



Peoria Astronomical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 10111 Peoria, IL 61612-0111
Section of Peoria Academy of Science
Affiliate of the Astronomical League

www.astronomical.org

STARLITE

Winter, 2020

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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

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 Groups.io 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 Groups.io, you may want to consider joining. A great deal of club activity information is sent via Groups.io. And by the way, it is free to join!!!

Starlite Overview:

The “Starlite” is our quarterly newsletter for the Peoria Astronomical Society. In the starlite you will find beneficial information on dates and times of PAS member activities such as meetings, star parties, board meetings, and banquets. 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 Groups.io email group include the electronic Starlite and also receiving up to date information for star parties and other important communications from the PAS.



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2021 DUES NOTIFICATION

Your support of the **Peoria Astronomical Society** has been greatly appreciated!! Please select the membership of your choice for your 2020 dues.

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

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

Payment is due by January 16, 2021

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

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

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

Dan Son
Treasurer

* If you join PAS after August 31st, you do not need to pay for 2021. you will be carried over.

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

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

New Members:

The Peoria Astronomical Society welcomes new members:

Udit Verma – Dunlap

David Gitz – Peoria

Daniel Mc Fadded – Morton

Ken Adams – Dunlap

John Nowack – Pekin

Trenton Widmer – Peoria

Presidents Message:

You may have read that telescope manufacturers are having a banner year of telescope sales. It stands to reason that people's consumption habits have been impacted by the pandemic and have elected to spend more to see what is in the night sky. At the same time people are cultivating an interest in the night sky, the Peoria Astronomical Society has reduced its activities.

At Northmoor Observatory the PAS has discontinued the public observing program. ICC has canceled its classroom activities which prevents laboratory exercises (viewing) at Jubilee, the general members meetings at the River Front Museum have been canceled and there has been no request for public outreach. These all have been channels by which the PAS promotes astronomy education as well as encourages membership.

In spite of the obstacles, we have still been able to attract members. Zoom has proven to be a novel way for the PAS to provide programs to its members and to the public at large. Both Northmoor and Jubilee continue to remain open and available to members. As a matter of fact, I was at Jubilee a short while ago and I arrived after dark, never a good idea. I could not find an observing spot on the perimeter of the concrete pad and I was not the last one to show up. That night Bob Pauer had the 24" opened, its mirrors recently aluminized, and he was diligently working on his imaging equipment but what was really interesting was that there were three other members who were imaging with their telescopes. Each of these three were courteous, answered questions and shared their images. It is just fascinating to see what a small telescope can do. To think that only a few years ago that would not have been seen at Jubilee.

The pandemic definitely has had a negative impact, but it has also given people an incentive to explore the night sky and has forced the PAS to explore different ways to do astronomy. With cold weather approaching, going out to observe becomes more difficult, but if you do go out close to the new moon, you just don't know who you may run into. So this winter please make use of the observatories at Northmoor and Jubilee and remember both locations have warm up rooms.

Brian Hakes

Remembering Chuck Lamb

Chuck was very much interested in planetary science. He was a member in the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers and to my recollection he was the only member in PAS who I know was. But he did what Rolin Van Zandt hoped members would do and that was to use the 24" for collecting data with the purpose of doing science.

I got to know Chuck better through involvement in the photoelectric photometry group within the PAS. Photometry was a driving reason for making changes to the observatory. Chuck was instrumental in the installation of the track and mechanization of the dome but he was also involved with the automation of the 24" with Barry Redenbo, Don Ware and Jerry Gunn. Chuck and Jerry eventually built a prototype of an automated Observatory at Chuck's home in Hanna City. Later that telescope, an 8" Meade, would be relocated to the roof of Yerkes Observatory as part of an educational outreach program.

Using the photometer on the 24", Chuck would spend an extended observing run collecting data to be used to create light curves of asteroids. Not only would he follow asteroids but he also did lunar occultation photometry. Chuck was a dedicated observer, and after one night of asteroid observing, he was driving home late in the morning when he fell asleep behind the wheel. He ended up driving into a ditch. I only learned of that story when Chuck recanted it, but the whole time he was sharing it, he was chuckling as he did so often. Chuck was pretty even keeled and had a quiet demeanor but when he spoke it was direct and concise. I can only say that I am grateful for the time that I got to know him.

Brian Hakes

Chuck Lamb was one of the nicest persons you could hope to meet, an absolutely pleasant person to know and work with. One aspect of his service to the society, which was totally behind the scenes, was his support of the Interplanetary Bicycle Ride on behalf of the Peoria Astronomical Society. The ride was a collaborative project with Lakeview Museum, and he and Diane manned the Pluto Rest Area in Kewanee for 15 years, transporting a van-load of supplies to the YMCA in Kewanee, setting up and serving a hundred riders seeking sustenance and refreshments. It was a long tiring day, and he and Diane did it year after year. He was just so great to work with.

