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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: STATE OF THE CLUB

Looking back on 2007, we had a very successful year due to the efforts of members like you.

We achieved several important milestones and successfully discharged our obligations. I wrote previously of securing the NCRAL conference in 2010 and our acceptance in the NASA Night Sky Network.

In addition, two members, William Carney and Terry Lee Wright achieved observing awards awarded by the Astronomical League. Three members were cited for their outstanding contributions to the club. Dan Miller was awarded the G. Weldon Schuette Society of Outstanding Amateur Astronomers, Duane Yockey was recognized for his leader-

ship with the John & Bertha Kieviet Founders Award, and Michael Rogers and Jean Memken received the Eugene & Donna Miller Family Award which was presented by their son and returning member Michael Miller. Congratulations to each of these members for their exemplary efforts.

As a club, we hosted or participated in over 50 events. Members attended events over 200 times and brought telescopes over 100 times. At several events, we had 7 scopes in use. We shared our love of astronomy with over 1200 people throughout the year. So to all the members, congratulations for a fun and successful 2007, and I look forward to seeing you all soon at our events in 2008.

TCAA FEATURED IN "GO!" SECTION OF PANTAGRAPH

"Carl Wenning, Duane Yockey and Lee Green share a passion that's out of this world. They're astronomers. Yockey and Green are classed as amateurs. Wenning was director of the Illinois State University Planetarium from 1978-2001. But whether for profession or hobby, astronomy led them to the Twin City Amateur Astronomers Club. At 48 years old, the group begins its annual series of free public viewing sessions on March 8 at its observatory at Sugar Grove Nature Center in Funks Grove near Shirley." So began a feature story about the TCAA that appeared in the "Go!" section of the *Pantagraph* on Sunday, February 24th.

The article by Scott Robins and featuring photograph by Lee and the *Pantagraph's* photographer Steve Smedley, spoke eloquently of the three astronomers and their dedication to amateur astronomy. It provides an interesting insight to these member's motivation and club members would benefit from reading their personal stories. It also outlined the public service of the club and formally announced the 2008 schedule of the club's public observing sessions. The article, along with a number of photographs, will be available for a short time on the newspaper's web page: <http://www.pantagraph.com/articles/2008/03/02/go/doc47c302af82fdc338905935.txt>

48th ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Twenty-five members and guests were present at the February 16th Annual Meeting and membership banquet of the TCAA. This was the 48th such gathering since the first Annual Meeting in 1961. The evening's events began in ISU's Turner Hall, room 104, at 5 p.m. with a social hour. President Lee Green welcomed the membership and started off the banquet at 6 p.m. with a moment of silence in memory of Lenore Trainor and other members who have passed away over the years.

Following a delightful banquet filled with camaraderie and featuring entrees of grilled marinated chicken breast, rubbed pork loin roast, and vegetable lasagna, as well as a number of side dishes, the banquet drew to a close while the membership dined on a "Reach for the Stars" cake along with frosty raspberry punch, coffee, and iced tea. Jean Memken arranged the evening's banquet working with the ISU

Catering Club. Lee called the business meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Lee provided the president's report noting how the club had really expanded its education and public outreach activities over the past year. He stated that the club had hosted some 50 events, with an average of four members participating in each event. All tolled, the club interfaced with approximately 1,200 members of the general public during this time span. Lee noted that the TCAA had also secured the position as host of the 2010 NCRAL meeting, made progress in updating and refurbishing the SGO, and secured membership in and E/PO materials from the NASA Night Sky Network.

Duane Yockey then gave the Treasurer and ALCOR annual reports. He noted that at the end of the fiscal year the club

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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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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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48th ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

had a total balance of \$4,453.70, which is up from \$3,121.08 a year earlier. This reflects additional income garnered in support of the NCRAL meeting, and the fact that the club had not yet paid for the 2007 annual meeting banquet. As Astronomical League representative, Duane then awarded the AL's Comet Observers Club, Silver Level, to William Carney. He also awarded the AL's Binocular Messier Club and the Lunar Club awards to Terry Lee Wright in absentia as Terry Lee was out of town at this time. In conclusion, Duane noted that the 2008 NCRAL meeting would be held in Port Washington, WI, April 18-19. Five members indicated intention to attend this meeting.

