

The OBSERVER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What an exciting time in the history of the Twin City Amateur Astronomers club! We just celebrated the 50 year anniversary of the club, the North Central Region of the Astronomical League (NCRAL) 2010 meeting is just days away, and our members only and public observing session schedule is under way, just waiting for clear skies!

As the new president, I want to thank the committee who is preparing for the NCRAL meeting. It looks to be a great event with many opportunities to learn new things about our hobby and to meet other enthusiasts from around the region. I do encourage all of you to take advantage of this meeting, both to help and to participate. Several of our own members are presenting as well, so we have a lot to be proud of.

I would also encourage those of you who haven't been directly involved in our observing sessions to join us as much as you can. Don't worry about what you don't now, or if you don't have the latest and greatest equipment, just come and participate as much as you can. There are always people there to help you with knowing how to use your telescope and what to look for in the night sky. If you don't have your own telescope, bring some binoculars. Any strength will do and there is much to see with binoculars that is sometimes easier to find than with a telescope! The club also has some good, easy to use, portable telescopes that you can borrow. Again, there are members who can help you with this, as well.

To quote a famous astronomer, "Keep looking up!" I would add, "Keeping looking for the AWE factor!"

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2010, BOARD MEETING

President Dave Osenga called the meeting at LYB, Inc. to order at 6:40pm. Also present were William Carney, Lee Green, Dan Miller, John Warner, Carl Wenning and Duane Yockey. The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved without changes. Dave complimented Lee on the successful Adult Education course held at Heartland Community College and Lee thanked Dave for his excellent assistance at the three meetings for the course.

Treasurer Duane Yockey reported that while the annual meeting was successful, the revenues of the event fell short of the cost by \$324.54. He suggested, and others concurred, that since this was a big milestone for the club and invoked wonderful memories of earlier days in the TCAA, the shortfall was not excessive. Duane indicated that he will track revenues and expenditures for the NCRAL conference in parallel with club finances. As ALCOR, Duane also notified the attendee about the Michiana Star Party that will be held soon near South Bend, Indiana.

Secretary Lee Green reported that, in his new role, he would obtain any official documents from his predecessor Carl Wenning. In his role as webmaster, Lee also reported that he has been scanning back issues of The Observer that were loaned to him by Carl and that a complete archive from 1990 is now posted on the club's web site.

Property Manager William Carney reported that he has been checking the observatory periodically and that it was weathering the winter well with no water or ice evident. He also noted that the 10" telescope was packed up and that no telescope was currently set up, and that he was looking forward to future discussions

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TCAA EVENTS FOR APRIL

TCAA events for April are below. TCAAs are encouraged to attend and participate in all these events.

- ☆ April 16-17, NCRAL 2010 Meeting, register online at <http://www.ncral2010.org> (fees apply)
- ☆ April 24, Public Sky Viewing Session, 8:30 – 10:30 p.m., Sugar Grove Nature Center, Gibbous Moon and Saturn, Lee Green coordinating

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Submission deadline is the first of each month.

Membership Dues

Individual Adult/Family \$40
Full-time Student/Senior \$25
Electronic Newsletter \$25

To join the TCAA, send your name, contact info and dues payment to
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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2010, BOARD MEETING (CONT.)

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about equipping the observatory. Finally, William noted that he had done some asteroid astrophotography on March 3 and that the temperature was in the 20s and his equipment had iced up by the time he packed up at 10pm.

Dan Miller reported that he had helped get an informative article published in the Decatur Herald discussing the upcoming NCRAL conference. He also noted that a photograph taken by Bobby Arn had recently been selected for NASA's Earth/Space Picture of the Day. He reminded the Board that he and John Werner would soon be travelling to Fallon AFB in Nevada for a week of dark sky observing.

The Board reviewed the schedule of future Board meetings in 2010 which includes May 4, July 6, September 7 and November 2. The Calendar of Events includes the upcoming Members Only and Public observing sessions and the April 16-17 NCRAL conference being hosted by the TCAA. Carl confirmed that he would lead the March 20 POS. Duane indicated that he would not be able attend the July POS and Dave agreed to lead that session.

Since all New Business issues concerned the NCRAL conference, those discussions were deferred to the meeting of the NCRAL committee which commenced after the end of the Board meeting which adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Green

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2010, NCRAL PLANNING MEETING

NCRAL 2010 Chairman Carl Wenning called the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the offices of LYB, Inc. In attendance were Dave Osenga, William Carney, Lee Green, Dan Miller, John Werner, and Duane Yockey. Carl indicated that he didn't have an agenda per se, but that the meeting would center on reports of the various leaders and on answering questions that have arisen since the last meeting.

