

Adapted from an E-mail Sent Wed., 16 March 2011

Dear Howard, Barbara and Becca,

My sincere apologies for the delay in my reply to your email which I have just now seen having returned from some internet-disconnected travel. Dan Caton had earlier informed me of the very sad news of John's passing.

It is hard to fathom that he is no longer with us, and that it has 33 years since I first met John before he soon after became my thesis advisor and Ph.D. committee chairman when I was a graduate student in Gainesville. It was John who originally suggested the course of investigation that later became the focus of my thesis research. I owe my gratitude to him for that, his mentorship, and the latitude he allowed me in pursuing it.

It is clear to me that my own direction and career had been guided by his hands. Though I had not seen John in recent years, I very often think of him. Indeed, I was just recalling some of our time together at the South Pole to some of the graduate students here involved in a McMurdo balloon project and of my “fledgling” days at Rosemary Hill testing out (unrelated) equipment we had built during an invasion of those infamous north-Florida wasps in the dome.



Some of my fondest memories, though, was of times we spent in (too) infrequent retreat from “reality” — as in this picture (left), with John (a.k.a. “OJ Draxargen”) and others from my days at UF, that still sits in my office today.

Unfortunately, I cannot travel to Florida this weekend, though my thought, prayers, and sincerest condolences go out to Barbara, Becca, and all close to John will transcend that distance — just as have the years since this picture was taken.

Time displaces, but does not diminish. John will be sorely missed. Please pass my fondest regards and memories to all who will gather this weekend to celebrate his life.

Sincerely,

Glenn Schneider

Dr. Glenn H. Schneider received his Ph.D. under the direction of Dr. Oliver, 1985 August, on “*The Observations and Analysis of Lunar Occultations of Star with an Emphasis on Improvements of Data Acquisition Instrumentation and Reduction Technique.*”