Lee then stated the contact information for the club's legal registered agent: L. Duane Yockey, 508 Normal Ave., Normal, IL.

Carl Wenning, Secretary and Historian, requested that the membership gather up historical items for inclusion in the 50th anniversary history and scrapbook that he is now beginning to assemble. He also asked members to look around their homes for the two club scrapbooks that have been missing for several years.

At this point in the program, Lee then announced three prestigious TCAA recognitions:

- *G. Weldon Schuette Society of Outstanding Amateur Astronomers*, Dan Miller was recognized for his many contributions to E/PO and energy in promoting amateur astronomy.
- *John & Bertha Kieviet Founders Award*, Duane Yockey was recognized for his many years of leadership and service on behalf of the TCAA membership.
- *Eugene & Donna Miller Family Award*, Mike Rogers and Jean Memken were recognized for their

family cohesiveness including Benjamin, Sarah, and Jonathan. Presenting this award on behalf of the club was Michael Miller, the son of Gene and Donna.

Nominations for the 2008-2009 TCAA Board of Directors were then called for. The following nominations were made and accepted (either in advance or at the meeting): Terry Lee Wright, Dave Osenga, William Carney, Lee Green, and Dan Miller. Carl motioned that the nomination process be closed. It was moved and seconded. The Board was then unanimously elected by acclamation.

Carl and Duane then gave a brief review of their recent observing trip to Chile to view the sky by eye and binocular at El Ingenio, and with a 16-in Meade LX200 from the new Southern Cross Observatory where they were the first official observers. They announced that they will be giving a formal presentation to the club in the not too distant future.

Lee announced that there would be a February 20th public observing session for the total lunar eclipse at Fairview Park in Normal. Mike Rogers is coordinating this event. Next came a drawing for door prizes, of which there were about a dozen donated items ranging from cap and sweat shirt to books and star charts.

The Annual Meeting was then formally adjourned at 7:58 p.m. with the membership moving to room 200 of Turner Hall for the evening 's program. Lee Green, Dan Miller, and John Werner spoke about various aspects of CCD-based astrophotography using anything from an SBIG 10 to a Cannon EOS camera, to a video capture eyepiece. The presentation concluded at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl J. Wenning, Secretary



Lee Green & Dan Miller



Duane Yockey & Lee Green



Mike Rogers, Jean Memken & Michael Miller



William Carney & Duane Yockey

More pictures from the Annual Meeting



Andres Morrison, John Wener, Dan Miller & Lee Green

2009 DECLARED INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY

The vision of the International Year of Astronomy (IYA) 2009 is to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day- and nighttime sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery. All humans should realize the impact of astronomy and basic sciences on our daily lives, and understand better how scientific knowledge can contribute to a more equitable and peaceful society.

The main U.S. goal for IYA 2009 is “To offer an engaging astronomy experience to every person in the country, nurture existing partnerships, and build new connections to sustain public interest.” To achieve this goal, seven major US themes have been established:

- Looking Through a Telescope (star parties and sidewalk astronomy)
- Dark Skies Are a Universal Resource (citizen-science campaigns such as *GLOBE at Night* and related educational activities)
- Astronomy in Arts, Entertainment & Storytelling
- Research Experience for Students, Teachers, and Citizen-Scientists (observations of variable star Epsilon Aurigae and more)
- Telescope Kits & Optics (hands-on activities tied to new inexpensive

“Galileoscope” kit)

- Sharing the Universe Through New Technology (blogs, podcasts, Webcasts, social networking sites...)
- The Universe for Classrooms and Families (a booklet of follow-on activities for children, teachers and families, supported by a Galileo Club Card and related Web site).

Each of these themes is supported by at least one working group. Each working group is responsible for reaching out to specific underserved audiences, and for building in an evaluation function for their proposed activities. Altogether, these themes now involve more than 70 astronomy outreach professionals, amateur astronomers, educators and volunteers.

As part of the summer 2008 AAS Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri (June 1-5), the AAS and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific are co-sponsoring a symposium focused on IYA. This symposium will serve as the major organizing conference and training workshop for national and regional (North American) efforts related to the year-long celebration. More information about IYA can be found at the following URL: <http://www.astronomy2009.org/>.

