



**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](http://www.astronomical.org)

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# STARLITE

*FALL, 2011*

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***Directors:***

President: John Barra, [jbarra31@aol.com](mailto:jbarra31@aol.com)  
Vice-President: Rich Tennis, [rtennis7@dishmail.net](mailto:rtennis7@dishmail.net)  
Secretary: Perry White, [whitepe@hughes.net](mailto:whitepe@hughes.net)  
Treasurer: Brian Hakes, [bhakes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bhakes@sbcglobal.net)  
Parliamentarian: Eric Clifton, [ericjclifton@comcast.net](mailto:ericjclifton@comcast.net)  
Nominating Chairman: Nick Johnson, [johnsnl@comcast.net](mailto:johnsnl@comcast.net)  
Legal Agent: Mike Hay, [me.hay@comcast.net](mailto:me.hay@comcast.net)

***Editor's Notes:*** Articles may be submitted via two email addresses: [ls\\_hay@yahoo.com](mailto:ls_hay@yahoo.com) or

Starlight<sup>editor@gmail.com</sup>. Deadlines for articles for the winter issue is November 16.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Please notify Scott Swords at [sswords3@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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:**

We welcome new members: Justin Wilkerson of Peoria and Bernie Porambo of East Peoria.

**SLATE OF OFFICERS:**

The following officers will be voted upon at the annual banquet on September 17 at Jubilee Park. Nominations made be made from the floor.

President:	Rich Tennis
Vice President:	Perry White
Secretary:	Nick Johnson
Treasurer:	Brian Hakes
Nominating chair:	Jesse Hoover
Parliamentarian:	Eric Clifton
Legal Agent:	Mike Hay

**BANQUET INFORMATION**

The annual Banquet for the Peoria Astronomical Society will be held at Jubilee State Park on September 17. We will meet in the Prairie Lane picnic area. A map of the park is on the last page of this Starlite. The Society will provide the meat and coffee. Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert to share. Attendees will need to bring their own table service and drinks (if you don't want coffee). The meal will begin at 5:00 PM. Following the meal will be a business meeting to elect new officers for the coming year. The slate of officers is in this issue.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**By John Barra**

This will be my last message as president of the Peoria Astronomical Society. It has been my pleasure to serve in that capacity for the past two years.

While none of us on the board agree on everything, I continue to be amazed how enthusiastic everyone on the board remains. Whenever something needs to be done, there are always members who step up to the plate to get things done--too many to thank each one individually here. But I do wish to thank them all.

It is also gratifying to have the new people on the board. When some of us older members get stalled once in awhile, they have been the ones with new ideas that keep us moving.

My highest priority at the start of my term--getting the 14-inch telescope back in operation--was not yet accomplished. But it soon will be, if not by the time this article is published, then in the near future.

The other priority, finishing the warm-up room at Northmoor, has been completed to the degree that it can be up to this time. I must thank our future president, Rich Tennis, for leading that project. Our new "Visitor's Center" should be a point of pride to our club.

While viewing the dark skies at Jubilee is always a special treat, I still get the most satisfaction in hosting public viewing sessions at Northmoor. While it may seem tedious at times, our efforts at making astronomy available to the public there should continue to be one of our main goals.

I never get tired of seeing and listening to the reactions of people who look through our telescope for the first time. That is what makes our effort so rewarding.

The highlight of all my years in astronomy remains the time a few years ago a couple of us lifted a handicapped girl in her wheelchair up to the eyepiece for her to view Saturn for the first time. Her sudden smile and the words "oh, wow!" said it all.

### **FUTURE PROGRAMS**

Star Parties in Lieu of Meetings During Summer  
August 27: Public Star Party--Jubilee State Park-Prairie Lane Shelter  
and Peoria Messier Marathon: Part II (new moon)

Annual Meeting/ Picnic-Prairie Lane Shelter, Jubilee State Park  
September 17 (3rd Q moon)

(Meetings Back at Lakeview)

October 5: New Lakeview Museum update by Sheldon Schafer  
November 2: Astrojeopardy--Gene Hodel  
December 7: Great Debate VI: John Barra  
January 4, 2012: Forty year anniversary of Apollo program (video)  
February 1: Astronomical Factors Driving Long-term Climate Cycles  
March 7: Messier Marathon – John Barra

### **FROM STARLITES PAST**

By John Barra

## 50 Years Ago

Fall Newsletter 1961

**“So far we don’t have any radio telescope at Northmoor, but there is a lot of other equipment that gets special care and attention from our property committee headed by Bill McCann. This past summer you might not have noticed how bright and shiny the observatory looks after it’s new paint job.”**

I hope everyone has had a chance to see how our new, shiny dome looks now and our new Visitor’s Center. If you haven’t been out to the observatory in awhile, come on out. The public continues to make use of those clear Saturday nights when the weather cooperates.

**“The Perseids meteor count was very successful right down to the very last sausage and pancake served in the wee hours of the morning.”**

Well, a near full-moon this year made a good shower impossible. As for the pancakes and sausage, I don’t think IHOP delivers!

