



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, 2014

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Directors:

President: Dan Son, sonshine1992@gmail.com
Vice-President: Jesse Hoover, hooverje@gmail.com
Secretary: Tatiana Johnson, 2gsheps@gmail.com
Treasurer: Brian Hakes, bhakes02@comcast.net
Parliamentarian: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
Nominating Chairman: Rich Tennis, rltennis7@gmail.com
Legal Agent: Mike Hay, me.hay@comcast.net
Northmoor Chairman: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
Jubilee Chairman: Robert Pauer, sbpauer@winco.net

PEORIA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/PeoriaAstronomicalSociety

Editor's Notes: Starlite Editors: Mike and Linda Hay: me.hay@comcast.net or ls_hay@yahoo.com (little L not #1 and underscore between s and h)

Articles may be submitted to Linda via email addresses: ls_hay@yahoo.com
Deadlines for articles for the 2015 publications are: February 18, 2015, May 20, August 19 and November 18. (Please submit all articles in a **WORD** format. I have an older Windows XP desktop computer that is using Word 2000. Files sent as PDF files cannot be read on it.) I appreciate the cooperation with meeting the deadlines. It makes my job so much easier. Thank you.

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 e-group or if you have changed your e-mail address, please notify Mike Frasca at mfrasca@att.net 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!!!

NEW MEMBERS:

The Peoria Astronomical Society welcomes new members:

Renaë and Kyle Kerrigan, Peoria

Submission of photos / article content for the website:

If you have taken a nice photo that you would like to display on the PAS website, please send these to hooveje@gmail.com. Photos can be anything relating to astronomy. Maybe you snapped a good photo from a star party, club event, personal viewing, etc. Any astro-photography is encouraged! Also, if you have educational content, tips, techniques, lessons learned, or how-to articles with photos, we encourage that material also for the website. Just send me your photos or content, and I can review and post it to the website. Thanks! –Jesse Hoover

The Caterpillar Matching Gifts Program

From 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 on line 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

From Dan Son

Well here I am writing my 1st article to the Starlite and as its President. If you are wondering who I am, I have been a member for 15 plus years. Mike Hay called me up many years ago to be Secretary for the group and I said yes and have not looked back since. I have been Secretary and Treasurer for many years and enjoyed working with the board. I now find myself with this new position and wonder what will I do for the group. I, like most of you, have a very busy life.

I have worked for UPS for 35 years, am a Boy Scout Leader with Troop 27 and a Trustee member with East Peoria 1st United Methodist Church, so you may ask when do you find time to star gaze. I would have to answer not as often as I want to but I hope to do more.

Some of my thoughts for PAS in the next year are to get back to basics, do an Astronomy Day with Peoria Riverfront Museum, have a cloud free Messier Marathon and a picnic star party. Sounds fun doesn't it, but we need members help to make it a success, by participating, volunteering, as well as supporting the PAS financially, and I hope you will attend many events.

We offer a lot to our members and I hope you will join us at monthly group meetings, join our email group to find out what is happening with up to date information and come out to the star parties at Jubilee.

You will find your "dues notice" at the end of this Starlite, rather than being mailed individually. Being fiscally responsible, we thought we would try this way of notification and encourage each of the members to promptly respond by paying dues in December or January. This will save the Society the additional cost of mailing.

Keep eyes looking up and may the clouds not cover you and enjoy the stars overhead!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

December 3: Michael Zolensky (by way of Skype) talking on NASA's cosmic dust collection program, debris from comets etc.

January 7: Rich Tennis and Greg Neaveill will show and discuss the telescopes they built (see) related article)

February 4: Katy Shackelford: Out of this World Experience: (Accidentally) Researching and Interning with NASA

From Katy: As a graduate student at Virginia Tech I focused on designing sustainable post industrial communities. Through serendipitous circumstances I became a researcher for former NASA Flight Director Glynn Lunney. From that exciting opportunity, I met many interesting characters including BJ Blueth (Sociologist and researcher for Moon Colonies) and Beth Beck (NASA Chief Information Officer). I was later invited to intern with NASA and Architecture for Humanity on a project the summer of 2012 called NASA LAUNCH. LAUNCH is a government innovation that brings various partners like Nike and USAID together to discover and promote innovative solutions for sustainable living on earth and in outer space. Our mission was to show the value of space explorations in earth based scenarios. I will discuss the Launch program, JPL, my research with Glynn, and the many important life lessons I learned from that fateful summer.

March 4: University of Iowa professor Bill Kurth, will talk on solar winds from Aurora Borealis.