Sheldon Schafer

Starlite Editor

Jesse Hoover is the PAS Vice President, International Dark Sky representative and Light Control chair as well as being the technical advisor regarding our Social Media programs and a coordinator for outreach is willing to relinquish his role as the Starlite editor. He has been the editor for the past 4 years after graciously accepting the responsibility after the passing of Mike Hay.

One of the goals of the PAS is to define board roles such that no one should spend more than a cumulative 4 hours per month on their defined roles. Jesse is willing to relinquish his role as editor. As you know the Starlite is a quarterly newsletter and the editor can expect to spend 8 to 10 hours per issue one every 3 months. The editor is not responsible for writing articles, only for proofing, compiling and preparing them in a layout suitable for distribution. Just about any word processing software is suitable. Jesse used Google Docs, MS Word has been used in the past and Open Office is another option.

Should you have an interest and be willing to help and are willing to take on a role within the PAS you may contact Jesse Hoover or myself, Brian Hakes, with your concerns or questions.

Brian Hakes

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.

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 issue is always 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/gS85F>

OBSESSION TELESCOPES

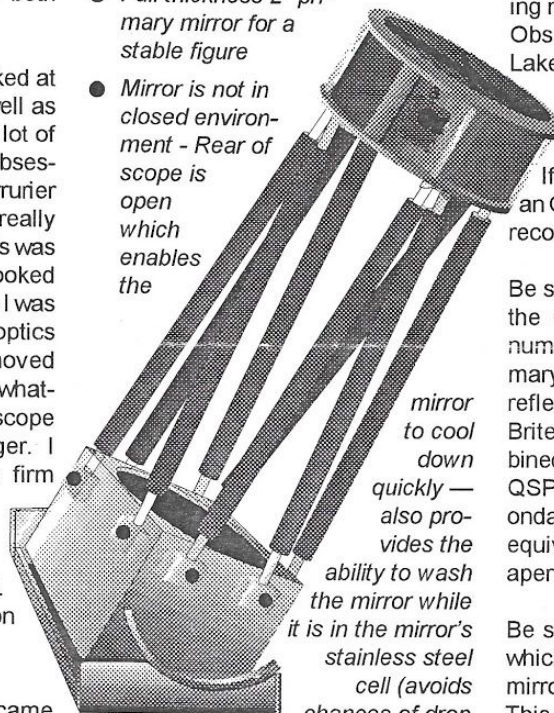
I have been in the club since June 1978, and my first scope was a Celestron 8. In 1980 I sold the 8" and purchased a Celestron 11 which is now for sale. Why sell such a great telescope? At times I ponder over this, but I have decided that I just want something different and an instrument with which I can easily pan the skies. The only type of telescope with which you can do this easily is a Dobsonian. A dob is a scope with no clock drive and no locking clutches in RA and Dec. The telescope moves freely in both altitude and azimuth directions.

While at Astrofest in 1994, I looked at the Obsession Telescopes as well as other dob products and asked a lot of questions. I already knew that Obsessions were the Cadillacs of the serrurier truss (open tube) dobsonianians; I really wanted to find out for myself if this was true. During the evening hours I looked through several dob models, and I was truly sold on the Obsession. The optics were superior and the scope moved effortlessly with no jerky motions whatsoever. As a matter of fact, the scope can be moved with only one finger. I was very impressed! I am a firm believer that you get what you pay for in this world today. Obsession owners also added that product support is excellent. Dave Krieger, owner of Obsession Telescopes, will do whatever to satisfy his customers.

While driving home, I really became more and more interested in owning one of these products. Within a few days I called Dr. Krieger and placed an order for their 15" model. Obsession also makes an 18", 20", 25", and a 30". They have discontinued the 36" - a real monster! The eyepiece is 15 feet above the ground when the scope is pointing to the zenith!

I took delivery in January 1995. I have used it many times in all types of temperature conditions and have been very satisfied with the scope's performance. I now want to list the reasons why I chose the 15" Obsession telescope:

- *Excellent reputation for being the finest Dobsonian telescope on the market today — optics, strong construction using superior materials, superb workmanship, and outstanding product support*
- *Ultra-low profile and very well balanced*
- *Portable, lightweight, and easy to setup and tear down — even in the dark. The entire telescope fits easily in the back seat of my car.*
- *Full thickness 2" primary mirror for a stable figure*
- *Mirror is not in closed environment - Rear of scope is open which enables the*
- *JMI NGT-3 Crayford focuser (focus movement is smooth as silk). Telrad pointing device is standard equipment.*
- *A beautiful instrument just to look at. Construction is made from furniture grade 12 or 15 ply 5/8" Baltic Birch.*



- *mirror to cool down quickly — also provides the ability to wash the mirror while it is in the mirror's stainless steel cell (avoids chances of dropping the mirror during the cleaning process)*
- *Velvet-like motion while moving scope in both axis*
- *Secondary mirror has a QSP EnduroBrite coating (full dielectric coating with 98% plus reflectivity), which is an Obsession exclusive at no extra cost. Because this is not an aluminum coating, it will outlast many others.*
- *Secondary mirror housing has an anti-dewing heating element already installed.*

I have touched upon some of the major points that led me into my decision to purchase one of these fine instruments. If you are interested in obtaining more information, you can write to Obsession Telescopes - P O Box 804 Lake Mills, WI 53551. They have a nice catalog and also a video tape for around \$5.00.

