

The OBSERVER

IN THIS ISSUE:

TCAA'S 52 nd ANNUAL MEETING	1
NEXT POS MARCH 24 TH	3
TCAA AT OSHKOSH AIR SHOW?	3
AL OBSERVING CLUB REPORTS DUE	3
TCAA <i>History</i> NOW AT BPL	3
JANUARY-FEBRUARY E/PO	4
UPDATES AT SGO AND MEO	4
MESSIER MARATHON WEEKEND	4
MAKE PLANS NOW FOR ALCon2012 IN CHICAGO	4
MONTHLY REFLECTIONS	5
CELESTIAL ALIGNMENTS	6
CONSTELLATION OF THE MONTH: COLUMBA—THE DOVE	7
HOW TIME FLIES	7
HISTORIAN ASSEM- BLES MATERIALS FOR AL PUBLICATION	8
TREASURER'S REPORT	8, 9

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2012

TCAA'S 52nd ANNUAL MEETING

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the TCAA was held on February 18, 2012 at the Normal Township Hall. We had 21 people at the event and we gathered at 6:00pm for the banquet which included an excellent meal provided by Redbird Catering.

President Dave Osenga called the business meeting to order at 7:17pm. He reviewed the activities of the club and noted that 2011 was a very successful year with members interacting with over 1900 people during our public outreach activities. He noted the great progress we had made over the last year, thanks in part to several generous donations which allowed us to dramatically advance our observing and photographic capabilities. He further noted the help of members in assisting the Sugar Grove Nature Center as they built storage facilities in their shed which included a storage area for the TCAA. He thanked John and Joyce Werner for hosting our summer picnic and Duane Yockey for his continuing effort as club Treasurer.

Duane then gave a report about the club's finances, distributed brochures about this upcoming Nebraska Star Party and spoke about this year's ALCON which is being held in the Chicago area.

Nominations for the next Board of Directors were opened and the five current members of the Board, Tony Cellini, Dan Miller, Dave Osenga, Paul Pouliot and Tom Weiland, were all nominated. Duane moved that nomination be closed and the five candidates be elected by acclamation. Lee Green seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Dave reported that the club's registered agent is Duane Yockey, residing at 508 Normal Ave in Normal.

Carl Wenning announced that he had prepared a 4-page, Brief History of the TCAA for inclusion with other materials by the ALCON 2012 steering committee. He distributed copies of the document to the attendees.

In light of current discussion about building a new observatory, William Carney displayed plans for an observatory that had been prepared by G. Weldon Schutte in 1982 and noted that the plans were thorough and could still be relevant today.

Dave then announced that Lee had been honored with the John & Bertha Kieviet Founders Award which recognizes exceptional leadership skills and service to the club. Duane then presented the Astronomical League Observing Club

(Continued on page 2)



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

TCAA 52nd ANNUAL MEETING (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

awards, with Lee receiving the honorary Messier Club and the Double Star Club awards. Receiving this year's Night Sky Network Outreach awards recognizing their efforts in education and public service were Paul Pouliot, Tom Weiland and Carl Wenning. For his leadership during the Vesta Fiesta event, Dave was awarded a Dawn Mission pin.

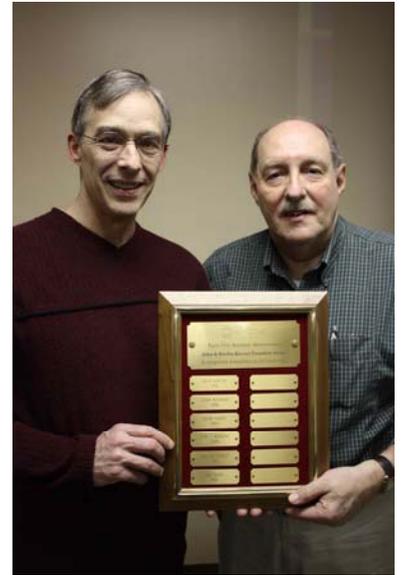
Tom announced that the June 5 Venus Transit would be observed with an event starting at 5:00pm at the Sugar Grove Nature Center and that additional details to be released soon. Lee announced that the ISU Family Day would be held on April 22 from 12pm to 5pm and that the TCAA will host four activities and he called on members to reserve the date.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

After a short break, John Werner introduced Dr. Dan Miller as our featured speaker. Dan spoke about The Ancient Cultures and Natural Wonders of Peru. He summarized previous astronomy trips he has taken with TCAA members over the last several years with the hope to energize other members to join new adventures in future years. Following these introductory remarks, he focused on his most recent trip to Peru his son Chris and John and Joyce Werner, Dan highlighted the natural, cultural, and scientific wonders they encountered.