Dan started off by noting that he has two projectors, two screens, two sets of video cables, and a public address system on reserve for our use. Dan also noted that he has three SPS students from Millikin University who will be able to assist as necessary during the NCRAL 2010 meeting. It was also noted that Ed Duran and Brian Barling will help as needed. Dan has confirmed with Bobby Arn that he will take the official photographs of the group – using a hotel second floor window if necessary to gain the required perspective.

Dan further noted that he has arranged two Challenger Learning Center programs. Duane noted that he continues to consult with the Normal Theater and serve as an on-site guide to planetarium after the showing (which might be *The Forbidden Planet*), and Carl noted that he will manage the planetarium on Friday evening. He will talk to Tom Willmitch shortly about obtaining keys and access.

Duane and Dave will be meeting with the staff of the conference hotel next Wednesday (3/10) at 4:30 p.m. to work out catering and media needs. Duane will also call the hotel to see if we can get them to move the block room reservation deadline to a later date if possible (he was able to get it moved to April 2 the next day).

John noted that the March issue of *The Reflector* carried our advertisement and meeting information. He indicated a desire to re-send electronically and/or via snail mail information to 62 ALCORS; Carl noted that he can re-send 250 emails using a "special" mailing list. Both "e-blasts" will be delayed briefly to include the latest, most up-to-date information. John will revise the meeting flyer pending receipt of dates and other information from Duane, Lee, and Carl.

John noted that he is having two TCAA logos sewn for use as gifts for the speakers who cannot receive monetary honoraria. The cost is \$20 each. The size will be 5 inches diameter that is slightly larger than the logos appearing on shirts. John also distributed several embroidered shirts and noted that five additional were on order for various club members. John further noted that he needs to get at least four prizes for astrophotography contest winners.

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AL OBSERVING PROGRAM STANDINGS

Below is a listing of the status of observers pursuing AL observing programs reported as of March 31st. If you would like to have your information included in next month's listing, be certain to forward your observing totals to Lee Green by the end of this month. Keep in mind that the next observing awards will be conferred at the summer picnic at SGNC. Be certain to get your completed observing records to our ALCor, Duane Yockey, as soon as the observing program is complete so that you might be appropriately recognized on a timely basis.

AL Award	Bobby Arn	Brian Barling	William Carney	Lee Green	David Hahn	Chuck Mosier	Dave Osenga	Carl J. Wenning	Duane Yockey
S. Skies Binocular 50								(50)	(50)
S. Sky Telescope 50								(52)	(50)
Telescope Messier Prov70/ Hon110		(110)	(110)	108*	(110)		70*	(110)	31
Binocular Messier 50			(100)	60*	22	8		(78)	22
Deep Sky Binocular 60			60*						
Herschel 400 Club		268	(400)	(400)				(400)	
Urban Club 100			(100)	100*				(100)	
Comet Club Silver12/Gold30			(31**)					4	
Double Star Club 100		17		51				(100)	
Planetary Neb Club Basic60/ Adv110			1					(63*)	
Globular Cluster Club 50				20				65*	
Lunar Club 100		(100)	(100)	(100)			(100)	(100)	
Lunar II Club 100			34						
Asteroid Club Reg25/Gold100			(52)						
Earth Orbiting Satellite 28			5		13			3	
Outreach Award Basic10/ Stellar60/Master160	*, **, ***			(*, **)				31 ^h -06* 26 ^h -07 44 ^h -08** 43 ^h -09	

* Program or first award level now complete. ** Second award level now complete. *** Third award level now complete. AL recognition (certificate and pin) will be given at the next general membership meeting if available. Numbers in parentheses (#) indicate that the associated pin and/or certificate has been received.

MEMBERS SWEEP THE LOT

On March 5th, TCAAers William Carney, Tony Cellini, Carl Wenning, and Lee Green assembled at SGNC to "sweep the lot." Each year over the course of the winter months the concrete pad becomes littered with gravel due to vehicle traffic, snow plowing, and such. The gravel underfoot interferes with comfortable viewing and hence was removed. Heretofore William Carney has been sweeping the lot each year by himself. This year he asked for assistance and was gratefully surprised by the large turn out of assistants. Thanks to all who helped out and especially to William for having done so for many years without recognition.

