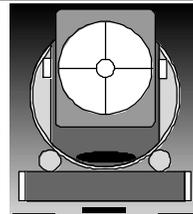


# STARLITE



The Official Publication of the Peoria Astronomical Society, Inc.

Spring Issue No. 157

March 2004

**PEORIA  
ASTRONOMICAL  
SOCIETY, INC.  
P.O. Box 10111  
PEORIA IL  
61612-0111**

**MEMBER OF THE  
PEORIA ACADEMY  
OF SCIENCES  
AND THE  
ASTRONOMICAL  
LEAGUE**

**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS:**

**PRESIDENT**  
Tim McGrath

**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
John Barra

**SECRETARY**  
Dan Son

**TREASURER**  
Mike Shelton

**LEGAL AGENT**  
Mike Hay

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**  
Mike Hay

**NOMINATING  
CHAIRMAN**  
Dan Son

## Transit of Venus—2004

*By DeWayne Bartels  
Times Newspapers*

Space has exploded into the consciousness of Americans in recent months. Sheldon Schafer loves that. But, it also presents the North Peorian with a big challenge. Since the close pass of Mars, last August, astronomy has been a newsworthy topic, locally and internationally. Just last week NASA put its second rover on Mars in a month. President Bush recently announced he wants to return man to the Moon and then on to Mars.

Schafer is vice president of education and planetarium director at Lakeview Museum. He does not have a degree in marketing, yet he has to compete with all this attention to astronomy to get Central Illinoisans excited about a rare astronomical event. And, by the time this event, called a Transit of Venus, comes around the question of whether Central Illinoisans will be suffering from space news overload exists.

That hardly spells a marketer's dream.

### What is it?

So, what is the Transit of Venus?

Schafer forgives the public for not knowing what is is. A Transit of Venus, quite simply put, is the planet, Earth's closet planetary neighbor, passing across the face of the sun. There has not been one since 1882.

Schafer hopes to draw a crowd of 800 or more, to Illinois Central College's East Campus at 5:27 a.m. June 8 to view the event. Getting the public interested in this historic event is a concern for astronomers world-wide.

Chuck Beuter, an independent astronomer, formerly associated with the Adler Observatory, is among those putting pressure on astronomers and educators, like Schafer, to make this event a big deal. Beuter will be speaking in Peoria on this event at the museum on March 3rd during the public meeting of the Peoria Astronomical Society.

In a recent paper, Beuter  
*(Continued on page 5)*

## PAS Website Redesigned

*By Tim McGrath*

If you frequently browse the web like I do, then you may have noticed the warning on our website. It is in the process of being re-designed, and it will soon have a completely new look, with the same great content. The transition should be complete in about two weeks.

The new website will be much more interactive. If you have clicked on the 'portal' link, then you have already gotten a feel for it. It will allow everyone post messages, news articles, and even photographs. We will also have the ability distinguish between PAS members and visitors, and customize the content accordingly. There will also be a calendar of events, and we are working on a new email distribution system that will eliminate our need for the Yahoo groups. It will soon be a one-stop-shop for all your PAS and astronomy related needs!

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Table of Contents

Transit of Venus.....	1	The Bulletin Board.....	5
Message from the Ansible.....	2	Monthly Program Schedule.....	5
PeoriaAstro@yahoogroups.com.....	3	Can You Spot This?.....	6
Of Starlites Past.....	4	Minutes of the Board of Directors.....	7
Astronomical Calendar.....	4	Observing Club Notes.....	8

## Message from the Ansible

by Tim McGrath



In my last message, I told you to read the book *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card to find out what an ansible is.

Since I'm fairly certain none of you ran out to buy the book, I will tell you what it means:

An *ansible* is a device that allows people to communicate instantaneously across the intergalactic distances of space. Of course the concept of such a device flies in the face of Einstein's theory of relativity, since it would require communication to travel faster than the speed of light. Hence the word is not very popular outside the sci-fi world.

But perhaps now you can see how it relates to my Starlite column.

---

Looking ahead to 2004 and beyond

Just this week, with the help of the Hubble and Keck telescopes

and the aid of gravitational lensing, scientists have discovered the most distant object known to exist - A galaxy roughly 13 billion light-years from earth.

With this first Starlite of 2004, many of us find ourselves looking ahead to the new year. But I would suggest looking ahead even farther.

