



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

SPRING, 2014

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Directors:

President:
Vice-President: Jesse Hoover, hooveje@gmail.com (acting President)
Secretary: Tatiana Johnson, 2gsheps@gmail.com
Treasurer: Dan Son, sonshine92@comcast.net
Parliamentarian: Nick Johnson, johsnl@comcast.net
Nominating Chairman: John Barra, jbarra31@aol.com
Legal Agent: Mike Hay, me.hay@comcast.net
Northmoor Chairman: Nick Johnson, johsnl@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 via two email addresses: ls_hay@yahoo.com or Starlighteditor@gmail.com. Deadlines for articles for the 2014 publications are: May 21, August 20 and November 19. (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 (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!!!

REMINDER: DUES ARE DUE

Payment of dues is due by March 19, 2014

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

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

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

NEW MEMBERS:

The Peoria Astronomical Society welcomes new members:

Nicholas Yemm, Bartonville, IL
John Nixon, Peoria, IL
Paul and Doreen Henson, Dunlap, IL

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

President of PAS

Program Chairman

If you are willing to serve in one of these offices/positions, please contact Jesse Hoover, hooveje@gmail.com or 309-258-0343

Standing and Special Committees:

Northmoor Observatory Committee Chairperson - Nick Johnson

Membership Committee Chairperson - Scott Swords

Jubilee Chairperson - Bob Pauer

Public Relations - Kathy Dittmeier

Starlite Committee Chairperson - Mike Hay, Linda Hay

Program Chairperson - Open

Peoria Academy of Sciences Rep - Bill Cole

Light Control Chairperson - Jesse Hoover

Light Control Committee - Rich Tennis, and Kathryn (Kate) Shackelford

Website - Jesse Hoover

Observing - Gary Bussman

Nominating Committee – 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 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. 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 Jesse Hoover (Acting President)

Hi Everyone,

Thank you very much your dedication and continued support to the Society. As we transition into the spring viewing season, many of us are anxious to get out and observe the night sky as the temperature starts to warm up. Spring is a great time to view with many great constellations and objects. Keep a lookout for Gary Bussman's monthly observing report containing upcoming viewing highlights throughout the year. As far as club observing goes, the Starlite and E-Group commuications will advertise the set dates, but for last minute weather updates, please check out our Facebook page, www.astronomical.org website and online calendar. We will try to make weather judgments sometime before the afternoon of the planned viewing.

Every clear Saturday evening in May thru October, the Northmoor observatory will be open for public viewing. Times are from dusk to 11:00pm. We can also look forward to 3rd quarter and new moon weekend Friday and Saturday evening viewing at Jubilee observatory.

All of these events are great to get out and talk astronomy with some good friends.

We will be hosting instructional telescope clinics where you can bring your own scope, and we'll show you how to better operate it, and maybe some new tricks too. Dates are 5/10, 6/14, 7/12, 8/9 and 9/13 (6pm-8pm)

We are always looking for volunteers for helping out with the committee and operations of the club. If you are interested, feel free to stop in at one of our board meetings sometime. Anyone who could mow at Jubilee, or host Northmoor some Saturday would also be a great help in reducing the current workload we have now.

In spite of classic Illinois winter weather, I am sitting here typing this on Feb 20, flooding everywhere with 3-4 inches of rain, and some 31 mph wind gusts... I suppose we can be relieved of the upcoming single digit polar vortex! Yippee!

Clear skies,
Jesse Hoover
Vice President

MONTHLY OBSERVING REPORT

From Observing chairman: Gary Bussman

These are the dates for 3rd quarter and new moon weekends for the 2014 viewing season. We always try to set up star party's on Friday and Saturday nights. We are also going to give it a go on a star party out at Lake Thunderbird at Putnum County. Last year we got rained out. Dates for star parties will follow in the coming months.

	3rd quarter.	New moon
March.		28/29
April.	25/26.	
May.	23/24.	2/3 30/31
June.	20/21.	27/28
July.	18/19.	25/26
August.	15/16.	22/23
September.	12/13.	19/20 26/27
October.	17/18.	24/25

TELESCOPE CLINICS

There will be clinics offered by Rich Tennis on how to use your telescope. These will take place at Northmoor Observatory on Saturday, May 10 and Saturday, June 14 from 6-8PM (weather permitting). Bring your telescope and he will offer you guidance about how to use it. More clinics may be offered later in the summer.

STARLITES PAST

By John Barra

50 Years Ago

Spring Newsletter, 1964

“Since 1952, the Astronomy Section of the Peoria Academy of Science had eagerly eyed the 9” telescope owned by Bradley University. Bradley had purchased this instrument from the Illinois Watch Company of Springfield, Illinois in 1935. Because no one had the opportunity to build an observatory to house her, the scope gathered dust on the Bradley campus for seventeen years.”

Under the bleachers somewhere as the story goes. I wonder if some kid who happened to be looking for something under the bleachers every saw it. And is now a member of the PAS.