The evening concluded at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Green
Secretary



NEXT POS MARCH 24th

The first public outreach event of 2012 will take place on Saturday, March 24th at Sugar Grove Nature Center assuming the sky is clear. The program will start at 7:30 p.m. with Dave Osenga giving a talk titled, "Reasons for the Seasons." The talk will run for approximately 20-30 minutes, and will be followed by a brief laser-mediated constellation tour. Following the sky lecture, members of the general public will be invited to view through a variety of telescopes set up for their viewing pleasure.

The TCAA Board of Directors has approved the POS schedule and topics for the remainder of 2012, and that information is below. A new 2012 POS program brochure is now available on the TCAA website at <http://www.tcaa.us/>. Recall that all POSs are on Saturday evenings, and this year feature a moonless sky most evenings. Additional prominent sky objects such as planets, nebulae, star clusters, and galaxies will be viewed when visible. Note that a coordinator is still needed for the October 13th talk dealing with Uranus and Neptune.

Date (Sat.)	Time	Topic	Coordinator
April 21	8:00 PM ~ 10:00 PM	Mars, the Red Planet	Lee Green
May 19	8:30 PM ~ 10:30 PM	Saturn, the Ring World	Tom Weiland
June 16	9:00 PM ~ 11:00 PM	Arc to Arcturus and Speed to Spica	Carl Wenning
July 21	8:30 PM ~ 10:30 PM	Asteroids, Meteors, and Meteorites	William Carney
Aug 18	8:00 PM ~ 10:00 PM	Clusters and Nebulas of the Milky Way	John Werner
Sep 15	7:30 PM ~ 9:30 PM	Stories of the Constellations	Eve Pouliot
Oct 13	7:00 PM ~ 9:00 PM	Uranus and Neptune	(coord. needed)

AL OBSERVING CLUB REPORTS DUE

TCAA AT OSHKOSH AIR SHOW? By Carl J. Wenning

During early January my family and I had lunch in Milwaukee with Michael E. Bakich, Senior Editor at *Astronomy* magazine. You might recall Mike – he was one of our invited speakers at NCRAL 2010. He and I were best of friends during our time as undergraduates in astronomy at Ohio State University during the early 1970s and as graduate students at Michigan State University back in the mid 1970s.

During our 2½-hour meal at Mader's German Restaurant, Mike mentioned that *Astronomy* is working on arrangements for hosting a public star party at this summer's Oshkosh Air Show in Wisconsin. The scheduled date is Tuesday, July 24th (with backup dates on the 25th and the 26th). Amateur astronomers will be invited to set out their telescopes in a grassy area measuring roughly 300 feet by 100 feet. This area sits between the main camping area and the Theater in the Woods; in other words, a main foot-traffic pipeline.

Word has it (and this probably will be announced in *Astronomy* shortly) that those bringing a telescope to the star party will receive free admission to this, one of the most prestigious and popular air shows in the world. Some one million people attend the air show annually with many flying in from around the nation. To learn more about the air show, visit <http://www.airventure.org/>. Keep your eyes peeled for a public invitation for amateur astronomers in *Astronomy*.

Next month's issue of *The OBSERVER* will contain our regular quarterly update of member progress in Astronomical League observing clubs. If you would like to have your information included in April's listing, be certain to forward your observing totals to Carl by the end of March. Be certain to get your completed observing records to ALCor Duane Yockey as soon as an observing program is complete so that you might be appropriately recognized on a timely basis. Our next award presentation will be at the summer picnic.

TCAA *History* NOW AT BPL

legacy of the TCAA, Historian Carl Wenning has donated the one remaining copy of his 139-page book *History of the Twin City Amateur Astronomers: 1960-2010* to Bloomington Public Library. BPL librarian Karen Moen saw this publication at the McLean County Historical Society in Bloomington recently and asked Carl for a donation. He gladly complied noting that that copy of the publication was the last available. Unfortunately, all 15 copies of the edition printing have now been distributed. A full-color electronic copy of *History* remains available from the TCAA's web site.

