



Peoria Astronomical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 10111 Peoria, IL 61612-0111
Section of Peoria Academy of Science
Affiliate of the Astronomical League

www.astronomical.org

STARLITE

FALL, 2015

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Directors:

President: Dan Son, sonshine1992@gmail.com
Vice-President: Jesse Hoover, hooverje@gmail.com
Secretary: Tatiana Johnson, 2gsheps@gmail.com
Treasurer: Brian Hakes, bhakes02@comcast.net
Parliamentarian: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
Nominating Chairman: Rich Tennis, rltennis7@gmail.com
Legal Agent: Mike Hay, me.hay@comcast.net
Northmoor Chairman: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
Jubilee Chairman: Robert Pauer, sbpauer@winco.net

PEORIA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/PeoriaAstronomicalSociety

Editor's Notes: Starlite Editors: Mike and Linda Hay: me.hay@comcast.net or ls_hay@yahoo.com (little L not #1 and underscore between s and h)

Articles may be submitted to Linda via email addresses: ls_hay@yahoo.com
Deadline for articles for the 2015 winter publication is: November 18.
(Please submit all articles in a **WORD** format. I have an older Windows XP desktop computer that is using Word 2000. Files sent as PDF files cannot be read on it.) I appreciate the cooperation with meeting the deadlines. It makes my job so much easier. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE:

Please notify Scott Swords at sswords3@comcast.net if you will be getting a new mailing address, email address and/or phone number. It is important that he has your personal information correct so you will continue to receive the Starlite and the Reflector. He would also like to receive any changes to your e-mail address as this is part of his database.

If you would like to join the Peoria Astro e-group or if you have changed your e-mail address, please notify Mike Frasca at mfrasca@att.net with your e-mail address (for in-club use only – not given out to other sources). He does not need your mailing address or phone number. If you are not a member of the e-group, you may want to consider joining. A great deal of club activity information is sent via the e-group. And by the way, it is free to join!!!

NEW MEMBERS:

The Peoria Astronomical Society welcomes new members:

John Lyle, Peoria
Nicholas and Betsy Yemm, Peoria
Manasa Gavini, Peoria

Submission of photos / article content for the website:

If you have taken a nice photo that you would like to display on the PAS website, please send these to hooveje@gmail.com. Photos can be anything relating to astronomy. Maybe you snapped a good photo from a star party, club event, personal viewing, etc. Any astro-photography is encouraged! Also, if you have educational content, tips, techniques, lessons learned, or how-to articles with photos, we encourage that material also for the website. Just send me your photos or content, and I can review and post it to the website. Thanks! –Jesse Hoover

The Caterpillar Matching Gifts Program

From Brian Hakes

As of July 1, 2012 the Cat matching gifts program changed. Employees/Retirees are asked to submit matching gift forms electronically via the Caterpillar Foundation website, www.caterpillar.com/foundation.

The process is easy. Once you made your gift to the PAS you can go on line to the Cat Foundation website and complete the electronic form, there is no paper involved. Once the form is registered with the foundation they will notify the PAS and the treasurer will then verify the gift has been received. Because there will be no mailings, the turnaround time for the whole process will be negligible. This is especially advantageous at the end of the calendar (tax) year. This is an excellent way to support the PAS. If you can, please participate in this generous program. This is a great way to help the society and the promotion of astronomy in the greater Peoria area.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

From Dan Son

Wow, has it been a year already since I started as PAS president. This past summer has flown by so fast. I hope you have made time to go out to Jubilee and observe or made it to Northmoor to view the evening sky. There is still plenty of time (cloud free I hope) to do that. With school starting, baseball season coming to an ending, football season starting, there is so much to do. The summer constellation are still up, with the fall ones pushing their way into the night sky. I was out with boy scouts on the Current River a few weeks ago and we sat outside in the dark and I was pointing out Vega, Cygnus the Swan and we saw shooting stars and satellites passing by. The looks on the parents and scouts faces were the same, wide-eyed and full of awe and wonder. When you not to busy mowing (yes the rain will stop) please stop by Northmoor and bring some family and friends with you.

Have you been downtown lately and seen the big picture of inside our dome. Bill Cole is larger than life and so is our telescope. Look for it at 316 SW Washington St in Peoria. We also have a picture of it on our web site, but it looks better up close. Doug & Eileen Leunig have done an outstanding job with this picture. Thanks so much.

