

# GEMINI

publication of the  
**Twin City Astronomy Club**



Vol 2 No 5

September 1977

## MINUTES

Minutes of the regular meeting of Sept. 6:

The star party scheduled for Sept. 16 (alternate Sept. 17) was discussed.

Subscriptions and memberships will be due together from now on. Members will be credited or charged 85¢ per month for the months their subscriptions are behind or ahead.

There is a premium grazing occultation at 8:45 p.m. local time Oct. 18 visible from Austin. Several club members will no doubt make the unless the snow is too deep.

The next national convention of the Astronomical League will be held in Madison, Wis., June 29 and 30 and July 1, 1978.

Katherine Sproll, 1554 Hillside Ave. N., Mpls. 55411 is still looking for participants for the short-term phenomena network.

Jim Fox announced the Reflector has been split into two publications as of the next edition. There will be a six-page quarterly newsletter containing notices and news items which everyone will receive. The articles will go into the Journal of the Astronomical League, which will also be quarterly and will cost you \$2 per year. If all club members decide to purchase the Journal, we can obtain it for \$1.50 per person. If interested in subscribing, see Hub Brueckner. The amendments to the constitution printed in the last issue of Gemini were all passed by a unanimous voice vote of the members attending the Sept. 6 meeting.

Lauren Nelson requested volunteers to work at the observing site Sept. 16.

Kevin Marx announced the latest issue of Scientific American is all about microchips; the issue costs \$2.

The speaker for the evening was Don Tate, whose subject was the AAVSO (American Association of Variable Star Observers). Tate used transparencies to discuss charts A through E. He discussed the long-period variable and the eclipsing binary programs. He recommended beginners stick to the long-period program. The entire lecture was oriented toward starting out in the AAVSO program. There was only one AAVSO member in the audience; that person is presently inactive. As many of you know, the Milwaukee astronomy

club is among the foremost variable-star observing groups in the nation.

Bill Larson described some of the activities at the Boulder convention. He talked about a computer-generated flight from here to Capella, complete with parallax, blue shift and relativistic position change. He then showed slides of the solar observatory at Boulder and the cesium atomic clock.

Hub Brueckner talked about the planetarium show at Boulder. It simulated the depopulation of Mars due to pollution.

Hub also described the new planetarium being built at the new science museum in St. Paul. It will feature a floor set at 32° to the dome, a battery of slide projectors that will produce any horizon and a 70mm motion picture projector. It is scheduled to open in July, 1978.

Bill Larson passed around his usual plethora of publications. Proceedings of Astrocon '76: The Astronomical League's Bicentennial Convention (published for the Aug. 19-22, 1976, convention) contains many interesting papers presented at the convention. It was put out by Gary A. Becker, Proceedings editor, 1205 So. Jefferson St., Allentown, PA 18103.

Another interesting paperback is Deep Sky Objects, which contains black and white photos of Messier and NGC objects taken with a 12.5-inch reflector belonging to the author. It is published by Gall Publications, 1293 Gerrard St. E., Toronto, Canada M4L1Y8. The author used 103AF and Tri-X film and Ilford no. 5 high contrast paper. The focal ratio of the scope was f4.6. Exposures were from 13 to 20 minutes.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

This month's editor's corner is only being written by one editor, John Mlinar. The reason for this is that Peter Steinmetz is now going to Augsburg College to finish his last year of high school credit. I would say that for the most part Pete will not be an editor this school year. Please send all articles to me.

Well so long for now as the story of the web builds!

In order to comply with postal regulations, it will be necessary for all members on the Gemini mailing list to complete and return the following membership application. It will also be necessary to complete a new one each time a member renews his dues. Regardless, whether or not you have completed a similar form in the past, this form must be completed and returned by October 31, 1977. Anyone who does not, will be dropped from the mailing list.

Our ability to mail at 2nd class non-profit rates is of considerable monetary value to the club. Specifically, our mailing list is now nearing 100 per month which translates to \$13 per month for first class versus \$1.80 per month for second class, a savings of more than \$130 per year!! Another way to look at the savings involved is to recognize that mailing at first class rates would cost an additional amount equal to one member's annual dues every month!!

#### GEMINI

Co-editors-----John Mlinar  
Peter Steinmetz

Gemini is issued monthly by the Twin City Astronomy Club (TCAC), an affiliate of the Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn.

The TCAC strives to promote amateur astronomy through its publications, meetings, and public programs. Membership is open to anyone. Annual regular member dues are \$16 and student member dues are \$5, of which \$1.50 is allocated for a subscription to Gemini. Subscription to Gemini is available to non-members at \$2.50 per year. Inquiries may be directed to: TCAC, Science Museum of Minnesota, 30 E. 10th St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

Advertisements for publication in Gemini are welcome and inquiries may be directed to Lauren Nelson c/o TCAC.

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