

# The OBSERVER

The Newsletter of the Twin City Amateur Astronomers, Inc.

April 2006 Volume 31, Number 4



## In This Issue:

- Solar Eclipse.....1
- Board Meeting Minutes.....1
- Rate Changes in Magazines....2
- NCRAL Convention.....2
- March Treasurer's Report....5
- Crossword Puzzle
- Sky Map

## **TCAAers OBSERVE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE**

TCAA members Roy and Barbara Ostberg, Sharon MacDonald, and Carl Wenning successfully observed a 3m50s total solar eclipse on March 29th. They were located about 200 miles east of the island of Crete in the Mediterranean Sea. The location was north of Egypt and east of Israel. The eclipse trip was a 5-day voyage among the Greek Isles with Astronomical Tours. Featured speakers included David Levy and senior editors of Astronomy magazine.

The troop visited Athens, and the Greek islands of Mykonos, Patmos, Crete, and Santorini. The ship, Ocean Monach, also visited the Turkish town of Kusadasi so travelers could visit the ancient city of Ephesus. Following their return to Athens, Sharon and Carl, along with Sharon's sister and brother-in-law, moved on to Istanbul, Turkey for a 3-day visit to that city.

All returned safe and sound from their travels, and each has his or her own story to tell. Perhaps you can corner some of these individuals and ask them to relate it.



## **TCAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES March 30, 2006**

The TCAA Board of Directors (BOD) met on March 30, 2006, at 8:00 PM, at the office of Lewis, Yockey and Brown, Inc. In attendance were BOD members William Carney, Duane Yockey, and president Dan Miller.

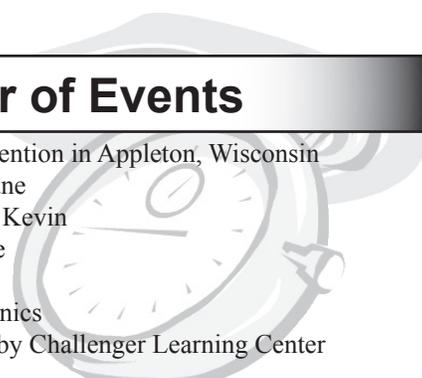
A preliminary treasurer's report was received and discussed briefly. It was mentioned that treasurer Duane Yockey was still waiting for a quote from Funk Insurance regarding the club's liability insurance policy. He needs to pay the premium by March 31, 2006 at the latest. Duane also mentioned that he would be starting the club's charitable tax return in the near future.

In the ALCor report, the 60th Annual NCRAL Convention to be held on the 21-22nd of April, 2006, in Appleton, Wisconsin was discussed. Carl Wenning, Duane Yockey and Michael Rogers and family were known to be attending. Dan Miller indicated that he might attend.

New member packets were discussed. It was mentioned that Carl Wenning and Michael Rogers were reviewing the club history to get it updated. It was decided that the BOD would look into providing

## **TCAA Calendar of Events**

- April 21-22, TCAA road trip to NCRAL convention in Appleton, Wisconsin
- April 29, MOOS, SGO -- Coordinator: 1. Duane
- May 6, POS, SGO -- Coordinators: 1. Dan, 2. Kevin
- May 13, "Astronomy Day" at Barnes & Noble
- Summer events
  - July 22/August 19, MOOS, TCAA Picnics
  - September 24, "Family Science Day" by Challenger Learning Center at ISU Braden, 2:00-7:30 p.m.



## The Observer

Newsletter of the TCAA, Inc.

*The Observer* is a monthly publication of the Twin City Amateur Astronomers, Inc., a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization of amateur astronomers interested in studying astronomy and sharing their hobby with the public.

### TCAA Officers

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Rebecca Wenning Submissions  
21 Grandview Dr. must be  
Normal, IL 61761 received by  
309-454-4164 the end of  
rwennin@ilstu.edu each month.

### Membership Dues

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

To join the TCAA, send your name, contact info, and dues payment to:

Duane Yockey  
508 Normal Avenue  
Normal, IL 61761

members with annual membership cards instead of a member packet. The membership card would have information on it (phone numbers and web sites), which would allow the member to get the up to date information they need. This would eliminate trying to keep certain information up to date as well as the cost of copying, etc. The cards would also show that the member is authorized to be at the Sugar Grove Nature Center late at night. Dan Miller will look into the cards.

It was the BOD's decision to make a general announcement to the membership about upcoming P.O.S.'s and MOOS's in order to solicit volunteers to coordinate the events. It was also discussed that we might have a movie/video presentation at the beginning of public observing sessions. This would be an educational program about astronomy-related subjects and would be presented while waiting for darkness. It was thought that more people might come out earlier, before sunset, if this was offered. Dan Miller has some of these videos to use.

