



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

SUMMER, 2012

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

List of Board of Directors
Editor's Notes
Address/email changes
New Members
Positions Available
Northmoor Dedication
Banquet
President's Message
Observing, 2012
Caterpillar Matching Gifts
Starlite Past Article
Board Meeting Minutes
Northmoor Hosting Schedule
Jubilee Mowing Schedule

Directors:

President: Rich Tennis, rltennis7@gmail.com
Vice-President: Perry White, whitepe@hughes.net
Secretary: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
Treasurer: Brian Hakes, bhakes@sbcglobal.net
Parliamentarian: Eric Clifton, ericjclifton@comcast.net
Nominating Chairman: Jesse Hoover, hooveje@gmail.com
Legal Agent: Mike Hay, me.hay@comcast.net
Northmoor Chairman: Bill Cole, wmrcole@comcast.net
Jubilee Chairman: Eric Clifton, ericjclifton@comcast.net

Editor's Notes: Articles may be submitted via two email addresses: ls_hay@yahoo.com or Starlighteditor@gmail.com. Deadlines for articles for the 2012 publications are: August 15, and November 21. (Please submit all articles in a WORD format. I have an older Windows XP desktop computer 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 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. 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!!!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

The Peoria Astronomical Society welcomes six new members since our last edition: Thomas Dorsch of Peoria, Danny Gillette of Morton, Blake Norman of Pekin, Dr. Neal Rudy of Peoria, Ronald Ghighi of Washington, Dr. Glen Feather of Dunlap.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

We have 2 openings coming up this election for positions in the Astronomy Club!

For each position, the terms of office are one year. If you are interested in volunteering for these, or any other position on the board, please contact Jesse Hoover (nominating chairman) for more details. (309) 258-0343 or hooveje@gmail.com

Treasurer -

This role is primarily responsible for working with the financial side of the astronomy club. Tasks include maintaining the society funds, making payments for equipment, recurring services, and receiving and tracking income from membership dues, grants, donations, etc. If you are comfortable working with financials, this would be a great way to volunteer for the PAS.

Positions Available! (continued)

Public Relations -

When schools, organizations, or individuals make a request for club services, or equipment, you would be the point of contact for carrying out these requests. You would also be submitting various dates and announcements to the Journal Star for public PAS activities, including summer Northmoor sessions. The primary goal of the Public Relations (PR) Chair is to assure that PAS maintains a positive reputation within the local and scientific communities.

Northmoor Observatory Dedication

June 23, 2012

3:00 PM-11:00 PM

You are all invited and encouraged to attend the official dedication of the remodeled Northmoor Observatory and Visitor Center on June 23 from 3-11 PM. There will be guided tours of the Observatory and weather permitting, a Star Party on the grounds around the Observatory.

We especially need Northmoor key holders to help with the guided tours to show off the telescope. Please bring your telescopes so we can encourage viewing from many different sources.

The Official Dedication will be at 5:00 PM with more details on the PAS web site at www.astronomical.org in the calendar section.

If you can be a guide or assist in any way, please let Bill Cole (309-369-6414) know the times you will be available. We want this to be a gala affair and we need a good turnout of PAS members.....let's try for all 110 members!

NOTE:

Mark your calendars for the PAS Banquet: September 22 at Kickapoo Sportsman Club. More details in the next Starlite.

Rich's Ramblings

By Rich Tennis

Opening Night at Northmoor Observatory was a great success and the members of PAS who made it so were awesome. John Barra, Mike Hay, Nick Johnson, Eric Clifton, Steve Wrigley, and Sheldon Schaffer stayed busy and had very interested and attentive visitors. The huge moon, shining brightly during its near approach to earth, contributed to a good turnout. Many visitors were also interested in viewing Saturn, Mars, and Venus.

It was good that we had more than the minimum of three host members at the Observatory and I encourage each of you to make a stop at Northmoor Observatory on any given Saturday night. We have added new equipment at the Observatory. Each of you can qualify to operate the 9-inch refractor telescope with Bill Cole providing training for the use of this remarkable piece of equipment. Hopefully, we will be able to open the Observatory each Saturday until the end of October.

Our last PAS meeting at Lakeview Planetarium was held on May 2nd. This has been our meeting place since before I joined the group in 1997, but we will be moving to the Peoria River Front Museum this fall. Our next planetarium show associated with a regular PAS meeting will be November 7, 2012. Mark your calendars with that date and invite your friends to the new show there. The web site to follow the progress of the museum is www.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org . We will continue to have our meetings on the first Wednesday evening of the month at the new location and thanks to Sheldon Schaffer for helping us navigate this important move. Our summer program and meeting schedule is on our web site www.astronomical.org.

Do we have the latest listing of your telescopes, binoculars, other viewing equipment as well as your current e-mail address? If you have not updated your viewing equipment in your membership data, please send that information to Scott Swords. Scott is Membership Chairperson and his e-mail is sswords3@comcast.net. Provide as much detail as you can: i.e. 70 mm Sears and Roebuck refractor or 8 X 50 Orion binocular. Knowing others who have equipment like your own can contribute to expansion of knowledge for all members. We may even have an observing party of similar telescopes at Jubilee or another dark-sky location.

By adding your e-mail address to the PAS Yahoo e-mail group, you will stay informed about the activities and late-breaking notices that are not possible through Starlite or the web site. This summer will be very active and there may be observing sessions initiated through short-notice announcements using the PAS Yahoo e-mail system.

Clear and Dark Skies!

OBSERVING FOR 2012:

CHAIRMAN: GARY BUSSMAN

The observing season is approaching and there will be some events this year that you will want to mark your calendar for. They will be announced either thru the Starlite or E-Group. If you are not a member of the E-Group it is very easy to get. This is where we all keep in touch with a variety of things that are happening during the up coming months. If you would like to join, send a email to mfrasca@att.net. Give him your email and he will put you on the group. Every month I will send you the up coming events, star parties, and whats happening in the sky.