MARCH SKY GUIDE

- 02** The Moon passes 4° south of Jupiter, 7 P.M. 
- 03** Mercury is at greatest western elongation (27°), 5 A.M. 
- 05** The Moon passes 0.2° south of Mercury, 8 A.M. 
- The Moon passes 0.2° north of Venus, 1 P.M. 
- The Moon passes 0.2° south of Neptune, 4 P.M. 
- 06** Venus passes 0.6° south of Neptune, 2 P.M. 
- 08** Uranus is in conjunction with the Sun, 2 P.M.
- Mercury passes 0.9° south of Neptune, 9 P.M. 
- 14** The Moon passes 1.7° north of Mars, 10 P.M. 
- 19** The Moon passes 0.8° south of Regulus, 3 A.M. 
- The Moon passes 3° south of Saturn, 10 A.M. 
- 20** Equinox (northern spring/southern autumn begins), 1 A.M. 
- 23** Mercury passes 1.0° south of Venus, 5 A.M. 
- 27** The Moon passes 0.5° south of Antares, 5 A.M. 
- 30** The Moon passes 3° south of Jupiter, noon 

EARLY MARCH MOOS SMALL BUT SUCCESSFUL

Lee Green and Carl Wenning were the only two TCAAers to participate in the March 1st MOOS. Nonetheless, the session was fruitful. Greeted by temperatures in the mid 30's, a slight breeze, a moderate dew, and somewhat hazy and a bright sky, this dynamic duo was able to observe from 7 to 9 PM. Lee started his Messier observing award program and logged five of the more difficult objects on the list of 110. He noted how difficult such observations are in light of using a "goto" telescope for many years. He has renewed respect for those who have won this award. Carl continued making progress with his Herschel 400 observing award program, and logged another 24 objects - nearly all of them galaxies in Ursa Major - bringing him up to 285 objects. Lee currently

has around 350 Herschel objects to his credit.

While observing, Lee and Carl were visited by two college-age students who just happened to come out for an evening of sky watching on their own just before 8 p.m. While not interested in joining the TCAA, they were remarkably impressed by what they were able to observe with our members. Both of our observers were able to provide views of a variety of showcase objects for the visitors. Carl was club coordinator for the session.

TCAAers are hereby reminded of the first public observing session that is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 8th at 7 p.m. The subject of the session is "Orion's Blazing Sword - Messier 42" and will be coordinated by Lee.

TCAA EDUCATION/PUBLIC OUTREACH

On February 13th and February 20th Lee Green, Dave Osenga, and John Werner visited State Farm's corporate north and south buildings respectively and presented to their *Lunch and Learn* program. According to Lee, "We had twin presentations at State Farm this month where we addressed their Outdoor Club in a Lunch and Learn format. The first event was held at their main corporate building and the second at Corporate South."

In both cases Lee made the main presentation that described the TCAA, the activities we hold, the equipment we use, the observatory we have, and what we look at. In addition, he highlighted the total lunar eclipse of Feb 20th using materials from *Shadows and Silhouettes* toolkit to present how and why eclipses happen, and invited the audience to join us at Fairview Park.

John Werner then showed his small, portable telescope and described various aspects of taking astrophotographs. John's gallery of images left all in awe according to Lee. Dave Osenga also assisted at the first event by fielding a number of questions from the audience.

This was the second and third TCAA event that used NSN tools, and Lee logged it on the program's website. For more information about this program, visit <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov>.

Mike Rogers led a number of TCAA members on a February 20th public viewing session for the last total lunar eclipse visible locally until 2010. The night was quite cold and somewhat windy, and this kept the number of visitors at Fairview Park in Normal down to a mere handful. Carl Wenning assisted with a lunar eclipse observing session at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora. With the temperature reading 9 degrees and a light, but steady breeze, the conditions for the total lunar eclipse could fairly be called cold. In spite of the frosty conditions, 10 members brought 4 telescopes to observe the eclipse. There were at least 7 brave members of the public that joined us at Fairview Park.

Carl, Dave, Mike, Lee, and new member Paul Pouliot from Pontiac held an observing session at Pontiac Junior High School on the evening of Friday, February 29th. Mike set a computer to give a star talk, while Paul, Carl, Lee, and Dave all helped with a viewing session under partly cloudy skies. Some 200 or more students observed a star cluster, the Orion Nebula, Saturn, and the Eskimo nebula. The session organizer, Dawn Wasson, donated \$50 to the TCAA in appreciation for our efforts.



