

Observing Efficiently

Presented to TTSO8

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- Slide 1) Title Screen**
- No description
- Slide 2) Efficiently?** The goal is: to be On Target “well before” the deadline.
- The deadline is of course the predicted event time, minus the “Error in Time”
 - If you are setup and ready after this time, then you may as well have stayed in bed.
 - Discuss “well before”
 - Derek Breit likes to be setup and running OT at least 1 hour before an event.
 - If the author is observing from his home observatory, then 10minutes is enough
- Slide 3) Components of Efficient Observing**
- Have good, reliable, and well prepared equipment.
 - Take the minimum equipment required and keep it well prepared.
 - Do your thinking beforehand.
 - Not after an alarm clock rise at 2:30am on a cold weekday morning.
 - Develop a personal observing routine and practise it.
 - The more you observe the better at it you become.
- Slide 4) Have good, reliable, and well prepared equipment.**
- Have a place for everything required, And have everything required in it's place.
 - Left hand images show Stephen Russell's observing kit.
 - Right hand images show Hristo Pavlov's observing kit.
- Slide 5) Do your thinking beforehand.**
- Documents and details:- printed
 - Occult prediction with event times written in big writing to make it easy to read under torchlight.
 - Finder charts with telescope alignment stars, synchronisation stars, and target coordinates. Hint: LX200 use Jnow, LX90 use J2k
 - Make any notes that might aid yourself at event time.
 - Tony Barry likes to create a User Object for each event.
 - Typing coordinates under torchlight is not required.
 - Go Site Hunting online
 - I prefer to go-mobile to a known site.
 - Use Google Earth and StreetsView to aid site selection.
- Slide 6) Develop a personal observing routine and practise it.**
- Don't wait for the best asteroid event of the year to practise your routine.
 - If you fail, you may well compromise other observations.
 - A better idea is to practise on lunar occultations
 - It's not unusual to have a dozen events in an evening.
 - Join the Doubles program as detailed by Brian Loader elsewhere in TTSO8.
 - More Telescope Time is better than TV-time
- Slide 7) Team Occultation needs YOU to be an efficient observer.**
- **The end**