



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, 2017

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

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Directors:

President:

Vice-President: Jesse Hoover, hooveje@gmail.com

Secretary: Phil Burroughs

Treasurer: Brian Hakes, bhakes02@comcast.net

Parliamentarian: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net

Nominating Chairman: Tatiana Johnson, 2gsheps@gmail.com

Legal Agent: Dave Monroe, dave.monroe@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:

Thanks for all your work and contribution! You make this society even greater with your support!

-Jesse Hoover

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!!!

FUTURE EDITIONS OF THE STARLITE NEWSLETTER

New delivery method for the Starlite:

Starlites will be emailed to our Yahoo Email Group, and a copy will be posted online for download on our website.

Benefits from joining the email group include the electronic Starlite and also receiving up to date information for star parties and other important communications from the PAS.

New Members:

The Peoria Astronomical Society welcomes new members:

David Thiery	Mapleton, IL
Jared O'Brien	Peoria, IL
Alton & Linda Bass	Brimfield, IL
Kurt Field	Peoria, IL

2017 Meteor Shower Schedule: Scott Swords

Over the years I have used many meteor shower schedules. Below is by far the best one I have used.

<http://skytour.homestead.com/met2017.html>

Scott

December Monthly: Gary Bussman

The morning of December 14 is the peak for the Geminid meteor shower. There will be no moon to interfere so hope for clear sky's and a good alarm clock to get you out of bed. This is usually the best shower of the year. Hope for the best.

On the evening of December 1st right after sunset, Saturn and Mercury will be above the horizon in the southwest. They will be about 3 degrees apart. Best time to look is 30 minutes after sunset, good binoculars and a clear horizon line.

Clear Sky's, Gary Bussman

Submission of photos / article content for the website: Jesse Hoover

If you have taken a nice photo that you would like to display on the PAS website, please send these to our webmaster Stan Pope stan@stanpoppe.net. Photos can be anything relating to astronomy. Maybe you snapped a good photo from a star party, club event, personal viewing, etc. Any astrophotography 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. Please send these to Stan for addition to the website. Content is not limited to the website, and is encouraged in Facebook. If you have articles or pictures, we can also add them to www.facebook.com/PeoriaAstronomicalSociety

Note: Content posted on the website and Facebook will be made accessible to the general public.

Thanks!

The Caterpillar Matching Gifts Program: 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 online 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.

Academy of Science Scholarships

The Peoria Academy of Science Memorial Scholarship Fund annually awards a scholarship to a student from the Tri-County Area who is a member of one of the Academy Sections or a physical science major at Bradley University, Eureka College, or Illinois Central College.

The Peoria Academy of Science Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1964 by Ervin and Martha Jackson as a living memorial for their son, Donald Jackson, an astronomy major at the University of Illinois, who died in an automobile accident that year. The Jacksons' contributions in memory of their son and other contributions in memory of other Academy of Science members are invested and the dividends are used for an annual scholarship award. Since inception in 1964, Memorial contributions have been made in memory of over thirty persons and the size of the award has grown from the first award of \$75 to the present award of \$1000.

Application forms are made available in mid-January of each year through the department heads at the three local Colleges and the chairs of the various Sections of the Peoria Academy of Science, and are to be submitted by the end of February. The applications are examined by a committee of five, and they decide which, if any, of the applicants is qualified to receive the award, based on the applicant's scholarship, Academy participation, school and civic activities, and character references. The amount of the award is set by the Board of the Academy of Science based on the income of the Memorial Scholarship Fund in the previous year.

Donations to honor any Academy member may be sent to Mr. Mark Wright, Treasurer, Peoria Academy of Science, P O Box 3412, Peoria IL 61612-3412, or to Richard L. Barthel, Secretary, PASC Memorial Scholarship Fund, 6501 N. Greenmont Rd., Peoria IL 61614. Since the Academy is a 501(c)(3) organization, any donations will be tax deductible for the donor to the fullest extent of the law. All donations received will be invested with the Peoria Academy of Science Memorial Scholarship Funds at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois, and only the income from the Fund will be used for scholarship awards.