APRIL SKY GUIDE

08 Mercury is at greatest eastern elongation (19°), 6 P.M.



09 The Moon passes 4° north of Neptune, 8 P.M.



11 The Moon passes 6° north of Jupiter, 5 P.M.



12 The Moon passes 6° north of Uranus, 9 A.M.



15 The Moon passes 1.5° north of Mercury, 6 P.M.



16 The Moon passes 4° north of Venus, 8 A.M.



22 The Moon passes 5° south of Mars, 4 A.M.



Lyrid meteor shower peaks



25 The Moon passes 8° south of Saturn, 7 P.M.



28 Mercury is in inferior conjunction, noon

APRIL EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

The year's first public sky viewing session was not held as scheduled on March 20th due to an overcast sky. The April 24th public sky viewing session will be held at SGNC beginning at 8:30 p.m. if the sky is tolerably clear. The topics for the session will be the gibbous moon and Saturn. Lee Green serve as event coordinator. Complete details (map, directions, points, and cancellation policy, etc.) can be found on the TCAA website at <http://www.tcaa.us/>

TWIN TELESCOPES LOANED TO TCAA

Two 10-inch Odyssey Dobsonian reflecting telescopes were put on indefinite loan to the TCAA on March 5th by ISU Planetarium Director Tom Willmitch at the request of Carl Wenning. The first of the two telescopes was acquired in the late 1980s by the planetarium when Carl was still director. The second telescope was donated on behalf of the memory of 21-year-old club member Ayne VandenBrook after she passed away in 1989. Both are outfitted with 18mm and 24mm eyepieces, Messier cards, and a 6x30 finder scope. One telescope has a rack and pinion focuser (Ayne's) and the other has a heliacal focuser. Both are very good optically speaking. This is critically important due to the f/4.5 configuration. Such telescopes are typically termed "light buckets" as they are excellent for viewing dim deep space objects such as nebulas and galaxies.

Carl asked Tom to put the telescopes on indefinite loan to the TCAA for a variety of reasons: (1) the TCAA can use a couple of intermediate sized instruments for use at observing programs, and (2) the telescopes were resting unused for many years and were "in the way" at the planetarium. When Carl made the loan request, Tom quickly agreed. A letter of agreement must now be prepared for Tom indication the conditions of the indefinite long-term loan and the conditions for their return.

Carl further suggests that this summer the instruments might be used to teach relatively inactive TCAAers how to use telescopes. Carl used these telescopes for several years as loaners in a planetarium outreach program. He noted that a memorandum of understanding needs to be sent to the ISU Planetarium outlining the conditions of the loan, ownership, and retrieval options.

COYOTE UGLY?

During recent months, several TCAAers have been accosted by packs of coyotes. On the evening of March 28th, after an evening of viewing at SGNC, William Carney had one such run in. He wrote the next day on the TCAA listserv, "I had an interesting experience last night at SGO. I was out for a few hours and about 8 pm I started to hear the coyotes – but this time they were very close. I then heard the sound of something large, probably a deer, rustling through the brush. This was coming from the creek-tree line just to the North, not more than 200' or so. I heard some yipping like one coyote got hit. When I looked up I saw a coyote running full speed right about where the fire pit is. This is less than 50 to 75' from the parking lot where I was. I shoved everything in the car very fast and got most of the way to 66 when I thought I could set my camera tripod up in the dome so I went back and stayed for another hour. I did not hear anything after I returned. I definitely got startled for a awhile."

A discussion about "coyote safety" on the TCAA listserv ensured, with the general consensus being that coyotes are likely to be rather harmless, perhaps less dangerous than a raccoon. TCAAer Gail Nelson, who has State & Federal Wildlife Rehabilitation permits, suggested that there are no documented cases of coyotes attacking (adult) humans. Hilary Goff Shirven indicated that coyotes are pretty much afraid of humans, and suggested that raccoons are likely to be more dangerous. John Mori suggested the following website for some facts about potential coyote attacks for those who might still be fearful or otherwise concerned: http://tchester.org/sgm/lists/coyote_attacks.html Thanks to all for their information about this topic.

