

September 1979

Vol. IV No. 8

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday
Oct. 3 General Meeting 7:30 p.m., Members Lounge of the Science Museum of Minnesota, 30 East 10th Street, St. Paul. Program: A film "The Universe from Palomar."
- Friday
Oct. 19 Star Party at Metcalf Observing Site. In case of clouds try Saturday, Oct. 20. If in doubt call Lauren Nelson at 644-1254.

Announcing a Class

HOW TO USE YOUR TELESCOPE

At 2:30, Saturday, October 27 members of the club will offer an informal class in basic observing and telescope use. The class will begin at the Science museum with 2 to 3 hours of lecture, demonstration, and discussion. We will then adjourn for supper, en-mass if you wish, at some convenient restaurant before going to the Metcalf Observing Site for more practical exercises.

If you are interested please call Alan Ominsky at 331-2062 or Andy Fraser at 690-5902 before October 21. We must have your reservation in order to schedule an appropriate meeting space and to insure an abundance of experienced observers will be there to help you. Remember, call before October 21! Incidentally, the rings of Saturn turn edge-on October 21.

LIGHT POLLUTION UPDATE by Mike Picard

The hearing examiner for the State of Minnesota has recommended that the rules governing outdoor display lighting be "...adopted as proposed with minor modifications..." This is good news for the TCAC which was represented at the meeting by Clifford Arnold, Lauren Nelson, and myself. Clifford and Lauren gave excellent testimony about the devastating effects of light pollution on astronomy for which I publicly want to thank them. The only other person speaking in favor of the rules was MPIRG attorney Jim Miller. We still have a long way to go with this problem but this is a good first step. Another update will follow in Gemini when I receive a revised and finalized copy of the rules which will then have the effect of law.

OFFICERS

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| President, Librarian | Bill Larson | 331-6124 |
| Vice President | Don Tate | 483-4257 |
| Secretary | Bob Schmidt | 869-0988 |
| Treasurer | John Cooner | 881-3549 |
| New Site Search Comm. Chm. | | |
| | Andy Fraser | 733-6944 |
| Metcalf Grounds Crew Co-directors | | |
| | Andy Fraser | 733-6944 |
| | Lauren Nelson | 644-1254 |
| Light Pollution Control Comm. Chm. | | |
| | Michael Picard | 722-3948 |
| Programs Director | Lauren Nelson | 644-1254 |

GEMINI

Editor. Alan Ominsky

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.

Second class postage paid at St. Paul, Mn 55101.

Publication No. 338070

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Twin City Astronomy Club was held Tuesday, September 4, 1979, in the auditorium of the Science Museum of Minnesota.

In the absence of President William Larson, Vice President Donald Tate presided.

Club member Jim Fox announced that the Club Telescope is available, see Andy Fraser to make arrangements. Call Andy at 690-5920. Jim also announced the total lunar eclipse, September 6 and the occultation of Aldebaran, September 12. Jim also said that he now has 103aF spectroscopic film available for those members who wish it. Call Jim at 436-5843 to arrange for it.

Dave Schumann announced that the club picnic-star party is set for Saturday, September 22, at his home on highway 12 east of St. Paul. Bring your own picnic fixings, he will have his grill ready for any who need it.

Alan Ominsky proposed a class "how to use your telescope" and asked for a show of hands of those interested. Many hands were raised.

Bruce Watson, professional meteorologist and new club member presented a talk on The Weather at Night. Bruce told us of the things to look for to help determine what to expect for the seeing conditions.

There is apparently a good deal of confusion regarding renewal procedures. To clarify, the following will be printed each month in Gemini:

The yellow renewal card from Sky and Telescope magazine serves as renewal notice. Return the yellow card and payment of your dues to:

Treasurer
Twin City Astronomy Club, Inc.
Science Museum of Minn.
30 E. 10th St.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Do not send payment to Sky and Telescope. Checks should be made payable to Twin City Astronomy Club, Inc.

TCAC
Science Museum of Minnesota
30 East 10th Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Second Class
Postage Paid
at St. Paul, MN 55101