



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

WINTER, 2012

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

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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: Bill Cole, wmrcole@comcast.net
Jubilee Chairman: Eric Clifton, ericjclifton@comcast.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: February 20, May 22, 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 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 MEMBERS

The Peoria Astronomical Society is pleased to have five new members who have joined since the last Starlite was published. They are: Jon Crow, Germantown Hills, IL; Brian Valentine, Pekin, IL; Rachel Gudeman, Morton, IL; Donna Ward, Peoria, IL; and Patrick Moore, Peoria Heights, IL. Welcome to the Society!

POSITIONS 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. More information is in his President's message "Rich's Ramblings" in this publication.

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. If you are interested, please contact Jesse Hoover.

Program Schedule (for 2013 to be updated later)
(All meetings unless noted are at the new Riverfront Museum)

December 5: Showcasing the Planetarium at the Riverfront Museum--Sheldon Shafer

January 2: Astronomical Presentation (topic TBD): Dan Son

February 6: Astronomy Websites: Nick Johnson

March 6: Ten Ways to Conduct a Messier Marathon: John Barra

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.

STARLITES PAST

By John Barra

50 Years Ago

Winter Newsletter 1962

"We lost 6 members last year but gained 18 new ones. We now have a total membership of 121--an all time high! It may appear to be habit forming, but the same officers who served last year were re-elected at our annual business meeting...."

That's a huge number! We don't have that many now, but we are doing a little better getting new members to serve on the board. Now we have to get more members to serve on committees. Volunteer!

"The Observatory (Northmoor) building is all freshly painted inside and out, including the dome, which is an extremely fussy and dirty job to paint on the inside. We have a new drive to the 9" refractor which tracks more accurately and now starts with the flick of a switch."

Too bad they didn't put in the minutes how the setting circles work. It would have made Rich Tennis' job much easier. But I think he just about has the setting circles figure out.

25 Years Ago

Winter Starlite 1987

"Some of the meetings have been sparsely attended. I hope this is due to the fact we are all so busy. If there is a program that you could give or a topic you would like to hear about, please don't keep it a secret."

Ditto from me as current program chairman. It's been hard to keep our program list filled lately. (Also, as I am getting more into my retirement, I sure would like to find someone who wants to serve as the next program chairman.)

"On Saturday, August 29, 1987, Scott Swords, Gene Hodel, Dave Woessner and I (Gene Nelson)....went in Scott's car to Burlington, Iowa....where we enjoyed the hospitality of the Burlington Chapter of the Southeastern Iowa Astronomy Club."

It's probably time to try to set a few exchanges again with other societies that have observatories. If nothing else, it would give us material for a few general meeting programs.

RICH'S RAMBLINGS (President's Message)

For some, this is a time of year that many put away the telescope as they prepare for the cold weather ahead. Some will elect to go to warmer climates and extend the warm viewing season. As for most of us, we are entering a cooler-to-cold time of the year that has night-sky viewing benefits. The sky gets darker earlier, because the seasonal solar motions have the sun lower in the sky. The sky is less dusty with lower humidity, so the "seeing" is much better. You can get a good amount of viewing time in early and still make it in to watch the evening news. Don't believe what our Master Observer, John Barra, says about winter viewing here in Illinois. There is an old Norwegian saying, "There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing."

Thanks to all of you who participated in hosting the public Saturday evenings viewing at Northmoor Observatory this past season. Your efforts to present the night sky to the public were greatly appreciated.

We had the observatory rededication in to June recognize those who generously gave to that fund. We are set for another 50+ years of public and PAS member viewing with a fine telescope and "Visitors Center"

The Northmoor Observatory public viewing from May thru October is a key activity of the Peoria Astronomical Society. It is our outreach to acquaint all who visit about what a telescope can do, and to assist in answering questions about astronomy. We are considered a part of the Peoria Park District's summer program, and also part of the Peoria Academy of Science's summer program, for the youth of Central Illinois.

