



*¡Distribución de nuestro amor de la astronomía  
por más de 50 años!*

# Establecido en 1960



Bertha Kieviet

John Kieviet



# Historia 50.a del Aniversario



Figure 14. John Kieviet projecting the eclipsed sun in July 1972 using his home-built telescope.

It was around this time that Hank Janecek moved to Lucas, OH, following his retirement. He maintained interest in the club, communicating by phone with Carl Wenning from time to time starting in the late 1980s and continuing into the early 1990s. The two never actually met. After Hank's departure another of the club's early guiding lights, Bob Mayo, became less active in the club and rarely attended any club functions. He remained in town until his retirement<sup>40</sup>.

#### Years of Transition: 1973 - 1978

Though the historical record is incomplete through 1974 due to the loss of important meeting minutes (and without the second series of newsletters appearing until 1975), the flow of club history becomes clearer with the appearance of several critical newspaper articles in 1973 and afterwards. One item chronicled so well was the arrival of a club member by the name of Robert (Bob) Finnigan. His appearance coincided with the appearance of Comet Kohoutek. A full page of the December 1, 1973, *Pantagraph* was dedicated to these two luminaries.

<sup>40</sup> After Bob Mayo's retirement as a machinist, he and his wife Jessica (Jessie) moved to El Paso, TX, in 1982 where he passed away in 2007. After Bob's death, Jessie returned to Normal, IL. She is 87 years old at the time of this writing (January 2010).



Figure 15. Picture from *Pantagraph* feature article about Bob Finnigan

Comet Kohoutek was described aptly by Dr. William Kubinec, an Illinois Wesleyan faculty member and member of the TCAA from 1973 through 1975. Bob was described in the newspaper account as an atypical amateur astronomer. Bob, it was noted, had just purchased a Celestron 14-inch telescope for \$5,000 (sic)<sup>41</sup> in March of 1973<sup>42</sup>. He had it positioned on the top of his garage at 1305 E. Oakland Avenue in Bloomington. There he had constructed a six-foot-diameter dome resulting in the non-use of the garage. The reason – it had a concrete pier running up through its center! That Bob was very dedicated to the pursuit of amateur astronomy was also evidenced by

<sup>41</sup> This figure reported was wrong. Bob noted later that the amount was approximately \$4,000.

<sup>42</sup> The TCAA acquired this C14 telescope from Bob Finnigan on August 4, 2010, with the intent of installing it in the SGO under the same dome that originally housed it at Bob's residence in Downs, IL, some 30 years earlier.