Lately I have been giving some thought to what my role is as president. I view the president's job is to provide leadership and direction toward the society's common goals. But just what are the society's goals?



When I started, we were right in the middle of our NorthMoor Observatory restoration effort. The topic has been at the forefront of a lot of what I do now.

The fundraising efforts for NorthMoor are charging ahead. It is no longer a question of 'if', but 'when'. However there is this little

tiny voice in my head that is asking questions like:

Why is NorthMoor Observatory worth saving? There is newer and better technology out there. What comes after NorthMoor is fixed? Do we hang on to tradition, or do we embrace the future?

Who are we, as a society? Who do we want to be?

Are we merely a group of individuals who share a common interest in astronomy? Are we in it to serve the public? Are we in it for education?

Where are we going? How are we going to get there?

I encourage all of you to ask these kinds of questions of yourselves, and think deeper about the Society. I would like to hear your thoughts, as well as any other ideas or concerns you have. The feedback I get will help me as president to lead us in the right direction. I look forward to hearing your thoughts, and to an eventful 2004 and beyond.

Tim McGrath  
12124 N Whispering Woods,  
Dunlap IL 61525  
Phone: 309-370-7547  
Email: [president@astronomical.org](mailto:president@astronomical.org)

*...think  
deeper  
about the  
Society...*

**Starlite** is published quarterly during the months of March, June, September, and December by the Peoria Astronomical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 10111, Peoria IL 61612-0111. All rights reserved. Deadline for submission is the third Wednesday of the preceding month. Submissions should be directed to Jeffrey Pittenger, 721 Fillmore St, Morton IL 61550, or e-mailed to <[starlite\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:starlite_editor@yahoo.com)>. Any materials submitted to *Starlite* become property of the Peoria Astronomical Society, unless other arrangements are made beforehand. Except as noted, written and graphical material from this publication may be reprinted only for non-profit benefit of interested parties, provided specific credit is given to the writer(s), artist(s), and the Peoria Astronomical Society. Any other use of material, including graphics and photographs, is subject to express permission from the Peoria Astronomical Society.

### Editor-in-Chief

Jeffrey Pittenger <[starlite\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:starlite_editor@yahoo.com)>

### Contributing Editor

John Barra <[jbarra31@cs.com](mailto:jbarra31@cs.com)>

### Production Editors

Calene Fleming

Scott Swords

Michael Frasca <[frasca@uic.edu](mailto:frasca@uic.edu)>

Jessica Frasca <[frasca@att.net](mailto:frasca@att.net)>

### Layout and Copy Editor

Jeffrey Pittenger <[starlite\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:starlite_editor@yahoo.com)>

### Production Assistant

Alex Frasca

Neena Pittenger

Visit our site on the World Wide Web at <<http://www.astronomical.org>>



# PeoriaAstro@yahoogroups.com

compiled by Jeff Pittenger

*Here are some highlights from the Peoria Astronomical Society's e-mail group. If you are an active member of the PAS and would like to subscribe to PeoriaAstro, send an e-mail message to Michael Frasca <frasca@uic.edu> with the following information: name, snail-mail address, and e-mail address. You will be added to the group.*

A petition site, if you are of a mind to support Hubble:  
<http://www.savethehubble.org/petition.jsp>  
 It couldn't hurt and it may help...  
 -Dan Son

Dan,

It is an obvious conspiracy. NASA wants us to think thank it is too un-(or it is it in-) hospitable on Mars for man--which is really a coverup to hide the fact that the man on the moon has moved to Mars. Ha, ha!

John Barra

Greetings to All,

I have been looking over your site and Wow! I am very impressed. What a world of knowledge contained on it's pages. I use it often for information on various topics. We are in the process of building our site and building our club back to something we can be proud of. I have been checking out a number of our sister clubs around the country for ideas and I have been very impressed with your club plus the enrollment, you guys and gals are doing a great job. I would like to get your permission to use your "Missing Messier" list as a club certification program to help our members reach further to better themselves as observers. Of course any certification they would get would be called the "PAS Messier 2" certification in honor of your club. As you know our sister club just a few miles down the road in Saint Augustine created the "Herschel 400" club and that is testimony to clubs like yours to have that type of energy. I look forward to hearing from you and hope someday I will be able to stop by and check out your skies. Clear Skies  
 Mike Ramirez  
 Vice President  
 Northeast Florida Astronomical Society

Dear Sir or Madam:  
 I am an English graduate student at Bradley University. One of the requirements for ENG 500 is to contribute new pages to the

HistoricPeoria.com website. As I was trying to decide what to write about, I remembered how fascinated my brother from Nebraska was with the observatory on the Leo Donovan Golf Course. With the help of your website, I learned some of the history behind Northmoor Observatory, as well as discovered the presence of the Astronomical Society. I would like to submit a page about each and was wondering if you could tell me any additional information or history about the observatory or the society.

