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ANNUAL MEETING SLATED FOR FEBRUARY 16

The TCAA Annual Meeting and Banquet will be held on Feb 16 in Room 104 at ISU Turner Hall next door to Red-bird Arena.

Festivities begin at 5PM with a Social Hour. The Banquet will begin at 6PM and will be catered by ISU. At 7PM, we will conduct the Annual Business meeting which will include reports from the officers, a call for nominations for the next Board of directors, the election of the new Board, an awards ceremony, a drawing for door prizes and any other business that is raised.

The Banquet will include a delicious multi-course meal provided by ISU Catering. The cost of the Banquet is a mere \$15. You need not attend the Banquet to attend the meeting. To reserve your spot at the Banquet, please contact Lee Green at lee@starlightsoftware.com or by phone at (309)-454-7349 by February 8th.

This year instead of inviting a keynote speaker, we have decided to present information on a topic that has been

requested by many club members - astrophotography.

Dan Miller, John Werner and Lee Green will share some of their hard-won knowledge about how to take beautiful and breath-taking photographs with an introduction to this detailed and challenging activity. Discussion will include the equipment needed, how to hook it up to a telescope, different software packages and techniques that are needed to start taking photographs of the night sky. Building on the diverse experiences of our presenters, you will hear about several different approaches to capturing images, about different software packages that can be used to process the data and see a variety of images taken by members of our club.

Please join us at this enjoyable meeting to help set the direction of our club and see your fellow club members in the light.

Please RSVP to Lee Green at lee@starlightsoftware.com or at (309)-454-7349 by February 8.

DONATION MADE IN HONOR OF ROXANNE PEERY PEIFER

A material donation has been made to the TCAA in memory of accomplished New Jersey amateur astronomer Roxanne Peery Peifer (1957-2001). Her husband Mike, who now resides in Bloomington, contacted Secretary Carl Wenning recently to make the donation. During his visit with Mike, Carl found out a significant number of things about Roxanne.

Roxanne was an avid amateur astronomer, and a member of the Amateur Astronomy Association of Princeton (NJ) for many years. She was a member of four solar eclipse expeditions, and a skilled astrophotographer. Starting her life as a graphic artist, she worked her way up to the position of "special planetarium lecturer" at the New Jersey State Museum Planetarium where she worked for 25 years, from 1976 until her death at the age of 44 in 2001. She evidently followed in the footsteps of her father John Tobin who was a planetarium director for many years. Roxanne was former secretary and newsletter editor for the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society.

The collection of materials donated in memory of Roxanne was accepted with a deep sense of gratitude and will be on display at the February 16th Annual Meeting. The memorial donation is described as follows:

Star Atlases:

- *Uranometria 2000.0*, Vols. 1 and 2 (Tirion, Rappaport & Lovi)

- *Sky Atlas 2000.0* (Desk edition, Tirion)
- *The Revised New General Catalog of Nonstellar Astronomical Objects* (Sulentic & Tift)

- Photocopies of SAO star charts (complete set)

Observer's Guides:

- *Burnham's Celestial Handbook*, Vols. 1-3 (Burnham, 1978)
- *Webb Society Deep-Sky Observer's Handbook*, Vols. 1-5 (Jones, ed., 1982)

Books:

- *Exploration of the Universe* (Abell, 1969)
- *Jupiter: The Giant Planet* (Beebe, 1994, signed by author)
- *First Light: The Search of the Edge of the Universe* (Preston, 1987, signed by author)
- *UFOs: The Public Deceived* (Klass, 1983)
- *The Making of a Moon: The Story of the Earth Satellite Program* (Clarke, 1957)

Photographs:

- 5 large astronomical photographs (3 professionally framed)
- 46 miscellaneous prints (most 8x10, unmounted, mixed b&w and color)

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.

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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

Duane Yockey
508 Normal Avenue
Normal, IL 61761

DONATION MADE IN HONOR OF ROXANNE PEERY PEIFER (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

The estimated value of the collection is \$105 according to Carl, and provides the club with some much-needed resources for use at the Sugar Grove Observatory. Carl acknowledges the 501(c)3 contribution and expressed appreciation to Mr. Peifer on behalf of the club for this donation with a letter.