Carl continues working on the sixth edition of the TCAA history chronicling fast-moving recent events relative the changes at SGO and the development of the new roll-off-roof observatory. It is both hoped and anticipated that a 6th edition of the club's *History* will be made available in printed form at the club's 60th anniversary in 2020. In the mean time, Carl will provide works in progress (e.g., version 5.1) in electronic form to the TCAA website periodically to ensure that the latest edition is always available on a timely basis.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY E/PO

On January 3rd, Lee Green visited the Peoria Astronomical Society at Lakeview Planetarium and spoke with them about NASA's plans and activities after the end of the Shuttle program. He also shared some of our recent activities and astrophotos, and talked with them about various techniques for engaging the public. According to Lee, "Their long-running program at Northmore Observatory is quite impressive."

Lee and Dave Osenga visited the State Farm Outdoor Club on February 28th and talked about the TCAA and astronomy. Lee gave a presentation and highlighted the upcoming Family Science Day and the Venus transit on June 5th. Dave brought his telescope and demonstrated it inside because the rain kept them from any outdoor activities.

UPDATES AT SGO AND MEO

As reported in last month's issue of *The OBSERVER*, the CGE Pro mount has been replaced. Given recent optical troubles with the 250mm telescope (resulting in its return to the seller) and then the installation of the Paramount ME, serious photographic imaging at SGO had ground to a halt during the past five months. During late January and up through mid February, considerable efforts by Lee G., Bob F., and Tony C. have brought the assembly under the dome of SGO to the point that trial images of a galaxy were taken on the night for February 11/12 by Bob.

Subsequently, astronomical imaging has been going on under the dome of SGO with Bob, Tony, and Lee doing the lion's share of the work. On the evening of February 27th, Bob spent a couple of hours working with Carl W. to bring him up to speed using the new equipment and the associated software. Bob provided training with use of *TheSKY* for pointing the telescope, and for *MaxIm DL* for taking color photographs.

Nothing has been heard recently from Dr. Linda French at IWU about efforts at Mark Evans Observatory to bring that facility up to date. The goal is to replace the out-of-date 16-inch telescope with a modern mount, telescope, astronomical camera, and control software. Once funding is secured for purchases and the old telescope removed, Bob and Carl will work diligently to have MEO up and running within a couple of weeks. Bob will provide training to IWU staff and students until they can manage the equipment themselves.

MESSIER MARATHON WEEKEND

Fellow amateur astronomer Ray Watt from Sangamon Astronomical Society (Springfield) has sent us information about both a March Messier Marathon and the annual Illinois Dark Skies Star Party (IDSSP). Both will take place at the Jim Edgar – Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area about 30 miles northwest of Springfield. The Messier Marathon will take place on the nights of March 23rd and 24th. Ray indicates that there is "plenty of room for tents, campers and equipment." He also indicated the availability of a warming area, with coffee, tea, and hot chocolate provided. The fee is \$15.00 for two nights to help defer camping fees. Contact Ray (raywatt@hotmail.com) with any questions that you might have. He also said, "Let us know you're coming; walk-ins are welcome too." To mail a pre-registration, send it to Sangamon Astronomical Society, Post Office Box 9461, Springfield, IL 62791-9461.

Ray also wants us to know about IDSSP that will take place October 11-14, 2012. He was quick to mention that this event is "observer-oriented with dark skies, great facilities, and fantastic food." Mark your calendar; save those dates! Registration opens in April for the IDSSP and details will be coming soon. To learn more about this event, visit the SAS web site at <http://www.sas-sky.org/>. You might also want to talk with Duane Yockey who tends to go to the IDSSP event each autumn.

