

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, 2021

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Officers:

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

Directors:

Acting Parliamentarian: Dave Monroe, <u>dave.monroe@comcast.net</u> Nominating Chairman: Tatiana Johnson, <u>2gsheps@gmail.com</u> Legal Agent: Dave Monroe, <u>dave.monroe@comcast.net</u> Northmoor Observatory Chairman: Open Jubilee Observatory Chairman: Robert Pauer, <u>sbpauer@winco.net</u> Peoria Astronomical Society - Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/PeoriaAstronomicalSociety

Editor's Notes:

Thank you for supporting the PAS! We are always looking for articles from you, our members. I would love a picture of you and your scope, a short story about a past or future astronomy adventure would be a bonus. Do you have a new piece of equipment you love and want to show and tell us about..great!

PLEASE NOTE:

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

If you would like to join the **Peoria Astro e-group** or if you have changed your e-mail address, please notify Dan Son at <u>sonshine1992@gmail.com</u> with your e-mail address (for in-club use only – not given out to other sources). He does not need your mailing address or phone number. If you are not a member of the e-group, you may want to consider joining. A great deal of club activity information is sent via the e-group. And by the way, it is free to join!!!

2021 PAS Banquet Save the Date

October 2, 2021 will be the date of the PAS annual banquet. Like last year, the banquet will be a pot luck with everyone attending is asked to bring a dish to pass.

Under the bylaws of the society the annual meeting is called for the election of officers. As that was the case last year, but this year the agenda will also include the increasing the annual dues as well as any changes proposed to society bylaws. The PAS bylaws require that both of these items be presented before the membership to be voted on for approval.

The last time the society increased its dues was in the mid-90's. As we get closer to the banquet date a mailing will be sent to the membership. It will include more details of the banquet, a slate of officers, agenda and proposed changes.

So mark your calendar for this event.

Brian Hakes, President

Officer Nominations for 2021

Tatiana Johnson is filling some positions for the board and if anyone is interested we would love you to join us to observe and see how we work to get things done. We cant continue to do all the work to make PAS a great group without our members like you to help out.

New Members:

The Peoria Astronomical Society welcomes some former members coming back: Tim McGrath, Blake Norman and Ronald Pruse.

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

Notice: Meetings are held virtually on Zoom until further notice:

The application to be used for hosting the conference is Zoom. This app needs to be downloaded and installed on your desktop computer, laptop or on a cell phone. Zoom should work on most modern smartphones with a camera, or your PC and webcam, and speakers. The application can me downloaded from Zoom.us If you would like to join in, please contact Dan Son to get on the email invite: <u>sonshine1992@gmail.com</u>

Presidents Message:

This past month I had the opportunity to open and show Northmoor Observatory to 2 groups of small people. One group consisted of two boys with the oldest being 8 and wanting to become an astronomer. The boys were in foster care and were accompanied by their foster mom and a case worker from the Children's Home. Their visit was during the day and the focus was on the



telescope and the displays in the warm up room. Needless to say the highlight was when the boys opened and close the observatory shutter and rotated the dome into position. Had it not been cloudy I would have used the setting circles to locate Venus. The kids left the dome looking forwards to revisiting the observatory for a Saturday night public viewing.

The other group consisted of my 5 year old granddaughter and her family. The five year old wanted to see and visit an observatory. The night was good but there was no moon that evening and no planets were visible (at least before her bedtime.) While she was eager to see the cosmos, she was disappointed in that the stars were point sources and did not have the 5 points depicted in illustrations! However, she was overwhelmed by the enormity of the telescope as well as being able to operate the dome, or as she said "moving the roof."

Image by Alison Wikoff Astronomy. " One of the best ways to do that is show young people the night sky and solar system objects through the 9" at Donovan. By itself, that is a significant reason why Northmoor Observatory is important not to just the PAS but to Peoria as well.

The public observing program requires three people for each evening. When there are enough members who volunteer that means each person would have about 3 sessions a season with each session lasting about 4 hours. So over the course of a one year a season commitment equates to about 12 hours annually. Most notably, it is not even hard work! All it does, is take a small commitment of time and requires minimal interpersonal skills while interacting with a public interested in the night sky. So please consider offering a hand for Saturday night viewing, you are welcomed to simply show up but better yet contact Dan Son and ask to be either a substitute or be assigned to a scheduled evening.

