



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, 2020

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- Cancellations
- List of Board of Officers and Directors
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- Address/email changes
- Future Editions of the Starlite
- New Members
- 2019 Meteor Shower Schedule plus Comets
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- Photos/Articles for Website
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- NCRAL 2020 Vision - Canceled
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Cancellations:

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We all are aware of the Coronavirus Pandemic and its impact on the activities of our daily routine. Restaurants, libraries, banks and stores are either closed or offer limited services. All of these entities are shuttered to mitigate the spread of the virus. The PAS also is subject to cancellations. At the present, the list of cancellations Include:

- The April 1st PAS General meeting is canceled.
- The ICC Astronomy spring star party is canceled.
- The annual banquet of the Peoria Academy of Science is canceled.

The PAS Board of Directors will review upcoming events including the opening of Northmoor Saturday night viewing program and the Canton Star party. Any future announcements regarding cancellations will be communicated through the Groups.io and the Yahoo e-Groups as well as communicated in the Starlite. These decisions will be made on at least a month by month basis if not more frequent.

So please watch your emails for notifications. Hopefully the impact of the virus will be minimal and soon be over, but that may not be the case. In the meantime please be patient and we'll all get through this.
Brian Hakes

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Officers:

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

Directors:

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

Peoria Astronomical Society - Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/PeoriaAstronomicalSociety

Editor's Notes:

Thank you for supporting the PAS!

-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 or Dan Son at sonshine1992@gmail.com 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 **Groups.io** 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:

Linda S Groezinger - Dunlap
Sandi Lawson - Dunlap

2019 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/met2019.html>

Scott

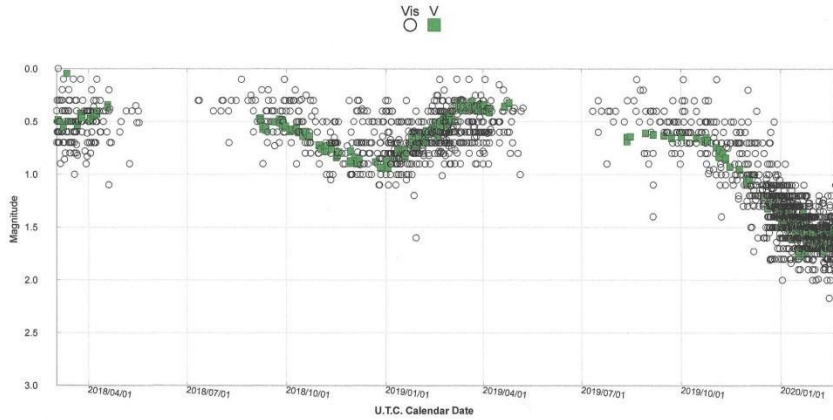
<http://cometchasing.skyhound.com/>

Great web site that has finder charts for visible comets.

Dan

Presidents Message:

Have you viewed Betelgeuse recently? Orion is now in a great place in the night sky, if it isn't cloudy or too cold it is always a pleasure to be outside and observe this easily recognizable winter constellation. But recently one of its signature stars has been undergoing a brightness change. Betelgeuse, Alpha Ori, is



generally a star that hovers around 0.4 magnitude but will vary in brightness to about the first magnitude. Presently the star is about 1.7 magnitude, this means that star is close to 50% fainter than what it normally is. The light curve illustrates the brightness of the star for the past 2 years plotted as visual observations (Vis) and by CCD cameras (V).

This past fall our Program Chair, Sheldon Schafer, arrange for a Skype presentation at the November general meeting with the astronomer Dr. Stella Kafka of the American Association of Variable Star Observers. Her presentation came at a time when Betelgeuse was just beginning to fade, so the star had not yet gleamed the attention it has today. What we heard from Dr. Kafka's introduction to stellar astronomy was that star variability can be attributed to the nuclear force in the star's interior working against the force of gravity. What we know about Betelgeuse is that it is a red giant whose diameter normally would be near the orbit of Mars. With the current fainting of the star, its diameter is now close to the orbit of Jupiter.

The PAS is fortunate in that we have programs that educate and enhance our knowledge of astronomy and the night sky. Sheldon puts a lot of effort into developing and soliciting presenters for programs that both enlighten and entertain us. This is a benefit to all, both members and non members as the general meetings are open to the public. The PAS board is always looking for input from members regarding their respective interest. I encourage you to participate and let your interest be known to any board member so it can be given consideration as a future meeting topic.

As for Betelgeuse, you can watch and estimate its brightness during this rare behavior. You don't need a telescope and your eye can discern differences of 0.1 magnitude, a brightness change of 4%. So enjoy this star and we'll see you at the next monthly meeting.