JANUARY 15 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

President Lee Green called the Board meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Also in attendance were Duane Yockey, Carl Wenning, Terry Lee Wright, William Carney, Dan Miller, John Werner, and Dave Osenga. The meeting began with a review of scheduled E/PO events: January 19 Lakeview Museum field trip (coordinator Carl), January 19 and 26 *Night Sky Watch* adult education program (coordinator Carl), January 28 "How to use a telescope" presentation at Bloomington Public Library (coordinator Mike Rogers), February 13 and 19 presentation at State Form south and north office buildings respectively (coordinator Lee), and February 20 total lunar eclipse (coordinator Carl).

Matters of old business addressed were the following:

- NASA *Night Sky Network* – Lee and Dan are the main contacts, and Carl and Mike are now affiliates. Lee agreed to register William, John, Duane, and Dave as new affiliates. Lee noted that we had our first registered NSN talk as part of the adult education program at Heartland Community College on January 12th. Lee logged this event with the NSN.
- Lee participated in the NSN Phoenix Mission Teleconference recently and, as a result of an e-mail that he sent, the TCAA received the outreach toolkit "Globe at Night." This kit includes a Sky Brightness Meter. We committed to measure the sky's brightness and log those results. We also committed to holding a public session about the loss of our dark skies using the toolkit material. Dan has offered to host the meeting at Millikin, and Lee will join in and assist.
- The Mars Watch event of December 29th was reviewed, and TCAAers in attendance duly thanked for their participation and assistance.
- William noted that the replacement parts for the SGO Ash Dome had arrived and that he and Carl agreed to visit SGNC following the meeting to finish the repair of the dome.
- Lee asked for volunteers to help with a tentative observing session at SGNC on Saturday, January 26th, for the adult education program. Several replied that they would assist if available.
- The February 16th Annual Meeting arrangements were briefly addressed with the note that arrangements had been made. It was agreed that a special insert be prepared for inclusion in the next issue of *The OBSERVER* with full details. It was assumed that Mike Rogers would provide this insert as he is the one most informed.
- It was noted that several of our members would be receiving Astronomical League observing awards at the Annual Meeting.
- It was agreed that Lee, John, and Dan would provide the featured talk for that evening, the subject being digital astrophotography. Recent results will be shown, as will the process of image capture and the use of RegiStacks showing how to get images works. Dan will bring lots of "toys" to show what is available to the amateur astronomer for the purpose of photography.
- Carl will generate the agenda for the evening in a way consistent with recent tradition.
- Carl will also bring along a sign-up sheet so coordinators can be recruited for the 2008 MOOS and POS events. (Lee reserved the March POS due to having prepared for this event last year and then being clouded out.) A few words will be said about SGO key holders and the NCRAL 2010 meeting as well.
- Temporary membership cards developed and produced by Mike Rogers were then shown and distributed. The other cards will be distributed at the Annual Meeting once a few minor errors in names are corrected.
- The development of a new club logo was next addressed with Terry Lee showing two drafts of potential logos. Carl noted that he had a thought, and marshaled with Terry Lee's idea of including Gemini and a telescope, he would offer a plan as well. It was agreed to open up the quest as a competition to local school children and college students, and that either a free telescope observing session for a school or a \$100 prize would be offered to the winner. It was further agreed that Carl would manage dissemination of the request beginning some time in March.

(Continued on page 6)

HISTORY OF THE TCAA: PART 8

Beginning with the article, "The Origin of the Twin City Amateur Astronomers" in the May 2007 issue of The OBSERVER, TCAA Historian Carl Wenning began chronicling the history of the club. He will continue this series, culminating with the 50th anniversary of the club in 2010.

Years of Public Service

1979-1984

The year 1979 started off with a real media event. There was a 78% partial eclipse of the Sun on February 26. Club members assembled on the "quad" of Illinois State University and instructed several hundred college students, faculty and staff members, and school children how to safely observe the eclipse. Numerous telescopes were set up among the mounds of snow under a crystalline blue sky. At eclipse maximum over 300 persons were present. Several club members even saw the planet Venus without optical aid just west of the Sun. The next day a full-page display of the club's observing activities appeared in the ISU student newspaper, the *Daily Vidette*.