BUSINESS CARDS FOR PAS:

From Rich Tennis

“How many of your friends and acquaintances know that you are a member of the Peoria Astronomical Society? How many know that you enjoy the dark clear skies and the host of objects that you look at? Finally, how many of your friends and acquaintances know that they can know about our FREE Peoria Riverfront Museum meeting for their whole family and friends...and free parking at the PRM during PAS meetings?

If you have not nodded a “Yes” to these questions, we have an answer for you to spread the word on the organization that you are a member of.

The enclosed business cards can be the start of a wonderful experience for them, and possibly a life-long hobby of what you enjoy. You might want to have your name and cell-phone # added to the space at the bottom of the cards. Nothing like showing them what you look at in the night sky.” Feel free to pass them out.

NORTHMOOR OBSERVATION REPORT: Public Viewing Season

By Nick Johnson

Our scheduled 2014 public viewing season officially ended with the Oct 18 session. Thanks to Steve & Jon Wrigley, we were also open on Oct 25. Here is a summary of the year's activity.

We experienced a rough year weather wise. There were several weeks in which the weather was great on Friday and Sunday, but not on Saturday night. The official tally was:

Clear	7 nights
Partly cloudy	1 night
Mostly Cloudy	4 nights
Clouded out	11 nights

Our total visitor count for the Saturday sessions was 667 vs. 907 in 2013. The largest count occurred on the Sep 6 "Observe the Moon" night. We had 212 visitors logged in that evening. We also held several unscheduled sessions during the year for cub scouts, 4H, and other groups. One notable visit was from a group of volunteers in town for the Washington tornado clean up effort. Even with the weather challenges, the donations collected from our scheduled unscheduled events were over \$400. The Northmoor hosts frequently have to watch the weather up to the last minute when deciding whether to hold or cancel that night's viewing session. The PAS Board of Directors recognize that this compliments weekend planning and we appreciate the host's dedication to try to hold the session if at all possible. After all, none of the Northmoor services would happen without our host volunteer's time and effort. They are to be commended for making the commitment to "bring the sky" to the Peoria community.

If you haven't hosted at Northmoor, why not give it a try? I think you will find this an interesting and enjoyable experience. You get to meet a variety of people who are interested in astronomy and get to share your experiences with them. As a bonus, you will also experience that bit of a rush when a visitor is awestruck when seeing Saturn through the telescope for their first time.

Our Saturday observations sessions run from around 8 PM to around 10:30 PM. We work in teams of three, so there will always be someone there to show you what to do. We do not schedule any volunteer for more than 3 Saturdays during our May through October viewing season.. If you are interested, please send me a note at johnsnl@netscape.net. I will include you in the planning for the 2015 season. You are not committing at this time. You won't be included in the schedule until after we survey for scheduling preferences. You can always opt out at that time.

From Starlites Past

By John Barra

50 Years Ago

Winter Newsletter 1964

“Mars should be of special interest this spring and summer....Mariner Four spaceflight to Mars will magnify public interest for the July 14 event. This date is according to the prediction of the Aviation Week and Space Technology.”

And fifty years later, man has soft-landed a spacecraft on a comet and sent pictures back. The envelope keeps expanding on space-exploration. Let's hope that future funding will be there to keep us exploring even more.

“Publicity-This chairmanship has not yet been filled--if interested, contact Dean Eater. We really need YOU; wherever and whoever YOU are.”

I guess publicity chairman has always been hard to fill or keep. As of this printing, I think that position is vacant again. Still looking for YOU.

25 Years Ago

December Starlite 1989

“Eric Clifton reported the meeting with Frank Bussone of Proctor Hospital. He received assurance that Northmoor Observatory will be able to stay at Leo Donovan Golf Course.”

And now the Park District has indicated it is closing Donovan Golf Course. And we have been reassured that the Observatory can remain there. If the light-pollution gets any worse, we might not be able to see any stars however.

“Dick McLain reported that the glass blocks which were vandalized at Northmoor can be nearly matched by Peoria Concrete Construction. \$150 was authorized to purchase and install the blocks”

So the blocks have been vandalized before. Hopefully, the screen that was installed to protect them this last time will discourage any future attempts to break in through the blocks.

January's Program features two of Central Illinois' Best Amateur Telescope Makers!

Who builds a telescope when you can buy one so cheap? Well, two of our members have done just that; one having just completed his second scope.