POS and MOOS COORDINATORS NEEDED

Coordinators are needed for most of the 2008 Public and Members-Only Observing Sessions at Sugar Grove Nature Center. Two coordinators per session are preferred. Please sign up if you are willing to host or co-host one of these Saturday sessions. See the POS brochure available through the TCAA website for details about times.

2008 Date	POS Topics	POS Coordinator(s)
April 12	Planet Quest – Mars & Saturn	1. Dan Miller 2.
May 3	Telescopes – Eyes on the Universe	1. Carl Wenning 2.
June 7	A Big Dipper Full of Stars – Ursa Major	1. 2.
July 5	Mighty Hercules and His Treasure – M13	1. 2.
August 2	Black Hole Survival and Cygnus X-1	1. 2.
September 6	Our Galaxy, Our Universe	1. 2.
October 4	Andromeda and Her “Rock” – M31	1. 2.

Members-Only Observing Sessions occur one week earlier than the above POS – on weekends nearest the full moon. Two coordinators (one of whom should be an SGNC key holder unless they have their own telescope they can bring along) are needed for all of these Saturday sessions. Please sign up with Carl Wenning (309-830-4085 or wenning@phy.ilstu.edu) if you are willing to coordinate one of these events.

2008 Date	MOOS Coordinator(s)
April 5	1. 2.
April 26	1. 2.
May 31	1. 2.
June 28	1. 2.
July 26	1. 2.
August 30	1. 2.
September 27	1. 2.
October 25	1. 2.

CONSTELLATION OF THE MONTH: PUPPIS—THE STERN OF SHIP

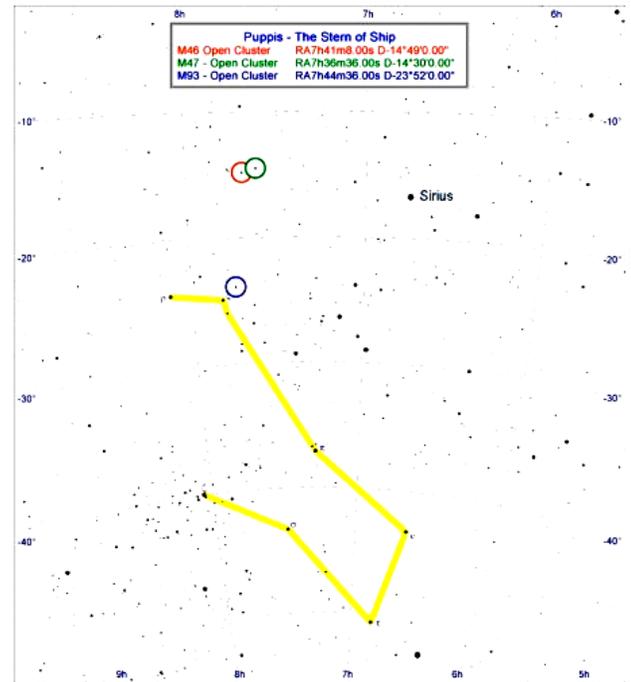
Puppis is located to the east and south of Canis Major. While the constellation is located low on the horizon from North America, it covers a span of 35° in declination.

Puppis is part of the region formerly known as the constellation Argo Navis. Argo Navis was seen by the ancient Greek as the ship used by Jason and the 'Argonauts' during his quest for the Golden Fleece. Puppis is seen as the stern of the Argo along with Vela, the Sail, and Carina, the Keel.

Astronomically, Puppis covers 673 square degrees making it the 20th largest constellation. It is the 19th brightest constellation due to its position along the Milky Way. Puppis reaches opposition on Jan 13.

Zeta Puppis, the brightest star in the constellation, is also called Naos, or Ship. Because the constellation was divided after the Bayer designations were assigned, there is not an alpha, beta, gamma or delta star.

Other notable objects in the constellation include open clusters NGC 2432, 2467, 2477 and 2527.



SPRINGFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY'S KRONUS QUARTET PRESENTS *SUN RINGS*

For more than 30 years, the Kronos Quartet - David Harrington and John Sherba (violins), Hank Dutt (viola), and Jeffrey Zeigler (cello) - has pursued a singular artistic vision, combining a spirit of fearless exploration with a commitment to expanding the range and context of the string quartet. In the process, Kronos has become one of the most celebrated and influential ensembles of our time.