Encouraged by the Astronomical League, the TCAA presented the first of several "Astronomy Day" displays at Eastland Shopping Center on April 7, 1979. Nine telescopes (including a 4-inch Alvin Clark refractor brought from Columbus, Ohio, by amateur astronomer Doug Werek) were on display. Bill Zaffiri demonstrated telescope mirror making. Mike Miller put up a display of space stamps and space mission insignia. Carl Wenning was also present with the six lunar samples returned by the Apollo moon missions. The entire event generated a large amount of public interest.

Upon the suggestion of park naturalist Nancy Morgan, the TCAA began to present lectures and observing sessions for the campers and visitors at Moraine View State Park. Sixty persons were present for a constellation mythology talk and M-object observing program held in the campground on July 20, 1979 – the tenth anniversary of the first Apollo moon landing.

Bob Finnigan was very influential in turning the interest of club members to anthropology at this time. Bob had visited the Mayan and Aztec ruins in Mexico earlier, and his interest turned to cultural anthropology. Under the guidance of Gary Skinner (who had earned a Bachelor's degree in anthropology from SIU) TCAAers visited Dickson Mounds near Havana, IL, in October. Under the leadership of Bob Finnigan and Weldon Schuette, club members made group visits to survey the Cahokia "Woodhenge" near East St. Louis in November and December 1979, as well as in July and October of 1980.

The club membership was very happy to confer upon John and Bertha Kieviet the first Lifelong Honorary Memberships at the February 1980 Annual Meeting. This award was presented after 20 years of dedicated service to the club. Carl Wenning presented a plaque on behalf of the TCAA conferring the honor. This was the last tribute paid by the club to co-founder John Kieviet. He died in October 1981 from a stroke. His presence and guidance since that time has been missed.

Moraine View Park programs and field trips continued throughout 1980. In July of that year six club members, friends, and family members would take the longest group trip ever. Eugene Sutton, Gary Skinner, Bob and Sophie Finnigan, Bruce Jiles, and Carl Wenning traveled to the Perkins Observatory at Delaware, Ohio, to observe through the 32-inch reflecting telescope located there. In addition, members visited the Ohio State University Astronomy Department and the OSU Radio Survey Telescope (the "Big Ear") located just north of Columbus, Ohio. Club members also took the time out to visit Serpent Mound, Seip Mound, and the

Mound City Necropolis in southern Ohio.

So much of what happened within the TCAA over the years can be characterized by what went on at the meetings and in its observing programs. Members met regularly at Mark Evans Observatory upon the invitation of Dr. Ray Wilson and at the ISU Planetarium with the assistance of Carl Wenning. Diverse topic matter was covered in talks presented by club member and guest lecturers. Observations were made of comets, meteors, planets, deep space objects, satellites, and atmospheric, lunar, and solar phenomena. Field trips were taken to the Peoria Astronomical Society observatory at Jubilee State Park, to Adler Planetarium in Chicago, and to Yerkes Observatory at Williams Bay, Wisconsin.















During these years, public service had been at the forefront of all its activities. Astronomy Day displays number two, three, and four were held in April 1979 at Eastland Shopping Center, and in May 1981 and July 1983 at the new College Hills Shopping Center. About 100 persons attended a public lunar eclipse observing session at Normal's Maxwell Park on the night of July 5-6, 1982, over a span of about two hours. This particular eclipse netted a new member by the name of Sharon MacDonald. Little did Sharon realize at the time that less than two years later she would be the president of the TCAA and be videotaped by TV-10 describing a partial solar eclipse that occurred on May 30, 1984.

Television and radio appearances by club members became more common over the years as the club's reputation spread far and wide. The TCAA and its activities were subjects of an hour-long radio interview conducted with Gary Skinner and Carl Wenning over WRBA radio on May 23, 1983. During that month Gary was interviewed by two television stations: WBLN and TV-10. The subject of the interviews was a naked-eye comet first discovered by the IRAS satellite. Comet IRAS-Aracki-Alcock became an easily noticeable object passing within 3 million miles of Earth. It was an easy naked-eye object as it passed through the stars of the Big Dipper. The comet was an obvious media event, and the TCAA held observing sessions for the general public at Comlara Park.

