



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

SUMMER, 2011

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Directors:

President: John Barra, jbarra31@aol.com
Vice-President: Rich Tennis, rltennis7@dishmail.net
Secretary: Perry White, whitepe@hughes.net
Treasurer: Brian Hakes, bhakes@sbcglobal.net
Parliamentarian: Eric Clifton, ericjclifton@comcast.net
Nominating Chairman: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
Legal Agent: Mike Hay, me.hay@comcast.net

Editor's Notes: Articles may be submitted via two email addresses: ls_hay@yahoo.com or Starlight editor@gmail.com. Deadlines for articles for future 2011 issues are Aug. 17 and Nov. 16.

**Please note: We had one Starlite returned to us because the address label came off. If you did not receive the Spring, 2011 Starlite (in a yellow envelope) we will be happy to hear from you and send you one. Please email us at the above emails if you missed getting your copy.

PLEASE NOTE:

Please notify Scott Swords at sswords3@comcast.net if you will be getting a new mailing address and/or phone number. It is important that he has your personal information correct so you will continue to receive the Starlite and the Reflector. He would also like to receive any changes to your e-mail address as this is part of his database.

If you would like to join the Peoria Astro e-group or if you have changed your e-mail address, please notify Mike Frasca at mfrasca@att.net with your e-mail address. He does not need your mailing address or phone number. If you are not a member of the e-group, you may want to consider joining. A great deal of club activity information is sent via the e-group. And by the way, it is free to join!!!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Larry Wilson, Putnam, IL

Tatiana Johnson, Peoria, IL (The editors apologize to Tatiana for not including her in the last issue. We are so sorry. Welcome.)

PAS BOARD ELECTIONS

Elections for 2011/2012 Board of Directors will be held during the Sept. 17 at the Annual Meeting (picnic). Being a Board member is a rewarding experience that allows you to help "chart the direction" of the Society. Board members meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. If you have an interest in serving on the Board for a 1 year term, would like to nominate another member for a Board position, or just have questions about becoming a Board member, please contact Nick Johnson, Nominating Chair, at johnsnl@comcast.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

By John Barra

The prospect of having Carolyn Shoemaker as a speaker in Peoria is exciting to me. Especially since I was on a spring vacation in Gulf Shores when John Dobson was a speaker at one of our meetings. While we still have a few hurdles to cross to make it happen, at least we have a shot at it. Keep watching for updates on our email group to monitor our progress toward that end.

I wish to make two important comments on the effect Carolyn and this possible speaking engagement has on our society. First, remember that Carolyn and her late husband Gene with David Levy discovered Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 before it split into the many pieces that crashed into Jupiter during the summer of 1994.

The PAS had viewing nights at Northmoor to view the effect of that crash on Jupiter on that day and a few days after. I was not a member at the time but went to the observatory during one of those sessions. Among other people, I met Don Ware, who posted several internet photos of the crash and its effects on Jupiter, and Steve Wrigley, who was manning the telescope.

As a result of that viewing, I quickly joined the society. It was a great decision. I have made a great many friends as a result.

The second connection has been the way in which this opportunity came to pass. Larry Wilson, a Caterpillar retiree, recently went to tour Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. Charles Wendt, Deputy Director for Advancement at Lowell, told Larry of the plans to have Carolyn, a Lowell board member, go on a speaker's tour. He gave Larry his business card and asked him to deliver it to the president of our club.

Larry was not a member. He came to our May meeting and joined. He gave me Wendt's card and explained that Wendt wondered if we might be interested. I called him the next day and started the ball rolling.

I have been stating that we need to get more people involved in the club and the board. I have had more discussions with Larry Wilson since then about his future involvement with the club. New blood. New ideas

And it seems like we are starting to get more new blood on the board. John Crichton has just agreed to be our education chairman, a position that has been hard to fill. Nick Johnson, who is serving his first time as nominating chairman, has also taken the lead on the committee to revise the by-laws, a job long overdue. Nick also shows up to help whenever anyone needs it.

Finally, Perry White is serving his second year as secretary of the board. However, his real talent is everything. From getting his volunteer fire department to help lift our refurbished 14-inch dome back in place to replacing the garage door at the Jubilee warm-up room, Perry knows how to get things done.

Getting to hear Carolyn Shoemaker speak would be icing on the cake to get people inspired about astronomy.

