

Discovering Comets And Meteors

David H. Levy

Discovering Comets And Meteors:

Discovering Comets and Meteors Isaac Asimov, Greg Walz-Chojnacki, 1996 This book cites mysteries of comets and Exploring Comets, Asteroids, and Other Objects in Space Nancy Dickmann, 2015-07-15 This visually meteors stunning guide gives an up close look at some of the more elusive objects in space Definitions of better known objects such as comets as well as lesser known objects such as centaurs and trojans give a basic understanding of space objects and the history of how they were discovered It also covers the scientists who theorized about their existence and the later scientists who actually discovered them Readers will also get a look at how these objects can impact our future life and the plans scientists have for how we might learn more about them **David Levy's Guide to Observing Meteor Showers** David H. Levy, 2008 Meteors occur when a meteoroid a speck of dust in space enters the Earth's atmosphere The heat generated when this happens causes the surrounding air to glow resulting in shooting stars During the most spectacular meteor storms larger particles give rise to fireballs and firework like displays Meteors are a delightful observing field they do not require a telescope and they can be seen on any clear night of the year even in bright twilight It was the sight of a single meteor that inspired David Levy to go into astronomy and in this book he encourages readers to go outside and witness these wonderful events for themselves This book is a step by step guide to observing meteors and meteor showers Any necessary science is explained simply and in clearly understandable terms This is a perfect introduction to observing meteors and is ideal for both seasoned and budding astronomers Impact! Gerrit L. Verschuur, 1997-12-18 Most scientists now agree that some sixty five million years ago an immense comet slammed into the Yucatan detonating a blast twenty million times more powerful than the largest hydrogen bomb punching a hole ten miles deep in the earth Trillions of tons of rock were vaporized and launched into the atmosphere For a thousand miles in all directions vegetation burst into flames There were tremendous blast waves searing winds showers of molten matter from the sky earthquakes and a terrible darkness that cut out sunlight for a year enveloping the planet in freezing cold Thousands of species of plants and animals were obliterated including the dinosaurs some of which may have become extinct in a matter of hours In Impact Gerrit L Verschuur offers an eye opening look at such catastrophic collisions with our planet Perhaps more important he paints an unsettling portrait of the possibility of new collisions with earth exploring potential threats to our planet and describing what scientists are doing right now to prepare for this awful possibility Every day something from space hits our planet Verschuur reveals In fact about 10 000 tons of space debris fall to earth every year mostly in meteoric form The author recounts spectacular recent sightings such as over Allende Mexico in 1969 when a fireball showered the region with four tons of fragments and the twenty six pound meteor that went through the trunk of a red Chevy Malibu in Peekskill New York in 1992 the meteor was subsequently sold for 69 000 and the car itself fetched 10 000 But meteors are not the greatest threat to life on earth the author points out The major threats are asteroids and comets The reader discovers that astronomers have located some 350 NEAs Near Earth

Asteroids objects whose orbits cross the orbit of the earth the largest of which are 1627 Ivar 6 kilometers wide and 1580 Betula 8 kilometers Indeed we learn that in 1989 a bus sized asteroid called Asclepius missed our planet by 650 000 kilometers a mere six hours and that in 1994 a sixty foot object passed within 180 000 kilometers half the distance to the moon Comets of course are even more deadly Verschuur provides a gripping description of the small comet that exploded in the atmosphere above the Tunguska River valley in Siberia in 1908 in a blinding flash visible for several thousand miles every tree within sixty miles of ground zero was flattened He discusses Comet Swift Tuttle the most dangerous object in the solar system a comet far larger than the one that killed off the dinosaurs due to pass through earth s orbit in the year 2126 And he recounts the collision of Comet Shoemaker Levy 9 with Jupiter in 1994 as some twenty cometary fragments struck the giant planet over the course of several days casting titanic plumes out into space when Fragment G hit it outshone the planet on the infrared band and left a dark area at the impact site larger than the Great Red Spot In addition the author describes the efforts of Spacewatch and other groups to locate NEAs and evaluates the idea that comet and asteroid impacts have been an underrated factor in the evolution of life on earth Astronomer Herbert Howe observed in 1897 While there are not definite data to reason from it is believed that an encounter with the nucleus of one of the largest comets is not to be desired As Verschuur shows in Impact we now have substantial data with which to support Howe s tongue in cheek remark Whether discussing monumental tsunamis or the innumerable comets in the Solar System this book will enthrall anyone curious about outer space remarkable natural phenomenon or the future of the planet earth David Levy's Guide to Observing and <u>Discovering Comets</u> David H. Levy, 2003-05-15 David Levy has held a lifelong passion for comets and is one of the most successful comet discoverers in history In this book he describes the observing techniques that have been developed over the years from visual observations and searching to photography through to electronic charge coupled devices CCDs He combines the history of comet hunting with the latest techniques showing how our understanding of comets has evolved over time This practical handbook is suitable for amateur astronomers from those who are casually interested in comets and how to observe them to those who want to begin and expand an observing program of their own Drawing widely from his own extensive experience Levy describes how enthusiastic amateurs can observe comets and try to make new discoveries themselves David H Levy is one of the word s foremost amateur astronomers He has discovered seventeen comets seven using a telescope in his own backyard and had a minor planet Asteroid 3673 Levy named in his honor He is best known as the co discoverer of the famous 1994 Shoemaker Levy 9 comet Levy is frequently interviewed in the media and succeeded Carl Sagan as science columnist for Parade magazine He has written and contributed to a number of books most recently David **Exploring Comets, Asteroids, and Other** Levy's Guide to the Night Sky Cambridge 2001 Knowledge ,1885 **Objects in Space** Nancy Dickmann, 2015-07-15 This visually stunning guide gives an up close look at some of the more elusive objects in space Definitions of better known objects such as comets as well as lesser known objects such as centaurs

and trojans give a basic understanding of space objects and the history of how they were discovered It also covers the scientists who theorized about their existence and the later scientists who actually discovered them Readers will also get a look at how these objects can impact our future life and the plans scientists have for how we might learn more about them

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