Sun Rings, a piece commissioned by NASA and others, is a multimedia production featuring ten chamber music movements, a 60-piece choir, and sounds recorded from space back-dropped by awe inspiring images (captured by the Hubble and Voyager telescopes) projected onto a 24' x 40' screen. The program will be presented on Tuesday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sangamon Auditorium of the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS).

Pre-show Discussion at 6:45 p.m.

Professor Charles Schweighauser and Dr. John Martin of the UIS Astronomy-Physics department will give a pre-show presentation at 6:45 p.m. explaining some of the scientific and astronomical aspects of Sun Rings. Following the performance members of the Kronos Quartet along with Professor Schweighauser, Dr. Martin, and Marion van der Loo of the Springfield Choral Society will conduct a post-show question and answer session.

This performance is presented in cooperation with 91.9 – WUIS Public Radio and the UIS Department of Astronomy-Physics. It is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art, and is sponsored by Omni Communications Group, Inc.

For more information, visit <http://www.uis.edu/sangamonauditorium/KronosNEAGrant.html>. Call today to make your reservations at 217-206-6160.

TCAA MEMBERS VISIT CHILE

By Duane Yockey

It was my pleasure to accompany Dr. Carl Wenning on a trip to Chile last month. One of our purposes was to view the southern sky and in particular work on the Astronomical League's Southern Sky Binocular Observing Award and the Southern Sky Telescopic Club Award.

We left chilly central Illinois on February 7, 2008 and arrived in Santiago, Chile on the morning of Friday, February 8. We were met at the airport by Carl's colleague and good friend Claudio Perez, the chairman of the Physics Department at the Metropolitan University of Educational Sciences (UMCE) in Santiago. Carl met Claudio last March, and Claudio spent 3 weeks with Carl this past summer in Illinois, some of which was here in Bloomington/Normal. He visited our observatory at that time. Claudio was an extremely gracious host and drove us around the countryside during our brief stay in Chile.

After a short rest and lunch, we visited UMCE's new astronomical observatory, which is finishing construction at this time. It is fitted with a 16" Meade telescope, which is not operational yet. Interestingly, the domes down in Chile all seem to be covered in copper (expensive material now, but locally produced in Chile). We also met with some of the astronomy staff, who will be working at the observatory.

We then traveled by car to El Ingenio (a small village up in the mountains east of Santiago). Claudio has a small home there in a beautiful setting. We were joined by the same staff astronomers from UMCE and others who brought out some astronomical equipment for viewing that evening. We enjoyed dinner with Claudio's friends, including Juan Espinoza, a well known astronomer with ties to major Chilean observatories. After that we continued with an all-night observing session of the southern stars using eyes, binoculars, and a telescope. Carl used his laser pointer to show the southern constellations. The northern ones were of course the southern ones that we see here, but they are upside down! The sky was fabulous, very clear and quite worth the trip just to see. Carl and I got through the entire Binocular Observing list by the end of the night.

On Saturday, Claudio, Carl and I started driving north to Combarbala. We stopped along the coast for lunch at Los Vilos (which had a good variety of seafood). After that we headed northeast (inland) towards Combarbala. The land was quite parched, with the main plant life being cactus. We arrived at Combarbala a little after 7 p.m.

After a quick supper at the Apuwara Hotel, we headed out to Cruz del Sur Observatorio (Southern Cross Observatory). This is a brand new observatory still under construction, and we were the first official visitors! We appreciated that they had worked hard to prepare the new dome and telescope for our arrival. We had another all-night viewing session using the Meade 16" scope with which this dome was equipped. The viewing was fantastic and the night went way too fast.

We went back to Cruz del Sur Observatorio the next day to see the construction progress during the daytime. The entire observatory will consist of 4 domes positioned like the stars in the Southern Cross. Two will be equipped with Meade 16" telescopes and two with Meade 14" telescopes. In the center will be a planetarium and an outdoor auditorium for educational programs. It is the intent to have these telescopes available for tourists to use when they visit the area. The Apuwara Hotel is expanding with this in mind and has an astronomical theme.