Northmoor Observatory blog post: Renae Kerrigan

Hi Everyone,

Like last year, I wrote a blog post about Northmoor Observatory and how people can visit. It was very popular on our museum's Facebook page – it was viewed by 16,700 people so far, and liked 200 times! That is just since it was posted on Monday at 11 am.

You can read the post here: <http://starsoverpeoria.blogspot.com/2016/05/visit-northmoor-observatory-this-summer.html>

Hopefully it will help let more people know about PAS and the observatory.

SUBJECT: A special video invitation from Dave Falkner, ALCon 2018 Co-Chair
TO: Peoria Astronomical Society ALCor

Greetings,

We'd appreciate you taking a few minutes at your next meeting to play this video (link below) for your members and/or provide the link for them to view at their convenience.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1K0S7_hIgw2_lSr1qGfTCXkdNBjYJuaqr

The Minnesota Astronomical Society (MAS) is excited to host the Astronomical League's 2018 annual convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul next July 11th -14th.

This brief video was shot on location at our club's well-equipped Eagle Lake Observatory, where we'll hold nightly star parties during ALCon 2018. Co-Chair Dave Falkner tells you about some of the events and activities already planned, as well as several of the featured guest speakers. You'll also enjoy his tour showing the great equipment and facilities available to you at our observatory site.

We're excited for the opportunity to host this popular event and hope you and your family will join us next summer. And watch for video updates in the months to come.

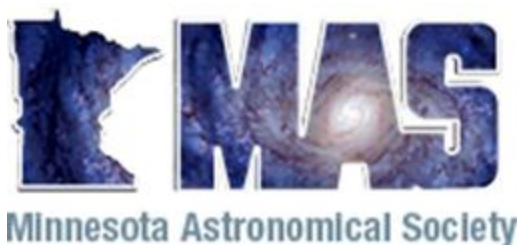
Thanks and Clear skies!

Bob Kerr,

Minnesota Astronomical Society Publicity Chair

& Astronomical League Observing Programs Coordinator

<https://alcon2018.astroleague.org/>



NCRAL Newsletter:

The North-Central Region of the Astronomical League (NCRAL) is made up of member societies... the six states commonly thought of as the Upper Midwest of the USA, plus the Upper Peninsula of the state of Michigan.

The PAS is a member of the NCRAL. Their Region Newsletter, also named "Northern Lights", has been resurrected and is better than ever! **Autumn and Winter 2017** issues are now available to read on their website can be found here:

<https://ncral.wordpress.com/newsletter-archive/>

As members of the NCRAL, we are allowed to submit our content to their newsletter as well. So if you have really cool articles appropriate for the viewing of the larger regional society audience mentioned above... please send these to Carl.

NCRAL Northern Lights Newsletter

Carl J. Wenning, Editor in Chief
NCRAL Regional Representative
Twin City Amateur Astronomers
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois
Email: carlwenning@gmail.com

Program Schedule for 2017 - 2018: Sheldon Schafer

**date confirmed and/or requested

*speaker confirmed, date tentative, TBD

- December 6, 2017 Your first telescope – what to buy today, & what’s still useful years later?
After a short presentation on telescope basics, PAS members will share their recommendations for a first telescope, if possible, bringing in the actual telescope, and explaining why they recommend it, and, very likely, how they still use it. This program will be targeted for people wanting to buy scopes for Christmas, and for members who have yet to get their first telescope. PAS members will share their expertise and stories.
PAS Members
- January 3, 2018 Full Dome Show
- February 7, 2018** Meteorite Collecting
Brian Poelker
- March 7, 2018* OSIRIS-REx Asteroid Sample Return Mission (via skype)
Dante Lauretta
NASA - OSIRIS-REx Principal Investigator
Erin Morton, Communications Lead
Office of the Principal Investigator
OSIRIS-REx Asteroid Sample Return Mission
Telephone: (520) 269-2493
- April 4, 2018* Arecibo (via skype)
Mike Davis (son of Ed Davis, PAS member)
Director of Arecibo (retired)
- May 3, 2018* The Science of Green Bank and Kitt Peak Observatories
Renaë Kerrigan

