Sep 11 Thu** **2003 Sep 19 Fri** **2003 Sep 26 Fri**
 TW Dra D20(18)23 X Tri D19(17)20 TX UMa L00(00)05D X Tri 04(07)05D
 X Tri 21(23)26 Z Dra 22(25)27 SS Cet 02(06)05D Z Dra 21(23)26
2003 Sep 3 Wed **2003 Sep 12 Fri** V640 Ori L02(03)05D Z Vul 21(26)26L
 RW Tau 02(06)04D S Equ 02(07)03L TW Dra D19(15)20 TV Cas 22(26)29D
 TX UMa D20(17)21 TX UMa D19(21)22L Z Vul D19(17)23 **2003 Sep 27 Sat**
 Z Dra D20(21)24 HU Tau L22(24)27 TV Cas D19(20)24 V640 Ori 02(05)05D
 X Tri 20(23)25 Y Psc 23(27)28D SW Cyg 20(26)29D X Tri 04(06)05D
2003 Sep 4 Thu **2003 Sep 13 Sat** Z Per 20(25)29D TW Dra 20(25)29D
 U Sge D20(17)22 TX UMa L00(<<)02 RW Tau L21(21)26 SS Cet 24(28)29D
 Z Per D20(18)23 V640 Ori L02(01)04 **2003 Sep 20 Sat** **2003 Sep 28 Sun**
 X Tri D20(22)24 SS Cet 03(08)04D Z Dra 02(04)05D TX UMa 00(05)05D
 Z Vul D20(24)28L del Lib D19(17)19L Y Psc D19(16)20 Y Psc 00(05)05D
2003 Sep 5 Fri Z Per D19(22)27 del Lib D19(17)19L X Tri 03(06)05D
 X Tri D20(21)24 TW Dra D19(24)28D U Cep D19(22)27 ST Per 04(08)05D
 U Cep D20(23)28 **2003 Sep 14 Sun** **2003 Sep 21 Sun** TV Cas D19(21)26
 RW Tau L21(25)28D RW Tau 03(08)04D HU Tau 01(05)05D SW Cyg 23(29)29D
2003 Sep 6 Sat Z Dra D19(18)20 V640 Ori L02(03)05D **2003 Sep 29 Mon**
 SW Cyg 02(08)04D Z Vul D19(20)25 U Sge D19(14)20 Z Per 00(05)05D
 TX UMa D20(18)22L U Sge D19(20)26 TV Cas D19(15)19 X Tri 02(05)05D
 X Tri D20(21)23 HU Tau L22(25)28D TX UMa 21(26)21L V640 Ori 02(05)05D
 HU Tau L23(20)23 ST Per 22(26)28D Z Vul 23(28)26L **2003 Sep 30 Tue**
 TV Cas 23(27)28D **2003 Sep 15 Mon** TX UMa L24(26)29D X Tri 02(04)05D
 ST Per 24(28)28D V640 Ori L02(02)04 **2003 Sep 22 Mon** TV Cas D19(17)21
2003 Sep 7 Sun S Equ D19(18)23 SS Cet 01(06)05D TW Dra D19(20)25
 Z Per D19(20)24 U Cep D19(22)27 S Equ D19(15)20 U Cep D19(21)26
 X Tri D19(20)22 TX UMa D19(23)22L Z Dra 19(21)24 ST Per 20(24)28
 U Sge 20(26)27L del Lib D19(25)19L ST Per 21(25)29D RW Tau L20(23)27
 Z Dra 21(23)26 **2003 Sep 16 Tue** Z Per 21(26)29D Z Dra 23(25)27
2003 Sep 8 Mon Z Dra 00(03)04D **2003 Sep 23 Tue** SS Cet 23(28)29D
 X Tri D19(19)22 TX UMa L00(<<)03 V640 Ori L02(04)05D
 S Equ D19(21)26 TV Cas 01(05)04D HU Tau 03(06)05D
 TV Cas D19(23)27 SS Cet 02(07)04D **2003 Sep 24 Wed**

007-04

3° FIELD INVERTED

AB DRACONIS 19h 49m 06.6s +77°44' 23" (2000)

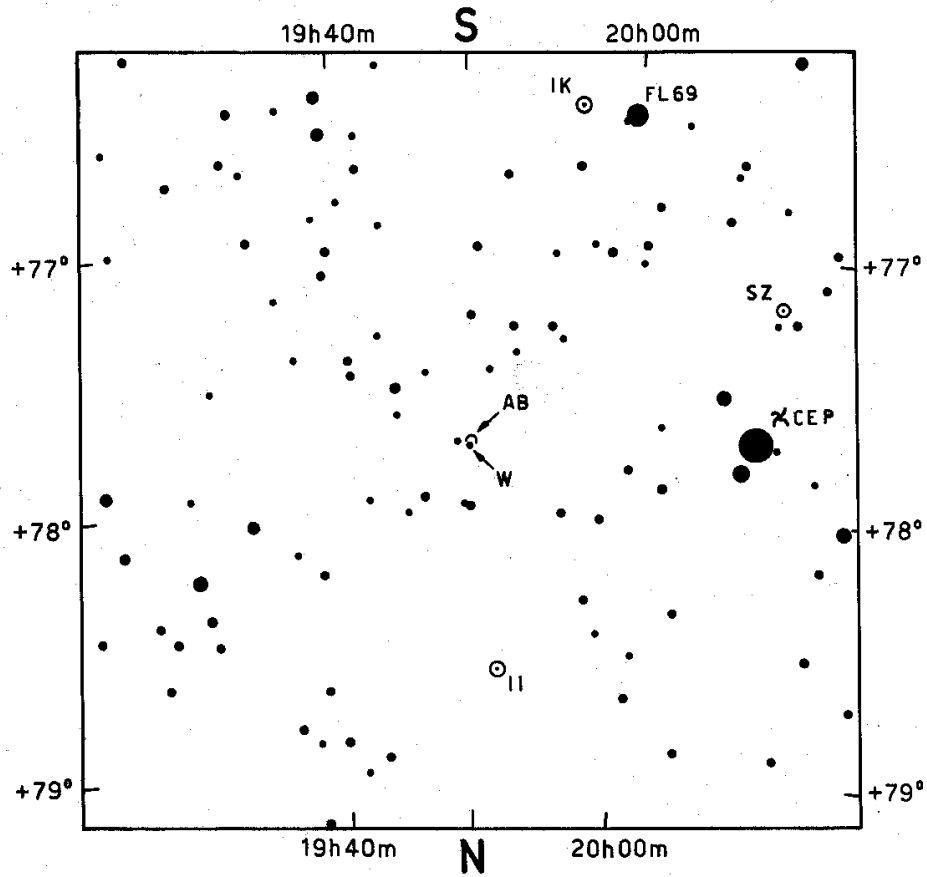


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The deadline for contributions to the 117th issue of VSSC will be 7th August 2003. All articles should be sent to the editor (details are given on the back of this issue)

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that information in this circular is correct, the Editor and Officers of the BAA cannot be held responsible for errors that may occur.

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Nova and Supernova discoveries

First telephone the Nova/Supernova Secretary. If only answering machine response, leave a message and then try the following: Denis Buczynski 01524 68530, Glyn Marsh 01772 690502, or Martin Mobberley 01284 828431.

Variable Star Alerts Telephone Gary Poyner (see above for number)

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