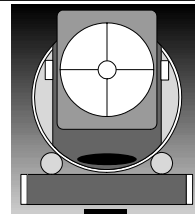


STARLITE



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Mackinaw Vineyard to Host Central Illinois Star Party

by Rich Tennis

The Peoria Astronomical Society (PAS) and the Twin City Amateur Astronomers (TCAA) are inviting all members and their guests to a dual star party on September 7, 2002 (rain date September 8th), at 6:30 p.m. until "whenever." The star party will take place at the Mackinaw Valley Vineyard, located on Route 9, about ten miles east of I-155 and 19 miles west of I-55. The vineyard is one mile west of the Tazwell/McLean County line and about three miles east of Mackinaw. It is on the south side of the road and will have signs posted for the event to help direct those new to the place.

The Mackinaw Valley Vineyard has an expansive view of the night skies to allow a fine dark sky opportunity for all. The new Moon on September 7th will allow good viewing for all who bring their telescopes. A limited number of electrical connections will be available.

The owner of the Mackinaw

Valley Vineyard, Paul Hahn, will soon be opening a new winery at his vineyard. There will be an opportunity to taste Paul's wines for those who wish. A donation of \$8.00 per bottle is asked. Bring your lawn chairs and munchies to accompany the wine that will be available. You may bring your own beverages, as well. Other non-alcoholic beverages will be available. There will also be an opportunity to observe winemaking for those who wish to see that operation.

In case of rain, the star party will be held on Sunday, September 9th, at the same time.

I do not know when the two astronomical groups met last, but this event will prove to be an interesting time to renew old acquaintances and make new ones.

Organizing the star party are Chairman Rich Tennis of t h e P A S

(Continued on page 3)

PAS Banquet Coming Soon

by Michael Frasca

The Peoria Astronomical Society's Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2002, at Jubilee College State Park. The banquet site is located off the Route 150 entrance to the park in the Quail Meadow picnic area (see map on page seven).

The area is reserved from 4:00 p.m. till midnight, with dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. Fried chicken, baked ham, coffee, iced tea, and lemonade will be provided, but be sure to bring a side dish to share with others and place settings (paper plates, napkins, cups, plasticware, etc.) for yourselves.

The business meeting and election of officers will take place at 6:30 p.m., with observing to follow if conditions allow. If the sky is as clear as it has been for the past four years (!), this is sure to be the highlight of your observing season! y

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Wrigley's Wranglings

by Steve Wrigley



My three years are done.

All good things must come to an end and I thank you one and all. This has been a remarkable

three-year period in my life. As President of the Society I have met many interesting people and enjoyed some exciting experiences. Above all I have had the pleasure to work with many of you at different functions around the community in our quest to enlighten the public to our hobby.

The PAS is a remarkable group with a vast amount of resources at its disposal. The first resource is its

membership. A diverse group of individuals from different walks of life united by their interest in the universe. Second is the legacy of three domes with working telescopes in each that have been "passed down" from the original core of members. What other society in the region can boast of such wealth? A great resource is the Board of Directors. They have helped me do my job and make it look easy.

For over fifty years the Astronomical Section of the Academy of Science has been there for the pub-



lic, allowing them to expand their horizons by viewing heavenly events from comets to satellites to conjunctions to the very corona of the Sun. Presidents, members, and buildings will come and go in the next fifty years, but may the Society not lose sight of one of its main goals. Bring astronomy to the public. It is still the best way to get new members.

Thank you for letting me be a part of it all.

Steve Wrigley

A final request by outgoing PAS President and newly multiple grandpa Steve Wrigley: This fall we will remove the 9" scope at NorthMoor observatory for a maintenance cleaning. This will include removing all parts down to the pedestal for a very thorough cleaning. We will need volunteers with knowledge of the inner workings, someone to photographically document what is done, and another to take notes about how it is taken apart, to make reassembly go smoother. This will take place after the viewing season is over at the end of October. Please let someone on the Board know if you can help out.

...This has been a remarkable three-year period in my life....

Smithsonian Scientist to Speak

By Dan Son

A special speaker will be present for our October members meeting.

