



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, 2018

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Officers:

President: Dan Son, sonshine1992@gmail.com
Vice-President: Jesse Hoover, hooveje@gmail.com
Secretary: Phil Burroughs
Treasurer: Brian Hakes, bhakes02@comcast.net

Directors:

Parliamentarian: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
Nominating Chairman: Tatiana Johnson, 2gsheps@gmail.com
Legal Agent: Dave Monroe, dave.monroe@comcast.net
Northmoor Observatory Chairman: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
Jubilee Observatory Chairman: Robert Pauer, sbpauer@winco.net

PEORIA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/PeoriaAstronomicalSociety

Editor's Notes:

Looking forward to getting out and viewing in that springtime air... Hope to see you there!

-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:

Scott and Lori Balmer	Peoria, IL
Grace Sposato	Peoria Heights, 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

March Monthly: Gary Bussman

The ICC Star party is next month. The date is April 6th out at Jubilee Observatory. The rain dates are the 7th, 13 and 14 of April, and 4th and 5th of May. We hope members will volunteer their time and scopes for this event. More to come in March.

Venus and Mercury will be above the horizon after sunset starting this month. On March 3rd, the two planets will be within a degree of each other. Binoculars would be helpful to view Mercury. Venus will be shining at -3.9 so if you locate that, Mercury will then be easier to find.

Mercury will reach its greatest peak on March 15th. So the best time to view Mercury will be from March 1st thru March 20th.

On March 28th, Venus and Uranus will be within a degree of each other. You will need a telescope to view Uranus.

Jupiter rises after midnight. Mars will follow 2 hours later. On March 31st, Mars and Saturn will be within 2 degrees of each other.

This summer, Mars will be at its closest to the earth in the past 15 years.

On March 18th, a crescent moon will be hanging in the west after sunset with Venus and Mercury just to the right.

This is another month to look for Zodiacal light just after sunset. Best time to look for this faint streak of light coming out of the west is when there is no moon in the sky and a clear western horizon line. Going out Knoxville north, past Cedar Hills Drive will get you a clear horizon line to be in a position to catch this glow. The best time will be between March 3rd to March 20th. After that, you will be dealing with a moon.

The constellations

Cancer, the crab is the 31st largest constellation in the sky. The dimmest constellation in the zodiac with no star brighter than 4th magnitude. This constellation is visible from January thru April. This does have a very big open star cluster, M44 also called The Beehive, very nice to look at with binoculars..

Ursa Major, the great bear and best-known as the Big Dipper is the 3rd largest constellation in the sky. This is a circumpolar constellation and most prominent from February thru June but always above the horizon in the north. It has

one of the best binary star system. Mizar and Alcor is visible naked eye and for those of you with great eyesight can see both. We all know that the 2 pointer stars line us up to the North Star.

Leo, the lion is the 12th largest constellation in the sky. A zodiac constellation, this is prominent from February thru June. It has the 15th brightest star in the sky, Regulus. The sickle is the group of stars marking the lions head and shoulders and it forms a backward question mark. Very easy to see along with its backside forming a triangle which is the hindquarters of the lion. Denebola is the star at the end of the triangle. You know spring is here when you see this constellation on top of the sky.

Warmer weather is right around the corner and we will start getting out to Jubilee observatory to do some viewing. No better way to start it out is with the ICC star party. Looking forward to seeing a lot of scopes out there for that fun event.

Clear sky's, Gary Bussman

Who ya gonna call?: Greg Neaveill

Yes, PAS Makes House Calls.



When you buy a good scope and, after several years still can't get it to work, who do you call? You call the Peoria Astronomical Society. That's what Grace Spasato did when she contacted Renae Kerrigan in early January to ask for help. Renae put out the word to other PAS members and one was quick to respond. Greg Neaveill, our premier telescope maker, agreed to take a look at Grace's

Orion 8" Dobsonian. On Saturday, February 24, Greg visited the home of Grace & Mike Spasato in Peoria Heights. After quick examination, Greg recognized the collimation was a little off and corrected both the secondary, diagonal mirror followed by the primary mirror.

