



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, 2013

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Directors:

President: Rich Tennis, rltennis7@gmail.com
Vice-President: Perry White, whitepe@hughes.net
Secretary: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
Treasurer: Dan Son, sonshine92@comcast.net
Parliamentarian: Eric Clifton, ericjclifton@comcast.net
Nominating Chairman: Jesse Hoover, hooveje@gmail.com
Legal Agent: Mike Hay, me.hay@comcast.net
Northmoor Chairman: Nick Johnson (interim)
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)

Articles may be submitted via two email addresses: ls_hay@yahoo.com or Starlighteditor@gmail.com. Deadlines for articles for the 2013 publications are: August 21 and November 20. (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, 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. 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 MEMBER

The Peoria Astronomical Society welcomes one new member: Kela Galletti of Pekin. Welcome!

POSITION AVAILABLE

Northmoor chairman-

The position of Northmoor Chairman is open to any member who would be interested in coordinating the activities and viewing schedule for the 2013 year. Please contact Rich Tennis as soon as possible if you are willing to fill this position.

The Peoria Astronomical Society welcomes Kathy Dittmeier as the new Public Relations Chairman. Kathy may be reached at Kathy Dittmeier, 1274 Florence Road, Lacon, IL, 61540 or by home phone, 309-246-2223 or cell phone, 309-634-9374.

Rich's Ramblings

Summer is upon us and we no longer shy away from scanning the night skies because of the bitter winter cold. Now we can search for those distant planets and "dim fuzzes", and view the beautiful moon in comfort. As you begin the summer, what goals have you set for your viewing enjoyment? Have you considered taking a crack at the Lunar Observing, or the Messier Award listed in the Reflector? Think about the observing goals that will enrich your enjoyment of foundational astronomy. Goals are good and there are lots of target levels.

The first goal may be simply mastering how to best use the new telescope. (BTW. We plan on having Saturday twilight "Beginner Telescope Clinic" to assist those folks. Check our website for dates.) A new telescope can be challenging but with practice it will provide many enjoyable evenings. Telescopes can be like our minds or our computers: we simply don't always use them to their full capacity.

One of the reasons I joined the Peoria Astronomical Society (PAS) was because there were members willing to help me improve my enjoyment of the night sky and become proficient in using it. At the time, I was viewing a Model #4 6304 Astronomical Refractor, F=600mm; D=50mm from Sears and Roebuck...size is never an issue. PAS member graciously assisted me in my early viewing days.

When I was ready to move up to a larger more complex telescope, once again, the members of PAS stepped forward to help me determine what I wanted in a telescope and what telescope would best meet my needs. Once I had a larger telescope, my viewing capabilities were expanded so I could begin working on the first list of Messier Objects... What an amazing adventure!

We have Gary Bussman as Observing Chairman and John Barra as our Astronomical League Observing Awards reviewer. Contact either of these gentlemen for assistance in determining what observing goals might fit you and your telescope. Take advantage of our group support by attending this summer's PAS star parties (in www.astronomical.org) to acquaint yourself with all the many possibilities for you to enjoy your viewing.

My goal, as PAS president, is that each of you enjoy observing the night sky as you wish and simply have fun with it. I want each of our PAS committees to see themselves as an extension of the group with a fundamental goal of providing a path for the entire membership to better enjoy this wonderful hobby of ours.

Banquet date/speaker

SAVE THE DATE!!!! September 21, 2013, the annual banquet will be held at The Kickapoo Sportsman club. Guest speaker will be John Briggs. More details in the next Starlite.

Star Parties for the summer

Members of the PAS will gather (weather permitting) on the following dates for Star Parties:

June 8...at Jubilee...members viewing
June 28 ...at Jubilee...ICC Star Party (weather dates, 6/29, 7/12, 7/13)
July 6 ...at Jubilee...members viewing
July 27...Putman County Star Party at Lake Thunderbird
August 3... Jubilee...members viewing

Telescope Clinics

The Peoria Astronomical Society will offer Beginning Telescope Clinics on the second Saturdays of the summer months. Dates for the Clinics are June 8, July 13 and August 10 from 6-8 PM.