Dr. Steven H. Williams from the Smithsonian Institution will present a talk on "The Latest Scoop — from Mars." We are fortunate to have two spacecraft in orbit around the Red Planet: the Mars Global

Surveyor and the Mars Odyssey. Mars is wetter, more complex, and downright more interesting than we realized from data returned by the Mariner and Viking spacecraft more than a quarter-century ago. Please arrive early for good seating. y

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 Michael Frasca, 6924 N. Rockvale Drive, Peoria IL 61614-2341, or e-mailed to <frasca@uic.edu>. 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.

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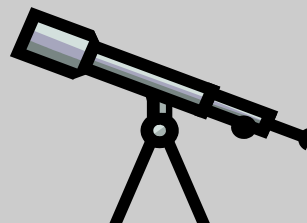
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Visit our site on the World Wide Web at <<http://www.astronomical.org>>



PeoriaAstro@yahoogroups.com

compiled by Michael Frasca

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.

@ @ @
From: Don Ware <djware@swbell.net>
Date: Thu, 06 Jun 2002
Subject: PAS has gone Mobile

You can now access the PAS website (at least partially) at present from a Mobile Internet enabled cell phone. Just point to <http://www.macknife.org>, there you can receive the latest positions of the planets (rise, transit, set times) I will be adding the positions of the satellites for Jupiter and Saturn in the next few days.

If you have trouble with it, send me a note.

@ @ @
From: Rich Tennis <mtennis@mtco.com>
Date: Mon, 10 Jun 2002
Subject: IT'S A MIRACLE!!! Partial Eclipse from Star House

Well, I may not have been the only PAS member to see the partial annular eclipse, but Margo and I saw it over a glass of wine in our backyard. The big telescope was useless, but the solar filter was just fine. I held it up to the smaller telescope (50 mm) and there it was at 8:10 PM June 10, 2002.

The clouds and thunderheads were promising that the annular eclipse would be another one of those Central Illinois happenings that would not allow us to see it. However, with a silent prayer sent up from here the clouds parted at just the right time and we dashed to see what we could see. Just holding the solar filter in front of our faces we could see the eclipse form at about 8:10 PM the scheduled time when it would bless this area of the world with a peek.

So, those of you that choose not to come to Star House, eat your heart out...unless you didn't know it was happening, or wanted the pure eclipse which you need to be in Africa or Australia this year sometime to see it. The cost for us to see the second grade spectacle was two glasses of wine.

It was neat to see, and sort of a miracle!

@ @ @
From: Stephen E. Russell <sjruss55@dpc.net>
Date: Mon, 10 Jun 2002
Subject: Re: IT'S A MIRACLE!!! Partial Eclipse from Star House
Indeed a stunning eclipse at sunset to-

night!!! Just got back from out in the country where I found a good location for shooting the eclipse. I was able to shoot a roll of Royal Gold 200 with several lens combos from 100 mm to 300 mm.

The Sun came out of the clouds around 8pm. Used a graduated sunset filter and graduated ND filter early on, then the last 15 minutes before the sunset, no filters were needed as the atmosphere made a perfect golden filter. Hope I get a keeper. First time I've seen an eclipse at sunset.

@ @ @
From: Tim McGrath <astropunk_2000@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, 10 Jun 2002
Subject: Re: IT'S A MIRACLE!!! Partial Eclipse from Star House

Nope, you're not the only one :) My wife and I took our kids to Donovan golf course where we had a view of the west. They made box viewers, and they actually worked pretty well.

@ @ @
From: Dan Son <sunshine92@insightbb.com>
Date: Mon, 1 Jul 2002
Subject: New Globular Theory
Although not about M-13, maybe this will pan out as true and relate to other globulars like M-13.
<http://SkyandTelescope.com/news/current/article_651_1.asp>

@ @ @
From: Tim McGrath <astropunk_2000@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, 11 Jul 2002
Subject: A study and review of nebula filters

Here is a very good article rating 4 different types of filters (Deep Sky, H-Beta, UHC, and OIII) on several nebulas. The author used a 10" f5.6 dob and rated each on a 0-5 scale, and discussed the total score at the end. He did a good job of describing the differences each made on the nebula. Worth a read if you are thinking of buying a filter.