We spent the remainder of Sunday visiting some of the sights in Combarbala, including a craftsman/artisan, who demonstrated how to cut, sculpt and polish the famous combarbalita stone (a marble-like stone) into various figures and jewelry (Carl and I brought some home). We also drove out to a remote area to view many petroglyphs on the large stones and the mountainsides.

That evening we went back out to the observatory to complete our astronomical observations. The sky there is extremely transparent, and they have no clouds for about 11 months out of the year. The views were stunning. I will not forget the Magellanic Clouds, 47 Tucanae and Omega Centauri to name a few. We jacked up the power before we left and viewed Eta Carina again. We could actually see the two lobes of material being expelled from the star (just like the photographs from the big telescopes I have seen). We were sorry to leave that night, but had to depart early the next morning.

We departed Combarbala on Monday morning and traveled to Algarrobo (on the coast west of Santiago) to visit Dr. Jose Martinez (one of the vice presidents at UMCE) at his summer home there. Carl had some good discussions regarding science education with Claudio and Jose, which I even had some input into. After a nice beach side lunch and a stroll along the beach, where Carl was viciously attacked by a large wave, we headed back to Claudio's apartment in Santiago and had a pleasant visit with his wife Selma.

On Tuesday, we toured the City of Santiago including a trip up a mountain peak on a funicular. (See <http://www.funicular.cl/en/funicular/index.htm>) The views from the top of the mountain were a good finish to our trip. We then headed to the airport and left the 85 degree temperature in Santiago and returned to Bloomington airport, snow on the windshield of my car and significantly cooler temperatures.

Chile is a very interesting country. It has over 2700 miles of coastline, but is only 255 miles wide at its widest point. Its climate varies from dessert, to lakes, to fertile valleys, to magnificent mountains (the Andes), to frozen tundra. And of course it is home to many of the world's finest observatories. They are trying to establish an amateur astronomy tourist business, and I heartily endorse it. I hope to go back when I have more time to tour the country and spend more time observing the magnificent southern sky!

HISTORY OF THE TCAA: PART 9

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 - continued

1979-1984

During the Astronomy Day program of 1983 the club followed the lead of two new TCAAers, James and Susan Baker, to carry out a formal raffle. Club member donated some \$800 worth of prizes for the event. By the time the raffle was over, the club netted \$1,230 for the proposed observatory. In June of 1984, the TCAA became involved in "Comlara Fest" selling soft drinks, ice cream, and peanuts, netting another \$50 for the project.

The club membership, never satisfied to be involved in only one project, worked on other important interpretive programs in addition to those mentioned already. During the summer of 1983 Jeff Rhodes and James Baker conducted two programs in Bloomington's Miller Park. Jeff concentrated on lunar observing, and Jim orchestrated a public education course. Jeff sponsored two additional observing programs in the summer of 1984 as well. During February and November of 1984, Sharon MacDonald taught two adult education classes for the TCAA through the Bloomington High School Adult Education program. This course was a series of three classes, one each dedicated to constellations, planets, and telescopes. At this same time, Carl Wenning discovered that he enjoyed writing after composing an introduction for the book *Mythology for Young People: A Reference Guide* (Rita Kohn, Garland Reference Library of the Humanities Vol. 605, 1985, New York: Garland Publishing, Inc.). In this introduction, Carl explained what he had learned about celestial mythology from working for years in a planetarium.

Five club members gave presentations to planetarium visitors after regular programs on behalf of the TCAA. The individuals, Carolyn Wenning, Weldon Schuette, Mike Poss (a planetarium volunteer), Mark Castleman, and James Baker, represented the club to the general public and described what it does and can do.

During the Annual Meeting of February 1984, the TCAA conferred upon Weldon Schuette Lifelong Honorary Membership. This was only the third such membership to be conferred by the club. Cited among his numerous accomplishments was work with amateur astronomers of the TCAA, his numerous lectures, writings, projects, and drawings for the club observatories, and his observing accomplishments. He, like John and Bertha Kieviet before him, received a plaque that he placed in a place of honor in his home.

Under the dynamic leadership of Sharon MacDonald,

James Baker, Weldon Schuette, and Carl Wenning, the TCAA was formally incorporated in June 1984 and received official non-profit status from the state and federal governments in the autumn of 1984. Bylaws were carefully rewritten to suit the new status conferred upon the club by both state and federal law. The process of obtaining non-profit status was lengthy.