MAKE PLANS NOW FOR ALCon2012 IN CHICAGO

The Astronomical League's annual summer convention will be held in Chicago, July 4-7. The theme will be *Celebrating 150 Years of Organized Astronomy: 1862–2012*. FEATURED SPEAKERS: Mike Simmons, President, Astronomers Without Borders Dr. Donald Parker, ALPO, Planetary Astrophotographer Dr. Dave Crawford, Co-founder IDA (remote presentation) Wally Pacholka, TWAN, Landscape Astrophotographer Dr. Jason Steffen, Kepler Mission Scientist Dr. Mark Hammergren, Adler Asteroid Expert Dr. Philipp Heck, Field Museum Meteorite Curator Dr. Hasan Padamsee, Physics Professor/Playwright, Cornell Univ. Vivian Hoette, Astronomy Educator at Yerkes Observatory Jeff Talman, Artist, Star Sound Installation, "Nature of the Night Sky" Dr. David Blask, Expert in circadian disruption/cancer/light pollution David Eicher, Editor-in-Chief, *Astronomy*.

A one-page "poster" announcing and promoting ALCon2012 was included in the latest issue of the *AL REFLECTOR*. A full-color version of this poster can be found online at <http://alcon2012.astroleague.org/>. Please refer to this web site for additional information in relation to ALCon2012.

MONTHLY REFLECTIONS

By Carl J. Wenning

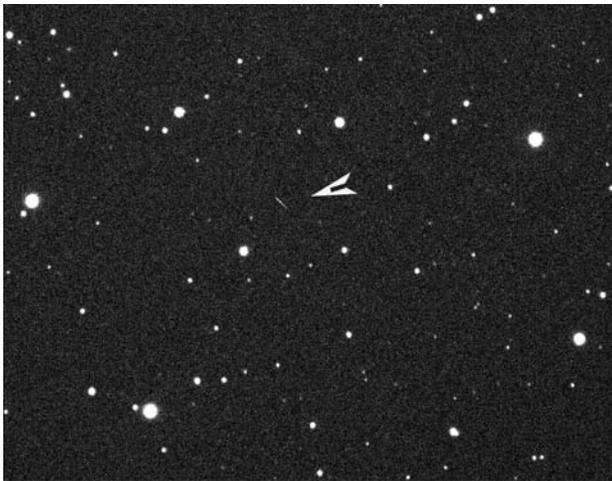
Because February started off cloudy, I decided to spend some time reviewing and working on the sixth edition of *History of the Twin City Amateur Astronomers: 1960-2010*. I've been updating the record to include recent events – so quickly are things changing with regard to happenings at SGO, a future RORO (roll-off-roof observatory) possibly at SGNC, and updates for Mark Evans Observatory at IWU. One thing that I noticed in my review of the published edition of the club history is that the mother of our club, Bertha Kieviet, would have reached 100 years of age on February 24th had she been alive this year. Yes, our membership goes back as far as that and even farther. For instance, the club history shows that our oldest member ever – Aubrey Johnson – was born in 1897 and lived until he was 95 – an active TCAA member to the very end! Our membership has spanned three centuries and two millennia now. This is simply amazing! If you want to read a few more amazing things, read the history of the club available at <http://tcaa.us/History.aspx>. To see the fully-formatted version, avoid reading the online version and download the official PDF version to enhance your reading pleasure.

On Saturday, February 11th, I joined Larry L., Bob F., Tony C. and Lee G. for a bit of observing. While they busied themselves with updating the new mount under the SGO dome, I was able to take advantage of the very dark and clear sky to observe 29 Herschel II objects, plus a few other nebulas and galaxies that had somehow gotten onto my *SkySafari* observing list when the program was updated to version 3.1 earlier in the day. The update corrupted my files, adding objects to my list that need not have been observed. I'm happy to report that, due to the exceptionally good viewing, I was able to observe extended objects near the zenith down to 13th magnitude – a record for me – despite the bone chilling 18°F with wind chill hovering around 3°F. I was able to observe by jumping into and out of my idling truck from around 7:15 to 10:15 p.m. when I left just in time to see the waning gibbous moon rise as I drove out of the SGNC parking lot. While Larry had to leave around 9 p.m., Bob, Tony, and Lee continued their work after I left. I gave them "orders" to photograph NGC 2403 and NGC 3079 (the latter not part of the Herschel II program) – two spectacular galaxies I had just observed – before I departed for the night. Why these two galaxies aren't part of every amateur astronomer's observing repertoire is beyond me. They will certainly be part of mine in the future.

