

TWILIGHT TOURS

Total Solar Eclipse

February 26, 1998
Venezuela, South America

5 nights/6 days

*Includes R/T airfare,
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Michael David Sinclair and Eric John Schreur of Kalamazoo, Michigan, were named joint winners of the 1996 Hans Baldauf Award, at last April's NIAG/Great Lakes Convention in Warsaw, Indiana. Photo by Chuck Allen.

NIAG/Greatcon '96

Michigan Educators Win GLRAL's Hans Baldauf Award

Michael David Sinclair and Eric John Schreur of Kalamazoo, Michigan, were named joint winners of the 1996 Hans Baldauf Award, at last April's NIAG/Great Lakes Convention in Warsaw, Indiana. Named for the Great Lakes Region's founder, the award recognizes outstanding contributions to astronomy and astronomy education in the midwestern United States. The plaques were presented by Great Lakes Chairman, Ron Whitehead, at an award ceremony witnessed by 150 people.

Michael and Eric received the Baldauf Award primarily due to their work as co-directors of two special programs intended for secondary students and teachers. In 1994, they organized the highly successful Northernmost Eclipse Graze Line Project (Eclipsefest '94) in which 600 students and teachers teamed together to accurately determine the northern edge of the May 1994 annular solar eclipse path. And, in 1995, they jointly organized and produced "Live from the Stratosphere," a live airborne science presentation for NASA and Maryland Public Television.

Welcome Mat

Welcome to the following new societies that have joined the AL since August 1996.

New Member Society in MERAL

Greenbelt Astronomy Club
Douglas L. Love, President
3-D Plateau Place
Greenbelt, MD 20770

New Member Society in WRAL

San Bernardino Valley Amateur Astronomers
Chris Clarke, President
249 E. Van Koevinger
Rialto, CA 92376

Herschel 400 Logbook

A Deep Sky Observer's Tool
Go Beyond the Messiers & Improve Your Skills
Includes Finder Charts, Data, and Log

\$15.95 + \$3.00 S&H

Starsplitter Telescopes
3228 Rikard Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Greatcon Competitions

The sixth annual Great Lakes Competitions were also held at NIAG/Greatcon '96. Awards were given in 25 separate categories of astrophotography, CCD imaging, telescope design, art, exhibits and general knowledge. Overall category winners were Terry Mann and Tim Cross (astronomical imaging), Father Jim Fahey (telescope design), John Chumack (astronomical imaging - masters category), Laura Ainslie (general astronomy) and Michael Gough (general astronomy - under 14).

Chuck Allen
Louisville [KY] Astronomical Society

Hidden Hollow '96

We just got back from Hidden Hollow. It was a fun time. Nearly everyone camped and Friday night was COLD!!! Hot chocolate and coffee were drunk by the gallon.

The members of the Richland Astronomical Society of Mansfield, Ohio, still have no idea if they are going to be able to keep their observatory there and continue to have the annual Hidden Hollow Star Party. Everything is still up in the air. The owner of the property has had a serious stroke or heart attack. That, along with deaths and illnesses among the members, threw the Richland club into confusion. Also, the man who takes care of the campground was taken to the hospital with a stroke on Thursday during the convention. There was no one there to oversee any problems with plumbing, heating, etc., so of course there were problems with the plumbing, heating, etc.

One toilet in the women's restroom stopped up. A woman who didn't even know for sure what a plunger was quickly learned how to use one. I don't think she had planned on that particular learning experience.

However, Richland rose to the occasion and did a super job of keeping the weekend going. Everyone offered to help, but RAS simplified everything as much as possible, so that they could handle everything themselves.

No food was provided this year. There were restaurants about 8 miles away for those who wanted to go out. Most of us took food and there were pot luck pots going on stoves all of the time. Some of the food was very good and some was VERY interesting. It was hilarious listening to the guys exchange recipes and discuss the merits of different seasonings.

Keneil Blaho
Miami Valley [OH] Astronomical Society