



The WAS Research Astronomy Group (WAS-RAG)

An Introduction

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What is WAS-RAG?

A forum for WAS members interested in active research and contributing to scientific knowledge

We meet prior to the monthly WAS meetings to

- share our enthusiasm for astronomical research
- share our experiences and results
- discuss technical issues
- encourage and assist each other

Our members are involved in international collaborations and often are included as co-authors of peer-reviewed papers in respected journals (e. g. ApJ, MNRAS, Southern Stars etc.)

There is still a lot to investigate out there ...

We would like to welcome YOU as a new collaborator!

What kind of research is WAS-RAG involved in?

Currently involved in the following areas:

- Occultations ... Lunar, Lunar grazes, Minor planets, Trans-Neptunian Objects (TNOs), Jovian Extinction Events (JEE)
- Variable Stars ... Visual (naked eye or binoculars), DSLR photometry, CCD photometry, CCD Spectrometry

Types of variables ... Intrinsically variable stars, Eclipsing Binaries (EBs)

- Exoplanets ... Transiting Exoplanets (photometry)

What kind of research could WAS-RAG take on?

Some members are interested to become involved in

- Variable Stars ... CCD Spectrometry
- Surveys ... Search for Supernovae, Search for Comets,
Search for Exoplanets

Note: Surveys have no guarantee of results!

- any other suggestions?

Prerequisites for new WAS-RAG members?

Not much at all!

- Keen interest in astronomy and willingness to learn
- No equipment or binoculars required for visual brightness estimates of variable stars
- For occultation work: Telescope and suitable digital video camera with GPS-unit and time insertion device
- For photometry work: Telescope and DSLR or astronomical CCD camera
- For analysis work: Computer with Internet access and appropriate software (generally freeware)

How can WAS-RAG support new members?

In addition to the vibrant discussions during WAS-RAG meetings, we are considering

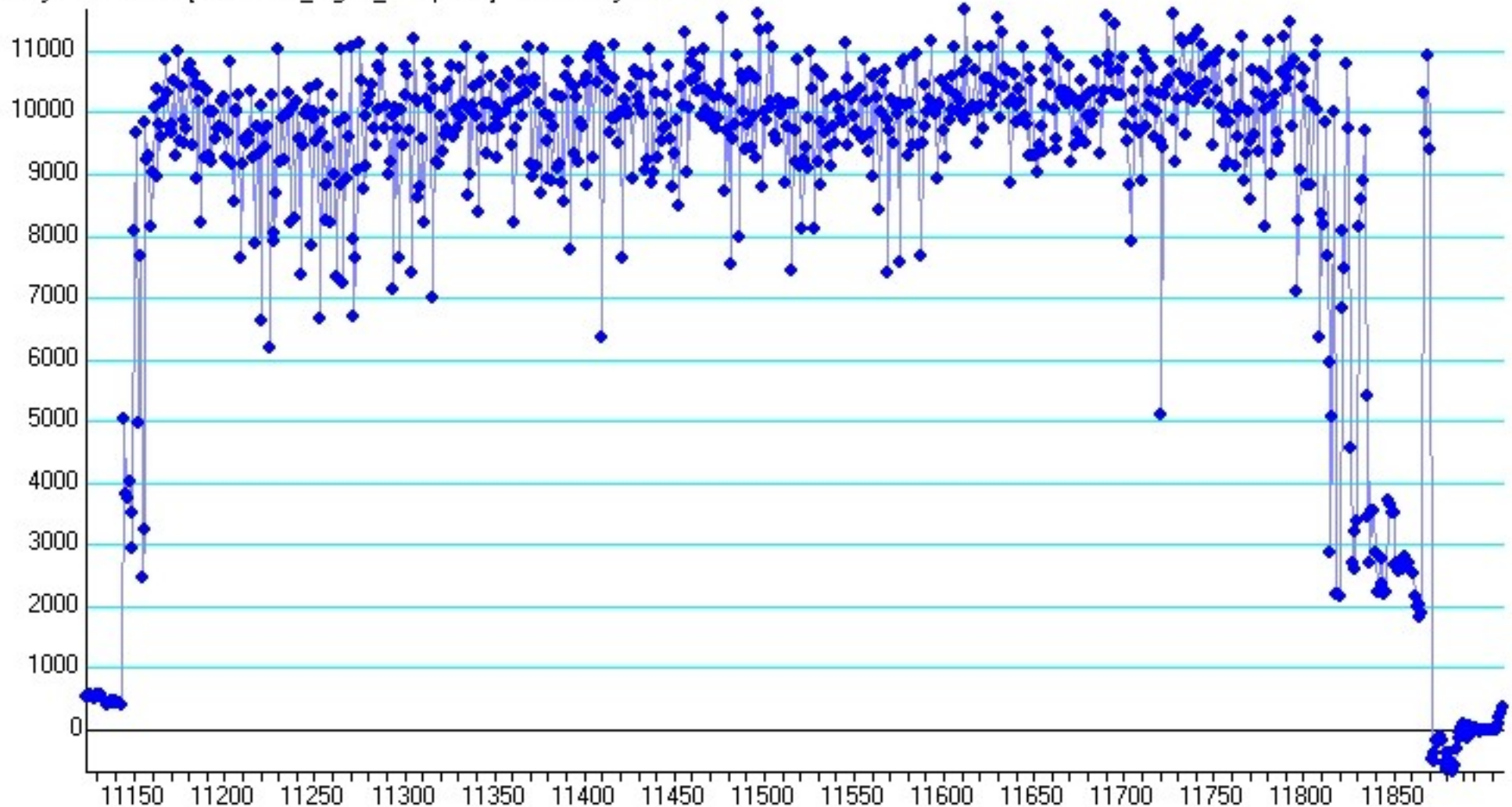
- Introductory workshops
- Mentoring (assignment of a more experienced “buddy” to a new member) for both observation/data-gathering and analysis work
- Nominate subject matter experts for each area of research, who can be contacted for assistance and guidance