The next evening, Sunday, February 12th, was another exceptionally dark and night that beckoned observers to SGNC. When I arrived there, I found Lee, Tony, and Bob hard at work putting finishing touches on the alignment of the Paramount ME. They started the evening with the polar axis aligned within +/- 5 minutes of arc in both elevation and azimuth. Before the evening was out, they had reduced that error to zero. In the mean time, I observed from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. adding 10 more NGC objects to my Herschel II list despite the low temperature once again. The sky was so clear that on one of my trips from the parking lot to SGO I was able to observe Arcturus brightly shining while it was less than ¼ degree above the horizon!

Around 10:20 pm on Saturday evening I saw asteroid 433 Eros for the first time ever. It even moved a bit compared to several background stars. I named the Ohio State University Astronomy Club newsletter after this asteroid nearly 40 years ago. It was like greeting a long lost friend. Eros shined with a pale yellow glow at magnitude 8.8. :-)

The night of the club's 52nd Annual Meeting and Banquet, Saturday, February 18th, Bob Finnigan, William Carney, and I headed out to



SGNC after the program for some observing only to find Tony Cellini already present. He had been imaging NGC3628 or the "Hamburger Galaxy" from around 7:00 until 9:30 p.m. and left shortly thereafter. I was able to find an additional 9 NGC objects for my Herschel II observing program despite the 22-degree temperature and 11-degree wind chill. This brings my tally up to 320; I'm now 80% of the way there. Around 10:20 p.m. I was able to glimpse the asteroid (433) Eros for the first time ever, thanks to a reminder from William Carney. Shortly thereafter, William and I watched as Bob photographed the field containing the asteroid. The next morning, in reviewing the effort, Lee Green noted the presence of the asteroid shown in the accompanying photograph. It appears as a streak of growing brightness.

Asteroid (433) Eros, shining at magnitude 8.8 in Hydra, was the asteroid after which I named the Ohio State University Astronomy Club newsletter nearly 40 years ago. I felt as though I was greeting a friend for the first time in many years. Tonight it shined with a pale yellow color, and moved a perceptible amount after a patient wait of about 90 minutes. It was in

writing the OSUAC Newsletter, *EROS*, from 1971-1976 that I first discovered my love of writing. Thanks, old friend! ☺

Following an unusual string of clear winter nights, I was able to make it out again on Sunday, February 19th. Due to the cold and lack of "suitable" Herschel II objects to observe (yet-to-be-observed objects don't rise until quite late now), I only picked off one more. Fortunately, I was also able to observe another of my few remaining planetary nebulas, this time M1-7 in Gemini.

With the exceptionally long streak of fine observing weather (despite my often too-busy schedule), I was able to make it out one more time before February ended. On the evening of the 27th Bob Finnigan took me under his wing and started training me in the use of the new equip-

(Continued on page 6)

MONTHLY REFLECTIONS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 5)

ment under the SGO dome. That evening Bob helped me to image three things: the Eskimo Nebula in Gemini, two geosynchronous satellites in orbit southwest of Orion, and the Great Orion Nebula. Also present that evening were Lee Green who continues to work on his Open Cluster observing club and Mark Cabaj who was present with a small group of students for some binocular observing. Mark stayed a while longer and visited SGO to talk with the observers there and check out the recent updates.

CELESTIAL ALIGNMENTS

By Lee Green

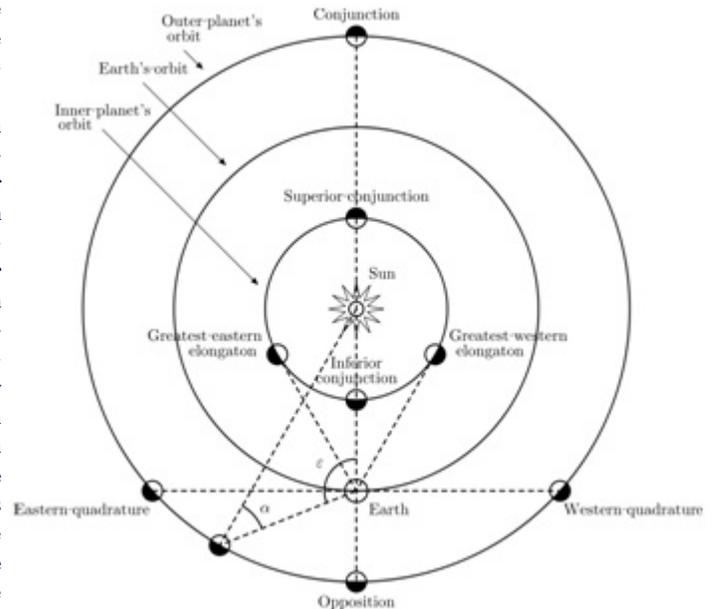
When planets line up, amazing things happen.