Brian Hakes

NGC1502 : Dr. James Dire

I have attached a photo of NGC1502 I took at the Jubilee Observatory, February 29, 2020 with an 8-inch f/8 Ritchey–Chrétien Cassegrain (with a Televue 0.8x focal reducer/field flattener yielding f/6.4) and a SBIG ST-2000XCM CCD camera. The exposure was 60 minutes. NGC1502 is a magnitude 6.9 open cluster 8 arcminutes in size in the constellation Camelopardalis.



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.

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.

Reflector :

Reflector Magazine digital edition is available for download

You may access an archive of digital issues from the AL website by visiting:

<https://www.astroleague.org/reflector>

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 **Spring 2020** issue is 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

Add Your Email Address to NCRAL Member Database

Add your email address to the NCRAL member database now so that you can get direct mailings of NORTHERN LIGHTS and important and timely announcements about Regional conferences, star parties, and so forth. Your email address will never be shared with or sold to outside entities. Sign-up takes only about a minute. You'll need to provide your name, email address, astronomy club affiliation (including at-large), and indicate if you hold particular positions within your club. Go to the following case-sensitive URL to add your information to our database: <https://goo.gl/gS8SF>

Latest 2020 communication from Carl:

NCRAL Members,

The Spring 2020 issue of our Northern Lights newsletter is now available for download. It can be found on the NCRAL website at <https://ncral.wordpress.com/newsletter-archive/>. It has many important announcements and updates. Additionally, there are reminders about nominations for awards and applications for mini-grants. Though NCRAL VISION 2020 has been canceled, our award and mini-grant programs will continue. Deadlines remain unchanged: March 31st. See the newsletter for details.

Please share this announcement with the membership of your NCRAL affiliate. Currently just over 20% of the Region's 1,850 members are receiving this notification. Others may receive these notifications by subscribing to the Region's email list. See page 10 of the attached newsletter for details.

Also, if you are on Facebook, don't forget to follow our posts on the NCRAL Facebook page. Do a search on the title of our page: North Central Region of the Astronomical League – NCRAL

Hopefully the COVID-19 pandemic will soon be over. There are several reasons for optimism in my mind's eye. Regardless, play it safe using social distancing to protect both yourself and others.

Cordially yours,

Carl

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Carl J. Wenning, Chair (2017-2021)
North Central Region Astronomical League
carlwenning@gmail.com
Cell: (309) 830-4085

Early Jan 2020 communication from Carl:

NCRAL Members,

Here are five important updates/reminders for you in relation to NCRAL:

~~1. NCRAL 2020 convention registration is now open. You'll find everything you'll need to know about this Saturday-Sunday, May 1-2 event at <https://ncsf.info/ncral-vision-2020/>. Our hosts this year will be the Northern Cross Astronomical Society. Our location will be Port Washington, Wisconsin. ****CANCELED****~~

2. Please nominate your most outstanding affiliate member for the 2020 NCRAL Region Award so he or she might be duly recognized at NCRAL 2020. Check out the requirements printed in the last issue of Northern Lights at <https://ncral.wordpress.com/newsletter-archive/>. Deadline March 31st.

3. Please nominate your newsletter editor for the 2020 NCRAL Newsletter Editor Award so he or she might be duly recognized at NCRAL 2020. Check out the guidelines at <https://ncral.wordpress.com/awards/>. Deadline March 31st.

4. Please apply for either one or both of NCRAL's \$250 mini-grants – either (1) Membership Recruitment & Retention or (2) Affiliate Recruitment. Check out details at <https://ncral.wordpress.com/awards/>. Deadline March 31st.

5. NCRAL's Seasonal Messier Marathon guidelines have been updated and new resources provided. Check it out at <https://ncral.wordpress.com/awards/>

Please share this information with your fellow club members. Only about 25% have registered thus far to receive announcements and releases of the NCRAL's Northern Lights newsletter. Please tell your fellow members to go the following case-sensitive URL to add their information to the NCRAL email database: <https://goo.gl/gS8SF>

Best wishes,

Carl

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Carl J. Wenning, Regional Chair (2017-2021)
North Central Region Astronomical League

Canton Star Party:

Canton Park District is asking to try again, a star party in Canton, tentative dates are May 2nd and then June 27th as a rain date.

Let me know if the date works and are you willing to bring out your scope for this.

Dan Son

2020 Observe the Moon Night:

September 26th, @ Northmoor Observatory

We will need volunteers with scopes, and lunar filters are nice if you have some.

Peoria Astronomical Society

Program Schedule 2020

Peoria Astronomical Society Public Programs

All programs are Free and open to the Public. Time: 7:30 p.m.