As new members gain experience, they can be introduced to projects outside WAS-RAG, e.g. with Variable Stars South (VSS), a section of RASNZ incorporating members from NZ, Australia and beyond

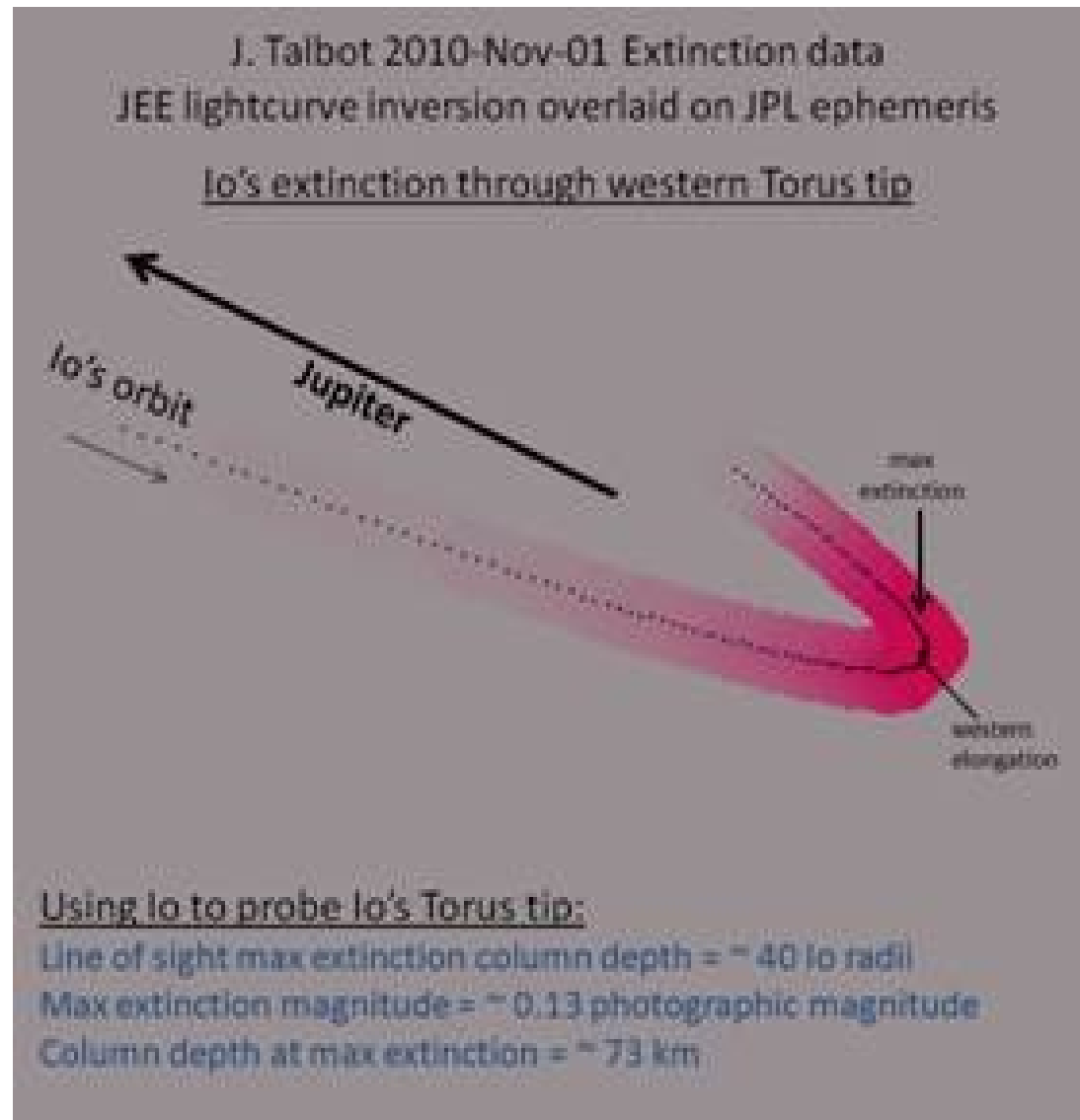
Any volunteers?

Lunar Grazing Occultation Sigma Scorpii 2009-07-31 (UT)

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Jovian Extinction Events (JEE)



http://scottysmightymini.com/JEE/default_files/image016.jpg