2010 PUBLIC OBSERVING SESSIONS

From March through October each year, the TCAA holds monthly public observing sessions on the Saturday typically nearest the first quarter moon. All programs are free of charge and open to the public. The sessions are held at Sugar Grove Nature Center. In 2010, we will hold the observing sessions on the dates and time listed below. Each session will focus on a particular celestial phenomenon, though additional prominent sky objects such as planets, nebulae, star clusters, and galaxies are viewed when visible. A typical public observing session includes the following components:

- ☆ *Lecture about the featured object.* This 20-30 min. presentation, held in the SGNC picnic shelter, includes images of and details about the featured sky object as well as information on other interesting celestial objects that might be viewed that evening.
- ☆ *Sky tour using a laser pointer.* We step out under the stars to point out the major constellations and planets, and to designate the location of the featured celestial object for the evening.
- ☆ *Telescope observing session.* We use telescopes at ground level to observe the featured objects and other wonders of the heavens.

Date	Featured Object	Time	Coordinator(s)
May 22	Variable Stars	9:00pm - 11:00pm	Lee Green
June 19	Virgo Cluster of Galaxies	9:00pm - 11:00pm	Duane Yockey & David Osenga (?)
July 17	Globular Star Clusters	9:00pm - 11:00pm	Duane Yockey & David Osenga (?)
August 14	Planets and the Zodiac	8:30pm - 10:30pm	Carl Wenning
September 11	Stars of Red, White and Blue	7:30pm - 9:30pm	Dan Miller
October 16	Perseus double star Cluster	7:00pm - 9:00pm	John Werner

A detailed brochure dealing with the 2010 public observing sessions can be downloaded from the TCAA website at www.tcaa.us.

Members-only observing sessions usually are held on the Saturday nearest the full moon and are typically held one week prior to public sky viewings. MOOS programs are held throughout the year, but only if the temperature isn't too low and the wind too high during the winter. Because the TCAA Board has agreed to dispense with coordinators for the members-only events, TCAAers should pay attention to monthly reminders that will be distributed electronically through the club's listserv.

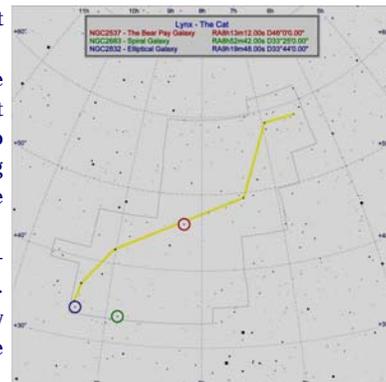
CONSTELLATION OF THE MONTH: LYNX—THE LYNX

Lynx is a constellation that lies between Auriga and Ursa Major, north of Gemini and Cancer. Lynx is best viewed in the late spring.

Lynx was first described by the Dutch astronomer Johann Hevelius. The constellation may be related to the story of Proserpine's abduction to the underworld and Ceres' search for her daughter. After an arrangement with Pluto allowed Proserpine to spend 6 months of each year with her mother and 6 months with Pluto, said to be the source of the seasons, Ceres granted a gift of seeds to the kingdoms of the Earth. It is said that King Lynceus was jealous of the gift-bearer and through his treachery was punished by Ceres and turned into the Lynx.

Lynx is the 28th largest constellation covering 545 square degrees. It is the 53rd brightest and reaches opposition on January 24. None of the stars in Lynx is brighter than 3rd magnitude and none of the stars are named.

Located well away from the Milky Way, Lynx contains mostly galaxies. NGC2537 is called the Bear Paw Galaxy after the bright areas suggesting the toes. NGC2683 is an edge-on spiral galaxy. NGC2832 is at the heart of 5 nearby galaxies.



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2010, NCRAL PLANNING MEETING (CONT.)

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William reported on door prizes. He noted that only a very few door prizes have arrived to date, and suggested re-sending 50 letters, as well as 25 new letters. Carl will see to the necessary printing and revision of the first letter and hand these off to William. It was mentioned that he might also want to contact local distributors for freebies such as State Farm and Beer Nuts. Dan noted that the BNCVB will be providing sacks for stuffing these materials, and can also be used for inserting the program and other printed material made available through the meeting registrar. John noted that he might be able to copy the Clyde Tombaugh DVD and distribute as a door prize. Carl noted that it would be best for John to obtain written permission to do so from the producer so we don't violate applicable copyright laws. Carl noted that he had a book he could donate, and others chimed in with similar offers if such become necessary.

Duane note that the menu was set for the banquet, and everyone congratulated him on the selection of entrees. He will be negotiating with the hotel caterer on Wednesday about refreshments to be served throughout the day.