The Earth travels around the Sun in a plane that we call the Ecliptic. Throughout the year, year after year, the Earth orbits the Sun in this plane. From our place on the Earth, we see the Sun as it travels through the stars. When we look at other planets, they also move through the stars and their positions change as we and they orbit the Sun.

The graphic shows the orbit of the Earth along with the orbits of planets closer to the Sun (inner planets) and those farther away (outer planets). The inner planets orbit faster than the Earth and the outer planets orbit slower. When the Earth, the Sun and a planet line up, we have an astronomical event. These events go by a variety of names. When the Sun and the planet appear aligned when viewed from the Earth, we call the event a **conjunction**. The inner planets' conjunctions are further qualified depending on whether the planet or the Sun is the middle position. When the inner planet is between the Sun and the Earth, we call this an **inferior conjunction** and when the Sun is between the Earth and the planet, this is called a **superior conjunction**. Outer planets can never be situated in the middle, so alignments with the outer planets are simply called conjunctions. However, the outer planets can align with the Earth between the Sun and the planet in an event we call **opposition**. Opposition is the time when we are as close to the planet as we will be this year, so the planet is at its brightest and we see the planet rise in the east as the sun sets in the west. The graphic also shows several other orientations of the planets including the time of greatest elongation when the inner planet is at the widest angle from the Sun as it can be, and quadrature when outer planet is at right angles from the Sun.

When objects are precisely aligned, we see them as passing across each other and we have names for these events. When a large object passes in front of a small object (or if a smaller object passes behind a larger one), this is an **occultation**. When a smaller object passes in front of a larger object, we call this a **transit**. The most common example of occultations and transits involve the moons orbiting around Jupiter. As the moons pass across the face of Jupiter, they are in transit, and as they pass behind Jupiter they are occulted. Beyond this example, occultations are fairly common; consider the Moon as it passes in front of stars. In contrast, transits tend to be rather rare events since smaller objects are usually farther away than larger objects. One notable exception, and this is the reason for this article, involves the Sun with Venus and Mercury. When the right alignment happens, those planets can cross the face of the Sun and on June 5, 2012, Venus will do precisely that.

Each planet has its own plane of orbit around the Sun. If all the planets' orbits were aligned in the same plane, we would see the inner planets transit the Sun every time there was an inferior conjunction. This does not happen however, because each planet's orbit is tilted slightly from the Ecliptic as shown in the image. The orbit of Venus is tilted by 3.4° from the Ecliptic, although the image exaggerates that angle to better demonstrate this. During a typical inferior conjunction, shown in the upper image,



(Continued on page 7)

CONSTELLATION OF THE MONTH: COLUMBA—THE DOVE

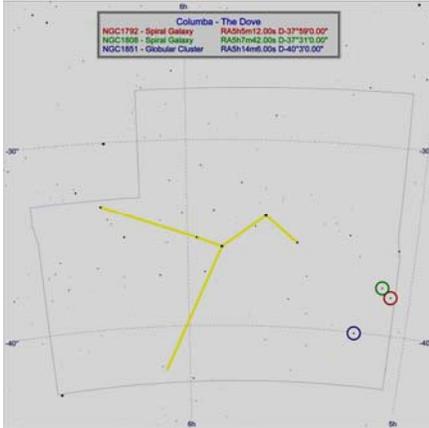
Columba is a small constellation that lies south of Lepus between Caelum and Canis Major. Columba was first described by Dutch astronomer and co-founder of the Dutch East India Company, Petrus Plancius. Columba is best viewed during the winter months.

Columba is said to be the dove that Noah released after the great flood to look for land. It is said that the dove returned with an olive branch in its beak which told Noah that the flood was receding.