As their son, Paul, looked on, Greg inserted a 25mm eyepiece only to find that even with full extension of the focuser, a clear, sharp image was still unattainable. Remembering his "house call" to a family in Canton, Greg brought the eyepiece up about a half inch in the focuser – and Voila, that solved the problem. Why Orion let this scope ship with this built-in error is unknown, but now at least, the Spasato family has a working telescope.

Greg proceeded to take the scope out onto their enclosed patio for further instruction on its operation. The family was extremely pleased and showed their appreciation by sending in their membership application to PAS. We welcome them as new members. This was Greg's third house call. In addition to his fix in Canton, Greg cleaned and adjusted a small refractor on an equatorial mount for a member of his and Eric Clifton's astronomy class at Bradley's OLLI Program. Having built two Dobsonian scopes, a 10 inch collapsible and a 8" briefcase model, Greg just considered the Spasato scope fix to be just another day in the shop. Thanks again to Greg Neaveill for being our telescope repair ambassador. Great Job!

Significance of Public Observing

The financial report illustrates over the past two years the PAS has been the recipient of sizeable cash gifts and that in 2017 the public contribution was much higher than usual. While financial gifts are always welcomed, the primary purpose of the Saturday night public observing session is not to generate cash but to serve as a public outreach promoting the night sky and the science of Astronomy.

What these gifts from the public represent is a demonstration of appreciation to the PAS for sponsoring the Saturday night viewing sessions. These sessions are valued by the public.

To better accommodate the public during the public observing sessions, the number of society members hosting viewing is 3 - In the past it had been 2. It is far easier to address questions and help with showing the night sky with 3 people than 2. But the number of members who have signed up to show the night sky is down. What this means is the season for the public viewing has been truncated.

To expand the season more Society involvement is needed. The commitment is nominal, approximately 3 nights per year with each observing session lasting about 3 hours. Even if you are not a key holder and are a newer member you can help. You will be assigned an evening with experienced people, what better way to learn about the telescope and share your area of interest in Astronomy.

To learn more, contact Nick Johnson. Your involvement will be greatly appreciated.

Brian Hakes - Treasurer

Northmoor Opportunities:

As the viewing season approaches, it is a good time to review some of the benefits of being a Peoria Astronomical Society member. Hopefully, you enjoy the quarterly Starlite newsletter, participate in our e-group, attend our winter monthly programs at the Riverfront Museum, or participate in the great Star Parties held at our Jubilee observatory. To get even more out of your membership, I would encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities that Northmoor Observatory has to offer. There are three ways you can enhance your membership through Northmoor... Saturday night public viewings sessions, Northmoor hosting, or becoming a Northmoor Keyholder. The following is an overview of each of these opportunities.

Saturday Night Public Viewings:

Every Saturday night (weather permitting) from mid-May to mid- October, Northmoor is opened to the public. The sessions run from dusk to approximately 10:30 PM. Even with the city lights around Northmoor, we still get excellent images of Saturn, Jupiter, Venus, Mars, and the moon through our vintage 9" refractor telescope. This year our season starts on May 19 and ends on Oct 14. If you've never been to Northmoor or haven't visited in a while, I encourage you to stop out on one of these nights. Feel free to bring your telescope for an impromptu star party! You may want to keep Aug 18 in mind. We will be partnering with the Peoria Public Library for the 5th annual "Observe the Moon" night. We normally attract a large crowd and will hold a star party with member's scopes on that evening. How do you know if the observatory is open on any given Saturday? The best way is to step outside and look up! If it is clear or mostly clear, come on out.

Northmoor Hosting:

For more than 50 years, our Astronomical Society has been providing views of the night sky to the Peoria community. Think of that ... 50 years ... a half century. We frequently encounter visitors who were initially brought to Northmoor by their parents and are now bringing their children to the observatory. Our Saturday night public viewing sessions have become a family tradition. Admission has always been free, but we do accept donations. During a season, we normally receive donations equaling the amount of 10 to 15 dues from memberships. So, in addition to providing a great community service, we help offset some of our expenses as well.