There is a vital need for a PAS member to chair the Northmoor Observatory committee. If you are willing to coordinate the Northmoor Observatory committee, please get in touch with me to discuss it further. It would be a shame if PAS could not continue in these programs.

I have begun, what I call an "auxiliary member" to the "Team of Three" Northmoor operators. They are PAS members who have signed up to operate the observatory for public viewing. The lead member of the "ToT" is a "Key-holder" who is knowledgeable of the telescope's operation. The "Team of Three" would mentor the "auxiliary member" in the Northmoor procedures.

If you missed the November 7th PAS member meeting at the Peoria Riverfront Museum you will want to make the December 5th meeting to see what the new planetarium is all about. Sheldon Schaffer will provide the evening's program. Hope to see you all there and bring the family or a friend.

Want to be a part of the PAS's Northmoor 2013 summer public viewing?

We are getting into that time of the year when the scheduling is done for member participation of next year's Northmoor Observatory public viewing. Some PAS members do not have computers, or have not registered to be on the PAS e-mail list. Thus, you are not aware of the opportunity to be part of the PAS team that operates the observatory those Saturday nights. Season for public viewing is from May to end of October.

Rich's Ramblings continued

So, to those PAS members who would like to be either a part of the "Team of Three" (ToT), or an "auxiliary member" on your preferred times of the viewing season, I invite you to call me, or write a letter stating the preferred dates you would like to be part of the "ToT". My mailing address is: 1247 County Road 1300 N, Eureka, IL 61530; phone number is (309) 467-3597.

Board Minutes (Reviewed)

August 15, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Tennis. Brian Hakes presented the treasurer's report. The Board accepted the report. Bill Cole reported that the attendance at Northmoor has been about average. Bill stated that he will finish the year as chairman but would like to be replaced for next year. Eric Clifton reported that he had contacted Rich Olson of Ash dome concerning the shutter motor for the dome at Jubilee. The whole assembly will be taken to Ash Dome to be repaired or replaced. The 24" dome needs to be painted. Eric will look into what will be needed for this project. Fall ICC star party dates are Sept 7-8, 14-15 or 21st. The first clear date will be used. Jesse Hoover reported the slate of officers has been set: President, Rich Tennis; Vice President, Perry White; Secretary Nick Johnson; Treasurer, Dan Son; Legal agent, Mike Hay; Nomination Chair, Jesse Hoover; Parliamentarian, Eric Clifton. These will be voted on at the Sept. banquet. Scott Swords reported that there were two new members last month, Steve Lawson and John Pipis. Mike Hay reported the next Starlite will be mailed before Sept. 1. Perry White made a motion that the PAS have a Facebook Page. Jesse seconded it. Motion passed.

September 18, 2012

Minutes from July and August were reviewed. Two modifications of attendees and one spelling error were noted. The Amended minutes were approved via Dan Son's motion and Bill Cole seconded. Board voted. The treasurer's report was presented by Brian Hakes for August. The board accepted the report as presented. Rich Tennis noted that this was Brian's last meeting as Treasurer after serving in that position for 5 years. He thanked Brian for his commendable service. Calene Fleming reported she has added the Herschel wedge to the PAS inventory list. Scott Swords reported there were four new members last month, Rachel Gudeman, Patrick Moore, Donna Ward, and Brian Valentine. Eric Clifton requested that Time Lester be granted the "Friend of the Society" membership status. The Board approved this request. Bill Cole reported he will order 500 new PAS business cards. Mike Hay reported that the next Starlite will be published in early December. Jesse Hoover solicited the group for ideas for website content. The topic of posting a Jubilee map on the website arose. Ensuing discussion led to the conclusion that the ability for the general public to access a map to Jubilee is beneficial. Jesse will pursue. Rich Tennis reminded the group that our first general meeting at the new museum will be the 1st Wed. of November. PAS meetings are designated as an educational program. Our cost will be \$90 per meeting, which is the bottom of the museum's rate scale. Nick Johnson received a request from East Peoria High School to help them assess their collection of telescopes. Dan Son volunteered to help the school with this effort. Nick will forward Dan's name to EPCHS. Rich received a request from the Girl Scouts of America asking the PAS participation in an upcoming event. As part of their 100-year anniversary, the GSA is holding a special camp weekend in October. They would like stargazing on Oct. 12. Rich asked anyone interested in supporting the effort to contact him.