# Celebración del Señorío de Ewing

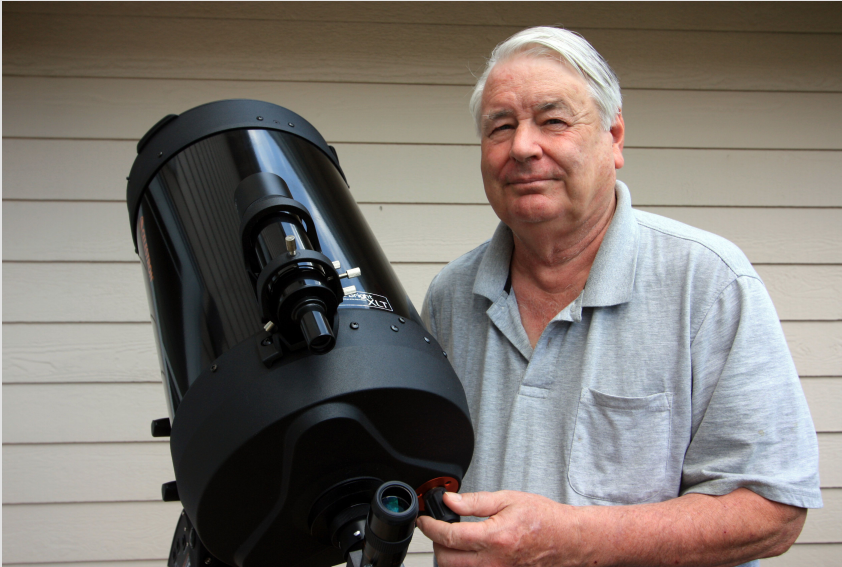




# Reunión de NCRAAL en 2010

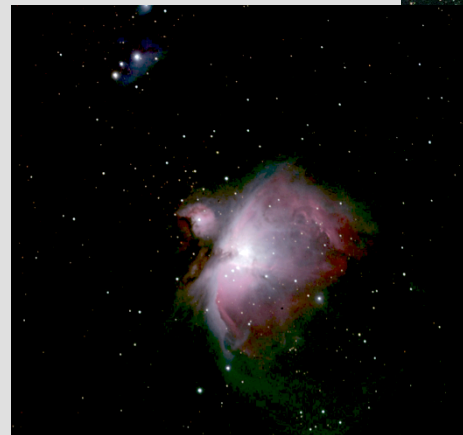


# Observador dominante: Bob Finnigan





# Observador dominante: Lee Green

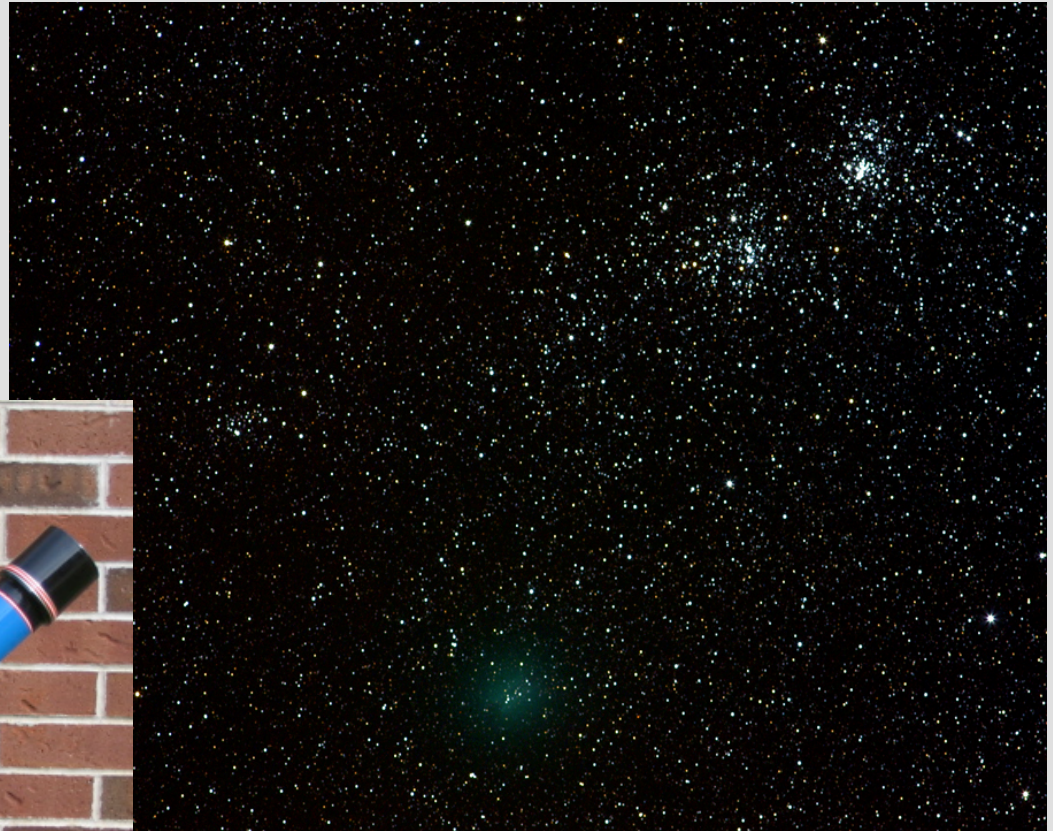


# Observador dominante: Tony Cellini

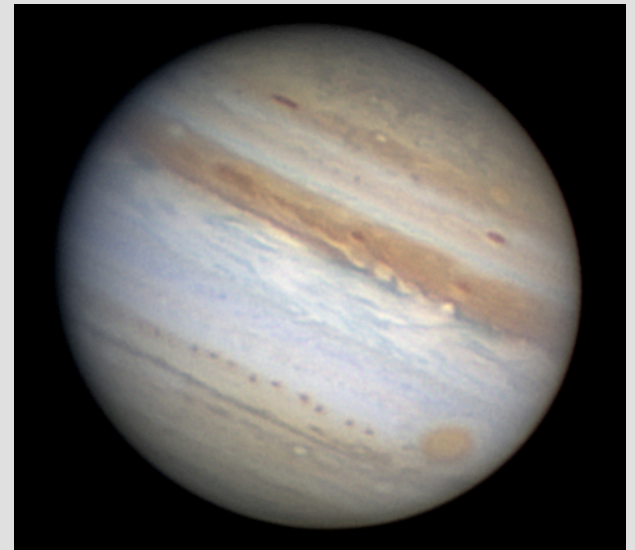




# Observador dominante: Wm Carney



# Observador dominante: Marc Cabaj





# Observador dominante: John Werner



# Observador dominante: Carl Wenning





# Observatorio Móvil



# Sugar Grove Centro de la Naturaleza





# Sugar Grove Centro de la Naturaleza



# Sugar Grove Sala de Conferencias





# Sugar Grove Observatorio



# SGO Telescopio Principal





# El Otro Equipo de SGO



Takahashi TOA-130 Refractor Apocromático



SBIG STL-11000 Cámara Digital

# Hoja Informativa del Club de la Astronomía

TWIN CITY AMATEUR  
ASTRONOMERS, INC.

## The OBSERVER

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OCTOBER 2010

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### OCTOBER TCAA EVENTS

The TCAA will go on a field trip to Staerkel Planetarium on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. See the article following this one for details. Lee Green will hold an observing session for another group on this same evening if the sky is clear. If you are not going on the field trip and can assist Lee, your assistance would be much appreciated.