All programs are held in the Dome at the Peoria Riverfront Museum

Free parking in the museum's parking deck

February 5, 2020

Getting started with CCD & CMOS Cameras

James Dire PhD.

March 4, 2020

The Curiosity Rover: A Day and Life on Mars

Dr. Allan H. Treiman, Associate Director of Science, Lunar and Planetary Institute

April 1, 2020

****CANCELED****

~~New Horizons and Beyond~~

~~Dr. Harold Weaver, New Horizons Project Scientist~~

~~Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab—Space Exploration Sector~~

May 6, 2020

The All New Astro-Jeopardy

Brian Bill

Inclement weather notice: Monitor email (e-group), local radio stations or PAS Facebook Page if a program, board meeting, viewing, or star party 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.

Telescope for sale:

NEW GSO 8-inch f/12 Classical Cassegrain with a used JMI padded hard case. \$800 for both. Optical tube assembly comes with two speed GSO focuser, Losmandy-type dovetail plate and Vixen-style dovetail plate. Diagonal, eyepiece, finderscope and mount NOT included; cat negotiable. Superb visual telescope, lightweight, 22 pounds. No hint of coma, excellent for planets and deep space viewing. Contact James Dire at dire@hawaii.edu





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

Peoria Astronomical Society December 2019 Minutes

The board did not meet in December.

Peoria Astronomical Society January 2020 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm, Proctor Place third floor conference room, January 15, 2020

Attendees: Dan Son, Jesse Hoover, Bill Cole, Phil Burroughs, Brian Hakes,

Minutes: (Phil Burroughs) The minutes of the November Board Meeting were approved. There was no board meeting in December.

Treasurer's Report: (Dan Son) – Dan gave both the November/December 2019 Treasurer's Report. The November/December account beginning balance was \$3,366.44. Receipts were \$70.00 and disbursements were \$124.25. Ending balance was \$3,312.19.

Jubilee: (Bob Pauer) – Bob emailed that the entrance road and buildings are in pretty good shape.

Northmoor – Dan reported that he received a few replies on the Northmoor Observatory cancellation policy. He said that the common theme of the replies was to cancel if it is raining. If it is cloudy and not raining, open for half an hour then close. No report on status of possible January wedding at Northmoor. The Peoria Park District approved a sculpture walk for Northmoor. Dave Pittman is in charge. There is a meet and greet meeting about the sculpture walk at Cyds, January 26 at 2:30 PM. Jesse requested that if the Park District was pouring concrete paths for the sculpture walk to possibly add a concrete path to the observatory.

Nominating: (Tatiana Johnson) – None

Legal Agent: (Dave Monroe) – None

Membership/Alcor: (Eric Clifton/Scott Swords) – Sara Wheeler was a new member.

Starlite (Jesse Hoover) – The Winter Starlite went out December 23.

Program: (Sheldon Schafer). – Sheldon emailed the upcoming programs. February meeting is on CCD and CMOS camera.

Peoria Academy of Science: (Bill Cole) – Bill will attend the next meeting, Jan 16. The annual banquet is April 3.

Light Control: (Jesse Hoover) – Jesse gave International Dark Sky Association his annual report.

Observing Report: (Gary Bussman) - None

Website: (Stan Pope) – None

Old Business: - Jesse reported on two possible replacements to Yahoo, Groups IO and Google Groups. Discussion followed on the merits of each. Both are free for the club to use except Groups IO will charge if large amounts of data are transferred. The club will probably not be doing this. Twin Cities Astronomy club uses Group IO. Brian made the motion to migrate from Yahoo to Groups IO and Dan seconded it. The motion passed. Brian made the motion to make Dan

Son, Mike Frasco, and Jesse Hoover administrators for Groups IO. Dan seconded the motion and it passed.

New Business: - Brian will be sending out material on how to cultivate members. Dan wants to get a list of telescopes that the club owns. Many have been donated to the club. The club can then decide what to do with them. Dan is also going to open a locker at Northmoor to see what is in it.

Bill made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Dan seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Minutes taken by Phil Burroughs, PAS Secretary

Peoria Astronomical Society Attracting More Members Meeting

Date – February 23, 2020

Place – Paparazzi Restaurant

Attending – Bruce Brown, Eric Clifton, Brian Hakes, Dan Son, Phil Burroughs

Bruce brought up the following ideas which were discussed to attract new members:

A sign could be added to the Northmoor Parking Lot with a historical aspect.

Student design art contest for adding murals to the side of Northmoor Observatory. A possible resource person on this would be Lindsay Coquette, art teacher at Peoria Heights High School.

Some other resource people would be May Wright of the Peoria Symphony and Jonathon and Nickki Romain at Greeley School.