2012 ANNUAL BANQUET SUMMARY

The 2012 PAS Picnic and Annual Meeting took place on September 22 at the Kickapoo Sportsman's Club. Approximately 25 members enjoyed the event on a cool, but sunny, Saturday afternoon. Members first enjoyed a picnic dinner featuring fried chicken, a fantastic array of side dishes and desserts brought by the members, and of course, great conversation and camaraderie with fellow members.

President Rich Tennis called the annual meeting to order at 6:08 PM. Rich first recognized the efforts of all members who helped plan or hosted the Northmoor Observatory Rededication held on June 23rd. The event celebrated the restoration of the Northmoor Observatory including the installation of the new dome roof. The most recent renovation phase was the complete remodeling of the observatory "warm up room", now known as the "Visitor's Center". Rich pointed out that our Northmoor Observatory may very well be our most important asset as it serves as the primary linkage between PAS and the public. Rich made a special acknowledgement of the contributions of Bill Cole who has served as Chairperson for the Northmoor Observatory for 10 years. Rich announced that Bill is leaving that position next year. His dedication and attention to detail to his Northmoor role will be a tough act to follow. Thanks for everything, Bill.

Rich then turned attention to our general membership meetings. He thanked all of the members who contributed program material and snacks throughout the last year. He recognized Jesse Hoover for providing the Hubble Telecasts at each of the meetings. Rich then reminded the group that our meetings starting in November will be held at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. The museum classifies our general meetings as an educational program, which, in turn, provides us the lowest meeting room rates available at the new museum. The new museum site for our open to the public meetings provides an excellent opportunity for strengthening our presence as an asset to the Peoria community.

Rich then turned the floor over to Dave Grebner who gave an overview of the new museum. Dave described the museum layout, parking provisions, and the best way to get into the museum for our meetings. He commented that the new planetarium is a significant improvement over the Lakeview Museum planetarium. While it is physically not significantly larger in size than the Lakeview Planetarium, its construction makes it appear to be much larger. Dave predicted we will all be awestruck when we see our "new sky". Scott Swords asked Dave about admission for planetarium shows. Dave responded that it be done much the same as at Lakeview. For those who hold museum membership, admission is included in their membership dues. Non-members can obtain admission by purchasing a "Gallery admission with planetarium access" for each visit.

Rich then moved the meeting to PAS operational business. The first agenda item was the set of proposed By-Laws changes as previously published in the Fall 2012 – Starlite. Nick Johnson provided a high level summary of the changes. Dave Grebner made a motion that the changes be accepted as proposed. John Barra seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the membership. The second agenda item was the election of officers for the next year. Rich reviewed the slate of candidates as published in the Fall 2012 Starlite and asked for any additional nominations. When no new nominations arose, John Barra made a motion that the current candidate slate be elected. Calene Fleming seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously by attending member vote. Rich also acknowledged the dedication and effort provided by Brian Hakes during service as Treasurer for the last five years.

Prior to closing the meeting, Rich polled the audience for any questions or comments. Scott Swords told the group that he and Calene Fleming both attended the Prairie Sky Star Party near Kankakee, IL. Scott said this was an exceptional experience and encourages everyone to consider attending the 2013 event.

After the meeting was adjourned, a few members left to fulfill their hosting obligations at Northmoor. Other members started to set up their telescopes for the evening star party at the Sportsman's Club. Unfortunately, in the next 30 minutes, the sky turned from mostly clear to mostly cloudy. Viewing at both events was restricted to a few quick glimpses of the moon between the passing clouds. So goes the fortune of the amateur astronomer!