Brian Hakes,

President

Some photos from Member John Nowack:



This is one of my first astro pictures besides just sticking a camera on a tripod.... Taken on August 14, 2020 with a Pentax K3 with a 200mm lens on a Star Adventurer tracker. NGC7000 is almost recognizable. Really like the purple stars....



Same NGC7000 taken on November 1-2, 2020 using a WO Z73 with a ZWO ASI071MC-Pro camera on a HEQ5 mount. The stars are not purple.....



My first foray into HOO processing. C49, taken March 12, 2021 — same equipment as above plus ZWO Duoband filter.

I've gotten a lot of great advice and help from folks like Dr. Dire and Dr. Armstrong and a lot of other helpful folks at Jubilee who are nice enough to take time to answer questions.

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.

<u>Reflector :</u>

Reflector Magazine digital edition is available for download You may access an archive of digital issues from the AL website by visiting: <u>https://www.astroleague.org/reflector</u>

NCRAL Newsletter:

The North-Central Region of the Astronomical League (NCRAL) is made up of member societies... the six states commonly thought of as the Upper Midwest of the USA, plus the Upper Peninsula of the state of Michigan.

The PAS is a member of the NCRAL. Their Region Newsletter, also named "Northern Lights", has been resurrected and is better than ever! The latest **Spring 2021** issue is now available to read on their website can be found here: <u>https://ncral.wordpress.com/newsletter-archive/</u> You can access the current issue and all other back issues through this link. 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: <u>carlwenning@gmail.com</u>

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: <u>https://goo.gl/gsS8SF</u>

Peoria Astronomical Society

Program Schedule 2021–2022 1st Draft. (svZ-speaker via Zoom)

October 6, 2021	Tour of the new Digistar Planetarium System Renae Kerrigan
November 3, 2021	Something interesting by Dr. Jim James Dire PhD http://astrojim.net/
December 1, 2021	Will ask university astronomer (Dr. Matt Caplin, ISU or Dr. Scott Gaudi, OSU tbc)(svZ)
January 5, 2022	No Meeting in January
February 2, 2022	The Ongoing stories behind 2021's biggest astronomy stories Dr. Shannon Schmoll, Abrams Planetarium, Michigan State University (svZ)
March 2, 2022	Online Telescopes at SLOOH.com or Amateur Radio Astronomy, tutorials from YouTube
April 6, 2022	Will ask NASA (Patricia Moore, Artemis Mission to be considered)(svZ)
May 4, 2022	All New Astro-Jeopardy II by Brian Bill

Program Schedule 2021-2022

Peoria Astronomical Society Public Programs All programs are Free and open to the Public. Time: 7:30 p.m. All programs are held in the Dome at the Peoria Riverfront Museum Free parking in the museum's parking deck

Inclement weather notice: Monitor email (e-group), local radio stations or PAS Facebook Page if a program, board meeting, viewing, or star party may be canceled due to weather. If we determine a risk in the weather, the Society will cancel the event.

If we host an event and you feel the weather or road conditions are questionable, please take the safest actions and do not attend the event.

Note on Science Treasure hunt:

Northmoor is open and we are doing the Science Treasury Hunt with the Peoria Academy of Science. We have 3 questions that the hunters must answer and the answers are found in the warm up room at Northmoor. The questions are: 1) What is the name of the latest Mars Rover?

1) what is the name of the latest Mars Rover?

2) NASA's newest Rover landed in what Crater?

3) What Telescope will be the successor to the Hubble Telescope?

The website the PAofS is using can be found here:

https://sandbox.sciencetreasurehunt.org/sites

The students take their answers to the web site and click on PAS link, insert their answer and the link will tell them if they are correct.