Read up on some of the exciting astro-related events coming up in this issue and keep visiting our web site to be kept up to date. We have ICC star parties schedule and that is always an awesome time with many scopes out at Jubilee. Hope to see you in the dark soon.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

From Sheldon Schafer

October 7, 2015: Astronomical Visualizations from National Centers for Supercomputing Applications presented by Stuart Levy

November 4, 2015: AstroJeopardy with Gene Hodel

December 2, 2015: Fifty Years of Observing-Starting in Peoria, with Bart Benjamin.

Bart is a former PAS scholarship recipient and Peoria Native, Bradley Graduate, former museum employee and very recently retired from his position of Planetarium Director of Triton College. He's a lifelong avid observer, and maintains his PAS membership.

SLATE OF OFFICERS: (to be voted on at the Annual Banquet)

Note: The position of secretary is open. If anyone would like to fill that position, please contact Rich Tennis.

President: Dan Son
Vice-President: Jesse Hoover
Secretary:
Treasurer: Brian Hakes
Parliamentarian: Nick Johnson_
Nominating Chairman: Rich Tennis
Legal Agent: Mike Hay
Northmoor Chairman: Nick Johnson_
Jubilee Chairman: Robert Pauer

BANQUET INFORMATION: SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

From Dan Son

PAS banquet will be Saturday September 26, 2015 at 5pm. The location is Bernardis Pub, 12200 N. Bentfield Dr., Dunlap, IL at the Lake of the Woods. They have a wonderful menu and the food is very good. We will need RSVP from those going, so we will know how many people to expect. If we have less than 25, we will pick off the menu, if the number goes above 25, then we get a buffet of Fried Chicken, Spaghetti, Tortellini along with other side items. This is an all you can eat buffet and this cost is \$13.25 per person. I need RSVP with number of people coming by September 18th. Please email me with your number coming at sonshine1992@gmail.com or call me at 309-224-9150. The meeting to vote for the new board members will take place after the dinner. All members are encouraged to join us.

BUSINESS CARDS FOR PAS:

There are still business cards for the PAS available. Contact Mike Hay if you need some.

OBSERVING INFORMATION:

TELESCOPE CLINICS: (from Rich Tennis)

Clinics on telescope usage have been discontinued for the rest of the year.

From Gary Bussman

ICC star party at Jubilee observatory on September 11 with the rain dates of the 12, 18, 19, and October 2 and 3rd.

From Nick Johnson:

Supermoon Lunar Eclipse Party

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 27. Our Society, in partnership with the Peoria Riverfront Museum Planetarium, the Peoria Public Library, and the Peoria Park District, will be hosting a family oriented viewing party for the total eclipse of the harvest moon. This is also a “Supermoon”, so the event will receive a tsunami of free publicity from the media. An attendance of 1,000 or more is possible.

We are in the planning stages at the present time, but believe the event will be held at Donovan Park. We intend this to be more of a ground viewing event. We will, however, open NorthMoore observatory. We also think that some club ground telescopes would be a nice touch as a “sidewalk astronomy” event. Ground scopes would not be limited to viewing just the moon, but whatever you might like to show on a full moon night.

Tentative plans are for the event to start at 6 PM. Moonrise is at 6:40 and sunset is at 6:47. Partial eclipse begins at 8:07 and the full eclipse at 9:11. We would like to get as many club members as possible on site for this event, with or without a telescope, just to mingle with the crowd and share your astronomy experience. We will also be looking for volunteer to assist with parking, information stations, observatory staffing, and assisting with activities. More information will follow, but set aside the time to attend now.

From Dan Son:

Helpful Observing aids!

Hello everyone! I thought I would write about something I use a lot while out observing. The Sky & Telescope Sky Atlas 2000.0 is one of my favorite tools. You can find it at Sky & Telescope web site and the cost is \$79.95 for the field-laminated edition. For anyone hunting Messier, Caldwell or the Herschel 400 objects this will help. The atlas has 26 pages that are 18 ½ by 13 ½ inches with white stars and deep sky objects on a black background. It shows stars brighter than 8.5 magnitude. I think it is very well suited for keeping it with you at the telescope because the pages are laminated and don't get damaged by dew. This atlas comes spiral bound but I took it apart for easier access to the individual pages so I can find objects in the area I am looking. It comes with a companion book for NGC objects found on the charts and a description of what they are, I have this but don't use it very often. The cost of the companion book is \$29.95. This Sky Atlas would make a great Christmas list item or is a birthday coming up? Look me up at Jubilee some night I can show you this item. Keep looking up!

FROM STARLITES PAST

By John Barra
50 Years Ago,

Fall Starlite, 1965

“Present day elementary science curricula are all-inclusive courses of study covering fields as far ranging as chemistry, geology, the study of the brain, water pollution, zoology and botany to name but a few. Where does a brief survey of astronomy fit into such a general scheme?”