The membership of the TCAA was disappointed by the loss of Bob Finnigan who left the club in 1982. Beginning in 1983, the membership attempted to recover from the loss by making an ambitious proposal for a public observatory in a county park to the McLean County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. On April 14 Gary Skinner delivered a formal proposal to the Board for a Comlara Park observatory after consulting with park personnel. The Board and park director reacted very favorably to the proposal written by Carl Wenning. It was decided that the TCAA would begin regularly scheduled interpretive programs during the summer of 1983 to determine the suitability of the site and to see if a good working relationship could be established between the TCAAers and the park officials.

With the assistance of Comlara Park naturalist Theresa English the club sponsored 13 weekly programs that summer. These programs dealt with Indian Sky Lore, deep sky observing, planets and the moon. The programs were well received by the public and were attended by roughly 500 park visitors over the summer. Additional summertime programs were presented during 1984 with similar results.

FEBRUARY SKY GUIDE

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| 01 | Venus passes 0.6° north of Jupiter, 7 A.M. |  |
| | The Moon passes 0.6° south of Antares, noon |  |
| 04 | The Moon passes 4° south of Jupiter, midnight |  |
| | The Moon passes 4° south of Venus, 6 A.M. |  |
| 06 | Mercury is in inferior conjunction, noon |  |
| | Annular solar eclipse, 10 P.M. |  |
| 09 | The Moon passes 3° north of Uranus, 4 A.M. |  |
| 10 | Neptune is in conjunction with the Sun, 8 P.M. | |
| 16 | The Moon passes 1.6° north of Mars, 2 A.M. |  |
| 20 | Asteroid Vesta is in conjunction with the Sun, 9 A.M. | |
| | The Moon passes 0.7° south of Regulus, 6 P.M. |  |
| | Total lunar eclipse, 10 P.M. |  |
| 21 | The Moon passes 3° south of Saturn, 6 A.M. |  |
| 24 | Saturn is at opposition, 4 A.M. |  |
| 25 | Mercury passes 1.3° north of Venus, 9 P.M. |  |
| 28 | The Moon passes 0.6° south of Antares, 9 P.M. |  |

E/PO EVENTS OF JANUARY

Cold weather and overcast skies have pretty much put a kibosh on January education/public outreach events. Nonetheless, on Monday January 28th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., the Bloomington Public Library was the site for a TCAA session *Observing the Night Sky*. There were seven attendees from the general public and, while their number was small, their interest was large.

Dan Miller prepared a wonderful presentation about the TCAA, describing our club and activities. He

led the group in a survey of several constellations that are visible in February and highlighted a number of the celestial objects there as well. He demonstrated the use of *Starry Night* software as a way to view the sky and find a variety of objects. Lee Green and Duane Yockey joined Dan in this effort. All three participated in discussions with the attendees about astronomy, observing with telescopes and binoculars and about upcoming club events.

PEORIA PLANETARIUM FIELDTRIP

Sixteen (16) members and guests of the TCAA participated in a field trip to Peoria's Lakeview Museum to see its new Zeiss planetarium projector and all-sky projection system on Saturday, January 19th, 2008. In attendance were Gail Nelsen, Ginnie Underwood, Carl Wenning, Duane Yockey, Dan & Deanna Miller, William Carney, Lee & Leslie Green, Andrew & Renae Morrison, Jim & Mrs. Wharton, Rebecca & Chrystian Vieyra, and Tom Willmitch.

Attendees were "wowed" by the new system installed during December 2007. Planetarium director Sheldon Schafer demonstrated the ZKP4 star projector along with the associated "all sky" projection system. Sheldon exhibited the ZKP4's star field and celestial motions, the ability of the projection system to show "seamless" movies, and computer-based simulations similar to those available with popular computer software such as *Cartes du Ciel*, *Voyager*, and *Starry Night*.