## 25 Years Ago

September Starlite, 1986

**“As users of Jubilee Observatory, we are all too aware what “development often means: more light! Our concern over possible light pollution has been matched by fears of various conservation organizations that the development plan would cause damage to the natural beauty of the park (Jubilee College Stage Park).”**

While light pollution continues grow, I think the fears of the conservation groups were unfounded, except for the overeager guy who drove over soaked turf to put ruts in part of our lawn. Otherwise, the conservation groups have increased the beauty of the park and our area.

**“(During one of the Comet Halley viewing sessions) Between 5:30 am and dawn, the State Police, who were also on hand, estimated between 2500 and 3000 people had come out--half of them children brought not only by parents, but in two special busloads. There were over 40 club members on hand this time.”**

Wow! Between 5:30 am and dawn! Nothing more needs to be said.

## **STAR PARTIES**

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 fall at the Jubilee

Observatory.

Fall Schedule:

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

### **QUAD CITIES STAR PARTY**

Members of the PAS are cordially invited to attend the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Eastern Iowa Star Party, hosted by the QCAS on September 30, and October 1& 2, 2011. The event is located at the St. Ambrose University Observatory at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center. The site is just north of Dixon, Iowa about 20 miles northwest of Davenport, Iowa. More information about the Quad Cities Astronomical Society and a Clear Sky Chart can be found at <http://www.qcas.org>.

Cordially, Dana Taylor, President, QCAS [dana@nelsontaylor.com](mailto:dana@nelsontaylor.com) (563-508-3592)

### **MEMBERS STAR PARTY**

October 22, 2011 (Saturday) at Jubilee Observatory.

### **2012 ASTONOMY CALENDARS ORDERS: Rich Tennis**

Rich Tennis will be taking orders for the 2012 Astronomy Calendar at the PAS annual meeting & picnic on September 17 at Jubilee State Park (see details at Calendar in [www.astronomical.org](http://www.astronomical.org) ) and will continue to the November PAS meeting. Cost of the calendar, \$7 each, at the time of your order. This is about half the regular cost, \$12.95. Distribution of the ordered calendars will be at December's PAS meeting. They make great "Stocking Stuffers".

If you have received the Astronomy calendars before, you will know that you will be getting a very good calendar with each month having a stunning image of deep space objects. The days will mark significant events posted for your observing evenings, noted major milestones in astronomy and space that will spark your interest in astronomy, and those receiving one from you.

This year the deep sky images will include: Dust Pillar in Carina Nebulae (NGC 3372), The Omega Nebula (M17), The Lagoon Nebula ((M8), Pickering's Triangle Supernova Remnant, Vela Supernova Remnant, Dwarf Galaxy NGC 4449, The Ghost Nebula (Van Den Bergh 141), Spiral Galaxy NGC 7331, The Medusa Nebula (Abell 21), Star Forming Regions Monoceros R2, Spiral Galaxy M83, and The Flame Nebula (NGC 2024).

### **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 is 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](http://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.

	Proposed
ARTICLE X QUORUM	ARTICLE X QUORUM

<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>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><b><u>ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS</u></b></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><b><u>ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS</u></b></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><b><u>ARTICLE XV APPROVAL</u></b></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><b>ARTICLE XV</b> (Deleted due to duplication with Article XIV Section 1.C.)</p>

**ARTICLE FOR SALE:**

***From Rich Tennis***

I talked to the gentleman from Pekin that has this mint condition telescope for sale. He had it in

the Peoria Journal Star, but did not have a single call, except mine. I had called him to get the story. Dave Beuscher bought it upon retirement, but changed his mind on it after a short use of it. He is to have cataract surgery sometime in the future, but wants to start again with a smaller telescope later. I got permission from him to add it to our Starlite. It is to be as follows:

*"Telescope for sale - Meade 8-inch SCT LX-200 GPS Includes: tripod, full diameter sun filter, anti-dew shield, eyepieces - (6.4mm, 9.7mm, 24mm), f/6.3 focal reducer, "Bob's Knobs". Used only six times. \$2,200 firm. (309) 353-6311 Pekin, IL"*

**From Louis Carr**

*"My curiosity about what's out there in space led me to purchase a Meade MTS-SN8 telescope 23 years ago. I recall that the telescope was purchased from a store in Minneapolis and cost a bit over \$900. However, it has been years since I used the telescope since my neighborhood on West Lake St. in Peoria has become the location of numerous motels and shopping centers. The light pollution is terrific. So I've decided to sell the Meade MTS-SN8. I have two eyepieces for the scope and have also mounted it on a wheeled platform so that it can be moved about. The scope has been sheltered in a special sealed cabinet that I made for it in my garage and to the best of my knowledge is in good working order. I am asking \$600 for the package.*

*I can be reached at 309-691-8927 or by email at [lcarr@mtco.com](mailto:lcarr@mtco.com) and would be glad to show the package to any interested parties."*

**NORTHMOOR OBSERVATORY SCHEDULE**

2011 Hosting Schedule

Sept 3      Rich Tennis    Rodney Nordstrom    Bob Pauer

Sept 10	Tim Lester	Tim McGrath	Gerald Horst
Sept 17	Steve Wrigley	Jon Wrigley	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**

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