Northmoor Hosting Schedule 2021 - Dan Son

Date:	Keyholder	Helper 1	Helper 2
June 5	T Beachler	B Austin	D Son
June 12	S Schafer	B Bechtold	J Lyle
June 19	B Hakes	J Crow	B Pauer
June 26	G Horst	D Grebner	J Hoover
July 3	P Burroughs	T Widmer	E Samaha
July 10	B Cole	B Bill	K Adams
July 17	D Son	J Hoover	L Reeves
July 24	T Beachler	S Schafer	B Austin
July 31	B Hakes	J Crow	B Bechtold

Date:	Keyholder	Helper 1	Helper 2
Aug 7	D Son	E Samaha	D Grebner
Aug 14	P Burroughs	J Lyle	J Hoover
Aug 21	S Schafer	B Hakes	E Samaha
Aug 28	B Cole	J Crow	T Widmer
Sept 4	B Pauer	G Horst	B Austin
Sept 11	D Son	K Adams	B Bill
Sept 18	B Hakes	J Crow	J Hoover
Sept 25	T Beachler	B Cole	T Widmer
Oct 2	P Burroughs	L Reeves	K Adams
Oct 9	B Pauer	D Grebner	B Bill
Oct 16	D Son	J Lyle	G Horst

If you have a conflict with any dates, let me know as early as possible and ask the Northmoor group for help to switch dates with another member. Everyone has 3 dates this year.

Observe the Moon night is September 11th with the Peoria Public Library, save the date and bring out a scope to Northmoor.

The Jubilee Maintenance Schedule:

Keyholders,

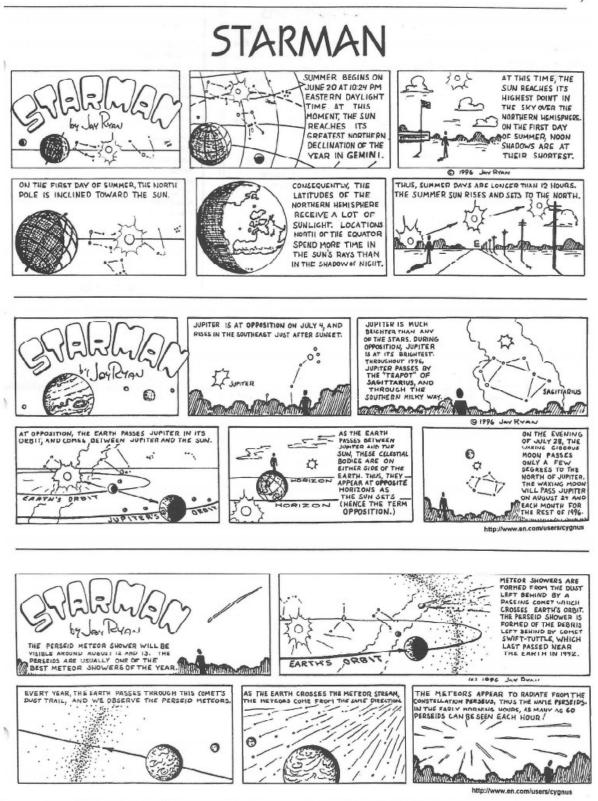
Attached (next page) is the maintenance schedule for this year. As in previous years I plan to go out to Jubilee during the week and let you know what needs to be done that weekend. The big issue is filling in pot holes on the driveway. When needed I will ask for help to fill them in. If any changes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

2021 Jubilee Maintenance Schedule

May 1 Eric Clifton	May 10 Jesse Hoover	May 15 James Dire	
Bob Pauer	Brian Hakes	Steve Russell	
May 22 Gary Bussman Brian Hakes	May 22 Jon Crow Dan Son	June 5 Brandt Bechtold Brian Bill	June 12 Bob Pauer Jesse Hoover
June 19 Gary Bussman Brian Hakes	June 26 Steve Russell Dan Son	July 3 Jon Crow Eric Clifton	July 10 James Dire Brandt Bechtold
July 17	July 24	July31	Aug 7
Brian Bill	Jon Crow	Brandt Bechtold	Eric Clifton
Bob Pauer	Brian Hakes	Dan Son	Bob Pauer
Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 28	Sept 4
Gary Bussman	Jesse Hoover	Steve Russell	James Dire
Eric Clifton	Jon Crow	Brian Bill	Dan Son
Sept 11	Sept 18	Sept 25	Oct 2
Brandt Bechtold	Gary Bussman	Jesse Hoover	Bob Pauer
Steve Russell	Brian Bill	Eric Clifton	James Dire

Responsibilities: Check each building to insure security of equipment. Sweep floors, mow lawn and trim around buildings, blow or sweep off grass clippings from walkways. Mowing once a week will help prevent clumping and the need to sweep up clumps. Bring gas to top off mower tank. Currently there is no line trimmer at Jubilee. Since only two people are scheduled each week, it is **imperative** they insure that someone goes to Jubilee and perform scheduled tasks. Please notify me of any schedule conflicts or problems with the equipment.