The group in attendance firmly agreed that the club membership needs to make another visit to the planetarium in the not too distant future to see additional programming.

A total of \$77 was collected from club members as admission fees, and an anonymous donor gave an additional \$50 to the TCAA to cover the minimum admission fee (\$125) and then some.



JANUARY OBSERVERS' LOG

William Carney and Carl Wenning visited SGO on January 15th to make final repairs to the dome opening mechanism. After getting the dome slot working again, they took advantage of the clear sky to do a bit of observing. Taking the lead from Lee Green's article in last month's issue of *The OBSERVER*, they took the opportunity to search for Hind's Crimson Star (variable R Leporis) in the constellation of Lepis, the Hare. This is perhaps the most impressive single star – with a deep red color – either had ever observed.

They also tried out William's new Hydrogen-beta and OIII filters to search for the Horsehead Nebula and examine M42 and M43 in Orion respectively. Unfortunately, the first quarter moon located not far away in the sky interfered with observations. Also observed were Comet P8/Tuttle and an asteroid in the constellation of Fornax, close to the southern horizon. William continued making observations of comets and asteroids throughout the month.

FEBRUARY 20TH TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE

Mother nature has provided the TCAA with yet another opportunity to do a bit of “sidewalk amateur astronomy” on the evening of Wednesday, February 20th. On this particular night there will be a total lunar eclipse. This naked-eye event begins with the moon entering the Earth’s dark umbral shadow at 7:43 p.m. At this time the moon will be located 24 degrees above the eastern horizon.

The moon continues to move into the umbral shadow and becomes completely immersed by 9:01 p.m. Totality lasts until 9:51 p.m. At mid eclipse, 9:26 p.m., the moon will be located 42 degrees up in the east-southeast. The umbral phase of the eclipse ends at 11:09 p.m. with the moon located 56 degrees up in the south-southeast.

Throughout the eclipse, the moon will be located among the stars of Leo, and just under the “question mark” outlining the head, face, and mane of the lion. The first-magnitude star Regulus (a Leonis, magnitude 1.36) will be located about 2.5 degrees above the moon, and ring world Saturn will be shining even more brightly (at magnitude 0.6 it is 1.4 times brighter than Regulus) and located about 4.25 degrees to the moon’s lower left.

The TCAA will be hosting a public observing session to observe both the moon and other celestial objects. Arrangements for this session are still being made by Mike Rogers who is organizing public viewing. Watch the TCAA listserv e-mail for details. If you are not on this listserv, visit the TCAA website at <http://www.twincityamateurastronomers.org/> for information about how to join this free e-mail service.

NIGHT SKY WATCH SUMMARY

The *Night Sky Watch* adult education program ended on a very successful note on Saturday evening, January 26th. William Carney, Dan Miller, and Duane Yockey showed up at SGNC from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. to assist with the fourth and final session. A clear sky met the group, but the one inch of snow on the ground, the mid-20’s temperature, the slight breeze, and the recalcitrant SGO LX200 didn’t help. A number of representative sky objects was viewed nonetheless.

Seven of ten class members were present at this observing session, and they all promised to attend the 2008 public observing sessions to take another look at the night sky. Two earlier sessions had been held at Heartland Community College, and one at the ISU Planetarium. Lee Green gave an hour-long presentation about telescopes at the second session. Carl Wenning served as lead instructor throughout.

This is the third year running that the TCAA has had an adult education program. Starting at SGNC in 2005 with some 24 participants, continuing in 2006 at SGNC with about 8 participants, and this year at HCC with 10 participants, the program continues to inspire the general public and get them involved in amateur astronomy.



CONSTELLATION OF THE MONTH: CANIS MAJOR

By Lee Green

Canis Major, also known as the Large Dog, is located southeast of the constellation Orion. Along with its smaller brother, Canis Minor, these gods are the faithful companions of the hunter and chase their quarry across the sky.

The brightest star is Sirius which is also known as the “Dog Star” and “The Sparkling One” is the brightest star in the sky. Sirius is the southernmost star of the Winter Triangle which along with Betelgeuse and Procyon form a nearly perfect equilateral triangle.