“Now let’s take a look at the telescope we had acquired. She was constructed in 1909Her nine-inch lens--she’s a refractor you know--was fashioned by the Gaertner Scientific Company by the same optician who ground the lens for the famous physicist A. A. Michelson.”

Of the famous Michelson-Morley experiment fame. Hey, I studied them in high school physics, in which class I was not very good. Oh well, you don’t need to know much physics to be a star hopper.

25 Years Ago

Winter/Spring, Starlite 1988/89

“The close approach of Mars this year brought many people out to Northmoor....We tried our hands at drawing what we saw. For my part, I found my drawing very limited. I learned increased respect for the pre-photographic astronomers who projected their visual impressions with their pencils and pens!”

And 25 years later we have Google and you can easily look up photos of galaxies that existed near the time of the creation of the universe. What will the next 25 years bring?

“The speaker at our annual banquet was our own R. P. Van Zandt who did a marvelous and enjoyable job in presenting an extremely complex subject to all who attended. Thank you so much for sharing your knowledge with us. We certainly look forward to hearing more from you.”

Sadly, Van is no longer with of us and most of us in the club never had a chance to ever hear from this great, wise man.

Our new Jubilee Chairman Bob Pauer has been getting more people trained at using the 24. If you are interested in learning when the weather gets better this spring, just contact him.

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 ad 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 JESSE HOOVER:

I have a friend who is selling their Zhumell 12 in. dobsonian reflector telescope. It's \$700 new and they are asking \$500. Like new condition. Let me know if you are interested...

Thanks,

Jesse Hoover

<mailto:hooveje%40gmail.com>

(309) 258-0343

BOARD MINUTES

NOVEMBER 20, 2013

Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Dan Son provided a report outlining the expenses. The savings ending balance had two different amounts reported—the correct amount is \$14,039.10. Nick Johnson reported the observing season was over. The last viewing session occurred on a partly cloudy night with a total of 16 visitors. Overall it was a successful viewing season, with 909 registered visitors. Bob Pauer was unable to attend the meeting. Rich Tennis reported that \$4200 was disbursed on painting at Jubilee. The mower at Jubilee was repaired at the expense of \$26.50. Scott Swords reported there were no new members since the last meeting. He reported the current PAS membership stands at 113, 86 of them have email addresses in the database and 53 are members of the e-group. Nick suggested that the email via the e-group be the primary method of communication. The January 8th program will be Aurora Borealis by Don Hampton.

DECEMBER 18, 2013

Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved. No treasurer's report was available at this meeting. It will be sent out by the end of the year. Scott Swords reported no new members. A new member's application was discussed and will be redesigned. Mike Hay reported that one Starlite was returned due to the change of address. He will resend it. Mike received a message from Doug Stitzel who has William Optics 2" binoviewers with eyepieces and offered to donate it to the club. Discussion took place about storage and usage. Mike suggested using it for public viewings. Rich Tennis volunteered to be the primary contact for the item. Jesse Hoover reported the program by Donald Hampton on Aurora Borealis will take place on January 8. Jesse reported he sent thank you letters to the two presenter for the November and December programs. One of them declined payment and the other accepted a check in the amount of \$50. Jesse reported the city of Canton had been contacted concerning light control and we are waiting for a response. Hanna City has committed to implementing the light control policy by the end of the year. Gary Bussman reported observing sessions for the spring need to be schedule before the February Board meeting. Mike pointed out the evening of January 1st is a rare opportunity to see an 18 hour old moon about 15 minutes after sunset. The meteor showers will be visible in the morning of January 3rd coming from the constellation of Bootes. Rich Tennis raised a question on Eric's behalf about the ability to send attachments. Mike Frasca reported when e-group was established, attachments used to slow down emails, so the Board voted not to allow attachments. He reported there are pros and cons to having the ability to allow them. More discussion included copyright laws, links rather than attachments and filtering. The motion to approve the link option was made and approved by the majority.

JANUARY 15, 2014

Minutes from the December meeting were reviewed and approved. Dan Son handed out the reports for two months. 36 out of 86 members paid their dues. A second notice will be mailed out in a week. Nick Johnson reported that the windows at the observatory were insulated. There were no further updates for Northmoor. Scott Swords reported three new members, Paul and Doreen Henson of Dunlap, John Nixon of Peoria, and Nicolas Yemm of Bartonville. Scott pointed out the new application and the new members letter had been redesigned and the group had been notified of the changes. Jesse Hoover reported on the recent program via Skype. The video was lost halfway through the presentation, audio still worked. Jesse suggested keeping presentation via Skype. Discussion followed about getting speakers for programs. Gary Bussman suggested posting phases of the moon and the schedule of star parties on the e-group site. Eric reported tentative dates for ICC viewing are April 25 or 26, May 1,3,9, or 10. Possible dates for the annual banquet are September 13, 20, or 27. Gary said he would try to organize the Lake Thunderbird event. Eric Clifton reported the 3 eyepieces thought to be missing after the break-in had been found. Eric spoke to Tim McGrath about buying his dob to make it a loaner telescope. After a long discussion, the motion to purchase the telescope and electronics was made and passed by the majority of votes.