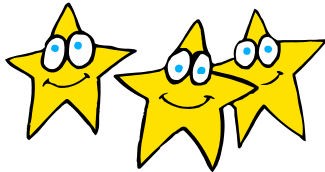


## A Typical Public Observing Session

- *Lecture about the featured object.* This 20-30 min. presentation, held in the SGNC picnic shelter, includes images of and details about the featured sky object as well as information on other interesting celestial objects that might be viewed that evening.
- *Sky tour using a laser pointer.* We step out under the stars to point out the major constellations and planets, and to designate the location of the featured celestial object for the evening.
- *Telescope observing session.* We use the 12-inch Sugar Grove Observatory telescope and other telescopes at ground level to observe the featured object and other wonders of the heavens.

## Things to Remember

- Telescope observing can take place only if the sky is reasonably free of clouds and transparent. In the event of an entirely overcast sky, the observing session and associated talks will be cancelled. When uncertain if a session has been cancelled, call Carl at (309) 830-4085 or Lee at (309) 824-2804 after 6 PM.
- Please dress very warmly during cooler months. These are outdoor events; none of the buildings we will use are heated.
- Please be very careful when driving into and out of the Sugar Grove Nature Center parking lot. Many times there are people, including small children, walking from place to place in the dark. Parking lights only are requested near the observing area.
- You may bring along a flashlight if you wish, but be certain to cover the lens with a red filter so that observers' dark adaptation isn't adversely affected.



TCAA - Serving the Bloomington-Normal Community Since 1960

<http://twincityamateurastronomers.org/>

# 2009

# FAMILY FRIENDLY PUBLIC SKY VIEWING SESSIONS



## TWIN CITY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

## TCAA PUBLIC SKY VIEWING SESSIONS

### 2009 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY

<u>Date (Sat.)</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Sunset</u>
▪ Mar 28	8:00 PM ~ 10:00 PM	7:17 PM CDT
▪ April 25	8:30 PM ~ 10:30 PM	7:46 PM CDT
▪ May 23	9:00 PM ~ 11:00 PM	8:13 PM CDT
▪ June 27	9:00 PM ~ 11:00 PM	8:31 PM CDT
▪ July 25	9:00 PM ~ 11:00 PM	8:18 PM CDT
▪ Aug 22	8:30 PM ~ 10:30 PM	7:43 PM CDT
▪ Sep 19	7:30 PM ~ 9:30 PM	6:58 PM CDT
▪ Oct 17	7:00 PM ~ 9:00 PM	6:13 PM CDT

If you are unfamiliar with the SGNC, we suggest that you arrive early. Our location is dark at night as there are no lights. Also, it takes about 20 minutes for your eyes to adapt to dark conditions.

#### Featured Sky Object by Month\*

- March 28 – The Great Nebula of Orion (M42)
  - April 25 – The Rings of Saturn
  - May 23 – Galileo’s Universe
  - June 27 – Craters of the Moon
  - July 25 – Galileo’s Telescope
  - August 22 – Jupiter and Neptune
  - September 19 – Exploring the Milky Way
  - October 17 – The Pleiades Star Cluster
- \* Throughout 2009 – the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invention of the telescope – we acknowledge the astronomical work of Galileo. Additional prominent sky objects such as planets, nebulae, star clusters, and galaxies will be viewed when visible.

When uncertain if an observing session will be held, call one of the following cell phone numbers after 6:00 pm:

309-830-4085 (Carl)

309-824-2804 (Lee)

## DIRECTIONS TO SUGAR GROVE NATURE CENTER & SUGAR GROVE OBSERVATORY

- From Bloomington-Normal, take Interstate 55 heading southwest toward Springfield.
- Exit at Shirley, the first interchange a few miles out of town (Exit 154).



- From the exit ramp, turn right (west) onto County Rte 34.
- Go to the T-intersection, stop, then turn left (southwest) toward Shirley and Funks Grove.
- Continue along old Route 66 for about 4 miles, paralleling Interstate 55.

- Turn right (west) onto County Route 36 at the Funks Grove sign, cross the railroad tracks (careful, fast trains!), and then take the first left (south) toward Funks Grove Church.
- Continue 1.8 miles along County Road 550 N, past *Sudden Impact* paint ball area, and until you come to the first intersection where the road branches. Avoid taking the right branch (County Road 540 N) that goes west toward Funks Grove Church and Cemetery.

- Continue going straight ahead down the dead-end branch.
- After about one mile, turn right (west) into Sugar Grove Nature Center.
- Park in the gravel parking lot just west of the main Nature Center building.