Don't miss our January 7 program where it will be a "Show and Tell" featuring Rich Tennis and Greg Neaveill. Rich completed his 17.5" Dobsonian back in 2005. Greg completed his 10" Dobsonian back in 2009 and just completed his 8" DOB-in-a-Briefcase this month. Get a look behind the scenes at what went into their making with a PowerPoint presentation by Rich and Greg. All three telescopes will be at our meeting so you can touch (except the mirrors) and ask all the questions you want. You'll have to travel quite a ways before you'll see three finer home-made telescopes . . . perhaps you will be inspired to build your own.

BOARD MINUTES IN REVIEW: MAY-OCT. 2014

May 21, 2014

Board members in attendance were: Rich Tennis, Nick Johnson, Calene Fleming, Scott Swords, Mike Hay, John Barra, Eric Clifton, and Dan Son. Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. The Board accepted the minutes as amended. The Treasurer's report was given by Dan Son and was accepted as submitted. Mike Hay asked Nick Johnson to update the Boards on questions presented to him as Parliamentarian relating to the succession process for filling the vacant President position. Nick stated that the Executive Committee could take special action to either name a President or name an interim President until the position is filled. Nick replied that Mike Hay volunteered to act as interim President up to and not later than the annual meeting. Mike Hay then pointed out that the By-Laws state that any emergency action taken by the Board needed to be validated by Board vote. The validation vote was unanimous in favor of the action taken. Mike will fill the role of Interim President effective immediately. Nick Johnson reported the 10" dobsonian the Society purchased is now in his possession. Nick reported that the Park District replaced the downspout on the observatory. He also mentioned that the Illinois Watch Company paintings are now on display (thanks to Brian Hakes). Eric Clifton reported that the Jubilee driveway was repaired with new gravel and leveling. He stated that an incident occurred in which the mail gate was locked in such a way that no entry could be made by Society members. It was determined that a Sate employee locked the gate improperly and the condition has been resolved. Calene Fleming noted that she will add both the new storage cabinet and dobsonian location to her inventory records.

June 18, 2014

Board members in attendance were: Rich Tennis, Nick Johnson, Scott Swords, Calene Fleming, Mike Hay, Dan Son, Gary Bussman and Jesse Hoover. Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Dan Son provided a report of transactions and account reconciliation for May and the report was accepted. Nick Johnson reported a group of approximately 50 cub scouts and parents visited the observatory on June 2. He added that on June 12, Sheldon Schafer and Steve Wrigley hosted 45 members of a Christian group who were in the area to perform volunteer Washington tornado work. The group donated \$100 to PAS at the end of that visit. Nick also reported that 3 of the last 4 Saturday nights were clouded out. Rich Tennis reported that he met with Renae Kerrigan of the Riverfront Museum planetarium and arranged for a \$20 per night rate reduction for our winter meetings. The new rate would be \$70. Gary Bussman reported a star party at Lake Thunderbird has been scheduled for July 26. He added that this is the same date as the previously announced Jubilee new moon date and members can choose which to attend.

July 16, 2014

Board members in attendance were: Rich Tennis, Nick Johnson, Scott Swords, Calene Fleming, Mike Hay, Dan Son, Gary Bussman, Jesse Hoover, Bill Cole, Eric Clifton, Mike Frasca, John Barra and Tatiana Johnson. The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Dan Son provided a Treasurer's report of transactions and account reconciliation for June. A \$100 deposit or a \$300 check to the Academy of Science were not shown in the report because these transactions were recent and would be shown in the next month's report. The disbursement to Mike Hay for paper was actually for postage for the Starlite. Nick Johnson reported a group of 40 to 45 members of the Pekin 4H club visited the observatory. Eric Clifton reported the ICC star party was held on the first of the series of scheduled nights with 40 – 50 people attending. Six telescopes were made available to them by the PAS members. John Barra presented a slate of candidates for the PAS Board of Directors for 2014-2015: President- Dan Son, Vice President- Jesse Hoover, Secretary- Tatiana Johnson, Treasurer- Brian Hakes, Legal Agent- Mike Hay, Parliamentarian- Nick Johnson, Nominating Chairman- Rich Tennis. Jesse reported he received a response from Canton and that they are willing to work on light pollution reduction. Farmington is next to be contacted. Jesse reported he updated the website and added events to the calendar.

Board minutes continued.