Northmoor Hosts for Public Viewing-

Our Northmoor Observatory will again hold observing nights that are open to the public in 2013. These events will take place on Saturday evenings from May 18 through October 19. Northmoor Observatory keyholders along with other PAS members will serve as hosts to the public for these events. It is not uncommon to have more than 100 people visit the observatory on a clear observing night. We frequently meet people who first visited the observatory as a child and are now introducing their children or grandchildren to the wonders of astronomy.

We currently have 3 openings for hosting in the 2013 schedule and are looking for PAS members to volunteer to be added to the schedule. The openings are on June 15, July 6, and October 19. New hosts will be teamed with two experienced Northmoor hosts. You do not need to know how to use the Northmoor telescope to volunteer. The events begin at dusk and normally run until 10:30 to 11:00 PM. **If you are interested in hosting, please contact Nick Johnson at johnsnl@comcast.net.** This is a great opportunity to learn about the Northmoor operations and to contribute to PAS' relationship with our community.

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.

Article for sale (from the PAS website)

6" Celestron Reflector Scope on a "go to" mount.

Here is an article by Ian Morison of Jodrell Bank Observatory talking about it:

<http://www.jb.man.ac.uk/public/im/cel130SLT.html>

Here is an add for one :

<http://www.celestron.com/portal/celestron-nexstar-130slt.html>

It comes with a 25mm and a 9mm eyepiece, and all the manuals and cd's that came with it.

Asking \$350.00

Please contact Ron Ghighi if interested.

Please contact the [Webmaster](#) if you have an astronomy-related item for sale

From Starlites Past

By John Barra

50 Years Ago

Newsletter Summer 1963

“One can always tell when our group does something successful because we have what may be called a ‘successful thermometer’. Have you ever noticed our president when our group is successful....the sparkle in our president’s eye....”

I don’t know if our current president has a successful thermometer. But his does have an accurate thermometer for bad skies during important viewing events, especially at the observatory up north that we are not supposed to mention. If he’s planning to go there, it surely will be cloudy.

“About once in every ten years there is a total eclipse of the sun visible from the mainland of the United States. As you know there will be a total eclipse on July 20th of this year (in Maine).”

The next total solar eclipse in the mainland will be on August 21, 2017. And it will go through southern Illinois. So mark it on you calendar now.