I would greatly appreciate any input you can offer and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.  
 Sincerely,  
 Clara L. Connick  
 (309) 243-9569

FYI

I responded to Clara granting her permission. Her follow-up note is below. Our page is not up there yet, but may be soon. I checked out the site, and came across their mission state-



ment. The link is :

<http://www.historicpeoria.com/mission.cfm>  
 This sounds like an ideal opportunity to show off our educational benefits to the public.

This website has the potential to reach people beyond those only interested in astronomy, but our historical significance as well. We should take this opportunity to show off our history, and our benefit to public education. This could go a long way toward our "importance" and may help with our fundraising efforts.

If you know of any material that would be suitable for Clara's article, please forward it on.

-Tim Mc Grath.

A note on full cut-off lights--in case I haven't mentioned this: the Peoria Universalist Unitarian Church (of which I am a member) will be building a new facility on west Richwoods Blvd, a few blocks west of the Sterling Kroger store. Included will be full cut-off lights in the parking lot. We seek to provide an enlightenment opportunity for people, not the sky.

Down with Light!  
 -Dave Grebner

Hi All,

Alan Chu (Hong Kong contingent) has released a superb lunar atlas in web-based or CD form, or may be downloaded as a printable book in PDF form!

Available here at no charge, courtesy of Alan:  
<http://moonbook.hkas.org.hk/>  
 Check it out... you will not be disappointed, truuuust me!

Tim,

Do you know anyone in the Astronomy Society who would be able to give a short presentation to adult scout leaders on how to get scouts interested in astronomy? A friend of mine would like to arrange something for his fellow troop leaders. Anyone who could do this should contact me and I will put them in touch with my friend.

--Dave

Dave,

I might be able to give this group of Scouting leaders some ideas. Is this a Roundtable meeting, or a troop leaders meeting? When, where, how many, etc.? Have your friend give me a call. By the way, I am a registered Merit Badge counselor for astronomy M.B.

Clear and dark skies,

Rich Tennis  
 309 467-3597

Found this old email thought some may like the information:

It's been a LONG time since I've posted to this group, but I felt it's time to get back in. I've updated my MS Excel spreadsheet of astronomical data and posted it on my web site. The spreadsheet contains the complete NGC catalog, Messier Catalog, Herschel Catalog, Bernard's Dark Object Catalog, Caldwell Catalog, Lynd's Catalog, RASC Deep Sky Challenge Objects, Dyer Catalog, SAA Top 100 and much, much more. The recent additions are the catalog of 150 globular clusters and the Filter Reference done by David

Knisely. The current version of the spreadsheet is 1.6. It's a 1.4Mb file, so be patient when it downloads. Here's the link to the download.

<http://www.starcrwrz.com/downloads/AstronomyInfoV1.6.zip>

-Dan Son

I happened across this www.ebooks3.com site as I was looking for the book "Two In a Tower". A book written in 1882, which has in it the experiences of an astronomer, who in his adventures views the transit of Venus. So, if you want to read the book, just go to the site: [http://www.ebooks3.com/cgi-bin/ebooks/ebook.cgi?folder=two\\_on\\_a\\_tower](http://www.ebooks3.com/cgi-bin/ebooks/ebook.cgi?folder=two_on_a_tower) Enjoy a writers experience of what we will, hopefullt see this June.

-Rich Tennis

# Of Starlites Past

by John Barra

## 40 YEARS AGO

Winter Newsletter 1964

"Probably no one member is more responsible for recruiting new members into the Peoria Astronomical Society than Dick Johnson. In his position as chairman of the Introductory Class, Dick has again added to our membership. We should all join together to give these new members a warm friendly HELLO."

*It is always nice to give special notice to those in past who have contributed greatly to our society. There is always a necessity to add new blood to any organization.*

*If you get a chance to meet a new member, in addition to saying HELLO, make an extra effort to get that new member out to Jubilee to enjoy a good, dark site.*

"Now let's take a look at the telescope we acquired. She was constructed in 1909 for use in the observatory at the Illinois Watch Company. Her nine inch lens was fashioned by the Gaertner Scientific Company by the same optician who ground the lenses for the famous physicist A. A. Michelson."