This is all possible due to our members volunteering a small amount of their time to serve as hosts for these sessions. We staff the observatory with 3 hosts for each viewing session; one to operate the telescope, one to man the Visitor's center, and one to greet visitors and point out things to see from the ground in the night's sky. We also strive to limit the number of times a person serves as host to 3 nights a season. Many of our hosts are long time Society members and you will be surprised at how much Astronomy you can learn just by listening to our hosts talk to our visitors. They all do a great job. Over the last few years, our number of host volunteers has declined. Because of this, we have shortened our viewing season in order to keep within our 3 nights per season limit. Unfortunately, this results in a fewer donations, but more importantly, fewer opportunities to introduce the public to the night sky. **Please consider giving hosting a try this year. If you would like to try it out, contact me at the email address below.** I really think you will find hosting a rewarding and educational experience.

Northmoor Keyholder:

Last, but not least, consider becoming a Northmoor keyholder. As a keyholder, you become one of an elite group who are fully qualified to operate both the Northmoor telescope and the entire observatory. You will know all of the details about the observatory and telescope and have a good knowledge of the sky that can be seen from Northmoor. Being an expert,

you will be named as lead host during your scheduled Saturday hosting sessions (no more than 3 per year). **The biggest benefit, though, is that keyholders have unlimited access to the observatory for their own personal use.** Becoming a keyholder is not difficult. You must serve as a scheduled host for a minimum of 3 nights and be able to demonstrate operating both the telescope and the observatory. You will be assisted in learning these things from other hosts. If you are interested in becoming a keyholder, send me an e-mail. We will get you started on a hosting schedule.

Nick Johnson
Northmoor Observatory Director

johnsnl@comcast.net

Jubilee Opportunities:

Jubilee

With a new viewing season starting, I hope this year will bring out the new members to a Jubilee star party and do some viewing on telescopes owned by the club and its members.

Jubilee has three telescopes available for members to use at a dark sky located on the Jubilee Brimfield Blacktop. If you've never been to Jubilee, you are missing one of the best features of being a member of the Peoria Astronomical Society. This site provides a better location than Northmoor for viewing the constellations of the night sky and deep space objects. Two observatory domes, a warm-up room, picnic tables and an observing field provide an ideal location for our star parties.

Our telescopes

The largest dome houses a 24 inch reflector that was built by club members. This telescope provides the viewer with great views of deep space objects. Utilizing the computerized tracking system, high quality photographs are possible.

The second dome is currently being modified to house our newly acquired 14 inch Meade XL 200 Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. Hopefully this scope will be mounted in time for the start of our viewing season and will provide members with an opportunity to learn the night sky and the location of the deep space objects that are described in magazines like Sky & Telescope. The third telescope is a portable 1500mm high quality TMB refracting telescope mounted on a Losmandy mount and controlled by a computerized Gemini 8 Go-to System. This scope is an excellent telescope for viewing the Moon, planets, binary stars and nearby star clusters.

Becoming a keyholder

Members are encouraged to become keyholders and learn how to use these telescopes and enjoy the dark skies at Jubilee. You can become a keyholder and help operate these telescopes during star parties and to come out anytime for private viewing. To become a keyholder a member must go through a training session and operate the telescopes under the supervision of a key holder until they become proficient. You will also be asked to help with maintenance out at Jubilee. Keyholders are put on schedule (once or twice a year) to help with sweeping out the domes, mowing and building maintenance. If you would like to become a Keyholder and have the opportunity to use our telescopes please contact:

Bob Pauer at sbpauer@mymctc.net

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@stanpope.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.

Bradley STEM day - NASA speaker is coming!

Each spring, the Bradley University Center for STEM Education sponsors a national/international speaker in a STEM field to make a presentation to the campus and surrounding communities. This year, they are hosting Mr. Bryan Palaweski from NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi.

Bryan is working on the manned mission to Mars, and is a specialist on rocket propellants. His presentation will be at 1:00 PM on Saturday, April 14th in the BU Student Center Ballroom.

They are putting together some family-related activities for that morning, and probably a Mars-related planetarium program around 3:30 PM that afternoon at the Riverfront Museum.

Weather permitting, they are looking for PAS volunteers for hosting and or attending Northmoor Observatory open that night for folks to come and view (weather permitting). If any volunteers are able and willing to host the evening viewing, please contact Dan Son. sonshine1992@gmail.com Additionally, we are asking if anyone with a solar scope would like to come out to the Museum and set up their scope for public solar observing.