25 Years Ago

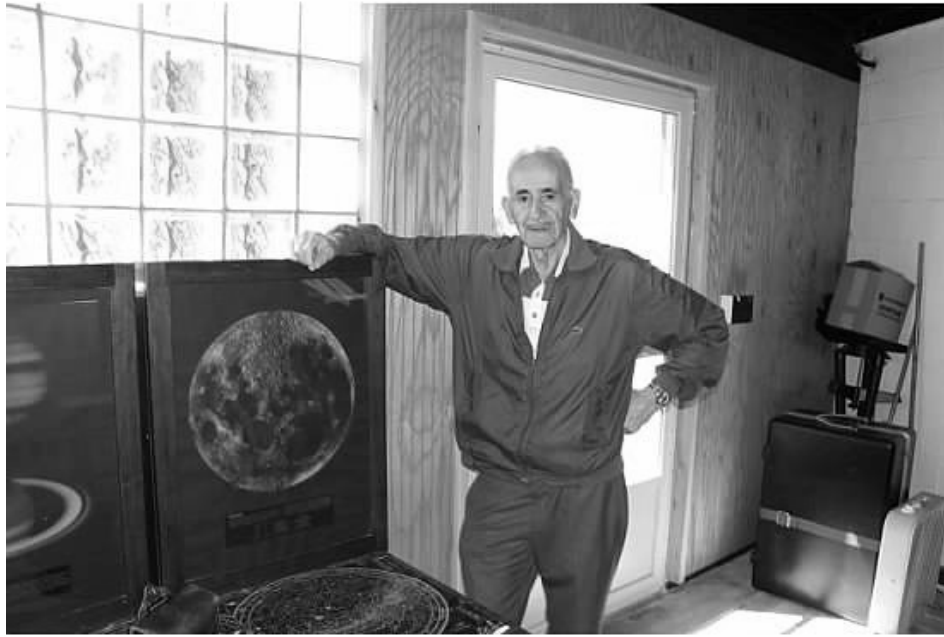
Summer Starlite 1988

“I am really looking forward to the installation of the C.A.T. (computer assisted telescope) system on the 24-inch. Work has already begun on the design of the special fittings to adapt it to our scope.”

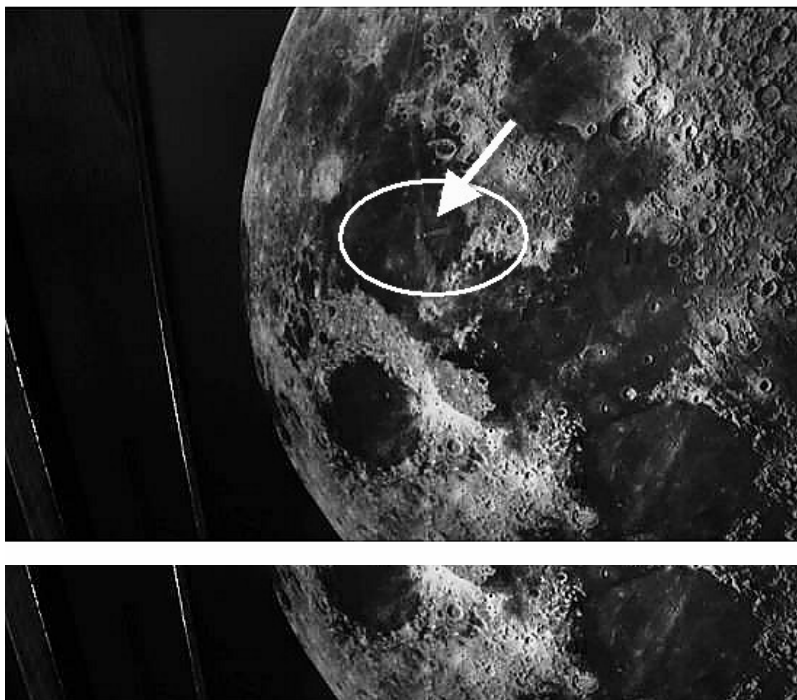
Being a Dob starhopper myself, I normally would not be interested. But now that I am getting older, I think all electronic aids are great. At my age, I want to find things quickly now.

“We need people to help observe Mars, which is making a close approach to us this year (it will be 36 millions miles away on September 22, 1988).”

We had good help a few years ago when we had another close approach of Mars. Lines went to the Northmoor parking lot and one night people will still there at 2:30 am. Probably not that many in 1988. But we did not have the internet back then for people to claim that Mars would look as big as the moon!



Dr. Christ Thompson, a long time member and former Starlite cartoonist/illustrator visited our NorthMoor Observatory on May 13. Dr. Thompson is seen here standing by our full moon display. He particularly enjoys the comet collision path in the moonscape.



Board Meeting Minutes Feb-April, 2013
FEBRUARY 20, 2013

Minutes from the January meeting were viewed and accepted as written. Dan Son provided the Treasurer's report of account reconciliation as of January 31. He noted the report contained an error in the starting balance for the General Balance due to an unintentional carry over from the previous month. Dan provided the corrected information. Rich Tennis asked Nick Johnson to provide an update on the Northmoor hosting schedule. Nick reported that the schedule has been set and communicated to all hosts.

