

2007 Peltier:

The 2007 recipient is Daniel M. Troiani. Dan was strongly endorsed by former Peltier Award recipient Don Parker of the *Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers* for his outstanding work with the planet Mars. In addition to his planetary observations and CCD imaging, Dan has been an active member of the *American Association of Variable Star Observers* (AAVSO).

Daniel M. Troiani

Daniel M. Troiani has been observing the night sky for more than thirty years. Much of his observing time has been spent in conditions that many of us would consider unworthy of setting up a telescope. I recall talking with Dan back in the late 1970s when his observing site was the sidewalk in front of his house near downtown Chicago. He commented that he was able to see 13th magnitude variables with his ten inch Newtonian that was stored under the front porch when not in use. In spite of the difficulties Dan's efforts with variable stars were sufficient to earn him recognition in several AAVSO Light Curve Monographs. But this was only the beginning of Dan's climb to fame in astronomy.

Dan's greatest efforts have been in planetary astronomy. A quick Internet search of Dan's activities turned up 36 published papers and activities. Here, in Don Parker's own words, is a summation of Dan's ALPO activities.

"Dan has been very active in ALPO for many years -- first as a Mars observer, then as Assistant Mars Recorder (~1985-1992), and finally as the head Mars Section Coordinator (1992-present). Dan has made many hundreds of Mars drawings and observations and has co-authored a number of papers with Jeff Beish and me, including one in the professional journal "Icarus". During the 1979-80 Mars apparition Dan reported the "Rima Tenuis," a North Polar Cap rift that had not been seen since 1913, despite being intensively searched for by amateurs and professionals. This discovery reinforced changes that we detected in the Martian arctic.... now we know that Mars is undergoing global warming, but in 1980 this was a revolutionary concept."

This is powerful stuff that goes well beyond even advanced amateur research. This is the kind of effort that is very deserving of the kind of recognition that the Peltier Award was designed to provide. Daniel M. Troiani is a highly deserving recipient of the Peltier Award.