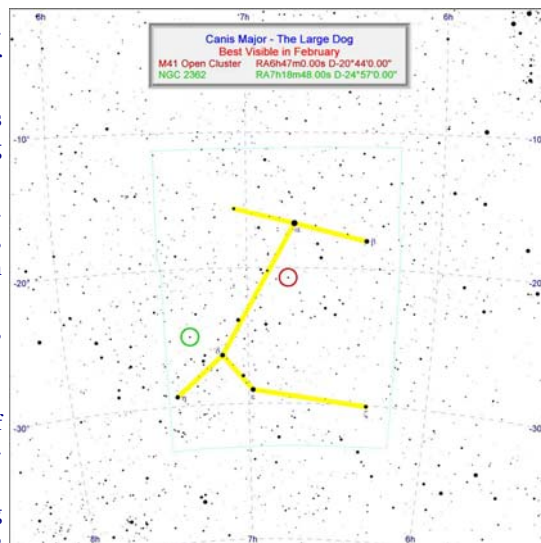
Astronomically, Canis Major is the 43rd largest constellation and covers 380 square degrees. Due to Sirius’ light, Canis Major is ranked as the brightest constellation in the sky. Appropriately, Canis Major reaches opposition on January 1. The constellation can be fully seen above the horizon anywhere south of latitude 56°N.

There are 6 named stars in Canis Major. The alpha star is Sirius, the beta star is called Murzim, the delta star is Wezen, the epsilon star is Adara, the zeta star is Furud and the eta star is Aludra.

Both Sirius and Adara are double star systems and Murzim is a variable star.

The only Messier item in Canis Major is M41 an open cluster of magnitude 4.5 about the size of the full moon. M41 can be seen on dark nights with the naked eye as a fuzzy patch 4° south of Sirius.

Among the many open clusters found in Canis Major is NGC 2362, a bright cluster surrounding Tau Canis Majoris. This cluster is composed of very young O- and B-type giant stars and is thought to be one of the youngest clusters with an age as small as 1 million years.



JANUARY 15 BOARD MEETING MINUTES (CONT.)

(Continued from page 2)

- Lee noted that there has been some website development for the TCAA, and that he is about ready to “release” this site for review along with a request for suggestions to further improve the site. Stay tuned for details.
- The joint meeting with the Peoria Astronomical Society at the Hahn’s Mackinaw Valley Winery tentatively slated for May 31st will not work due to events at the winery. A new tentative date was set as April 26th. Lee will pursue this event.
- The 5-year plan idea was again addressed, as were the topics on the list. It was agreed that all high priority ideas were already being developed and, therefore, there really is not need for further development of the list. If any member would like to see that list, they may contact Secretary Carl Wenning for a copy.
- The NCRAL planning group will be meeting again soon to refine their plans. Several members hope to attend this spring’s meeting in Wisconsin to detail our event and provide an informational flier. The event is now only two years away and is backed up with nearly \$5,000 in club funding thanks to \$650 in recent donations from the membership during December.
- William will contact Angela Smith at SGNC to talk about residing the SGO some time this year. There are many cracks in the wood, and many open joints between planks – especially on the curved portions of the exterior wall.

Matters of new business addressed were the following:

- Terry Lee will investigate the possibility of having at TCAA booth at the McLean County 4-H Fair this coming August.
- Terry Lee was thanked for his recent cartoons appearing in the club newsletter and will develop a “Stargeezer” icon for Carl’s new column intended for *The OBSERVER*.
- Nominations were solicited for the Board election to be held at the Annual Meeting in February. The following members agreed to stand for election to the Board: Terry Lee Wright, Dave Osenga, William Carney, and Lee Green. An article calling for self-nomination will be put in the February issue of the club newsletter. Additional names were considered. Several others agreed to continue in their current positions if retained by the new Board: Duane Yockey, treasurer, and Carl Wenning, secretary and historian.
- Dan noted that NSN has articles for astronomy club newsletters. Lee agreed to review these materials and submit suitable articles to our editor, Erin Estabrook, for inclusion in *The OBSERVER*.
- Dan noted that the Society of Physics Students at Millikin University recently received a \$3,500 grant and a second \$600 grant to conduct “on the road” public observing sessions. Dan further noted that his group will be heading out to West Virginia in March and Peru in June, and that he would produce an invitation article for the newsletter so that interested TCAAers might participate in these events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl J. Wenning, Secretary