<http://pages.sbcglobal.net/raycash/filters.htm>

filters.htm>

@ @ @
From: Rich Tennis <mtennis@mtco.com>
Date: Mon, 12 Aug 2002
Subject: Perseid shower report from Star House

Got up at 2:00 a.m. and decided to not go to Jubilee site due to the high humidity condition and just a porthole window straight above. However, later in the morning it did clear up some.

I just set up a lounge lawn chair and turned on the radio, WGLT, and watched an rather uneventful 45 minutes. However, at 3:22 a.m. (I did check my watch for that event) I almost ducked as a meteoroid seemed to be headed my way. Brilliant after glow was visible for about 30 seconds. Did anyone get that view? It truly was the highlight of the morning. I think I saw about 25 good flashes until about 5:15 a.m.

If tonight is the really best time to see them, good luck!

@ @ @
From: Scott Hay <heyhay@bitwisystems.com>
Date: Mon, 26 Aug 2002
Subject: Peoria Academy of Science article in Journal Star.

Nice article in Peoria Journal Star link below.

Something like \$3 or \$3.50 of you astronomy membership dues goes to the Peoria Academy of Science to support programs such as: a \$1000 annual scholarship, \$2000 in annual science grants, and toward the annual Peoria Science Treasure Hunt mentioned in the article link below. It helps to spread scientific knowledge and foster an appreciation of science in the central Illinois area.

Money and time donations are welcome. If this is something you would like to support personally, please contact me.

Scott Hay (309)673-3119

P.S. Make sure you also save a little money to help buy or fix the dome for the 9-inch refractor, too.

<http://www.pjstar.com/news/topnews/g106271a.html>. y

Vineyard Star Party...

(Continued from page 1)

(<mtennis@mtco.com>, 467-3597) and Co-chairwoman Sandy McNamara of the T C A A (<SandyMc456@aol.com>).

We would like to have an idea as to how many may attend. If you would e-mail me (Rich Tennis) back by the Thursday before the star party, that will be sufficient.

Anybody you know who would like to attend but is not a PAS member can come as well. There may be some media coverage of this first ever Central Illinois Star Party. Bulletins on this will come again to remind you of this event.

Hope to see you all there. y

Of Starlites Past

by John Barra

45 YEARS AGO August Starlite 1957*

(*Editor's Note: Since we could not locate the fall issue from 40 years ago, we substituted the August Starlite from 1957.)

"Back in 1956, we were finishing the interior of our...assembly room at the Observatory. Four of us were carrying a big stack of plywood.... Suddenly the load got lighter and I looked over to find my partner had shifted his grip to pick up part of my load. He commented, 'Looks like you need a little help.'"

I guess we should all remind ourselves of that statement when Dan Son asks us to help at a work party at Jubilee. I know he could use a little help in the not-so-fun job of scraping the dome for the ten-inch scope during the remodeling project.

"Poet's Section by Ralph Hodgson: 'I stare into the sky/As wondering men have done/Since beauty and stars are one/Though none so hard as I/Reason has moons, but moons not hers/Lie mirrored on her sea/Confounding her astronomers/But O! delighting me.'"

I thought I might revive this old section but I could only remember one short poem I learned in high school which would fit into this space. It was by Ogden Nash. It went: 'Candy is dandy/But liquor is quicker.' I guess I better stick to just writing for the Starlite. y

ABCDEFABCDEF A

25 YEARS AGO September Starlite 1977

"Dave Hendricks of Jubilee State Park brought a tractor mower over and decapitated the tall weeds...so we lost a healthy crop of cockleburrs. He also pushed over a temporary cornerrib which was the worst eyesore there. Being established on a state conservation area has some advantages."

Now we don't use terms like weeds or cockleburrs. Instead we call them wildflowers. The conservancy people would have fits if we mowed them. Who'd want to anyway? They're good-looking and guarantee that we have a lot less to mow, even with our great, new mower. That part about being associated with the state is open to debate.

"We are always hoping to increase the attendance at the monthly meetings. Some of our members never show up at these gatherings, which take place at Lakeview...on the first Wednesday of the month.... If the topics don't excite your interest, please let us know what you would like to hear."