Eric Clifton reported the 2013 mowing schedule is complete and will be communicated shortly. Eric also suggested that we have copies of our 24" telescope and operations documentation made. He will look for a commercial source to do this.. Scott Swords reported that there were two new members added since the last meeting. They are Gary Rafool and Brian Austin. Mike Hay reported the Spring Starlite will be written over the next weekend and mailed next week. Gary Bussman reminded the group that the Panstarrs comet will become visible starting March 9. Star parties for members will be June 8, July 6 and August 3. Dan Son suggested that the society make a one-time purchase of a safe in order to avoid the \$47 per year charge of a safety deposit box. The Board postponed a decision or motion on this until we have clarity on what content should be stored and the best method of storage is determined. Perry White asked if the Board would be interested in using the Kickapoo Sportsman's club again for our annual meeting. He noted that the club could be reserved for either a picnic or a dinner. The board asked Perry to check availability for Sept. 21.

MARCH 20, 2013

Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Dan Son provided a report on accounts through Feb. 28. The report was accepted as submitted. Eric Clifton brought up the topic of replacing the safety deposit rental with a safe. He made a motion to continue using the safety deposit box. The motion was seconded by John Barra and the Board approved the motion. Perry White reported that Dan Son would be hosting East Peoria High School at Northmoor on Friday, May 3. Eric Clifton submitted his resignation as the Jubilee Observatory Chair effective immediately. Perry White added that Rich Tennis recommend that Bob Pauer be named as Jubilee Chair and that Bob would accept that position if offered. The Board unanimously approved Rich's recommendation. Scott Swords reported there was one new member since the last meeting, Kela Galletti. Mike Hay reported the Spring Starlite was mailed with one return. He is seeking an address correction for that member. Mike also reported that the color picture in the Starlite content led to an increased production cost. He added that we can continue with color pictures, but be aware of the cost impact. Jesse Hoover reported the website has been running well. Gary Bussman reported he looked for mount options for the 14" Jubilee scope but found none that were affordable. He again recommended the scope be converted to manual operation. He will discuss this with Bob Pauer. Perry White reported he has reserved the Kickapoo Sportsman's Club on Sept. 21 for the PAS annual meeting. Several members stated they had marked Sept. 28 as the date of the meeting per the Feb. Board meeting. Nick Johnson check his note and confirmed the date was for Sept. 28. Since the location reservation and speaker availability is on Sept. 21, it appears that is the new planned date. John Barra asked about a stipend for John Briggs appearance. Mike Hay made a motion to authorize a stipend payment for up to \$600. Nick Johnson seconded the motion and the Board approved it.

APRIL 17, 2013

Minutes from the March meeting were reviewed. A few minor corrections were noted and the minutes were accepted as modified.

Dan Son was not present. Rick Tennis read an overview of a report sent to him by Dan. Since no written report was available, acceptance of the report was tabled until the next Board meeting. Nick Johnson reported that the 2013 hosting schedule was finalized with all hosting slots filled. Rich Tennis reported that mowing at Jubilee was underway. Jesse Hoover asked that any members interested in one of the upcoming open positions contact him. Rich Tennis introduced Kathy Dittmeier as the new PR Chair. Kathy provided an overview of her PR goals including better visibility to the public, Logo recognition and "newbie" friendliness. She added that she is rewriting and updating our overview for the Peoria Academy of Sciences publications. Kathy also made recommendations for spending some Society funds to address these goals. Included ideas were inclusion in the Peoria Area Visitor's Guide (\$150 a year), updated business cards, rack cards for Peoria visitors, a removable sign to direct visitors to the observatory, name tags for NorthMoore hosts and token gifts for NorthMoore visitors. Scott Swords cautions that while he is in favor of many of Kathy's ideas, he has concerns about drawing more people to the observatory than current host staffing can handle. Mike Hay then made a motion for approval of \$500 budget for PR expenditures. John Barra seconded the motion and the Board approved it. Mike Hay reported that the articles for the next Starlite should be submitted by the May Board meeting. A new member roster will be included. Jesse Hoover reported he plans to add weather updated for Society events to the website. He also planned to coordinate with Kathy Dittmeier to refine and strengthen our branding and image to the public through the website and Facebook. Gary reported the first two weekends of the ICC star party were clouded out. Nick Johnson offered to provide his name to the park district as an emergency contact for Northmoor