

The Astronomer

Section 1, TA Supplementary Subscription Service.

Editor: Guy M. Hurst, 16, Westminster Close, Kempshott Rise, Basingstoke, Hants RG22 4PP, England

Price 30p + postage.

FOUNDED 1964

Telephone: 0256 471074 International: +44256471074

MONTHLY

Please reply to: Editor.

Comet Machholz (1986a)

Further to the cable announcement, originally issued on May 13 via section 5, further details of this new comet are now available. Discovery was by D.E. Machholz of San Jose on May 12 at $m_1=11.0$ with 29x130 binoculars. Preliminary ephemeris by Marsden:

May 20	23 ^h 40 ^m .9	+42°59'	(1950)	Earth	0.592	Sun	0.834	mag approx 10
25	22 46.7	+45 05						
30	21 38.0	+45 24			0.583		1.064	

T= 1986 Apr 24.462 with $q=0.1444$ AU but com et then badly placed.

Supernova 1986I in NGC 4254=M99

Discovered May 17 at mag 14.0pv. Galaxy located: $12^h16^m.3 +14^\circ42'$ (1950). Offsets: RA +36" (east), DEC -16" (south).

Variable Object in Aquila

Kuwano reports a variable object at $19^h54^m.5 -11^\circ23'$ (1950). McNaught relays that Kuwano derived mag 9.0 on May 12.7UT and 8.9 on May 17.7. Marsden advises that the object is probably not a nova but a red variable according to information he has received from McNaught today. Assuming it is a variable, further details will appear in section 9. Any photos of the area, regardless of date would be welcomed for analysis.

Guy M Hurst.