Make a new Peoria Astronomical Society Brochure.

The PAS Board will follow up on the above items.

Meeting ended at 4:00 PM

Phil Burroughs

Peoria Astronomical Society Secretary

Peoria Academy of Science Memorial Scholarship

Douglas K. Holmes, Scholarship Chairman

910 E Norwood Ave
Peoria, IL 61603-1306

Dhlms12@att.net

309.682-3938

February 8th, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

The Peoria Academy of Science again invites you to sponsor one or more outstanding students for our annual scholarship award. Graduating high school seniors who will major in science at college next fall, as well as undergraduate and postgraduate science majors are qualified candidates. Applicants should be students studying the natural sciences and attending local schools. Academy of Science members are encouraged to apply. The source of the award is from the investment earnings of the Peoria Academy of Science Memorial Scholarship Fund. The \$1000 award will be presented at our annual banquet on April 12, 2019, at Barracks Cater Inn, in Peoria, IL. Awardee and sponsor must be in attendance. To nominate a candidate, please return the enclosed form, with a copy of your current grades, to me at the address below. Please send so that it will arrive no later than March 20th, 2019

I sincerely hope you will respond to this invitation and submit the application for one or more candidates.

Sincerely,

Douglas K Holmes, Scholarship Chairman
Peoria Academy of Science Memorial Scholarship Fund

910 E Norwood Ave

Peoria, IL 61603-1306

APPLICATION FORM
PEORIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

(Application due by March 20th, 2019)

Nominee:

Sponsor:

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

(circle preferred address: home or campus?)

Phone: _____

Email: _____

School: High School _____

(Please attach a letter of recommendation.)

College _____

(High school seniors list both the high school currently attended and the college to be attended in the fall.)

Character Reference:

Campus Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

Major: _____

(Attach a letter of recommendation.)

Grade Point Average: _____

(Attach transcript.)

Extra Curricular Activities (College): _____
Volunteer Work: _____

Career Goals: _____

Peoria Academy of Science Membership: Yes: Section: _____

Please return your completed application, letters of recommendation from your sponsor and character reference, and a copy of your latest high school or college transcript by mail. All materials must be received no later than March 20th..

Douglas K. Holmes
Peoria Academy of Science
910 E. Norwood Ave
Peoria, IL 61603
Dhlms12@att.net

This application form may be photocopied for distribution to potential applicants. A printout of a word processing document containing the same information requested on the application form will be acceptable.

Privacy: Copies of the Application and attachments will be distributed to the Peoria Academy of Science Scholarship Committee for evaluation. The winner's application will be forwarded to the Community Foundation of Central Illinois who will maintain the application on file and may release the identity of the winner to the public. All results are final and all applicants' information will then be destroyed. If selected, you will be notified two weeks prior to the banquet. If not selected this year we ask that you reapply! If you are selected the Academy, ask that you give us an update on where and what your plans are in the future. Any questions about an application should be submitted to Mr. Holmes at 309-682-3938 by March 10th.

Jubilee Maintenance Schedule:

Keyholders,

Attached (next page) is the maintenance schedule for this year. As in previous years I plan to go out to Jubilee during the week and let you know what needs to be done that weekend. The big issue is filling in pot holes on the driveway. When needed I will ask for help to fill them in. If any changes need to be made in your scheduled time for maintenance please let me know.

Bob Pauer

2020 Jubilee Maintenance Schedule

April 25
Gary Bussman
Dan Son

May 2
Eric Clifton
Bob Pauer

May 9
Jesse Hoover
Brian Hakes

May 16
James Dire
Dave Grebner

May 23
Brian Bill
Bob Pauer

May 30
Jon Crow
Brian Hakes

June 6
Brandt Bechtold
Dan Son

June 13
Eric Clifton
Bob Pauer

June 20
Jesse Hoover
Brian Hakes

June 27
Steve Russell
Dave Grebner

July 4
Jon Crow
Brian Bill

July 11
James Dire
Brandt Bechtold

July 18
Brian Bill
Bob Pauer

July 25
Jon Crow
Brian Hakes

Aug 1
Brandt Bechtold
Dan Son

Aug 8
Eric Clifton
Bob Pauer

Aug 15
Gary Bussman
Eric Clifton

Aug 22
Jesse Hoover
Jon Crow

Aug 29
Larry Russel
Dan Son

Sept 5
Steve Russell
Brian Bill

Sept 2
Brandt Bechtold
Larry Russell

Sept 19
Jesse Hoover
Dave Grebner

Sept 26
Gary Bussman
Eric Clifton

Oct 3
Larry Russell
James Dire

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: 309-879-2438