William Carney might offer a keyholder refresher course in April. He indicated that there were some issues that needed to be brought to the attention of the keyholders (such as over rotation of the scope). He will send out an announcement based upon his schedule.

Public talks at the Bloomington Public Library were mentioned. Because the library is under construction, it was not known if this was a problem at this time. The Board thought that past offerings by the club at the library were very well received and reached the appropriate audience.

The club picnics are scheduled on July 22 and August 19 (MOOS dates). The BOD was unsure if the schedule at Sugar Grove Nature Center has been checked. (It has, and the dates have been approved. CW)

The BOD decided to have "Astronomy Day" at Barnes & Noble on May 13. We will have a display inside and hopefully set up some telescopes outside, weather permitting. We will have another BOD meeting prior to that date to firm up details.

The BOD decided to be a part of Family Science Day, sponsored by the Challenger Learning Center. It will be held on Sunday, September 24, 2006 from 2:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Braden Auditorium at ISU. We hope to have displays and telescopes inside and a

telescope outside for solar viewing, weather permitting. Duane will send in our reservation form to CLC.

The Board tabled discussion about offering another astronomy class. It was thought that January would be a good time to offer it, as Carl Wenning had done this year.

Purchasing eyepieces and filters was discussed. The BOD authorized William Carney to come up with a proposal to spend up to \$500 on eyepieces/filters this year. The proposal will go to the BOD for discussion and approval.

The existing email system at the SGO was discussed. The service seems to be somewhat intermittent. Dan Miller presented information about purchasing equipment such as a Linksys 802.11G Range Extender in order to solve the problem. The BOD was not sure if the expense was warranted at this time, because email was not used extensively at the observatory yet. This issue will be discussed further at upcoming BOD meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM. The next BOD meeting will be on the 9th of May at 6:30 PM, at the office of Lewis, Yockey & Brown, Inc., and will discuss Astronomy Day details among other items. The date and time may be adjusted depending on the schedule of other BOD members.

### **RATE CHANGES IN MAGAZINES**

We had a price change in *Astronomy* in January. Currently *Sky & Telescope* is \$32.95 per year, and *Astronomy* is \$ 34.00 per year thru the club. To order your subscription at these reduced rates, make checks payable to me, "William Carney," and send to my address below. You can send a renewal or new subscription in at any time. Please send a stamp for a new subscription. For renewals, send the postage paid envelope if provided, or stamp, and the renewal form.

William Carney  
PO Box 52  
Bloomington, IL 61702

### **NCRAL CONVENTION APRIL 21/22**

Several TCAA members will be representing the club at the annual convention of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League.

To the best of the editor's knowledge, both Duane Yockey and Carl Wenning will be in attendance at this event. Others might also be going. We anxiously await their return to make reports.



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## TCAA Treasurer's Report – March 2006

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OPERATING FUND BALANCE – February 28, 2006 - \$ 2,138.06

Income

Roy & Diane Lawry (Dues Renewal) - \$ 40.00

Expenses

Rebecca Wenning (March Observer) - \$ 54.05

Secretary of State - \$ 5.00

(Corporation Annual Report Filing Fee)

Funk Insurance Assoc. (Liab. Ins.) - \$ 137.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE – March 31, 2006 - \$ 1,982.01

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OBSERVATORY FUND BALANCE – February 28, 2006 - \$ 1,349.08

Income

None - \$ 0.00

Expenses

None - \$ 0.00

OBSERVATORY FUND BALANCE – March 31, 2006 - \$ 1,349.08

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TOTAL TCAA FUNDS – March 31, 2006 - \$ 3,331.09

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Respectfully submitted,  
L. Duane Yockey, Treasurer  
Sugar Grove Observatory

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

Duane Yockey (April 2001, renewed through 2006)  
Michael Rogers (August 2001, renewed through 2006)  
William Carney (March 2002, renewed through 2006)  
Carl Wenning (January 2004, renewed through 2006)  
Brian Barling (February 2004, renewed through 2006)  
Lenore Trainor (December 2004, renewed through 2005)  
Kevin Brown (May 2005, renewed through 2006)  
Sothilingam family (June 2005)

Christopher Franklin (July 2005, renewed through 2006)  
Kal Kumar (renewed August 2005)  
David Osenga (January 2006)  
Gerry Schoeder (February 2006, renewed through 2007)  
Karen & Ed Duran (February 2006)



*Astronomy Day  
Celebration:*

May 13  
Barnes & Noble  
Bloomington, IL



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**The OBSERVER**  
Newsletter of the TCAA, Inc.

Rebecca Wenning, Editor  
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Normal, IL 61761-4071

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