Another story recalls Jason's quest on the Argo near the rocks of the Symplegades where the seas were so violent they consumed the fish and the birds. Jason's dove survived the encounter as did the Argo.

Columba is the 54th largest constellation covering 270 square degrees and is the 48th brightest. Columba reaches opposition on December 19.

Columba is located away from the Milky Way and contains a number of bright galaxies. NGC1792 and NGC1808 are bright spiral galaxies. NGC1851 is a large bright globular cluster.



HOW TIME FLIES

TCAA Historian Carl Wenning provides monthly updates about the history of the club going back to intervals of 50, 25, and 10 years. Details about all mentioned events will be found in either the club history (<http://www.tcaa.us/History.aspx>) or in *The OBSERVER* archive found on the club's web site (<http://www.tcaa.us/Observer.aspx>).

50 Years Ago

March 1962 – A lack of prominent planets made public observing sessions difficult given the small telescopes in possession of club members used for in-town viewing. Reports were given at the March meeting of the first telescope-making class during February with five members in attendance. It is also reported that ISU is looking forward to the construction of a planetarium if funding can be provided by the National Science Foundation.

25 Years Ago

March 1987 – The astronomy club took a field trip to Huntsville, AL, beginning March 13th to see the space flight center located there. The Board of Directors agreed to the purchase of a 16-inch reflecting telescope from the president of the Decatur Area Astronomy Club.

10 Years Ago

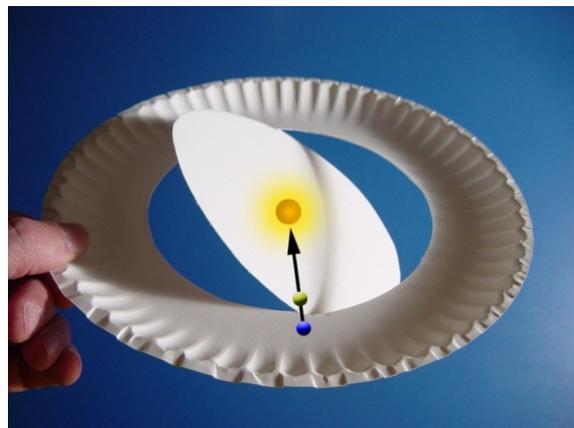
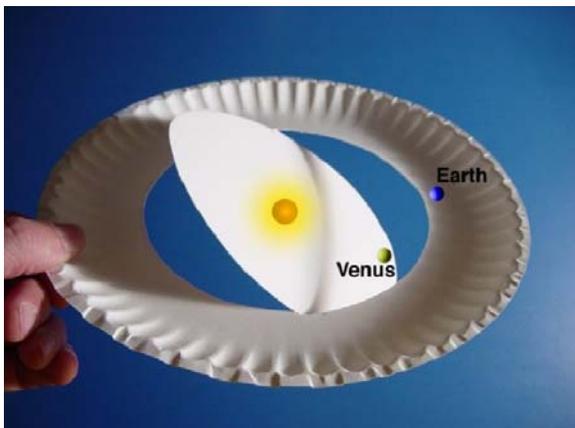
March 2002 – Joe DeHoff (“chief optician”) and Bob Ryburn (“chief carpenter”) continued leading amateur telescope making efforts for the club. These two successfully built a number of 4^{1/4}” to 6” telescopes that Bob sold in conjunction with his musical-instrument-making hobby.

CELESTIAL ALIGNMENTS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 6)

passes above or below the face of the Sun. Geometry tells us that the intersection between two planes is a line and, as shown in the lower image, it is only when conjunctions occur on this line that a transit will be visible.

The last Venus transit of our lifetimes will occur on June 5. Starting at 5:04pm local time, Venus will cross the east edge of the Sun. It will take nearly 7 hours to pass across the face of the Sun. At its greatest transit at 8:29pm, Venus will be a mere 9 arcminutes from the center of the Sun, but the Sun will set before that at 8:23pm.