On Monday evening, February 4, 1985, six club members convened in the Fairview Park cabana to celebrate 25 years of club existence. These members, Bertha Kieviet, Weldon Schuette, Michael McCall, Sharon MacDonald, and Carolyn and Carl Wenning, started the commemorative meeting with a reading of the minutes of the organizational meeting held at that spot 25 years earlier. A silver anniversary history of the club documenting the first quarter century was read for the first time. Each of the several members took turns reading this history aloud. The members then shared a "birthday" cake prepared to celebrate the event and reminisced about times past.

A festive gala celebrating the first quarter century of the Twin City Amateur Astronomers was held on Saturday evening, February 16, 1985, at Ewing Manor in Bloomington. The event was attended by forty-five persons, some of whom had traveled all the way across the state to be present for the occasion. During this celebration Bertha Kieviet was honored with the presentation of a specially engraved pewter and crystal candy dish. The base read, "T.C.A.A., 25 Years, 1960-1985." The evening's events included an informal reception over punch and finger food from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., a banquet dinner at 7:00 p.m., and assorted activities afterwards. The activities included the showing of a special tape/slide program prepared by Carl Wenning entitled "Twenty-five Years in Space." The program was used to exhibit things that occurred in space exploration from the time the Kieviets moved into town to the present. Slides taken of club members during past TCAA functions were also shown. There were numerous chances for everyone to reminisce throughout the evening. Door prizes were awarded at the evening's end, including a painting of the Horsehead nebula created and donated by Cindy Baker, and a piece of Skylab that was donated by a former member then working for NASA, Sue Remsburg. Bertha Kieviet donated a sun catcher in the shape of a star. The lucky winner of the Skylab fragment was Marianne Skinner. Mark Warren won the painting. Gary Skinner won the sun catcher.

TCAA Treasurer's Report – February 2008

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

Income

Dave Osenga (elect. dues renewal) - \$ 25.00
Andrew Morrison (dues renewal) - \$ 40.00
Mike Miller (dues) - \$ 40.00
David Hahn (dues) - \$ 40.00
Mike Rogers/Jean Memken (dues renewal) - \$ 40.00
Brian Barling (dues renewal) - \$ 40.00
Dan Miller (dues renewal) - \$ 40.00
Lee Green (dues renewal) - \$ 40.00
Annual Banquet Receipts - \$ 375.00

Expenses

LYB Inc. (February Observer) - \$ 14.35
Food, Nutrition & Dietetic Club - (2008) - \$ 375.00
Food, Nutrition & Dietetic Club - (2007) - \$ 375.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE – February 29, 2008 - \$ 2,583.11

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

Income

Keyholder Renewal (Dave Osenga) - \$ 5.00
Keyholder Renewal (Rogers/Memken) - \$ 10.00
Keyholder Renewal (Brian Barling) - \$ 5.00
Keyholder Renewal (Duane Yockey) - \$ 5.00
Keyholder Renewal (Dan Miller) - \$ 5.00
Keyholder Renewal (Andrew Morrison) - \$ 5.00

Expenses

None - \$ 0.00

OBSERVATORY FUND BALANCE – February 29, 2008 - \$ 1,868.04

TOTAL TCAA FUNDS – February 29, 2008 - \$ 4,451.15

Respectfully submitted,
L. Duane Yockey, Treasurer

Sugar Grove Observatory

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

Duane Yockey (renewed through 2008)
Michael Rogers (renewed through 2008)
William Carney (renewed through 2008)
Carl Wenning (renewed through 2008)
Brian Barling (renewed through 2008)
Christopher Franklin (renewed through 2007)

David Osenga (renewed through 2008)
Gerry Schroeder (renewed through 2007)
Josh Lindsey (renewed through 2007)
Andrew Morrison (February 2008)
Dan Miller (renewed through 2008)
Lee Green (April 2007, renewed through 2008)

NEW MEMBER

Mike Miller

Happy 
St. Patrick's Day



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8—POS: Orion's Blazing
Sword – Messier 42

April 12—POS: Planet Quest – Mars
& Saturn

April 26—MOOS

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

Visit the Twin City Amateur Astronomers
on the web at
www.twincityamateurastronomers.org/