Lee noted that registrations have been coming in fairly regularly and that 23 have now registered with most signing up for one of the CLC missions. He will work closely with Carl and others to provide the necessary reports.

Carl reported that he has yet to go through the program to determine who needs to be where doing what during the meeting. He will do this before the next meeting. He also will contact all speakers to confirm their attendance, including both the Webb Space Telescope speaker and the astronaut. He will "push" for the Webb speaker, but will be a bit more delicate with the astronaut request. If the Webb speaker is denied, efforts will be made to obtain Tom Keyes at STScI to speak about the Hubble's astronomical work. While the cost of the honorarium will be much larger, it is anticipated that travel costs will be similarly reduced. Tom has agreed to put us temporarily into his schedule.

The planning team agreed to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, March 16th, at 6:30 p.m. at LYB, Inc. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Carl Wenning, Chairman

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2010, NCRAL PLANNING MEETING

NCRAL 2010 chair Carl Wenning called the planning team to order at 6:36 p.m. in the offices of LYB, Inc. Also in attendance were Duane Yockey, Lee Green, William Carney, and Dave Osenga. Dan Miller and John Werner were out of town and unable to attend the meeting. Carl started off with a speaker update noting the NASA Astronaut Appearances Office had indicated that Cmdr. Scott Altman would not be able to present at our gathering of amateur astronomers. Another astronaut had been contacted, but he was not able to attend either. Carl suggested that we "go" with Tony Keyes of the StScI who had been recommended earlier by John. It was agreed that Carl should contact him.

Carl further noted that Jimmy Simek of the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, OH, had agreed to come to speak about the James Webb Space Telescope. He also confirmed the attendance of Mike Bakich, Senior Editor of *Astronomy* magazine. Carl will arrange flights for Keyes and Simek, and take care of hotel arrangements before the April 2 reservation cutoff date. Carl distributed a draft copy of the meeting program.

Dave noted that we have the required materials for video projection including screens, projectors, and computers. He will arrange to rent a \$27 speaker's backdrop from Weaver's Rent All to help improve the appearance of the "stage" which tends to be cluttered with lots of wires and such. Dave asked Carl to check with speakers about whether they would be bringing their own computers, or if they will be using a CD or flash memory. If so, they will be asked to send copies to us in advance so they can be loaded on our computers so we can avoid snafu's with computer files as occurred at the NCRAL 2009 meeting. It was further noted that GAFF tape will be purchased to tape down media cords and cables so they do not become tripping hazards.

Duane noted that, upon the advice of the caterer, the banquet menu beef entrée has changed from prime rib (doesn't serve well on buffets) to grilled flat iron steak. The chicken entrée remains the same. Duane is making arrangement for break refreshments that will include doughnuts and cookies and a variety of drinks. Duane further indicated that the Normal Theater said that they will get us a 1950s style science fiction thriller (later reported to be *Earth versus the Flying Saucers*). Duane noted the existence of the "hospitality room" off the conference hotel lobby that can be used for the social hour prior to the evening banquet. The caterers

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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2010, NCRAL PLANNING MEETING (CONT.)

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will set up a cash bar at no cost to us. Carl was reminded to use one of the complimentary rooms for one of the three invited speakers. It was agreed that this suite would go to Tony Keyes, our banquet speaker. Duane further noted that we have 20 of the required 35 rooms booked.

Lee noted that all goes well with the online registration process. To date 32 have registered, and 12 have signed up (7 +5) for the two CLC missions. Lee then passed out sample name badges. Lee will be preparing a number of reports for the registration desk. He will also bring along a computer and printer for generating name tags for those who register on site.

William indicated that the door prizes are slow in arriving (only 10 items to date) and that he had inquired of IWU about door prizes. They gave him four IWU mugs of different types. He indicated that he has written Beer Nuts and State Farm for additional donations. Other suggestions were ISU (Lee's wife Liz will check into this) and Nestle-Beich Candy Company. It was suggested that 20/20 from Indiana be contacted about possibly putting up a display to supplement the one display by WIASTRO. Lee indicated that he would donate 2 CDs from International Star Registry. William concluded his report stating that only yesterday he had re-sent solicitation letters to 40 of the original 50 providers, and another letter to 25 additional providers who he had not contacted previously.