HISTORIAN ASSEMBLES MATERIALS FOR AL PUBLICATION

TCAA Historian Carl Wenning recently wrote a four-page document describing the 52-year history of the club. He is now assembling some two dozen representative photographs of the club for inclusion in an online booklet to be published by the Astronomical League (AL) this summer. The booklet, titled *Celebrate Starlight*, will commemorate 150 years of amateur astronomy in the USA. The AL also will publish a poster using images from the book. An online version of the booklet will be made available for free for every interested astronomy club's website, and will also be on the Astronomical League's website. A printed version of the booklet will also be available at cost by print-on-demand services that has become popular recently. There is more information about the *Celebrate Starlight* book and poster in the latest issue of the *Reflector*.

The release of the booklet will be at ALCon2012 in July. The editors will take submissions until May 15th. According to Audrey Miller, "The beauty of online (besides being free) is that it can be updated and club web-links can be included. This will be a valuable commemorative and resource." How very true. A variety of achievements will be included in the book such as "Stellar achievements of the club... the members, the outreach, the contributions that made it shine." Carl made the 4-page mini history submission on behalf of the TCAA on February 28th.

For the *Celebrate Starlight* photo-mosaic poster, clubs have been asked to submit each club's logo plus up to 24 photos of key people, events, star party logo, astrophotography, anything that is important to that club according to the latest issue of *REFLECTOR*. Photo entries are due by April 1st. Then, there is something quite special planned for it according to Audrey. Carl is managing these submission on behalf of the TCAA.

Just in time for the club's 52nd Annual Meeting on February 18th, Carl prepared a 4-page brochure containing the mini history. This document is now available full size with five pictures and is included in this month's issue of *The OBSERVER* as a removable centerfold. A full-size electronic version of this document may be downloaded from the TCAA's web site at <http://www.tcaa.us/History.aspx>

TCAA Treasurer's Report – January 2012

OPERATING FUND BALANCE – December 31, 2011 - \$ 1,770.87

Income

Allan Timke (Dues) - \$ 40.00

Expenses

LYB Inc. (Observer copies & postage) - \$ 33.32

Lee Green (Storage Bldg. Electrical) - \$ 761.66

OPERATING FUND BALANCE – January 31, 2012 - \$ 1,015.89

OBSERVATORY FUND BALANCE – December 31, 2011 - \$ 2,954.38

Income

Interest (Oct. – Dec.) - \$ 0.53

Expenses

None! - \$ 0.00

OBSERVATORY FUND BALANCE – January 31, 2012 - \$ 2,954.91

TOTAL TCAA FUNDS – January 31, 2012 - \$ 3,970.80

Respectfully submitted,

L. Duane Yockey, Treasurer

TCAA Treasurer's Report – February 2012

OPERATING FUND BALANCE – January 31, 2012 - \$ 1,015.89

Income

Randy Gleason (Dues) -	\$ 40.00
Brian Barling (Dues) -	\$ 40.00
Don Cooper (Dues) -	\$ 41.00
James Newton (Dues) -	\$ 26.00
William Carney (Dues) -	\$ 40.00
Paul Pouliot (Dues) -	\$ 40.00
Dave Osenga (Dues) -	\$ 40.00
Dan Miller (Dues) -	\$ 40.00
Lee Green (Dues) -	\$ 40.00
Annual Dinner (18@\$15) -	\$ 270.00

Expenses

LYB Inc. (Observer copies & postage) -	\$ 25.95
PayPal Fee (Don Cooper) -	\$ 1.20
PayPal Fee (James Newton) -	\$ 0.87
Carl Wenning (Plaque) -	\$ 15.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE – February 29, 2012 - \$ 1,589.87

OBSERVATORY FUND BALANCE – January 31, 2012 - \$ 2,954.91

Income

Donation (Carl Wenning) -	\$ 50.00
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Expenses

Backyard Observatories (Roll-off Plans) -	\$ 50.00
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OBSERVATORY FUND BALANCE – February 29, 2012 - \$ 2,954.91

TOTAL TCAA FUNDS – February 29, 2012 - \$ 4,544.78

Respectfully submitted,

L. Duane Yockey, Treasurer

Editor's Note: The January's treasurer's report which appeared in the printed February edition of The *OBSERVER* was incorrect. The error was noted after the printed copies had been mailed. The electronic version that appears on the website was edited to include the correct January treasurer's report. The January and February treasurer's reports are both included in this edition.

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@yahogroups.com. Unsubscribing is just as easy. To unsubscribe, just send a blank email to TCAA-unsubscribe@yahogroups.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**