Hazardous weather notice: Monitor email (e-group), local radio stations or PAS Facebook Page if a program may be canceled due to weather. If we determine a risk in the weather, the Society will cancel the event. If we host an event and you feel the weather or road conditions are questionable, please take the safest actions and do not attend the event.

Annual Banquet Election Results:

PAS Dinner Meeting – Sept 23 at the Lariat Steak House

Approx. 26 members attended the meeting

The slate of officers for next year as given below was voted upon and passed:

President – None

Vice President – Jesse Hoover

Treasurer – Brian Hakes

Secretary – Phil Burroughs

Parliamentarian – Nick Johnson

Legal Agent - Dave Monroe

Proposals to make Bob Pauer, and Steve Wrigley honorary members were presented and passed by members.

Sheldon Schafer presented the upcoming meeting programs.

Phil Burroughs

PAS Secretary

A huge "THANK YOU" goes out to Bob Pauer and Greg Neaveill for their help fixing the 24-inch dome on Saturday morning.

We've had a recurrent issue rotating the dome for the last several years. The drive gear skipped LOUDLY in a couple places but we had a fairly simple work-around and just lived with it. Recently, the problem became much more severe and the work-around involved encouragement with a heavy crowbar.

Our initial fear, going into the job, was that we might find worn or damaged parts that needed to be replaced ... and that could result in an inoperable dome and telescope for weeks or, even, months.

We wrestled the 40-or-so pound gear-motor assembly down off of the wall, cleaned it up, checked the parts for wear and tear, and, finally, thanks to a great suggestion from Greg, made a simple change during re-assembly which totally fixed the entire gear skipping problem. The whole works was back up and running -- no, actually humming QUIETLY - only a few hours later.

If you bump into Bob or Greg at a meeting or star party, tell 'em "THANKS" for their efforts at Jubilee.

BOB and GREG ... It was fun working with you ... I enjoyed it.

... and, to JON CROW, your 7-year-old's birthday party was MUCH more important! Thanks for your Email and "happy birthday" to the young 'un.

Clear skies ...

ec

Curiosity Updates

See below link to mission webpage: <https://mars.nasa.gov/msl/mission/mars-rover-curiosity-mission-updates/>



Courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech.

Curiosity has intentionally scuffed a nearby sand ripple, which has gifted the team with an exceptional view of the interior of these small sand deposits.



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2018 DUES NOTIFICATION

Your support of the **Peoria Astronomical Society** has been greatly appreciated!! Please select the membership of your choice for your 2018 dues.

- Regular Membership - \$30.00
- Patron Membership - \$50.00 or greater ** ***
(Regular Membership status and the sincere gratitude of the Society)

AS ALWAYS MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY TO THE PRIVILEGES OF
THE SOCIETY PLUS MEMBERSHIP IN THE PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Payment is due by January 15, 2015

Please make checks payable to PEORIA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC and mail to:

Peoria Astronomical Society, Inc.
P O Box 10111
Peoria, IL 61612-0111

You may also bring your dues to the general meeting.

If you have a new email address or want to add an email address please let Scott Swords know at sswords3@comcast.net.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE PEORIA
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY!! WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT MONTHLY
MEETINGS AND AT OUR STAR PARTIES.

Brian Hakes
Treasurer

** Any amount over \$30.00 is deductible on your income tax as a charitable contribution.

*** If your place of work has a **Matching Gift Program**, please give consideration to taking advantage of it to multiply your gift.