Took a quick hand held on 3/2 of Venus and Mercury on their way to setting over Peoria: Nick Johnson



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.

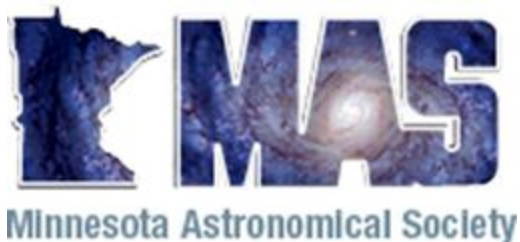
Thanks and Clear skies!

Bob Kerr,

Minnesota Astronomical Society Publicity Chair

& Astronomical League Observing Programs Coordinator

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



NCRAL 2018:



NCRAL 2018

May 4 & 5

Dark Skies for Bright Stars

Following this theme, speakers are scheduled, the venue set, and a very interesting NCRAL 2018 is expected. Registration will open January 1, 2018. Located in Door County Wisconsin, which offers dark sky and beautiful natural surroundings, Door Peninsula Astronomical Society (DPAS) will host the meeting at the Lodge at Leathem Smith in Sturgeon Bay, WI. We will be celebrating the recent designation of nearby Newport State Park as an International Dark Sky Site, the first in Wisconsin and only the 13th in the entire United States. Anyone wishing to visit the site can bring viewing equipment or visit this beautiful park the day before or after the meeting.

On Friday evening members of DPAS will open our observatory and Astronomy Center for viewing and tours of the facilities. During the day Saturday we will be having an astronomy photo contest and astronomy related poetry contest. Bring any number of your own photos printed any size and original poems for voting by all participants.

The list of speakers follows and the subjects will prove to be on very timely topics.

A block of rooms with special rates has been set aside. Contact information is on the registration form. Payment for the meeting registration can be made by check to DPAS or through PayPal on our website, <https://www.doorastronomy.org/ncral-2018> after the first of the year. Questions can be directed to Treasurer@doorastronomy.org.

Members of DPAS cordially invite you and your guests to join us here in beautiful Door County, Wisconsin for an informative and relaxing weekend with fellow amateur astronomers.

NCRAL 2018 Speakers

Kevin Poe is the Green Energy Project Manager at the National Park Service at Bryce Canyon, Utah. He is a second generation Park Ranger and owner of Dark Ranger Telescope Tours. Kevin calls himself the Dark Ranger to make environmental advocacy cool and heroic, and describes himself as a Planet Hugger. Teaching awareness of light pollution and understanding of the universe to people of all ages through lectures and stories is his goal.

Kate Meredith is the Education Director at the University of Chicago Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, WI. She is currently working on a program for students with low vision and blindness to develop image processing software. The three year project, Innovators Developing Accessible Tools for Astronomy (IDATA) is funded by the National Science Foundation. She will explore what else we can do with invisible data that will allow everyone access to the same quality and quantity of information.

Audrey Fischer works through her organization, One Star at a Time to create star parks in Chicago and around the world. Star parks are designated areas where the lights are off or directed downward. As a Chicago native, she knows that it isn't a perfect place for stargazing, but she is working to return stars back into all cities. Audrey stated during an interview for the Chicago Tribune "Starlight belongs to each and every person in the world. A starry night gives people a reason to look up and to realize that others from around the globe share the same sky. Starlight is the path to closer understanding of our universe, each other and ourselves – and maybe it's even a path toward peace".

Beth Bartoli is the Naturalist at Newport State Park in Door County, our recently designated Dark Sky Site. The designation was awarded after years of work by her, the staff of the park and our Door Peninsula Astronomical Society. She helps conduct astronomy programs at the park and states "We never tire of seeing that 'aha' moment on the upturned faces of our visitors as they gaze toward the heavens". The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Newport State Park are committed to protect our dark sky through lighting projects, community education and outreach.

Tyler Linder is a professional astronomer supported by NASA's Near Earth Object Observations (NEOO) research grants to track and study the Near-Earth Asteroid (NEA) population. His presentation will focus on the information that can be obtained by asteroid characterization, both through light curve analysis as well as visible and near-infrared spectroscopy. The collaboration between amateur and professional astronomers uses middle and high school students as well as undergraduate students.

