



# Wsaag Newsletter

April 2015

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Editor: Bob Paton

## Special points of interest:

- *Tony Barry publishes paper*
- *Constellation of the month—Sextans*
- *Gerry Aarts is guest speaker*
- *Wsaag News*
- *Member images*
- *Membership*



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## Tony Barry publishes a paper titled “*Verifying timestamps of occultation observation systems*”—Bob Paton

**I**t is with great pleasure that we report that Tony Barry has recently had a paper accepted for publication in the Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia (PASA).

The paper is titled “*Verifying timestamps of occultation observation systems*” and lists Dave Gault, Greg Bolt, Alistair McEwan, Miroslav D Filipovic and Graeme L White as co-authors. The abstract is printed below.

### Abstract

We describe an image timestamp verification system to determine the exposure timing characteristics and continuity of images made by an imaging camera and recorder, with reference to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). The original use was to verify the timestamps of stellar occultation recording systems, but the system is applicable to lunar flashes, planetary transits, sprite recording, or any area where reliable timestamps are required. The system offers good temporal resolution (down to 2 msec, referred to UTC) and provides exposure duration and inter-frame dead time information. The



system uses inexpensive, off-the-shelf components, requires minimal assembly and requires no high-voltage components or connections. We also describe an application to load FITS (and other format) image files, which can decode the verification image timestamp. Source code, wiring diagrams and built applications are provided to aid the construction and use of the device.

A pre-print version of Tony’s paper is available at:

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1503.05705> ❖