2018 Dues Notification

This is the third year the initial dues notification is simply embedded in the electronic newsletter.

You are welcome to mail your dues payment but it may be more convenient to bring it to the December or January general meeting in the planetarium.

As always, there will be subsequent follow-up mailings of dues reminders. The only exception to the mailing will be members who recently joined the society, their dues are considered paid through 2018. So by mailing your dues payment or bringing it to a PAS meeting in the planetarium will defray the expense of postage associated with these follow up mailings.

Once again, thank you for your continued support of the PAS,
Brian Hakes - Treasurer

Location for Board Meetings on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM

+++NOTICE: DECEMBER 2017 BOARD MEETING IS CANCELLED+++

Proctor Place, Third Floor Conference Room
2724 W Reservoir Blvd, Peoria, IL 61615

Board Meeting Minutes

October:

Minutes called to order at 7:35 pm
Proctor Place Third Floor Conference Room
October 18, 2017

Attendees: Dan Son, Brian Hakes, Bill Cole, Nick Johnson, Phil Burroughs, Jesse Hoover, Eric Clifton, Dave Monroe

Minutes: (Phil Burroughs) The minutes of the August meeting and notes on the September Dinner meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: (Brian Hakes) – The club has 4 new members in August and September. Receipts for August and September were \$ 776 and disbursements were \$ 458.11. PAS received a gift of \$ 480 from Burkland Distributors. The combined August and September Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Jubilee: (Bob Pauer) Eric reported the mower needs to be repaired or replaced. It is estimated to be 25 – 30 years old. The PAS Board will research prices of a new mower. ICC Sept Star Party had approx. 60 people. Bob, Eric and Greg Neaveill repaired the 24" dome rotation motor. They also removed the encoder on the dome. The new 14" scope from ICC is being tested. It needs some items such as eyepieces, a dew shield, and a power supply. Jubilee has a new Park Ranger and Site Manager, Joe Bassetti. Eric will attend a Jubilee user group meeting with State Senator Chuck Weaver. Our lease is up in 2022. Eric suggested groups using Jubilee send PAS a thank-you note so we can document usage. The 10 foot Home Dome is still at ICC.

Northmoor: (Nick Johnson) - Eric said the nephew and daughter of Al Sharav will visit Saturday night to view the scope and present a plaque. Al was a founding member of PAS, the first chairman of Northmoor Observatory and the leader in the Astro Dome construction. Terry Beachler is continuing to work on fixing water leaks. John Crow will back Terry up on maintenance. A Cub Scout group is scheduled to visit Nov. 6. There was a Celebration of Life for Randall Eads Oct 15. Brian Hakes and Nick Johnson ran the scope with about 45 people attending. Northmoor will be open an additional night, Oct. 21. So far 1233 people have visited and the fishbowl has received \$ 699 in donations. Nick is looking for a camera for the scope so people could view in the lower room.

Inventory: (Nick Johnson and Bob Pauer) – None

Nominating: (Tatiana Johnson) –None

Legal Agent: (Dave Monroe) - None

Membership: (Eric Clifton) – New member for September is: Kelly Fites

Starlite (Jesse Hoover) – The November Board Meeting is the deadline for Winter Starlite articles.

Program: (Sheldon Schafer) – November meeting will be Astro Jeopardy.

Peoria Academy of Science: (Bill Cole) – Peoria Academy of Science Meetings have started.

Light Control: (Jesse Hoover) - None.

Observing Report: (Gary Bussman) – None.

Website: (Stan Pope) – Nick sent Stan a note about removing eclipse information from the site and calendar and had not heard back.

Old Business: Dan still needs to get solar funnel to Northmoor Observatory. Northmoor has leftover solar glasses which could be donated to a group for the Chile eclipse.

New Business: - None

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Minutes taken by Phil Burroughs

Attendees: Brian Hakes, Bill Cole, Nick Johnson, Phil Burroughs