Events that I know now:

June.....Venus Transit on the 5th. At Lakeview 5PM. Star party June 9th at Jubilee Observatory. Rain date is June 16th.

July.....Star Party on July 14th at Jubilee Observatory. Rain date is July 21st.

August.....Star Party on August 11th at Jubilee Observatory. Rain date is August 18th.

September.....ICC Star Party, date to be announced. Banquet is on Sept. 22. Location to be announced later in the summer. We will have a star party after.

October.....3rd quarter moon weekends are 6th and 13th.

Star parties for June, July and August are the member meetings. We look forward to the upcoming observing season and again will keep you up to date on the upcoming events.

The Caterpillar Matching Gifts Program Change

As of July 1, 2012 the Cat matching gifts program will be changing. Employees/Retirees will submit matching gifts electronically via the Foundation website, www.caterpillar.com/foundation, instead of using the current paper form. More information will be available closer to the July 1 date.

Caterpillar states that because of the increase in the volume of matches, it is critical for both donors and recipient organizations to follow the matching requirements.

If you can participate in this generous program, the PAS appreciates your support!

Thank you,
Brian Hakes,
Treasurer

From Starlites Past

By John Barra

50 Years Ago

Newsletter 1962

“In the lecture series which begins next September, Mr. Van Zandt will feature the study of future achievements in space, something tremendously important to all of us.”

It would be interesting to have heard what Van had to say and compare it with what has occurred in space in the fifty years since. I am sure he would have talked about a future moon landing. But would he have predicted the success of the Hubble Space Telescope? The shuttle program? And what about private flights to resupply an international space station?

“Mr. Triff is forming a club to study the Messier objects. Members will receive cards And if they are interested will fill out and return them. Bi-monthly meetings will be held at the observatory grounds.”

I am sure they also evolved into having Messier Marathons. But I wonder if they had as many cloud outs as we do. Even our half-marathons that can be held on any of several weekends seem to get bad weather.

25 Years Ago

Summer Starlite 1987

“When I step off my front porch and bask in the glow of a Mercury vapor light, much of the sky is unseen....My son asked, that first night at the (Northmoor) observatory, ‘Can you show me the Milky Way?’ Not from here I responded.--Mike Hay.”

Mike and I ride together for meetings now so I always stop at his house. I can assure you no Milky Way is seen from there or from Northmoor today. Hopefully the advent of full cutoff lighting will allow us to see it from Jubilee for awhile longer.

“SUMMER ASTRONOMICAL ACTIVITIES; Wednesday, June 3. 8:00 PM at Northmoor Observatory--Lecture on History and the Use of the Northmoor Telescope, by Don Hill and Jerry McElyea.”

Our October general meeting will be at Northmoor where we, there, will be a review of the telescope, new dome and some of the unique features of the telescope and eyepieces. See related article.

Board Minutes:

February, 2012

Minutes from January Board meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report was presented by Brian Hakes. No discrepancies were found. The report was approved. Jesse Hoover reported that the PR committee chair was still open. Mike Hay reported that the next Starlite will be mailed by the first weekend of March. Jesse Hoover reported the vendor who hosts the PAS website quoted a cost of \$240 for increasing the connection limit to address connectivity issues. Jesse recommended we monitor the website's performance and consider changing to a new vendor if issues persist. Gary Bussman reported on the summer observing and event schedule. Items are: April 13 – ICC star party (with rain dates of April 14, 20, 21), May-potential for star party on the 14th or 21st. June 5- Venus transit at Lakeview (5PM to sunset), June 9-private star party at Jubilee, June 23-Northmoor Restoration Dedication, July 14- private star party at Jubilee, Aug. 11- private star party at Jubilee, Sept.- ICC fall star party (dates TBA) Sept. 22-annual banquet at Kickapoo Sportsman Club, Oct.- potential for Jubilee star party on 6th or 13th.

March, 2012

February minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's report was presented and approved. Eric Clifton reported that the upcoming ICC star party will be attended by 2 dozen ICC students. He added that his current OLLI class has 53 students, many which may also attend. Jesse Hoover reported that the PR committee chair is still open. Rich Tennis stated he agrees with the PR Chair description developed by Jesse and Nick Johnson. Jesse will post the opening again in the next Starlite. Scott Swords reported that there are 3 new members added during the last month. They are Dr. Neal Rudy, Ronald Ghighi, and Dr. Glen Feather. Rich Tennis inquired about the Northmoor plaque installation plan. Brian Hakes reported he had been working on making the dome door threshold improvement and had not worked on the plaque plan. Eric Clifton reported that he and Greg Neaveill's Hale-Bopp comet photo will be permanently displayed at the new museum.

April, 2012

Minutes for the March meeting were reviewed. John Barra noted a correction to the disposition of his motion to move fall meetings to the new museum. That motion was withdrawn rather than accepted. Nick Johnson will correct the March minutes. The Treasurer's report noted that due to an incorrect interest amount in the Feb. report, there was a small change in the Feb. ending balance. The Feb. report was corrected and the March report reflects the correct beginning balance. The March report was approved. Bill Cole reported there was a good turnout for the April 14 clean up day at Northmoor, but the weather prevented much outside work from being done. He also reported the 2012 Treasure hunt books were delivered and are available at Northmoor. Calene Fleming reported she completed her inventory listing of materials at both observatories. She then added those lists to the inventory lists provided by members and sent them to all board members. John Barra reviewed the program schedule through December. There were no changes from the schedule announced. John is looking for someone to lead the effort for the planned October rummage sale.