*This paragraph was a part of an article explaining how the Astronomy Section of the Peoria Academy of Science acquired the telescope. Read below for another excerpt on the telescope and lens.*



## 25 YEARS AGO

Winter Starlite 1979

"The 9" refracting telescope, housed here at North-Moor Observatory, was built by Mr. George F. Johnson.... He designed the equatorial telescope and, with help of company (Illinois Watch Company) machinists, made it in the watch factory, with the exception of the optics. They were ground by a Frenchman, Mr. Pettidier, in the laboratory of the Gaertner Scientific Corporation, Chicago, Illinois."

*It is interesting to find a historical piece about the telescope in both the 40 and 25-year back issues of the newsletter. As the society seeks help to save that telescope, we continue to stress its historical significance all these years later. See our web page as for an example.*

"President's Message: You might have not noticed, but this winter was not the type of winter that beckoned one from the living room to the backyard....Mike Hay, President."

*Hey Mike, you might not have noticed, but this winter was not the type of winter that beckoned one from the living room to the backyard. And do you think someone has said virtually the same thing each of the 24 years in between? While this winter was milder, it is always cold if it is clear. Despite my suggestions at trying winter observing, I must admit that I have done none.*

## Astronomical Calendar

March 6  
Full Moon

March 13  
Last Quarter Moon

March 17  
PAS Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
Northpoint Shopping Center Hardees

March 20  
New Moon  
Messier Marathon  
Spring Equinox

March 25  
Mars passes 0.8 deg. north of Mars

March 28  
First Quarter Moon

March 29  
Mercury greatest eastern elongation  
Venus greatest western elongation

April 5  
Full Moon

March 2004						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 7  
PAS Members Meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
Lakeview Planetarium

April 11  
Last Quarter Moon

April 19  
New Moon

April 21  
PAS Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
Northpoint Shopping Center Hardees  
Lyrid Meteor Shower peaks

April 27  
First Quarter Moon

May 2  
Venus at greatest brilliance

May 4  
Full Moon

April 2004					
S	M	T	W	T	F
				1	2
				3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30			

May 2004						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
						2
						3
						4
						5
						6
						7
						8
						9
						10
						11
						12
						13
						14
						15
						16
						17
						18
						19
						20
						21
						22
						23
						24
						25
						26
						27
						28
						29

Eta Aquarid meteor shower peaks

May 5  
PAS Members Meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
Lakeview Planetarium

May 11  
Last Quarter Moon.

May 19  
PAS Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
Northpoint Shopping Center Hardees  
New Moon

May 24  
Mars passes 1.6 deg north of Saturn

May 27  
First Quarter Moon

## Venus....

(Continued from page 1)

wrote, "For good reason, Edmond Halley declared, 'This sight...is by far the noblest astronomy affords.' With the transit of Venus comes an opportunity to witness nothing less than how we came to understand our place in the cosmos. So how do we as planetarians respond?" That is the question facing Schafer. He approaches it philosophically.

"It's a question," Schafer said, "of how shallow or enriched a person wants their life to be."

**Get interested**

Schafer is planning to go after both children and adults. The adults will be the target of stories from press conferences. They and children will be the targets of a planetarium show he will present for a month leading up to the event.

"The accessibility of this event to the public is so great," Schafer said. "For \$2 anyone will be able to get a pair of eclipse shades and view this. This is history. It's going to be about being part of something."

Schafer said he is not too concerned about all the recent attention on astronomy giving people news overload, blunting interest in this event.

"Mars will be part of our lives from now on. I think because of the rareness of this event people will be interested," Schafer said.

He is more concerned about reaching people only interested in the here and now, and having a good time.

"I don't know what sparks interest in people," Schafer said. "That's the challenge. "But, in most people there's a certain amount of explorer. For those people this event is going to be great. The Transit of Venus is the fundamental event that allowed us to measure distance is space. This is an opportunity to relive that."

In the end, though, Schafer said he has only one criteria for judging the success of the event locally.

"If I get to see it it's been a success," Schafer said, laughing. "But, hopefully we'll have hundreds and hundreds of people there with me to see it."☀



## The Bulletin Board

**New Members**

Welcome to:  
Royal Duncan

☾ ☾ ☾

**Work Party**

NorthMoor Observatory  
April 3 9:00 a.m.