FIVE-YEAR PLAN DEVELOPED FOR TCAA

The 2007-2008 club leadership (Board of Directors and officers) has worked diligently on preparing long-term goals for the TCAA. This has culminated in a 5-year plan. As a result of these goals having been developed over the past six months, significant progress has been seen along four fronts. Substantial work has yet to be done. While these goals are not binding on future administrations, they do provide a bit of guidance.

Change TCAA image from “amateur” to “more professional”:

1. Develop a professional-looking logo
2. Put our new logo on clothing, caps, flags (stickers, appliqués, patches)
3. Arrange for more invited public speakers

Improve our professional capacity:

1. Develop a cash reserve of \$5,000
2. Improve our web site content and appearance
3. Purchase club laptop and video projector

Increase our visibility to the general public:

1. Better distribution system for promotion and publicity
2. Implement sidewalk amateur astronomy
3. Write a monthly newspaper column
4. Start a speakers bureau for community groups
5. Host seminars and field trips

Improve membership services with the goal of increasing membership and participation:

1. Hold an amateur astronomy course
2. Meet regularly at planetarium or over a meal (vis. Rotary, Kiwanis) to improve camaraderie
3. Regularly offer “how to” sessions for membership

TCAA Treasurer's Report – January 2008

OPERATING FUND BALANCE – December 31, 2007 - \$ 2,632.27

Income

William Carney (dues renewal) - \$ 40.00
Ginnie Underwood (sen. dues renewal) - \$ 25.00
Lakeview Planetarium Donations - \$ 127.00

Expenses

LYB Inc. (January Observer) - \$ 16.81
Lakeview Museum (planetarium demo) - \$ 125.00
William Carney (SGO maintenance) - \$ 15.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE – January 31, 2008 - \$ 2,667.46

OBSERVATORY FUND BALANCE – December 31, 2007 - \$ 1,821.43

Income

Keyholder Renewal (William Carney) - \$ 5.00
Keyholder Renewal (Carl Wenning) - \$ 5.00
Interest (Oct., Nov., & Dec.) - \$ 1.61

Expenses

None - \$ 0.00

OBSERVATORY FUND BALANCE – January 31, 2008 - \$ 1,833.04

TOTAL TCAA FUNDS – January 31, 2008 - \$ 4,500.50

Respectfully submitted,
L. Duane Yockey, Treasurer

Sugar Grove Observatory

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

Duane Yockey (renewed through 2007)
Michael Rogers (renewed through 2006)
William Carney (renewed through 2008)
Carl Wenning (renewed through 2008)
Brian Barling (renewed through 2007)
Christopher Franklin (renewed through 2007)
David Osenga (renewed through 2007)
Gerry Schroeder (renewed through 2007)
Josh Lindsey (renewed through 2007)
Andrew Morrison (February 2007)
Dan Miller (renewed through 2007)
Lee Green (April 2007, renewed through 2008)

SGO KEY HOLDER REMINDER

SGO key holders take note. It is now time to pay your annual key holder fee if you have not done so already for 2008. The renewal fee, \$5 annually, is due now and should be paid to TCAA Treasurer Duane Yockey. If, on the other hand, you no longer wish to make use of your key to gain access to the Sugar Grove Observatory, please return your key to William Carney. The annual fee helps to pay for repairs and improvements to SGO, and has also been used in the past to change the door lock on the observatory. If you have a key and wish to maintain access to SGO, please make your payment promptly.

CALL FOR NOMINA- TIONS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominations are currently being sought for membership in the TCAA Board of Directors. Each year at the club's February Annual Meeting, the TCAA membership elects a Board of Directors to manage the club's operation. If you are willing to stand for election (or know someone who will), please contact one of the Board members and let them know. Contact information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 13, 19—State Farm presentations

February 16—Annual Meeting

February 20—Total Lunar Eclipse



The OBSERVER

Newletter 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

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