Bob Pauer: 309-879-2438



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Peoria

Astronomical Society March 2021 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm, Zoom Meeting, March 17, 2021

Attendees: Dan Son, Phil Burroughs, Brian Hakes, Bill Cole, Sheldon Schafer, Bob Pauer, Dave Monroe, Eric Clifton

Minutes: (Phil Burroughs) The minutes of the February Board Meeting were approved on a motion by Dan.

Treasurer's Report: (Dan Son) – Dan submitted the February Treasurer's report. Receipts were \$ 210.00 and disbursements were & \$ 80.82. Dan will be sending out the final due's reminders to 19 members. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Jubilee: (Bob Pauer) – Bob finished his Jubilee Survey. The improvements people wanted made and their rank are as follows: 1. Red light in outhouse. 2. Upgrade electronics on 24" scope, 3. Grade driveway, 4. Repair outhouse door and install sanitizer, 5. new focusers for telescopes. The hand controller is not working on the 14" scope. Bob and Dave are going to try Dave's controller to verify the hand controller is not working. Eric made the motion to replace the hand controller based upon Bob and Dave's testing. It was seconded by Dan and passed. Bob is going to set a work day for Jubilee. Eric would like an inventory of the TMB eyepieces.

Northmoor: (Dan Son) – Dan hasn't been out to Northmoor lately and is concerned whether the dehumidifier is working. Several groups have reserved viewing nights at Northmoor. Dan is going send out the host schedule based upon a June start date but the opening will be determined by Covid 19 protocol. Safe practices will be based upon Covid 19 protocol. The Park district is meeting tomorrow with the amphitheater developed. Sheldon saw Robert Johnson the Park Board president and discussed with him the PAS concern with the amphitheater. The Central Illinois Landmark Foundation is interested in making Northmoor Observatory a CILF Landmark. Eric made the motion to make Northmoor a CILF Landmark. Dan seconded the motion and it passed.

Nominating: (Tatiana Johnson) – None

Legal Agent: (Dave Monroe) - None

Membership/Alcor: (Eric Clifton/Scott Swords) – One new member is Tim McGraff who used to be a member but now lives in Colorado.

Starlite (Jesse Hoover) – The club is still looking for an editor. The Spring Edition articles are due tonight.

Program: (Sheldon Schafer). – Shelden has sent out the latest program schedule for the year. April meeting will include members sharing interesting photographs.

Peoria Academy of Science: (Bill Cole) – Dan has provided three questions for this years treasure hunt.

Light Control: (Jesse Hoover) – None

Website: (Stan Pope) Dan wants to keep website simple so it won't need constant updates.

Old Business: None

New Business: Banquet will probably be a picnic in Sept. or early Oct.. NCAI is looking for candidates for election in early May.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Peoria Astronomical Society April 2021 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm, Zoom Meeting, April 21, 2021

Attendees: Dan Son, Phil Burroughs, Brian Hakes, Bill Cole, Sheldon Schafer, Eric Clifton

Minutes: (Phil Burroughs) The minutes of the March Board Meeting were approved on a motion by Dan and seconded by Brian.

Treasurer's Report: (Dan Son) – Dan submitted the February Treasurer's report. Receipts were \$ 630.00 and disbursements were & \$218.73. Twelve members have still not paid. The Treasurer's Report was approved. Sheldon brought up that we may want to invest the club's money in the Central Illinois Community Foundation for a greater return. Dan needs to send a 990 form to the IRS. Brian wants to discuss raising the dues at the next meeting/

Jubilee: (Bob Pauer) – Dan talked to Bob. Bob has sent out the mowing schedule and the mower is running.