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

Star Parties in Lieu of Meetings During Summer

June 11: Public Star Party--Northmoor Observatory (past 1st Q moon)

July 30: Members Party--Jubilee Observatory (new moon)

August 27: Public Star Party--Jubilee State Park-Prairie Lane Shelter
and Peoria Messier Marathon: Part II (new moon)

Possible Annual Meeting/ Picnic

Sept 3 (1st Q moon)

Sept 17 (3rd Q moon)

Sept 24 (near new moon)

(Meetings Back at Lakeview)

October 5: Open

November 2: Astrojeopardy--Gene Hodel

December 7: Great Debate VI: John Barra

NEW NORTHMOOR EYEPIECES

By Stephen Russell

The new visual back adapter has been installed on the refractor. The new AP diagonal with the 1.25" adapter has been placed in Rich Tennis's new eyepiece case. A quick note for all the keyholders at Northmoor Observatory, I have added labels to the inside of the new wooden eyepiece case which has the new Baader Hyperion eyepieces along with the new Astro-Physics 2" diagonal. The labels give the magnification and field of view when using these eyepieces with the Northmoor refractor. Now we can use the new 36mm Baader Hyperion in the 2" format without any vignetting for a full 0.67 degree field of view. Just remove the 1.25" adapter and insert the 36mm eyepiece. When using the Hyperion eyepieces they can and should **all** be used in the 2 inch format. What this means is that they can be inserted as is directly into the new diagonal. This allows you to quickly change out eyepieces when using the 36mm Hyperion which is only 2" format and then for example use the 10mm Hyperion. Therefore you do not need to use the 2" to 1.25" adapter that is in the diagonal.

Please also note that one should **not use** any 1.25" filters with the Baader Hyperion eyepieces at this time. This is to avoid possible contact with the mirror in the diagonal itself as the 1.25" barrel of some of the Hyperions are longer than other brands of eyepieces.

NOTE TO NORTHMOOR KEYHOLDERS (By Mike Hay)

Near the end of last year's Saturday public nights, the tailstock on the 9" was damaged. The damage has been repaired. As a result of the repairs, the procedure of setting up the telescope is slightly different. As a keyholder, it is your responsibility to learn the new technique and procedures. This can be done by making arrangements with Bill Cole or coming to the Saturday night viewing session before your 1st assigned night and getting instructions from one of that night's keyholders. We also have a new diagonal and all new eyepieces.

FROM STARLITES PAST

By John Barra

50 Years Ago

Summer Newsletter, 1961

"A clipping from a newspaper accompanied this letter. It pictures Harold (Belt) at a five-inch refractor, disclosing the wonders of the transit of Mercury across the sun's face."

I tried to see Mercury's transit of the sun in 1999 through a hole in the clouds, but the clouds never cooperated--even though it was sunny ten miles to the west. The next transit in 2003 occurred during the night, and clouds blocked out the 2006 attempt. We'll try again in 2016. Venus transits are rarer, twice every 100 years or so. The one in 2004 was great. A sunset partial will occur on June 6, 2012. We will all be dead during the following one in 2117.

"ROGUES' GALLERY: If you're not in already, you soon will be. Virginia Beckenridge, our membership committee chairman, introduced us to the 'Rogue's Gallery'. A fine idea for getting to know your fellow stargazers. Each member will have a classified card on file..."

Another idea was tried by Rich Tennis. He just completed a large map with members separated by zip codes. You can look at the map and see who else lives in your zip code area. Should be good for members to hook up for viewing--or carpooling with the current price of gas.

25 Years Ago

Summer Starlite, 1986

"First, an update on the Northmoor project. We were not quite able to meet the May 3 season opener, but we have come through with only a few hammered thumbs, no sawhorses cut in half....yet, and very close to the allotted budget."

We know what it's like have to rush a renovation to try to make a May opening. But I can't remember the last time I have even saw a sawhorse. Our 'Visitors' Center' renovation project under the leadership of chairman Rich Tennis is coming along great. That new ceiling sure gives it a 21st century look.

"I also want to thank Steve Stringfellow for organizing the Uranus party at Lakeview. We had good attendance; many members I had not seen in a long time showed up."

Sounds like another party we should try. And a Neptune party also. It's been quite a few years since we had our "See All the Planets before Midnight party". (It'll probably be quite a few years before we can see all the planets before midnight again.) But a party to view Uranus and Neptune would be great. Probably a lot of members never have.