Nowhere then. Probably nowhere now. The best teaching of astronomy for those younger than 18 (not old enough to go to one of Brian Bill’s ICC class) occurs on Saturday night at the Northmoor Observatory.

“PROGRAM: November 12--”Of Light and Lasers....Mr. Lyman will demonstrate how special light beams could be used in the communication industry to send telephone conversations, television programs or data communications.”

I bet I-phones were not among their wildest speculations back then. Nor did pilots probably think they would have to dodge lasers then either. What will we think about drones fifty years from now?

25 Years Ago

Fall, Starlite 1990

“The big news this time is our annual banquet....The “Star Party” is to be held at Jubilee Observatory....Also the bridge on the Brimfield-Jubilee blacktop is being replaced and the road is impassable from the Peoria side.”

It seems like bridgework has caused us to take detours to our picnics since then. In a state that is always going broke, why is it that road construction and bridgework always seems to make our trips to Jubilee challenging?

“I want to congratulate Mike Frasca for winning first place in the color deep-sky division of the astrophoto contest at the ALCON 90 convention. He also won first place in the telephoto lens category.”

PAS members in the past did quite well in astrophoto contests at star parties. Astrophotography seems to be a dying art. Unless you include taking pictures with cell phones-- by parents of their kids looking through the Northmoor telescope. Oh well, you really don’t really need night-vision to observe the moon.

BOARD MINUTES

May 20, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 by President Dan Son. Those in attendance were Scott Swords, Calene Fleming, Dan Son, Rich Tennis, Brian Hakes, Gary Bussman, Mike Hay, Bill Cole, Nick Johnson, Eric Clifton, Jesse Hoover, Brandt Bechtold, and Tatiana Johnson. Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Brian Hakes provided a Treasurer's report for the month of April. He commented that the purpose of the adjusting entry of \$116.10 was to balance the account, and was the result of a cumulative error when the Quicken account was reconciled against the current account statement. Brian also reported the form 990-N was completed. Bob Pauer's report for Jubilee stated that the mower had had the air filter replaced and spark plugs cleaned which improved its performance. The temporary repairs he believed would make the mower last another year, although eventually it would need to be replaced. There had not been much progress on the driveway repair due to the lack of staffing at the park. Bob cut several chevrons in the driveway to facilitate water runoff. Nick Johnson's Northmoor report had a list of proposed improvements. Those improvements were: (1) fix source of moisture in dome block walls; (2) repaint dome interior walls where necessary; (3) develop a plan for dome floor replacement; (4) upgrade hardware on interior dome entrance door; (5) replace cracked threshold at dome entrance; (6) repaint declination wheel; (7) fix fairway light; (8) find and fix source of dome leaks (contact Ash dome for assistance); (9) repaint west door exterior. Rich Tennis added that the telescope clinic was scheduled for June 13 from 6 to 8PM and encouraged members to attend and assist with newer, advanced telescopes. Eric Clifton suggested contacting Mike Baietto to discuss installing a path leading from the parking lot to the dome. Sheldon Schafer provided a tentative program schedule for 2015-2016. He has programs tentatively scheduled through May, 2016. Bill Cole reported 50 Treasure Hunt books had been delivered to the Northmoor Observatory and were available to participants. Calene Fleming suggested Bernardi's as a potential venue for the banquet in September. Eric asked about a cabinet for books. He estimated 15 to 20 shelves would be needed. No discussion followed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