☾ ☾ ☾

## Minutes....

(Continued from page 7)

Eric made a mockup of the desired door and after some tweaking it now works. Will build the doors now.

**Light Pollution:** (Rich Tennis) Bill Rutherford met with Rich Tennis and Eric Clifton and wants to change all the lights in the park to make it Dark Sky ready.

Bill Rutherford had another meeting with Rich Tennis, Eric Clifton and Clare Howard of the Journal Star for an article in the Journal Star about Wildlife Park's interest as a Dark Sky Sanctuary.

**NorthMoor Restoration:** (Scott Hay)

Meeting has been rescheduled for January 28th.

**Observing Club:** (John Barra) Get ready for the Messier and hope for some clear nights and warm weather.

**Program:** (Dan Son) Feb will be Prof. Holland talking about Mars.

March Transit of Venus.

April will be Star Hopping.

May Constellations

**Starlite:** (Jeff Pittenger)

Deadline for Starlite will be February board meeting, please bring in your

**Membership:** (Scott Swords) New roster is out.

Eric Clifton made a motion to have a copy of every new roster to be included in the minutes and also show who Friend's of the Society are, 2nd by John Barra. Motion passed.

**Website:** (Tim McGrath)

We are up and running on the new hosting web site. Will gradually get information on the site updated. Scott Swords said that the Sky & Tel web site had old information about PAS and will get them updated information soon.

We are thinking of making a CD of the web site and leaving it at Northmoor for anyone with a laptop to run the website during our Saturday evening viewings.

**Old Business:**

Will get the Audit done soon, next month maybe.

Logo design is on hold.

**New Business:**

Why have the membership dues not gone out yet, will contact Mike and send them out ASAP.

Bill (William) Morrow passed away in December.☀



## Monthly Program Schedule

*Unless otherwise noted, meetings will be held in the Lakeview Museum Planetarium, with all programs beginning at 7:30 p.m.*

**March 3, 2004**

**Chuck Beuter**  
Transit of Venus

**April 7, 2004**

**John Barra** = Star Hopping

**May 5, 2004**

**Dan Son** = Constellations:  
Cygnus, Saggita, Delphinus

**June 2, 2004**

Cassini Mission

# Can You Spot This?

## NGC 5466

by John Barra

Can You Spot This? *premiered in Starlite Issue #144, December 2000.*

You will probably have to wait until mid-spring when Bootes rises high to find this month's object. But the wait will not only allow you to find a globular cluster that is fainter than the Messier globulars. It will also show you an easier route to find a Messier globular cluster, M3 in nearby Canes Venatici.

To locate the target of our search, NGC 5466, begin by reviewing Chart 1 below. With a low-power eyepiece in your telescope, aim your Telrad or other finder at 9 Bootis. It forms a right triangle with Arcturus and Rho Bootis. Do not confuse it with 12

Bootis.

The key to this search, and also the hardest part of it, is to make sure that you have 9 Bootis in your eyepiece. It has a magnitude of 5.0. But there are several stars nearby with a magnitude of 6 or less. To confirm 9 Bootis, find the two nearby bright stars I have marked A and B. (see Chart 2)

While keeping the same eyepiece, slew your scope back-and-forth between A and B and beyond in each direction until you find one bright and one fainter globular cluster. The noticeably fainter one--by three magnitudes--will be NGC 5466. Obviously, the bright one will be M3. I have used other more difficult techniques before to find M3. This method is much easier, as

long as you can pick out 9 Bootis with your naked-eye.

To give you a better idea how far you need to sweep when passing your scope past stars A and B, I should let you know that NGC 5466 and M3 are almost exactly five degrees apart. Once you have located each of them, substitute a higher power eyepiece to be able to better compare and enjoy the two.

NGC 5466 is not only much fainter, it is also much smaller. When you look at M3, you should be able to resolve many stars. This globular cluster is one of the brightest and finest in the northern hemisphere. While you may be able to resolve only a few stars in NGC 5466, look at it for a longer period of time. You will be surprised how many stars you can actually resolve with high power.