STAR PARTIES

Star Parties in Lieu of Meetings During Summer

June 11: Public Star Party--Northmoor Observatory (past 1st Q moon)

July 30: Members Party--Jubilee Observatory (new moon)

August 27: Public Star Party--Jubilee State Park-Prairie Lane Shelter
and Peoria Messier Marathon: Part II (new moon)

ICC STAR PARTIES

The Astronomy classes at ICC will be hosted at star parties this summer and fall at the Jubilee Observatory.

Summer Schedule:

June 24 (Friday)
June 25 (Sat.-1st rain date)
July 1 (Friday- 2nd rain date)
July 22 (Friday-3rd rain date)
July 23 (Sat. - 4th rain date)

Fall Schedule:

Sept. 16 (Friday)
Sept. 23 (Friday-1st rain date)
Sept. 24 (Sat. – 2nd rain date)
Sept. 30 (Friday-3rd rain date)
Oct. 1 (Sat. – 4th rain date)

There is always a need for member telescopes at these events. The more members attending, the better the event is. Come out and have some fun observing.

BY-LAWS REVIEW AND CHANGES

The Board of Directors initiated a project in 2011 to review and update the PAS By-Laws. Rather than trying to review the By-Laws in their entirety, the review committee decided to break the work into smaller, more manageable packages. Proposed amendments to each package could then be independently brought before the Board for approval. Once approved by the Board, each package requires approval by the general membership. This approach allows the review to take place over a longer period of time and allows for membership approval to occur over multiple Society meetings.

The first package the committee chose to review covers the topic of amending the By-laws and the topic of quorums required for Society business decisions (including By-Laws approvals). This package covers Article X, Article XIV, and Article XV of the By-laws. The committee's proposed changes for this package were submitted to and approved by the Board on May 18. You will be asked to approve these changes via vote during the Annual Meeting on Sep 17. If any additional amendment packages are completed in time for the Sep 17 meeting, they will be posted on the PAS website at www.astronomical.org before August 16. Please visit the website at that time to check for any additional amendment change proposals.

Below you will find both the current and proposed versions of Articles X, XIV, and XV. These Articles are presented in their entirety – not just the changes. A description of the proposed changes is as follows:

You will see some minor word changes and section numbering changes that were introduced for readability or consistency with the rest of the document. The most significant change addresses quorums required to conduct PAS business (including By-Law amendments). The proposed amendment removes the requirement for a quorum of 20% of the entire membership to conduct Society business at meetings. This change is designed to allow for PAS business decisions to be made in a timely fashion. While this sounds like a major change, it really isn't. We normally meet a 20% threshold at regularly scheduled meetings at Lakeview and even more so at our annual meeting. The committee, however, decided to change the approval condition to "present and voting" to ensure that business could still be conducted in the rare event that the 20% of total membership is not present. Note that this new condition for making decisions applies to announced and scheduled meetings only. This should address any concerns of ad-hoc meetings taking advantage of this approval condition. Also notice that By-Law amendments still require 30 day notification to all members, that proxy votes will be recognized, and that amendment changes still require 2/3 majority of those present and proxy votes for approval. Two other noticeable changes are the addition of a listing of communication methods deemed sufficient for By-Law change notification and the deletion of Article XV as it was repetitive of Article XIV Section 1.C.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact any of the Directors via email.

Current	Proposed
<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE X QUORUM</p> <p>Section 1. Quorum</p> <p>A.. Twenty percent of members having the right to vote shall constitute a quorum at Society meetings held for elections, action on By-Laws and regular Society business.</p> <p>B.. Seven members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a Board meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE X QUORUM</p> <p>Section 1. Quorum</p> <p>A. Society members present and having the right to vote plus verified proxy votes received shall be considered sufficient to transact business at scheduled and announced Society meetings held for elections, action on By-Laws and regular Society business.</p> <p>B. Seven members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a Board meeting.</p>
<p><u>ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>A.. Proposed amendments of these By-Laws shall be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration and study. Approval by the majority of the members of the Board shall be required before presentation to the Society.</p> <p>Section 2.</p> <p>A.. Notice of the proposed amendment shall be given to each voting member of the Society at least one month prior to the date of presentation at the regular Society meeting or Annual Meeting.</p> <p>Section 3.</p> <p>A.. Adoption of an amendment shall require the approval of two-thirds of the Society members present and voting, providing that a quorum is present. Written proxy votes shall be counted provided they can be validated by the Membership Committee Chairman or the Treasurer before the vote is taken.</p>	<p><u>ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS</u></p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>A. Proposed amendments of these By-Laws shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration and study. Approval by the majority of the members of the Board shall be required before presentation to the Society.</p> <p>B. Notice of the proposed amendment shall be given to each voting member of the Society at least one month prior to the date of presentation at the regular Society meeting or Annual Meeting. Said notice and amendment content may be provided via regular mail, e-mail, posting in the Starlite or the society's website.</p> <p>C. Adoption of an amendment shall require the approval of two-thirds of the Society members present and voting. Written proxy votes shall be counted provided they can be validated by the Membership Committee Chairman or the Treasurer before the vote is taken.</p>
<p><u>ARTICLE XV APPROVAL</u></p> <p>Section 1.</p> <p>A.. These By-Laws shall become effective immediately by a Two-Thirds vote of consent of the Society members present and voting, providing that a quorum is present.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XV (Deleted due to duplication with Article XIV Section 1.C.)</p>