June 16, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by President Dan Son. Those in attendance were: Scott Swords, Calene Fleming, Dan Son, Rich Tennis, Brian Hakes, Mike Hay, Bill Cole, Nick Johnson, Eric Clifton, Jesse Hoover and Bob Pauer. The normal meeting agenda was modified to allow for a special guest presentation. Kip Strasma, Doug Leunig and Eileen Leunig provided the Board with their plans to install artwork based on the Northmoor Observatory on the MAXAM Building in downtown Peoria. Kip is the project manager for the effort while Doug and Eileen are the creating artists. The work is a 14' by 4'-light painted print depicting an astronomer (Bill Cole) Peering through our Northmoor telescope into a starlit sky. Doug, Eileen, and Kip briefed the Board on how the print came into being and how the project to publicly display it came to pass. Kip also showed the Board a prototype of a metal plaque that will accompany the print. The plaque included a dedication to the Peoria Astronomical Society along with brief background information about the Northmoor Observatory. Kip announced that the unveiling of the artwork and plaque would take place at 4 PM on June 29th. Kip asked the board to consider making a voluntary donation to the project to offset a portion of the cost of the plaque. Dan Son thanked the visitors for the presentation and told them we would discuss a donation in our meeting. After the guests departed, Dan suggested we discuss the donation before starting the normal agenda. After a brief discussion, Eric Clifton moved that the Board approve a donation to cover the entire cost of the plaque in the amount of \$308.15. Nick Johnson seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous Board vote. In the regular meeting, the minutes from May were reviewed and accepted with a correction of deleting Nick Johnson from the attendee list. Brian Hakes provided a report of account activity for the month of May. Balances as of May 31 were \$2,875.92 in checking and \$14,050.26 in savings. Brian did note that expenses for the month of June are expected to be higher than normal due to projects at the observatories. The Board accepted the Treasurer's report as submitted. Bob Pauer reported that recent rains led to a major washout of the driveway to the Jubilee observatory. He added that for the last washout repair, 2/6 tons of gravel were required to fill and reshape the drive. He anticipates that this repair will require even more gravel. Bob added that he attempted to contact Jubilee Park personnel for assistance in repairing the drive but has had no luck. He added that Jubilee Park is currently staffed by one person who also has duties at another site. Nick Johnson reported that Terry Beachler was working on fixing leaks at Northmoor. He added that Terry proposed attaching trim coil around the top of the brick walls of the dome to hopefully stop the leak over the stairwell and reduce moisture in the block walls. Terry will need to have scaffolding to reach the west, north and

east sides of the dome. He estimated the cost to be around \$150. Nick also reported that he and Terry met with Matt Freeman and JD Russell of the Park District. Matt and JD are the new superintendent and supervisor of parks.
Minutes continued

The purpose of the meeting was to provide background on the longstanding relationship between our Society and the Park district and to discuss items relating to the impact on Northmoor from converting Donovan Golf Course to a park. Takeaways from the meeting are: (1) The park District agreed to mow a path to the observatory and the area around the observatory lower than they have been mowing; (2) The Park District will deliver mulch to the observatory to place around the perimeter of the building; (3) the Park District recognized the need for a more permanent path to the observatory, but said that would have to be a future upgrade; (4) The Park District agreed to supply scaffolding for the coil trim project. They will coordinate with Terry. Mike Hay reported that 3 summer issues for the Starlite returned and that new addresses for the 3 members were identified. Mike also reported that postage for mailing the Starlite was on the rise. He concluded by stating that the deadline for submitting articles for the fall issue is Aug. 19 (Board meeting). Dan Son reported that the Annual Meeting will be Sept. 16. Location and cost to be determined by July. Meeting was adjourned about 9:12 pm.

July 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 pm by Rich Tennis (filling in for Dan Son). Those in attendance were: Scott Swords, Calene Fleming, Rich Tennis, Brian Hakes, Mike Hay, Bill Cole, Eric Clifton and Tatiana Johnson. The minutes from June were accepted with an exception of a type in the treasurer's report. The actual balance for May was \$2,875.92. Brian reported that he wrote a check to Terry Beachler for flashing and gravel as was discussed in the conversation with Bob Pauer. The money, however, would have to be withdrawn from the savings account. The Treasurer's report was accepted. Eric Clifton gave the report for Bob Pauer. He thanked Brian for mowing. He also reported the driveway exhibited signs of wear after the aggregate has been added. Eric estimated that it needs another 3 cu yds. (approx. \$300) of aggregate. Eric also reported he discussed the following dates with Brian Bill for the ICC viewing: Sept. 11-12, 18-19 and Oct. 2-3, 9-10, and 16-17. He once again brought up the issue of scheduling them on Sat. nights. He added that first three weekends were preferable if Saturday viewing was an option. He also added he opposed restricting scheduling as he believed it would hurt membership. U of I Master Naturalist Program may join in. Mike Hay suggested it was unreasonable for the Board to vote on the issue because people attending the star parties needed to be consulted. Eric argued against excluding visitors who could become potential members. Brian reported for Nick that flashing was done by Terry Beachler at Northmoor. Scott Swords had no new updates on membership. Eric Clifton suggested the names of all new members be recorded in the minutes. The new members were John Lyle of Peoria, Nicolas and Betsy Yemm of Peoria and Elias Samaha of Peoria. Eric spoke with Kip about providing current information on Northmoor instead of old history on the plaque. He also mentioned he is on a mission to find the embossed seal, which he believed was in Dave Teeter's possession. Meeting was adjourned about 8:32 pm.