

---

# The Observer

---

The Newsletter of the Twin City Amateur Astronomers  
February 2004 Volume 29, Number 2

## In This Issue

Born a TCAA Member.....1

### Executive Reports

Secretary's Report.....2

Treasurer's Report.....3

### TCAA Officers

President	Dan Meyer 309-874-2923 vlf@springnet1.com
V-President	Neale Leuhkhl 309-378-4335 petrealehm@aol.com
3rd Director	JimSwindler 309-452-3936 jkswind@ilstu.edu
4th Director/ Treasurer	Duane Yockey 309-52-3936 duane@lybink.com
5th Director/ Secretary	Carl Wenning 309-438-2957 cjwennin@ilstu.edu
Property Manager	Sandy Mcnamara 309-379-2751 SandyMc456@aol.com

### Observer Editor

Rebecca Wenning  
21 Grandview Dr.  
Normal, IL 61761  
309-454-4164  
rwennin@ilstu.edu

All articles, ads, etc. are due by  
the 1th day of each month.

### Dues

Annual membership dues are \$40  
per adult and \$25 per student.  
Please send dues to treasurer Duane  
Yockey.

## Born a TCAA Member -Rebecca Wenning

It has often been said that life is a journey that we must make to a place far away from home, and a journey that is only complete when we return to the place from which we came. On the day of my birth, eighteen years ago, I was enrolled under a family membership in the TCAA. Unfortunately, for many years I lingered away from my well-beloved star-gazing hobby. Today I complete one of the many voyages of my life and return home -- to the Twin City Amateur Astronomers!

In hopes of returning to my passion for astronomy through TCAA involvement, I will be serving as this year's TCAA newsletter editor. It is my hope to perform, to the best of my abilities, to the excellent standards of Mr. Michael Rogers, who for so many years dedicated himself in the service of the TCAA as newsletter editor. Your suggestions for the newsletter would be highly appreciated in my year as a novice editor! I would gladly like to encourage members to share any articles they would like to provide me for publication in the newsletter.

Now, with high school finally out of the way, and with my few extra hours outside of college physics classes, I can get back to some serious work -- laying back and observing the skies!

## TCAA Calendar

### Annual Banquet

21 February 2004 - Saturday

5:00 PM at Sugar Grove

Bring tableware and a dish to pass!

### Public Observing Session (Tentative)

28 February 2004 - Saturday

7:00 - 9:00 PM at Sugar Grove

### Regular Meeting

8 March 2004 - Monday

7:00 PM - Location TBA

---

---

## Minutes of the TCAA Board of Directors Meeting

26 January 2004

The TCAA Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Vice President Jim Swindler at 6:00 p.m. in the absence of President Dan Miller. Also missing was board member Neal Lemkuhl. Also in attendance were board members Duane Jockey, Carl Wenning and the following guests: Sandy McNamara, Brian Barling, and Rebecca Wenning.

The treasurer's report for the current month was distributed, reviewed, and approved. Attention was then turned to recent communications; several communications received in the mail will be made available at the Annual Meeting. It was noted that several awards are to be distributed at the Annual Meeting (to be announced later). Rebecca Wenning has volunteered to serve as editor of the *TCAA Observer*, with the note that Mike Rogers will be providing required files to retain consistency in the format and appearance. She noted that the newsletter would be considerably shorter – probably only 4 to 6 pages per issue. The newsletter will be timed to coincide with general meetings; the *Abrams Sky Calendar* will be sent out in 3-month blocks as they are received. There will be an electronic version (PDF) of the newsletter that members may elect to receive via e-mail; names and e-mail addresses of those electing to receive electronic version of the *TCAA Observer* as a cost-cutting measure will be collected at the Annual Meeting.

Sandy then distributed schedule information about public and members-only observing sessions. It was agreed that monthly “featured objects” would be added, and the public sessions for December, January, and February would no

longer be in the schedule. MOOS will continue unabated throughout the year. Sandy will come up with the list of featured objects, and will include a brief summary penned by Carl to tell what will happen at the typical public observing session. Sandy will then submit the revised brochure to the board for final review and approval.

Sandy will, with the assistance of Dan, create the Annual Meeting agenda. Rebecca will disseminate via mail a flier produced by Sandy announcing the meeting, and calling for food preferences. Sandy noted that Barry Beaman will be the invited speaker for the evening, and that he will focus his comments on special programs created by the Astronomical League in conjunction with the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. Carl noted that founding member Taylor Cisco will be attending the Annual Meeting, and that he is especially interested in meeting people and seeing the historical memorabilia of the club. Carl noted, too, that he plans to update the history of the club for the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the association in 2005; he hopes to serve as historian next year. It was agreed that Duane will pick up two or three entrees ordered from Avanti's Italian Restaurant for the Annual Meeting; Carl will pick up refreshments. Members will be asked to bring their own place settings and a dish to share; donations will be collected at the banquet to help offset some of the cost of the entrees and refreshments.

Jim noted that Karen Moen has finished cataloging the TCAA library, and that he would soon be picking them up for transfer to the Sugar Grove Observatory. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

**Support Your Local Planetarium!**

---

## TCAA Treasurer's Report'– January 2004

---

OPERATING FUND BALANCE – December 31, 2003 - \$ 1,197.21

### Income

Rebecca Wenning (student dues) -	\$ 25.00
Sandy McNamara (dues renewal) -	\$ 40.00
Sue & John Rehtmeyer (dues renewal) -	\$ 40.00
Allan Timke (dues renewal) -	\$ 40.00
Aaron & Julie Vercimak (dues renewal) -	\$ 40.00
Duane Yockey (dues renewal) -	\$ 40.00

### Expenses

None -	\$ 0.00
--------	---------

OPERATING FUND BALANCE  
– January 31, 2004 - \$ 1,422.21

---

OBSERVATORY FUND BALANCE – December 31, 2003 - \$ 870.31

### Income

Carl Wenning (keyholder dues) -	\$ 10.00
Sandy McNamara (keyholder renewal) -	\$ 5.00
Duane Yockey (keyholder renewal) -	\$ 5.00

### Expenses

None -	\$ 0.00
--------	---------

OBSERVATORY FUND BALANCE – January 31, 2004 - \$ 890.31

---

TOTAL TCAA FUNDS – January 31, 2004 - \$ 2,312.52

---

Respectfully submitted,

L. Duane Yockey, Treasurer  
Sugar Grove Observatory

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

Jim Swindler (April 2001, renewed through 2004)  
 Duane Yockey (April 2001, renewed through 2004)  
 Sandy McNamara (June 2001, renewed through 2004)  
 Dan Miller (August 2001)  
 Michael Rogers (August 2001)  
 Dan Meyer (February 2002, renewed through 2003)  
 William Carney (March 2002, renewed through 2003)  
 Vic Connor (August 2002)  
 Neale Lehmkuhl (May 2003)  
 Carl Wenning (January 2004)