PAS BOARD MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS

March 16, 2011

The treasurer's reports for January and February were read and approved.

There was discussion about the lighting and electrical plans and the removal of the concrete pier at Northmoor. Copies of the bids from Foster Jacob will be sent to the PPD and PAS. Eric and Steve Russell are working on getting the focuser repairs under way.

At Julibee Observatory, Eric and Perry measured for a new garage door for the warm up shed and ordered it from Menard's. The door arrived and plans are to install it the weekend of March 19th weather permitting.

Bill Cole reported that the supply of business cards is gone. Perry moved and Rich seconded that we buy 500 more cards and that Bill use his discretion on the content. The motion passed.

Under unfinished business: Two years ago the By-Laws were reviewed and there was suggestion that another committee meet to review them again as many of the by-laws are outdated and they need to be simplified. There are ten pages and many are really operational guidelines and not by-laws. A committee consisting of John Barra, Nick Johnson, Eric Clifton and Mike Hay was formed to review the by-laws.

April minutes are not available at the time of this publication.

May 18, 2011

The minutes from the April Board meeting were not available.

Brian Hakes presented the treasurer's report for April. No discrepancies were noted.

Nick Johnson reported that John Crichton volunteered to take on the role of Education chair.

Bill Cole reported that the restoration of Northmoor is near completion. General discussion led to a plan to hold a key-holder training session.

Rich Tennis reported that restoration of Northmoor is 98% complete. Remaining items are a small amount of painting along the east wall, mounting of 2 plaques (including procurement of one of these), audio/visual additions, weather protection for the exhaust fan, and floor covering. Rich recommended delaying any flooring decisions until next year. Nick Johnson, with Rich's support, recommended that some expression of appreciation be given to the part district staff who completed the restoration work within a short time frame. Rich volunteered to host an observing night for the Park District Staff. John Barra also volunteered to send a letter of appreciation from the PAS President. Rich brought up the topic of procuring a sidereal clock for the dome. A motion was made, seconded and approved to table the procurement decision until the Society has a better idea of what is needed.

Eric Clifton announced the summer and fall schedules for OLLI/ICC star parties at Jubilee. Summer session is 6/24, with 4 rain dates. The fall session is 9/16, with 4 rain dates.

Scott Swords reported there is one new member-Larry Wilson.

John Barra provided a tentative schedule of programs for the remainder of the year. John requested deas for the program for Oct. general meeting.

Nick Johnson reviewed the By-Laws Committee recommended amendments for 2011 approval. Significant changes are the removal of the need of 20% general membership quorum for general meeting approvals, addition of communication methods deemed suitable for providing proposed By-Law amendments to the membership and deletion of an Article that was a duplication. Eric Clifton made a motion for Board approval. The motion was seconded and approved by majority vote.

John Barra polled the group for direction in pursuing scheduling Carol Shumaker from Lowell Observatory for a speaking engagement in 2012. The group recommended pursuing this event.

