

APOLOGIES are due to section members on behalf of the VSS committee for the very late appearance of this circular due to pressure of various commitments affecting the workload of the Assistant Director. This 'emergency issue' is being produced hastily by the Nova Search Coordinator prior to my departure on holidays (June 20-26) and during that time urgent queries concerning the Nova/Supernova Programme should be directed to John Hosty (Tel: 0604 38964).

SECTION OFFICERS: The following changes have taken place since the list on VSSC 45 was published.

G.A.V. Coady (Main Programme Secretary). Change of address to: 15, Cedar Close, Market Deeping, Peterborough, PE6 8RP. Telephone number remains unchanged; Market Deeping (0778) 345396.

R.L. Lyon (Chart Curator). Telephone number has been amended to: 0209 831538 (Praise).

G.M. Hurst (Nova/Supernova Search Coordinator). Telephone numbers now: Office Northampton (0404) 30181; Home Wellingborough (0933) 676444. The latter number is available all night for possible discoveries.

SUBMISSION OF OBSERVATIONS: As announced in VSSC 45, observations should be submitted twice a year, in July and January, covering the periods Jan-Jun, and July to Dec respectively. Thus the first 'six-month' report period is about to end and Greg Coady will be distributing new computer-style report forms, together with appropriate instructions, to known active members as soon as possible. Please send in your report forms as soon as possible after the end of June to the appropriate officer, and at the latest, by the end of August.

CHARTS: These are distributed by our chart curator, Rodney Lyon, of Gwel-an-Meneth, Nancogollan, Helston, Cornwall, TR13 0AR to whom enquiries should be sent. To cover the cost of photocopying, members are asked to send 20p for each set of charts covering one main programme star and 5p for a set covering a star on the binocular/eclipsing binary programme. In the case of newly-discovered objects, such as new variables, novae and extra-galactic supernovae, preliminary charts are issued by the Nova Search Coordinator until a refined sequence version becomes available from Rodney Lyon at a later date. Efforts are being made to include preliminary versions with these circulars but to enable early valuable results to be obtained in the first few weeks after discovery, members are invited to subscribe to the supplementary subscription service of 'The Astronomer'. For a deposit of £3, a subscription can be arranged to: section A: discoveries brighter than magnitude 11 (includes also comets); section B: discoveries fainter than magnitude 11. There are plans to introduce a new unique service for fast communication of unusual variable star activity under a new section G, details will appear later. Enquiries concerning this service to G.M. Hurst.

NOVA/SUPERNOVA SEARCH MEETING 1981: ALL VSS members are invited to this event which will take place in the Church Hall, Earls Barton (nr Northampton) on July 4. Speakers include: Guy Hurst (Programme report); Melvyn Taylor (Light curve analysis of PU Vul and SN in NGC 6946); Jack Grills (Photographic Nova Hunter's Tool Kit); Mike Swan (Overlay checking for novae/supernovae); John Hosty (Analysis of past discoveries); Dave Branchett (Visual searching); Tony Poole (Manual non-cost blink comparator) and Charles Morris, visiting from USA, who will talk on comets to add variety to the meeting! VSS light curves and other items will be on exhibition. Book now, cost £1.75 admission, luncheon £2.25, by sending remittances to G.M. Hurst, Manor Park Observatory, 1, Whernside, Manor Park, Wellingborough, Northants, NN8 3QQ.

LIGHT CURVES: This circular includes, for UK members, preliminary VSS light curves for main programme stars. Overseas members can write to the Assistant Director for copies on request. Binocular star light curves, plus a binocular star priority list, should follow in the next circular.

LATE NEWS: PU Vul (formerly 'Kuwan's Nova-Like Object in Vulpecula) has brightened rapidly. On June 2.93UT, Hurst recorded magnitude 9.2. Chart from Nova Search Coordinator on request. PU Vul located at: RA 06h 58m 50s, Dec 00° 00' 00".