August 20, 2014

Board members in attendance were Rich Tennis, Nick Johnson, Scott Swords, Calene Fleming, Dan Son, Gary Bussman, Jesse Hoover, Bill Cole, Eric Clifton, John Barra and Tatiana Johnson. Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Dan Son provided a Treasurer's report and reported the electrical bill increased \$10. His report was approved. Nick Johnson reported that the paint on the Northmoor building is exhibiting noticeable chipping and bubbling despite the fact that the Peoria Park District applied expensive specialty paint. One of the potential causes was the surface was not prepared properly for painting. The Park district would contact the contractor who performed the job to resolve the issue. Eric Clifton reported that ICC star party was schedule from September 19. In addition 12 members of adult education group were expected to attend. Eric also reported on the driveway erosion problem and the need for extra help to mitigate it. He also pointed out a Prairie Dogs group interfered with mowing at Jubilee by parking on top of the hill to accommodate 30-40 attendees. Rich Tennis suggested coordinating mowing schedules with them. Mike Hay was unable to attend the meeting. John Barra reported that Linda would prepare and abbreviated edition of the Starlite announcing the banquet date and presenting the slate of officers.

September 17, 2014

Board members in attendance were Nick Johnson, Scott Swords, Calene Fleming, Dan Son, Gary Bussman, Jess Hoover, Bill Cole, Eric Clifton, and Tatiana Johnson. Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Dan Son provided account reports for the months of July and August. Total disbursements for the month of August were \$80.10 for Ameren and Callendar & Co Auto Insurance. Nick Johnson inquired the purpose of PAS having auto insurance and Dan suggest it was needed to cover the members from potential law suits in the even of an accident while on PAS related business. Nick reported the International Observe the Moon night event took place on Sept 6 and was a big success. Special thanks to Terry Beachler, Bob Pauer, Eric Clifton, Tatiana Johnson, Brian Austin, Jesse Hoover, Dave and Charity Monroe and John Crowe for participating. Terry Beachler is working to resolve leaking problems in the dome at Northmoor. Eric Clifton reported C14 telescope and mount had been dismantled. He also elaborated on the adaptor Bob constructed, which was a piece of plywood attached to the top of the pier. As previously stated, it is a temporary solution. The permanent piece would eventually be metal. On Bob's behalf, Eric requested \$77.12 for the purchase of aggregate (1-3 inches in diameter) to repair the driveway at Jubilee. Bob also estimated it would require \$450 to purchase 16 tons of roadmix to either construct a crown or super-elevation on the driveway to facilitate drainage. Mike Hay was unable to attend the meeting but Jesse reported the abbreviated Starlite had been mailed. Gary Bussman coordinated with Eric on the hosting date at Jubilee to publish in the next monthly issue and requested to the members to attend and bring their telescopes for the ICC star party and the Master Naturalist program of the U of I extension visit. The renewal of membership to Dark Skies was discussed and the motion to renew was approved by the majority of votes.

October 15, 2014

Board members in attendance were: Scott Swords, Calene Fleming, Dan son, Jesse Hoover, Mike Frasca, Rich Tennis, Brian Hakes, Brandt Bechtold, and Tatiana Johnson. Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and accepted. Dan Son Provided accounts reports for September which were reviewed, corrected and accepted. Eric Clifton, reported through Rich Tennis, that the aggregate for the Jubilee drive has been purchased and that the Prairie Dogs would not share the expense. Dan reported the TMB was mounted and ready for use. The current setup was a prototype and a permanent piece would be made in the future. Rich Tennis reported on Oct. 10th PAS hosted the CEO of the Riverfront Museum. Astrojeopardy was scheduled for Nov. 5. Future programs are: Dec. 3 – Mike Zolensky on NASA's cosmic dust collection, Jan. 7- Building telescopes by Rich Tennis and Greg Neaveill, Feb. 4- Katy Shackelford's experiences as an intern with NASA, and March 4 – University of Iowa professor Bill Kurth on solar winds of Aurora Borealis. Brandt Bechtold suggested having a viewing session at one of the Dark Skies sites—Hartenbower Airport near Magnolia, IL. A fly-in breakfast was offered on the second Sunday of every month in the summer. It was agreed to explore the idea and have further discussion.



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2015 DUES NOTIFICATION

Your support of the **Peoria Astronomical Society** has been greatly appreciated!! Please select the membership of your choice for your 2015 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 15, 2015

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

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

You may also bring your dues to the general meeting.

If you have a new email address or want to add an email address please let Scott Swords know at sswords3@comcast.net.

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.

Brian Hakes
Treasurer

** 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.

Dues Notice

This is the first year that the Notification of Dues has been included in the mailing of the Starlite. The primary reason for doing this is to help defray the cost of postage of a separate mailing. This is the first mailing of the dues notice. To preclude a follow up mailing(s), members are asked to pay their dues by early January. You can mail your dues payment or bring it to either the December or January general meeting in the planetarium.

While the cost for each member may be small, the collective expense for the dues mailing to a membership of 100 does add up. This is a simple way by which all society members can help to defray the postage expense to our Society.

Thank you for your continued support,
Brian Hakes - Treasurer