**NORTH CENTRAL REGION OF THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE
ANNUAL CONVENTION**

Hosted by Door Peninsula Astronomical Society
MAY 4-5, 2018 at The Lodge at Leathem-Smith

REGISTRATION FORM

<https://www.doorastronomy.org/>



Please complete and return the following form for each convention attendee

Last Name _____ First _____

Club/Society Affiliation _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Included in Registration:

- Admittance to all talks and activities
- Friday evening heavy Hors d'Oeuvres
- Saturday lunch and banquet dinner

Registered by March 31, 2018 \$165
 Registered after March 31, 2018 \$185 \$ _____

Friday night Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres, Saturday Lunch and the Banquet included for attendees. Additional meals for non-attendees:

	Quantity		
Friday night Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres	_____ @ \$20		\$ _____
Saturday Lunch	_____ @ \$20		\$ _____
Saturday Night Banquet	_____ @ \$30		\$ _____

Note: There is a complimentary breakfast for those staying at The Lodge at Leathem-Smith. For others the cost of breakfast is \$10 plus tax and gratuity payable to The Lodge at Leathem-Smith.

Event shirt -- (short sleeve, long sleeve) (S, M, L, XL, XXL) Circle choices _____ @ \$20 \$ _____
 Event photo – cost includes shipping _____ @ \$20 \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

Payment can be check payable to: Door Peninsula Astronomical Society ATTN: NCRAL Convention Registration PO Box 331 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 or pay by PayPal at https://www.doorastronomy.org/ncral-2018	A block of 30 rooms at special rates will be held until March 15, 2018 at the Lodge at Leathem-Smith. After that date rates will revert to the standard seasonal rates. You MUST make your reservations by phone and mention NCRAL to get the special rate. (920)743-5555 Standard Rooms (1 King/2 Queens) - \$89/night + tax Captain Suites (1 Queen & sofa sleeper) - \$129/night + tax Complimentary breakfast is included.
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Directions to The Lodge at Leathem-Smith, 1640 Memorial Drive, Sturgeon Bay, WI, Phone: (920)743-5555
 From Highway 42/57: North bound – Left on Utah St (First exit after the bridge) then left on S 18th Ave.
 South bound – Right on Utah St (First turn after the Michigan St. Round-About), then left on S 18th Ave.
 Destination will be on the right.

Cancellations/Refund

Requests for cancellations must be received in writing or by email (Treasurer@doorastronomy.org) by April 15, 2018, for a full refund less a \$10.00 processing charge. Persons who do not appear at the event cancel by default and are not eligible for any refunds. Refunds will take approximately two to three weeks.

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! The latest **Winter 2018** issue is now available to read on their website can be found here:

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

We also encourage your attendance at the Spring 2018 Regional meeting.

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

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

Renae 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.

2018 Northmoor Hosting Schedule

Updated: 2/21/2018

5-May	12-May	19-May	26-May
	Brian Hakes Nick Johnson	Jon Crow John Lyle Sheldon Schafer	Brandt Bechtold Gerald Horst Elias Samaha

2-Jun	9-Jun	16-Jun	23-Jun	30-Jun
Jesse Hoover Tatiana Johnson Sheldon Schafer	Jon Wrigley Josh Wrigley Steve Wrigley	Terry Beachler Brian Bill Dan Son	Brian Austin Bill Cole Bob Pauer	Jon Wrigley Josh Wrigley Steve Wrigley

7-Jul	14-Jul	21-Jul	28-Jul
Phil Burroughs Gerald Horst Elias Samaha	Dave Grebner Rodney Nordstrom Dan Son	Brian Bill Bill Cole Tatiana Johnson	Brian Austin Terry Beachler Bob Pauer

4-Aug	11-Aug	18-Aug	25-Aug
Phil Burroughs Nick Johnson John Lyle	Jon Crow Dave Grebner Brian Hakes	Bill Cole Tatiana Johnson Rodney Nordstrom	Jesse Hoover John Lyle Sheldon Schafer

1-Sep	8-Sep	15-Sep	22-Sep	29-Sep
Brian Austin Terry Beachler Elias Samaha	Brandt Bechtold Brian Hakes Dan Son	Bill Cole Jon Crow Sheldon Schafer	Jon Wrigley Josh Wrigley Steve Wrigley	Phil Burroughs Nick Johnson Rodney Nordstrom