Attention was then turn to developing a policy for the registration of TCAA members. It was agreed that TCAAers who are scheduled to work in advance of the NCRAL 2010 may register at cost of \$40 for the conference only (CLC mission or visits to planetarium and Normal Theater would have to be paid as well). This \$40 fee would include refreshments during the day and the Saturday evening banquet. If TCAAers are not scheduled to work wish to attend, they must pay the entire \$75 conference registration fee. The three Millikin University students working with Dan Miller will be admitted to the entire conference at no cost. Everyone should register online at <http://www.ncral2010.org> if they intend to attend the conference.

The next meeting was scheduled for two weeks hence, on Tuesday, March 30, at 6:30 p.m. in the offices of LYB, Inc. in downtown Bloomington. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Carl Wenning, Chairman

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 30, 2010, NCRAL PLANNING MEETING

NCRAL 2010 chairman Carl Wenning called the planning team to order at 6:37 p.m. In attendance were Duane Yockey, Lee Green, William Carney, John Werner, Dan Miller, and Brian Barling. Dave Osenga was sick at home but joined us electronically through speakerphone.

Carl started the meeting by making comments about speakers and reviewing the updated program and sharing through video projection the work assignments document he had prepared in advance of the meeting. He noted that all speakers are now on board, that he expected to receive all talk titles, abstracts, biographical sketches, and pictures within 24 hours. He further noted that Tony Keyes will be flying into Chicago, renting a car, and spending several days in central Illinois. Only those expenses directly related to the conference will be remitted. Jimmy Simek will be flying into CIRA and Carl will make arrangements to get him to the hotel and such; Mike Bakich will be driving in from Wisconsin and will assist Carl with the Friday evening planetarium program. Carl will make hotel reservations for all three invited speaks by April 1.

Carl then led a discussion, moving through the updated meeting program line by line. Complete details about duties will be submitted to the planning team by March 31st in the form of the edited document developed during the meeting. These will be accompanied by the meeting minutes. To conclude the registrar's needs, Carl went through a list of required documents needed to be included in the registration packets. (These are mentioned below.) He turned over 100 name badges to Lee for printing.

In turn, several of the other planning team members gave updates. John turned over two stitched meeting logos to Carl as gifts for invited presenters. These will go to speakers Bakich and Simek as John has already arranged something else for Keyes.

Lee indicated a slight problem with 3 t-shirt orders due to a programming glitch that has been corrected. He communicated the correction to John, and John will take care of it with dk Designs. Lee noted that we don't have very high registration numbers and indicated a hope for rapid changes now that the deadline for advance registration at a lower cost (\$75 instead of \$80) and hotel cost (\$95 conference rate) is fast approaching. There is some concern that the TCAA will go into the hole if the number of registrants does reach 100+.

The planning team agreed that All TCAAers planning to attend this meeting should register online at <http://www.ncral2010.org> as soon as possible. Charges will be adjusted as necessary for those who are scheduled to work this event (assuming that we reach break even). If we do not break even, all attending TCAAers will be expected to pay the full registration fee to minimize losses. The policy agreed upon by the Planning Team is that TCAAers receive "at cost" pricing only if two conditions are met: (1) they are formally scheduled to work one or more aspects of the conference and do so, and (2) the conference is actually turns a "profit." Unless the conditions are met, all participating TCAAers will have to pay the full registration fee of \$75 or \$80 depending upon registration date.

At this time the planning team watched the video of Clyde Tombaugh that will be presented at the NCRAL 2010 meeting. Recommendations were made for slight revisions in the video, perhaps removing some sections that are hard to understand due to poor recording conditions. The team further

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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 30, 2010, NCRAL PLANNING MEETING (CONT.)

(Continued from page 7)

agreed that no other meetings need be schedule between now and the start of NCRAL 2010. A meeting will be held if needed. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The following list of reminders (perhaps incomplete) is hereby transmitted as promised:

- **Carl** needs to detail who will be working the registration desk on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. He has plenty of volunteers. He will continue to update the program for the meeting; he will forward information from speakers to Lee as it becomes available. Carl will make hotel reservations for all three invited speaks by April 1. He will make flight reservations as necessary. Following Brian's reminder, Carl will contact Scott Richardson at the *Pantagraph* regarding local publicity. Carl will be certain to include two-part door prize tickets in the registration packet; he will be certain that extra onsite registration forms are available as well as a cash box with change. Carl will develop an informational flier about Saturday lunch dining and canvass nearby restaurants for coupons. Carl will provide information about the SGNC observing session. He will generate a one-page history of the TCAA for inclusion in the registration packets. Carl will secure the needed display boxes/cases for the gifts of Bakich and Simek.
- **Lee** will generate all nametags for pre-registrants and will bring a laptop computer and printer to create additional nametags for onsite registrants. Lee will do an "e-burst" as soon as possible to help boost attendance. John recently resent some 60 announcements and Carl some 250. Lee, working with Carl, will cobble together a confirmation e-mail to be sent to all registrants via email (or snail mail as required in at least one case).
- **Dan** needs to contact Stacey Shrewsbury at the CLC to answer her questions and make final arrangements. Dan will revisit the convention and visitors bureau to see if they will provide blue bags for use during the registration process. Dan will provide written details about the Friday evening events to be included in the registration packets. Dan will bring his 16-foot ladder for use if needed during the group photograph.
- **Bobby Arn** will be taking the official conference photographs, including a whole-group photograph. A location for this photograph needs to be pre-determined by Bobby. Dan will bring a 16-foot folding ladder.
- While Dan will be the master of ceremonies, **Dave** will introduce the three club speakers on Saturday afternoon (Dan, Bobby, and John). **John** will introduce Tony Keyes.
- **Duane** will check to see where we stand with respect to conference room reservations, and check on the availability of 5 tables for displays/vendors.
- **William** will provide written details about door prizes and vendors to be included in the registration packets. William (and Carl) will bring in complementary advertising from astronomical distributors.
- **Planning team members** will bring telescopes along to the meeting for follow-up observing at SGNC if the sky is tolerably clear. Planning team members will wear club "colors" and ensure that only those who have official nametags will be permitted to enter conference activities on Saturday.

Carl Wenning, Chairman

TCAA Treasurer's Report – March 2010

OPERATING FUND BALANCE – February 28, 2010 - \$ 3,036.92 *

Income

Allan Timke (dues) - \$ 40.00
Randy Gleason (dues) - \$ 40.00
Kaushal Bhatt (dues) - \$ 41.00
NCRAL Registrations - \$ 2614.69

Expenses

LYB Inc. (March Observer) - \$ 43.49
Carl Wenning (NCRAL expense) - \$ 16.50
D K Designs (Polo shirts & NCRAL) - \$ 484.00
John Werner (NCRAL expenses) - \$ 35.21
William Carney (NCRAL expenses) - \$ 22.00
PayPal Fee. (Kaushal Bhatt) - \$ 1.20

OPERATING FUND BALANCE – March 31, 2010 - \$ 5,170.21

OBSERVATORY FUND BALANCE – February 28, 2010 - \$ 2,545.61

Income

None - \$ 0.00

Expenses

None - \$ 0.00

OBSERVATORY FUND BALANCE – March 31, 2010 - \$ 2,545.61

TOTAL TCAA FUNDS – March 31, 2010 - \$ 7,715.82 *

Respectfully submitted, L. Duane Yockey, Treasurer

Sugar Grove Observatory

Listing of Official Keyholders (Paid \$10 deposit/\$5 renewal)

Duane Yockey (renewed through 2009)
William Carney (renewed through 2010)
Carl Wenning (renewed through 2009)
Brian Barling (renewed through 2010)
Christopher Franklin (renewed through 2009)
David Osenga (renewed through 2009)
Josh Lindsey (renewed through 2009)
Dan Miller (renewed through 2009)
Lee Green (renewed through 2009)

MISSING OUT ON TCAA ACTIVITIES & EVENTS?

If you are missing out on club activities or celestial events, be certain to join the TCAA listserv. Many activities are planned at the last minute, and announced only hours in advance through the club's listserv. Reminders about celestial events are also broadcast to the membership through the club's listserv. To join this free service by Yahoo, send a blank email to TCAA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Unsubscribing is just as easy. To unsubscribe, just send a blank email to TCAA-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

To keep up to date on celestial events not described in *The OBSERVER* or addressed in the listserv, visit Carl Wenning's observing page at www.phy.ilstu.edu/~wenning/observing_page.htm. It has been recently updated to include an extended sky calendar of events as well as additional space weather and satellite viewing links.

The OBSERVER

Newsletter of the TCAA, Inc.

Erin Estabrook, Editor
314 Covey Court
Normal, IL 61761

Are your dues due?



The Dues Blues?

If you see a check in the box above, it means your dues are due. To retain membership, please send your dues renewal to our esteemed Treasurer:

**Duane Yockey
508 Normal Avenue
Normal, IL 61761**