The October public sky viewing session at SGNC will take place on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Dan Miller will speak about the Perseus double star cluster. Following this talk will be a laser-mediated sky lecture and viewing with telescopes.

The now traditional Autumn Fest celebration at Sugar Grove Nature Center will be held on Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The TCAA will hold an open house at Sugar Grove Observatory, and will provide public viewing of the Sun and Venus if the sky is clear.

While not a TCAA event, there will be a celebration at the Mark Evans Observatory on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00 p.m. and TCAAers are invited to attend. The event is being held in honor of Lew Detweiler and Ray Wilson – both now retired from the Physics Department of Illinois Wesleyan University. It is also the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mark Evans Observatory, and they are holding a reception on Homecoming weekend. If you have any photographs or reminiscences about the observatory, those would be welcome. But mostly, organizers would like to have colleagues of Lew and Ray present. If you happen to know Ray and/or Lew, organizers do hope that you can attend.

TCAAers – come on out and take advantage of these events. While we do have a core of dedicated observers out under the stars on a regular basis, it would be great to see those who pay their dues but so rarely attend. Rest assured, the more you put into the hobby of amateur astronomy, the more you will get out of it.

### STAERKEL PLANETARIUM FIELD TRIP OCTOBER 15

The TCAA is going on a road trip! The place? Staerkel Planetarium on the campus of Parkland College in Champaign. The date? Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. The time? For those who want to car pool, we will depart Bloomington at 5:30 p.m. sharp from the Sale Barn just north of I-74, on the west side of US Route 51. Plan on arriving at least 10 minutes early. If you want to attend only the second of their two evening programs, you may depart Bloomington at 6:30 p.m., leaving adequate time for travel prior to the 8 p.m. showing. Please arrive on time; latecomers generally are not admitted to planetarium programs in progress.



There are two showing on Friday evening. At 7 p.m. they will present a live planetarium sky lecture titled *Prairie Sky*. At 8 p.m. they will be showing the program *Violent Universe*. Admission for one show is \$5 for adults; for two shows (both tickets purchased at the same time), the second showing is half price for a combined total of \$7.50.

Each individual will be responsible for purchasing his or her show tickets. It is advisable to share in the cost of gas for transportation if riding with another, though transportation cannot be guaranteed. Be prepared to drive your own vehicle

(Continued on page 2)



# www.tcaa.us



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👍 26 people

### Welcome to the TCAA

#### Welcome to the Twin City Amateur Astronomers' web site.

Located in the twin cities of Bloomington and Normal, Illinois, the TCAA was formed in 1960 to share our love of astronomy. We love doing astronomy, and talking about it: so much so that sometimes it takes a good whack across the head to get us to shut up. Ouch!

On this site you can find out about our public observing sessions, held at our dark sky observatory southwest of Bloomington; our public presentations, which take place at a variety of venues usually in the Bloomington-Normal area; and even peruse our award-winning newsletter, The Observer.

#### Our next Event...

### TCAA Annual Meeting

**When** Saturday, February 05, 2011 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM  
**Status** Scheduled  
**Where** ISU Turner Hall  
**What** The Annual Meeting of the TCAA will be held at ISU Turner Hall.  
[more...](#)

We are a 501c(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.



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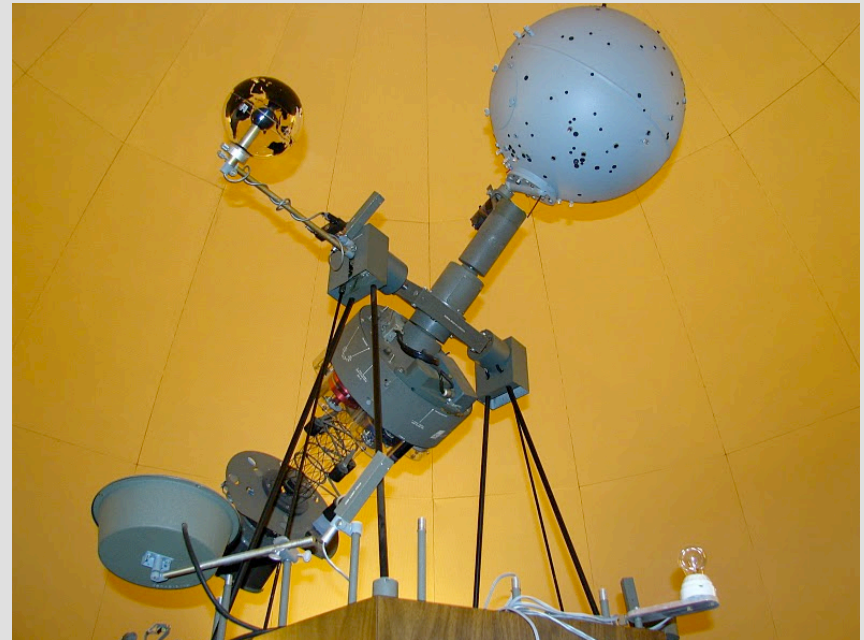
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# Observando a los Clubs





# Planetario en ISU



# Challenger Centro de Aprendizaje





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