If you are interested in purchasing an Obsession telescope, I have some recommendations:

Be sure to spend the extra money for the QSP Britestar enhanced aluminum dielectric overcoat on the primary mirror. This coating yields a reflectivity of 96%. With the QSP Britestar coating on the primary, combined with the standard 98% reflectivity QSP EnduroBrite coating on the secondary mirror, the optical system is equivalent to an extra 2 inches of aperture.

Be sure to purchase the light shroud which covers the poles connecting the mirror box to the upper tube assembly. This not only blocks out stray light, but also serves as protection from having something drop down onto the primary mirror. This could really ruin your day!!

The NGC-MAX digital setting circle computer is a nice accessory but essential. If your budget will not allow for the computer and also the QSP Britestar coating on the primary, by all means go with the coatings on the primary mirror. This telescope is a big investment, so invest wisely by putting you money into the optical system. The computer can be added at a later date.

(Continued on Page 4)

50 Years ago:

NEW OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - ARTHUR GREBNER
VICE PRESIDENT - DR. CHRIST THOMPSON
SECRETARY - JUDI SUTHERLAND
TREASURER - FRANCIS TAUTE

PARLIAMENTARIAN - DR. ERNEST LANDON
NOMINATING COMMITTEES: VAN ZANDT, GARY FUGMAN, ANDY TIRITILLI

CALLING CHAIRMAN - MRS. H. KATZ (688-3924)
(IF INTERESTED IN BEING ON HER COMMITTEE, CALL HER)

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN - BETTE ONL

NEW MEMBERS

MARK FLESNER (JR.) PEORIA
STEVEN LYLE (ST.) PEORIA
DONALD WOOD, GALESBURG
DARRYL THIEN (ST.) ROCHESTER
JAMES ENSINGER (JR.) PEORIA
WILSON B. THOMAS (ST.) PEORIA
RICHARD STEUBINGER, PEORIA

REMINDER ON DUES

ACADEMY OF SCIENCE DUES
INDIVIDUAL (OVER 21) \$3.00
FAMILY 5.00
STUDENT (16 TO 21) 1.50
JUNIOR (10 TO 16) .50

ASTRONOMY DUES

INDIVIDUAL \$3.00
FAMILY 4.00

REMEMBER, THAT WHEN YOU PAY YOUR ACADEMY DUES, YOU DO NOT BELONG TO THE ASTRONOMY SOCIETY AND VISA VERSA - IF YOU PAY YOUR ASTRONOMY DUES YOU DO NOT BELONG TO THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE. YOU SHOULD PAY DUES TO BOTH.

PAYING YOUR ASTRONOMY DUES IS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO STAR LITE. UNPAID 1968 DUES (PLATES) HAVE BEEN PULLED. PLEASE SEND YOUR ACADEMY DUES TO MRS. BERT PRINCEN - ASTRONOMY TO FRAN TAUTE.

Peoria Astronomical Society

Program Schedule 2020-2021

Peoria Astronomical Society Public Programs

All programs are Free and open to the Public

Meeting are 1st wednesday of every month (except June, July, August (observing) and September (banquet))

Time: 7:30 p.m.

- October 7, 2020 Getting started with CCD & CMOS Cameras
James Dire PhD. – <http://astrojim.net/>
- November 4, 2020 via Zoom
Citizen Science Projects in Astronomy – www.zooniverse.org
How you can contribute to astronomical research
- December 2, 2020 via Zoom
Big Astronomy – the story behind the show (and the flat-screen version of the show)
Renaë Kerrigan
- January 6, 2021 No Meeting in January
- February 3, 2021 The Ongoing stories behind 2020's biggest astronomy stories
Dr. Shannon Schmoll, Abrams Planetarium, Michigan State University
(speaker via Zoom, meeting tbd)
- March 3, 2021 The Glasford Meteor Crater
Dr. Charles Monson, Illinois State Geologic Survey, University of Illinois
Monson, Charles C cmonson@illinois.edu
(speaker via Zoom, meeting tbd)
- April 7, 2021 (to be confirmed)
The New Horizons Mission to Pluto and the Kuiper Belt –
Exploring Worlds in the Distant Reaches of our Solar System
Kelsi N. Singer
Senior Research Scientist, SwRI Boulder, CO
Deputy Project Scientist and Co-I on New Horizons Mission
- May 5, 2021 All New Astro-Jeopardy II
Brian Bill
Or Big Astronomy - The Vera Rubin Observatory <https://fb.watch/1mQzbiQSWF/>

Incident 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.

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