ARTICLE REVIEW

By Rich Tennis

I just finished reading the 1844 paper on "The problems of Variable Stars and the Argelander Method", written by Friedrich Wilhelm August Argelander in 1844. What a delightful paper! I can see how he convinced so many to take up the recording of variable stars. What moved me was this following concluding excerpt that would convince any amateur astronomer to contribute to the American Association of Variable Star Observers, A.A.V.S.O.:

"Therefore do I lay these hitherto sorely neglected variables (stars) most pressingly on the heart of all lovers of the starry heavens. May you become so grateful for the pleasure which has so often rewarded your looking upward, which has constantly been offered you anew, that you will contribute your little mite towards the more exact knowledge of these stars! May you increase your enjoyment by combining the useful and the pleasant, while you perform an important part towards the increase of human knowledge, and help to investigate the eternal laws which announce in endless distance the almighty power and wisdom of the Creator!. Let no one, who feels the desire and strength to reach this goal, be deterred by the words of this paper. The observations may seem long and difficult on paper, but are in execution very simple, and may be so modified by each one's individuality as to become his own, and will become so bound up with his own experiences that, unconsciously as it were, they will soon be as essentials. As elsewhere, so the old saying holds here, "Well begun is half done," and I am thoroughly convinced that whoever carries on these observations for a few weeks, will find so much interest therein that he will never cease...."

NorthMoor Observatory

2011 Hosting Schedule

May 28 Steve Wrigley Jon Wrigley Gerald Horst
 June 4 Rich Tennis Terry Beachler Bob Pauer
 June 11 Scott Swords Calene Fleming Gerald Horst
 June 18 Dave Grebner Dan Son Rodney Nordstrom
 June 25 Steve Wrigley Jon Wrigley Nick Johnson

 July 2 Bill Cole Brandt Bechtold Nerio Calgaro
 July 9 John Barra Mike Hay Brian Hakes
 July 16 Tim Lester Sheldon Schafer Rodney Nordstrom
 July 23 Bill Cole Dave Grebner Nerio Calgaro
 July 30 Phil Burroughs Brian Hakes Nick Johnson

 Aug 6 Rich Tennis Dan Son Bob Pauer
 Aug 13 Scott Swords Calene Fleming Tim Lester
 Aug 20 Steve Wrigley Jon Wrigley Phil Burroughs
 Aug 27 John Barra Mike Hay Dave Grebner

 Sept 3 Rich Tennis Rodney Nordstrom Bob Pauer
 Sept 10 Tim Lester Tim McGrath Gerald Horst
 Sept 17 John Barra Mike Hay Dan Son
 Sept 24 Bill Cole Brandt Bechtold Nerio Calgaro

 Oct 1 Rich Tennis Tim McGrath Nick Johnson
 Oct 8 Scott Swords Calene Fleming Brian Hakes
 Oct 15 John Barra Mike Hay Bob Pauer
 Oct 22 Terry Beachler Phil Burroughs Rodney Nordstrom
 Oct 29 Steve Wrigley Jon Wrigley Dan Son

Jubilee Maintenance Schedule - 2011

MAY 28 Scott Swords Calene Fleming Brandt Bechtold

JUNE 4	Brian Bill	Eric Clifton	Jesse Hoover
JUNE 11	Brian Hakes	Greg Neaveill	Doug Kasel
JUNE 18	Rich Tennis	Perry White	Steve Russell
JUNE 25	Dave Grebner	Mike Hay	Tim Lester
JULY 2	Scott Hay	Gerry Horst	Tim McGrath
JULY 9	Cliff Jeske	Scott Swords	Calene Fleming
JULY 16	Bob Pauer	Dan Son	John Barra
JULY 23	DeWayne Bartels	Gary Bussman	Mike Frasca
JULY 30	Brandt Bechtold	Brian Bill	Dave Grebner
AUG 6	Eric Clifton	Brian Hakes	Mike Hay
AUG 13	Jesse Hoover	Tim Lester	Doug Kasel
AUG 20	Scott Hay	Greg Neaveill	Steve Russell
AUG 27	Rich Tennis	Perry White	Gerry Horst
	< Prep for ICC Astro Class - Date TBD >		
SEPT 3	Scott Swords	Calene Fleming	Bob Pauer
SEPT 10	Dan Son	Tim McGrath	DeWayne Bartels
SEPT 17	John Barra	Brandt Bechtold	Brian Bill
SEPT 24	Gary Bussman	Eric Clifton	Mike Frasca
OCT 1	Dave Grebner	Brian Hakes	Mike Hay
OCT 8	Scott Hay	Jesse Hoover	Cliff Jeske
OCT 15	Scott Swords	Calene Fleming	Bob Pauer
OCT 22	Gerry Horst	Doug Kasel	Tim Lester