***This method  
is much  
easier...***

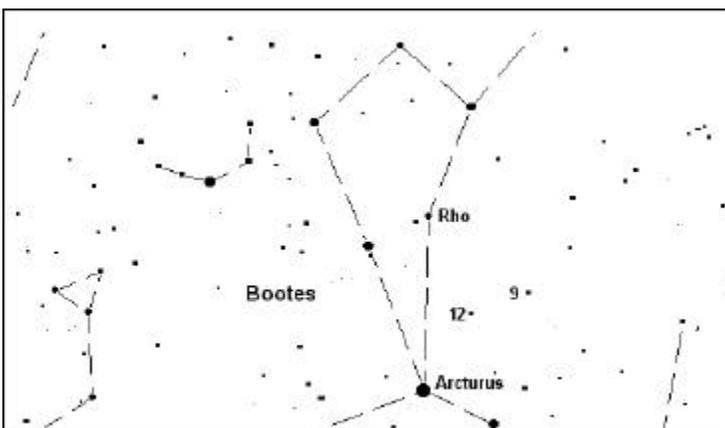


Chart 1: Low Power

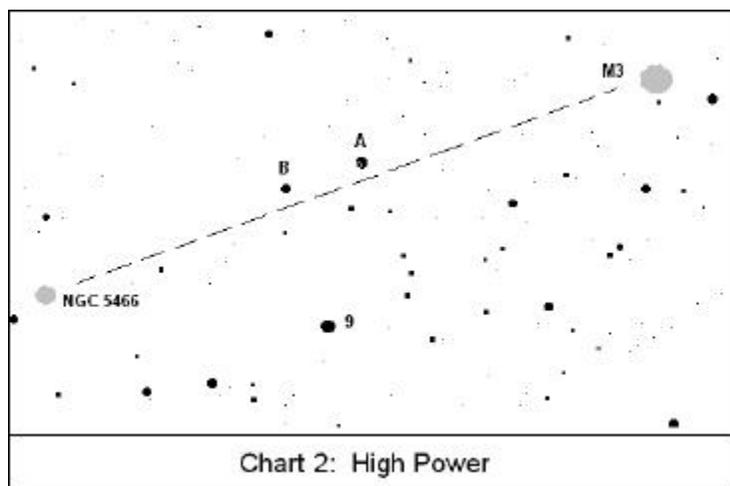


Chart 2: High Power

### OBJECT STATISTICS:

Name: NGC 5466  
Type: Globular Cluster  
Magnitude: 9.0  
Size: 11.0'  
Coordinates:  
14 hr., 05.5 min.  
+28°, 32 min.

### Website...

(Continued from page 1)

A special thanks to Don Ware, who has been the worldwide voice of the PAS for many years. His work and content is what makes our website world class by anyone's standards. Also thanks to Tim Lester, who got the ball rolling and set us up with a new web service provider.

Be sure to check us out at [www.astronomical.org](http://www.astronomical.org)



## Minutes of the Board of Directors

by Dan Son, PAS Secretary

Board meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the month. Those referenced below were held at the Hardee's of Willow Knolls Court in Peoria. Future PAS Board meetings will be held at the Hardee's of Northpoint Shopping Center in Peoria. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

### November 19, 2003

**Attendees:** Calene Fleming, Mike Hay, Scott Hay, Eric Clifton, Tim McGrath, Mike Shelton, Bill Cole, Brandt Bechtold, Don Ware, DeWayne Bartels, Jeff Pittenger, Sheldon Schafer, Mike Radigan, Rich Tennis and Dan Son

**Treasurer's Report:** (Mike Shelton)

Mike presented the Treasurer's report (copies attached) for the month of October. Dan Son made a motion to accept the treasure's report, 2nd by Brandt Bechtold. Motion passed.

Money is needed to pay for needed services. Mike Hay made a motion to cash in 1 of the CD's and put the money into the general fund, 2nd by Eric Clifton. Motion passed.

### Committee Reports

**Academy of Science:** (Scott Hay)

We were informed that we will now be paying \$4 per member to the academy; we do not pay for friends of the Society.

**Jubilee Observatory:** (Eric Clifton)

On October 18th the ring was bolted onto the dome. Thanks Tim McGrath. Tim Lester, John Barra and Rich Tennis.

Rich Tennis, JC Kline, and Tim Lester did final work on doors with measuring and cutting.

Edelstein group came out and had some good viewing.

**Light Pollution:** (Rich Tennis)  
Senator George Shadid is willing

to meet at Wildlife Park in January 2004. Senator Risinger will introduce legislation in January to make Wildlife Park a dark light sanctuary. Rich gave a talk to Lions club on general history of PAS with dome money needs.