6-Oct	13-Oct	20-Oct	27-Oct
Brandt Bechtold Brian Bill Gerald Horst	Dave Grebner Jesse Hoover Bob Pauer		

Lead host in **Bold**

2018 Jubilee Maintenance Schedule

March 31th Work Day

To be announced

April 7 Nick Johnson Mark Richmond	April 14 Jesse Hoover Brandt Bechtold	April 21 Scott Sword Calene Fleming	April 28 Dan Son Gerry Horst
May 5 Brian Hakes Cliff Jeske	May 12 Bob Pauer Larry Russell	May 19 Gary Bussman Dave Grebner	May 26 Brian Bill Steve Russell
June 2 Eric Clifton Jon Crow	June 9 Bob Pauer Greg Neaveill	June 16 Nick Johnson Mark Richmond	June 23 Jesse Hoover Brandt Bechtold
July 7 Scott Sword Calene Fleming	July 14 Dan Son Gary Horst	July 21 Brian Hakes Cliff Jeske	July 28 Gary Bussman Dave Grebner
Aug 4 Bob Pauer Larry Russell	Aug 11 Brian Bill Steve Russell	Aug 18 Eric Clifton Jon Crow	Aug 25 Nick Johnson Mark Richmond
Sept 1 Bob Pauer Greg Neaveill	Sept 8 Jesse Hoover Brandt Bechtold	Sept 15 Scott Sword Calene Fleming	Sept 22 Dan Son Gerry Horst
Sept 29 Brian Hakes Cliff Jeske	Oct 6 Brian Bill Dave Grebner	Oct 13 Gary Bussman Steve Russel	

Responsibilities: Check each building to insure security of equipment. Sweep floors, mow lawn and trim around buildings, blow or sweep off grass clippings from walkways. Mowing once a week will help prevent clumping and the need to sweep up clumps. Bring gas to top off mower tank. Currently there is no line trimmer at Jubilee. Since only two people are scheduled each week, it is **imperative** they insure that someone goes to Jubilee and perform scheduled tasks. Please notify me of any schedule conflicts or problems with the equipment.

Bob Pauer: 879-2438

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

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

Board Meeting Minutes

January:

Minutes called to order at 7:35 pm,
Proctor Place Third Floor Conference Room,
January 17, 2018

Attendees: Dan Son, Brian Hakes, Bill Cole, Nick Johnson, Phil Burroughs, Jesse Hoover, Sheldon Schafer

Minutes: (Phil Burroughs) The minutes of the November meeting were accepted. There was no December meeting.

Treasurer's Report: (Brian Hakes) – Receipts for Nov. and Dec. were \$ 730.00 and disbursements were \$ 2292.54. A major expense was \$ 2200.00 spent for a used tractor for Jubilee. Brian also submitted an annual report for 2017. That report showed income of \$ 4,163.61 and expenses of \$ 6,972.04 for the year. The Nov./Dec. Treasurer's Report and the Annual Report were accepted.

Jubilee: (Bob Pauer) – A used mower was purchased for Jubilee and needs to be delivered. The old mower will be sold or scrapped.

Northmoor: (Nick Johnson) – Dan gave Nick a solar funnel for Northmoor Observatory. Nick attended a meeting in early November at Northmoor with people from Cyd's Restaurant and the Peoria Park District. This was a preliminary meeting about Cyd's moving into the Northmoor Clubhouse and not all details had been worked out. Nick invited Emily Cotton of Cyd's to a board meeting. He also will be sending out a host schedule requests for Northmoor viewing shortly.

Inventory: (Nick Johnson and Bob Pauer) – None

Nominating: (Tatiana Johnson) – None

Legal Agent: (Dave Monroe) - None

Membership: (Eric Clifton) – Laurie and Scott Balmer were new members.

Starlite (Jesse Hoover) – Articles for the Spring Starlite are due at the next meeting. Jubilee mowing schedule and Northmoor host schedule needs to be in the Spring Starlite.