Northmoor: (Dan Son) – The Peoria Park District has met with the developers but had no news except that the developers would like to meet with the PAS. The amphitheater would be in operation in $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 years at the earliest if it were to take place. On August 12, Sheldon has a bike ride that will end at the Donovan Sculpture Garden and Observatory. The Central Illinois Landmark Foundation will contact the Peoria Park District about making the Northmoor Observatory a Central Illinois Landmark. A discussion followed on the steps to keep people safe when the Observatory reopens. The recommendations were: require all to wear masks, line would form outside, only one family admitted at a time, and disinfect after each family. Eric made the motion and Shelden seconded it to buy 2 low cost eyepieces which could be easily cleaned. Eric has Perry White's old scope which has some eyepieces that could be used instead of buying eyepieces.

Nominating: (Tatiana Johnson) - None

Legal Agent: (Dave Monroe) – None

Membership/Alcor: (Eric Clifton/Scott Swords) – Eric said Terry Goodheart passed away. Terry had provided from Caterpillar the 24" scope's stepper motor translators (driver electronics) which were being scrapped.

Starlite (Jesse Hoover/Dan Son) – The E-groups is working fine

Program: (Sheldon Schafer). – October meeting will be on the Digistar Planetarium and Nov. will be a James Dire presentation on building a small observatory.

Peoria Academy of Science: (Bill Cole) –Monthly meeting is a Zoom meeting. Bill informed them of the proposed Northmoor Amphitheater.

Light Control: (Jesse Hoover) – Brian wants to talk to Jesse about shielding Cyd's lights.

Website: (Stan Pope) Dan has made some changes and wants Board to see if they like the changes.

Old Business: None

New Business: The PAS Banquet will be a picnic on Sept. 11 or Oct. 2 or 3. Banquet discussion will be at the next meeting. Brian informed the club he is moving to Wisconsin in Sept.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm. On a motion by Eric and seconded by Eric.

Peoria Astronomical Society May 2021 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm, Zoom Meeting, May 19, 2021

Attendees: Dan Son, Phil Burroughs, Brian Hakes, Bill Cole, Sheldon Schafer, Eric Clifton, Dave Monroe, Tatiana Johnson, Stan Pope, Rodney Nordstrom, Andrew Horton, John Manney

Minutes: (Phil Burroughs) The minutes of the April Board Meeting were approved as revised.

Treasurer's Report: (Dan Son) – Dan said we had \$ 13,591.94 in the savings account and \$ 5,203.19 in the checking account. There were 11 members who have not paid their dues and they will be removed from the roster. Brian said he will call some of these 11. Brian suggested we should think about raising the dues. Eric said if we raise the dues, it should be voted on at the banquet. Eric said Dan should communicate some of our expenses to the members.

Jubilee: (Bob Pauer) – Bob has ordered a solar powered light for the outhouse. Jesse repaired the driveway. Meade telescope is working in the small dome.

Northmoor: (Dan Son) – A Girl Scout Troop canceled viewing because of clouds. Dan trained Ken Adams on telescope operation. Disinfectant has been purchased. Northmoor is scheduled to open in June. Perry White's eyepieces, 10mm – 36mm will be used and cleaned with alcohol between viewings. No updates on the proposed amphitheater. Eric sent a letter to Emily Cahill on landmark status for Northmoor observatory and has not received a reply. Amphitheater discussion tabled.

Nominating: (Tatiana Johnson) – Tatiana invited some members to tonight's meeting in the hopes of getting them to serve on the PAS Board.

Legal Agent: (Dave Monroe) - None

Membership/Alcor: (Eric Clifton/Scott Swords) – Scott has the PAS Roster Database. Eric said he has the backup and suggested Dan also back it up.

Starlite (Jesse Hoover/Dan Son) – Starlite deadline for articles is this month.

Program: (Sheldon Schafer). – Sheldon would like his schedule e-mail attached to the minutes.

Peoria Academy of Science: (Bill Cole) – Bill said next meeting is tomorrow.

Light Control: (Jesse Hoover) – None

Website: (Stan Pope) Stan reported that the web site and other material including the roster could be backed up for \$33 per year. Eric made the motion to spend the \$33 for the backup. Dan seconded it and the motion passed.

Old Business: Dan made the motion to have the PAS Banquet Oct 2 at Jubilee. Eric seconded it and the motion passed.

New Business: The Kickapoo Creek Festival is to be August 14 at Wildlife Prairie Park. Sheldon has volunteered to lead a group viewing the night sky. Brian made the motion that PAS be a sponsor. Dan seconded the motion and it passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.