**NorthMoor Observatory:** (Bill Cole)

We had 13 clear nights and 13 cloudy nights during the summer viewing session.

110 persons from St. Paul came out for a clear night of viewing. This was a 2nd grade class event.

**NorthMoor Restoration:** (Scott Hay)

On November 12th a meeting was held in East Peoria's Fondulac Park building.



Will be holding another meeting on December 10th at Fondulac Park building.

**Public Relations:** (Brandt Bechtold)

Lunar eclipse was a success and was on schedule.

**Starlite:** (Jeff Pittenger)

Deadline for Starlite will be February Board meeting.

Will get Starlite updated on the web site.

**Membership:** (Scott Swords)

We have 1 new member, Royal Publishing/ Royal Duncan

**Website:** (Tim McGrath)

Will be moving to our new service provider by the end of the year. Will work on new content after that.

**Old Business:**

PAS internal audit- not done will get a date set to do this.

PAS Design logo will be on hold till next month.

The new TMB scope that was donated to the society now has insurance on it.

### **New Business:**

August 14th is the tentative date for Lakeview bike ride. PAS will support this event with members manning sites.

On June 8th Venus will transit the Sun. Peoria will be able to see the event at sunrise for about 38 minutes with another 20 minutes of exit time. Dan Son made a motion to have PAS join Lakeview Museum in a "Venus Transit" event, 2nd by Rich Tennis. Motion passed.

### December 17, 2003

**Attendees:** Not enough people showed up for a quorum.

### January 21, 2004

**Attendees:** Calene Fleming, Mike Hay, John Barra, Scott Swords, Eric Clifton, Tim McGrath, Jeff Pittenger and Dan Son.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Mike Shelton)

Mike was not present. Will get a hold of Mike to get the reports.

The treasury reports need new members listed with their address and phone number.

We owe Peoria Academy of Science dues for 2003 and 2004.

Scott Swords has a 2003 roster and will mark off friends of the society so Mike can get a check off to the Academy. We don't pay on the friends of the Society.

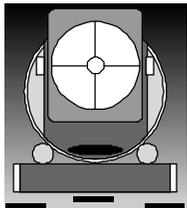
### Committee Reports

**Education:** (Nerio Calgaro)

Tim McGrath went to his daughter's 1st grade class at Mossville grade school and showed them the sun and daytime moon thru his ETX90 scope.

**Jubilee Observatory:** (Eric Clifton)

(Continued on page 5)



Astronomy Section Newsletter  
 Peoria Academy of Science  
 c/o Princen  
 677 E. High Point Terrace  
 Peoria, IL 61614

#157, March 2004

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 PEORIA, IL  
 PERMIT NO. 875

In This Issue...

Transit of Venus, New Website, ...Can You Spot This?, and more....

## Observing Club Notes

### Messier Marathon Set for March 20.

This year's PAS Messier Marathon is scheduled for Saturday, March 20.

However, instead of the observatory at Brimfield, the marathon will be held at Rich Tennis' StarHouse in rural Eureka.

Directions to the StarHouse will be available by our email group shortly before the event. You can also call Rich for directions. Anyone wishing to participate should start setting up by 6 pm. We will set up on the west side of his property to view the first fifth of the Messier objects. Then everyone can move to the unobstructed east side to catch the rest.

Observing checkoff lists will be

available in his garage. Sheets will also be available for those only wishing to complete one or more of our seasonal mini-marathons.

Remember to dress according to the weather conditions. Bring snacks to share with other members. There will be no official rain/cloud date this year. But watch your emails for a possible alternative date if the weather interferes with the primary date.

### Learn How to Starhop At April Meeting

I will be giving a lesson on the techniques of starhopping at the April 7 PAS membership meeting. This presentation is designed both for the new members and for those who have a great deal of observing experience.

If you are just starting out in astronomy and want to learn an easy way to

find your way around the night sky, please plan on attending the meeting which is always held at 7:30 the first Wednesday night of the month at Lakeview Planetarium. You will learn beginning techniques ranging from learning the constellations the right way to creating star maps to navigating the sky.



For those already experienced, I will teach some advanced techniques I have learned while trying to locate the fainter Herschel objects. These techniques include galaxy hopping, using asterisms for direction, and confirming the observation of the very faint objects.

*...checkoff  
lists will be  
available...*