

Edited by Robert Shanks

Welcome to the Blackburn Leisure Astronomical Society newsletter.

Remember this is your newsletter. If you wish to contribute, please pass me your submissions at the monthly meeting or email in the week after...

All contributions are welcome!



Perseid's On Radar!

Last month saw the peak of the [Perseid meteor shower](#) on August 12th. Radio Humberside also followed the shower on the early morning show and popped into BLAS for an explanation. Early morning listeners were given an explanation by the BLAS membership! The radio broadcasts can be heard [here](#). The opportunity of a shower was seized to test the

viability of the BLAS radio receiver and 2¼ hours of recorded observations were made from 9:24 that evening. The data was collated afterwards into a time stamped result sheet categorising the objects in terms of short simple echoes to longer decelerating trails ranging in faint to a small proportion of extremely bright audio detections. The radar receiver also picked up another faint but continuous echo. As the pictures of our antenna in the bottom left showed, we had in fact also inadvertently captured the faint trace of the radar systems signal being reflected from the moon! In all an



average meteor detection rate of nearly 1 meteor per minute was observed. The results were presented to the membership along with a lecture given by Andy Russell at the last meeting. Since then BLAS have collaborated with Dr Ray Taylor from HERAS who co-ordinates the [NEMETODE](#) effort, a group of astronomers worldwide who have webcams pointing skyward that regularly capture, triangulate and analyse data from meteors. Amazingly



after comparing data with theirs, we were also able to see that two of our radar detections from Brough match photographic image sightings in France within 8 seconds of each other. There is little doubt that these are probably the same objects. Not only can we detect meteors and the moon on radar, but after successful collaboration we can see the visual results of our efforts! Thanks to Dr Ray Taylor this month who will

be lecturing at HERAS Oct 14th.

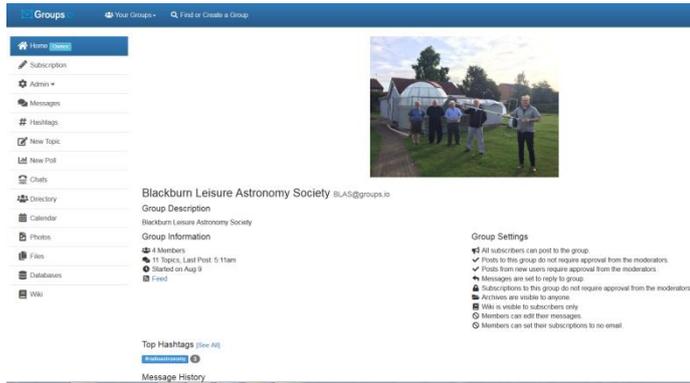
For publication in this newsletter and general feedback, please contact Bob@5150time.co.uk
www.broughastronomy.co.uk Providing a window on the Universe for all!

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Join Our Conversation!

Groupes.io is a web based service that allows groups better file sharing

compatibility than ordinary websites. In order to share and collaborate the currently quite labour intensive Radio Astronomy data without cluttering the BLAS website, a BLAS Groupes.io account has been created [here](#).



Groupes.io also offers member to member chat whilst preserving data protection. BLAS & HERAS members along with other invited members are welcome to join the conversation, share data on their chosen topics and contribute to the knowledge base. Simply follow the link above and hit sign up and a request will be sent to the administrator. Although this has been created to start with in order to share our Radar data, it can be utilised for any topics whatsoever. The Wikipedia style knowledge databases within Groupes.io can also be used as a master repository for key data such as telescope alignment instructions and software etc.

Next Months Meeting!

At the 23rd Sept meeting, Tim Old will

be giving an update on China's lunar Cheng'e-4's mission and discussing Mars Insight rover and Osiris Rex! The Dome 2 Restoration is also Complete! More to follow next month.

Neil Armstrong Remembered



7 years ago last month, the Engineer and Pilot who took one small step for mankind took his own final step. Whilst we recall the tension of the Eagles decent through the eyes and ears of Mission Control, Walter Cronkite of CBS news and the BBCs voices of James Burke and Patrick Moore; very few

people got close enough to Neil Armstrong for him to tell his side of the story. In 2011, just before his passing, an Australian journalist Alex Malley did just that and here is the resulting [interview](#) with the man himself. Sit back and enjoy Neil's side of the story and that incredible landing from his perspective in his words...