Program: (Sheldon Schafer) – Shelden brought up the topic of speaker expenses. Normally if money is needed for a speaker, it is submitted to the board which votes on it. The Feb. speaker expenses have been covered by donations. Upcoming programs are: Feb, "How to tell a Meteorite from a Meteorwong by Brian Poelker; March, "OSIIS-Rex: Sample Return from Asteroid Bennu" skyped by Dr. Ellen Clark; April, "Arecibo Observatory& SETI" skyped by Mike Davis; May: " The Science of Green Bank and Kitt Peak Observatories" by Renae Kerrigan; October, Astronomy by Professor Haurburg; Nov: Astro Jeopardy by Gene Hodel; Dec, All Member Show TBD; Jan., Full Dome Show; March NASA Speaker TBD, April TBD: and May; Total Eclipses or Astro Tourism by Shelden Schafer

Peoria Academy of Science: (Bill Cole) –Bill is going to investigate whether Peoria Academy of Science's insurance can be used by PAS to reduce costs.

Light Control: (Jesse Hoover) – Jesse reported that the Dark Sky Society is changing chapter leaders and making other changes to make it more effective.

Observing Report: (Gary Bussman) – None.

Website: (Stan Pope) – Members need to send Stan material.

Old Business: -No progress on ICC scope or recoating 24" mirror.

New Business: - Nick attended a Friends of Jubilee Park Meeting and reported that PAS may not fit in as other groups but we need to try to continue to maintain a good relationship with them.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Minutes taken by Phil Burroughs, PAS Secretary

February:

Minutes called to order at 7:05 pm,
Proctor Place Third Floor Conference Room,
February 21, 2018

Attendees: Dan Son, Brian Hakes, Bill Cole, Nick Johnson, Phil Burroughs, Dave Monroe, Cyd Henrickson, Emily Cotton, Keith Cotton

Minutes: (Phil Burroughs) The minutes of the January meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: (Brian Hakes) – Receipts for January were \$ 1045.00 including \$ 75 in speaker gifts and disbursements were \$ 449.34 including \$ 133.52 for a hotel room for the speaker. There were 76 members who have paid their dues. Four members paid their dues tonight and 16 members still need to pay. Busey Bank has acquired Southside Bank. There is a minimum amount to maintain in either checking or savings to maintain free checking. Acquisition is effective March 16,2018.

Jubilee: (Bob Pauer) – Future training is planned for Jubilee. Dave said Eric's mother has died and Eric is busy with her estate and won't be able to work on the ICC scope for a while. Also, the scope which is at Eric's mother's house will need to be moved. Nick knows of a garage at his complex where the scope can be temporarily stored. Dave said improvements to the ICC scope that need to be made are replacing the rear cell, downloading firmware, and either installing a battery or regulated power supply for power.

Northmoor: (Nick Johnson) – Nick has made the 2018 host schedule. He will be meeting with Emily Cahill of the Peoria Park District to discuss the Northmoor Observatory.

Inventory: (Nick Johnson and Bob Pauer) – None

Nominating: (Tatiana Johnson) – None

Legal Agent: (Dave Monroe) – Dave sent the annual report to the Illinois Secretary of State.

Membership: (Eric Clifton) – None

Starlite (Jesse Hoover) – Articles for the Spring Starlite are due now. Dan is missing some Starlites from 1968, 1993, and 1994. Brian said he may have copies of the 1993 and 1994 Starlites.

Program: Programs were discussed at last month's meeting.

Peoria Academy of Science: (Bill Cole) –Bill sent Brian information on where to check on insurance. Peoria Academy of

Science Booklet containing treasure hunt questions has the wrong phone number and needs to have phone number eliminated.

Light Control: (Jesse Hoover) – None.

Observing Report: (Gary Bussman) – None.

Website: (Stan Pope) – Website is up to date. Nick suggested putting a donation button on our website available through Paypal or others for a small fee. He is going to investigate further.

Old Business: -None.

New Business: - Cyd Henrikson, Emily Cotton, and Keith Cotton of Cyd's discussed the restaurant moving to Leo Donovan Park. It is scheduled to open in April. Hours will be from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM. There are over 100 parking spots in the parking lot. The PAS board approved a \$ 100 donation for a charity in Eric's mother's name or flowers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. Minutes taken by Phil Burroughs, PAS Secretary