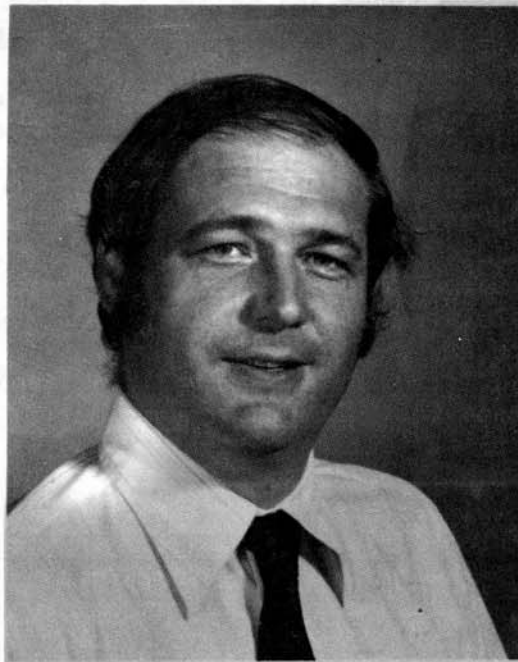


## AN OBITUARY

Richard A. Sweetsir - 1945-1995



Richard A. Sweetsir, co-founder of Meteor News died Feb. 17, 1995 in Jacksonville, Fla., at age 50. He was a secondary school teacher, a Professor at Florida Community College, an educational consultant and a freelance science photo-journalist.

Over the years he has held many interesting jobs starting with service in the U.S. Air Force, at Public Affairs Office, Andrews AFB, after graduating from Jacksonville University. He worked as a security officer at a local hospital for awhile as well as a news reporter for a local television station. Later he became the assistant planetarium curator at the local museum of Arts and Sciences, and principal of a Parochial School.

Richard loved studying Mark Twain's writings and was a writer himself. He co-authored the AL manual Observe Eclipses, wrote for the Salem Press "Space Exploration Series," and started an eclipse magazine, weather newsletter and of course Meteor News.

Richard was an amateur astronomer starting at the age of seven. His first observing projects were with the Jacksonville Astronomy Club reporting visual observations of the 1st space satellites as part of project Moonwatch, in the late 1950s. Over the years he has made observations and sent them to all of our national organizations, the AAVSO, ALPO, AMS and IOTA.

One thing Richard will be remembered for most was his work with the young people in this area for the last 35 years, starting with the Astro-Gator Astronomy Club in the 1960s. Many of the youngsters he guided became professional scientists such as Dr. Murray Daw, CA, Dr. Michael Reynolds, CA and Dr. William Riebsame, CO.

Richard loved traveling, and saw a dozen total or annular solar eclipses around the world in the past 25 years. He also traveled to the Bahamas and Mexico for planetary occultations. Most of his trips included members from the Astro-Gator Club.

We still remember our discussion during an April 1970 meteor observing session about a newsletter to communicate US meteor observations. It was held at our