Ditto on all of that, 25 years later. If you have an idea for a meeting, pass it on to a board member. Better yet, maybe you can volunteer to present the program. Still better yet, maybe one of you can be our new program chairman. We haven't had one for such a long time, I worry that we will be saying the same thing 25 years from now. y

Astronomical Calendar

August 31

Star Party at Jubilee Observatory

September 4

PAS Members Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Lakeview Planetarium
Video: John Dobson, Part 1

September 6

New Moon

September 7

PAS/TCAA Star Party

September 12-15

Astrofest

September 13

First-quarter Moon

September 18

PAS Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

September 21

Full Moon

September 22

Fall Equinox 11:55 p.m. CDT

September 26

Venus at greatest brilliancy, mag. -4.6

September 28

PAS Annual Banquet
Moon near Saturn, 4½ hours after sunset till dawn

September 29

Last-quarter Moon

October 2

PAS Members Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Lakeview Planetarium
"The Latest Scoop — from Mars"
Dr. Steven H. Williams

September 2002						
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					

October 2002						
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		

November 2002						
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

October 3-6

Dark Skies Star Party

October 6

New Moon

October 8

Venus 9° below Moon just after sunset

October 12

Star Party at Jubilee Observatory

October 13

First-quarter Moon

October 16

PAS Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

October 21

Full Moon
Orionid Meteor Shower

October 27

Daylight saving time ends; set clocks back 1 hour

October 29

Last-quarter Moon

October 31

Venus at inferior conjunction, 5.7° south of Sun

November 2

Star Party at Jubilee Observatory

November 4

New Moon

November 6

PAS Members Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Lakeview Planetarium
Video: John Dobson, Part 2

November 9

Star Party at Jubilee Observatory

November 11

First-quarter Moon

November 18

Leonid Meteor Shower

November 19

Full Moon
Deepest penumbral eclipse, mag. 0.89, 7:47 p.m. CST

November 20

PAS Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Starlite Deadline

November 27

Last-quarter Moon

November 30

Star Party at Jubilee Observatory



The Bulletin Board

New Members

Welcome to:

John Brady
John Burkhalter
Sandra Clay
Jon Daker
Scott Tatlock

☺ ☺ ☺

Astrofest 2002

Astrofest 2002 is scheduled for Thursday, September 12th through Sunday, September 15th at Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See near Kankakee, Illinois. For information, contact the Chicago Astronomical Society at <<http://www.chicagastro.org>>.

☺ ☺ ☺

Jubilee Mowing Schedule

August 31: D Grebner, T McGrath, B Weston
September 7: B Hakes, J McElyea, P White
September 14: J Barra, M Hay, G Mettlach
September 21: B Bechtold, S Hay, G Neaveill
September 28: B Bill, B Herbst, S Russell
October 5: G Bussman, G Horst, M Shelton
October 12: E Clifton, C Jeske, D Son
October 19: C Fleming, D Kasel, S Swords

☺ ☺ ☺

NorthMoore Viewing Schedule

August 31: B Weston, C Lamb
September 7: L Bodell, J Wrigley
September 14: D Son, S Hay
September 21: M Hay, V Broguard
September 28: J Barra, T Lester
October 5: B Cole, P Burroughs
October 12: B Hakes, D Wrigley
October 19: S Hay, D Hill
October 26: D Grebner, J Miller

☺ ☺ ☺

Slate of Officers Set

by Michael Frasca

The following slate of officers was nominated to serve the Peoria Astronomical Society for the 2002-2003 term. They will be voted on at the PAS Annual Banquet on September 28, 2002.

President: Scott Hay
Vice-President: Tim Lester
Treasurer: Mike Shelton
Secretary: Dan Son
Legal Agent and Parliamentarian:
Mike Hay
Nominating Chairman: Stephen Russell y

Illinois Dark Skies Star Party Planned for October

By Dan Son

The Sangamon Astronomical Society (<www.sas-sky.org>) will be having a star party at Jim Edgar State Park in Ashland, Illinois.

The Illinois Dark Skies Star Party will be held October 3-6, 2002, at the Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area (JEPC), 25 miles northwest of Springfield, Illinois, in eastern Cass County. The park is easily accessible from IL Routes 78, 95, and 125. This area boasts some of Illinois' darkest skies. Naked eye views of 5- and 6-magnitude objects are not uncommon. Plans for star party events include guest speakers and presentations, and ATM and astrophotography contests. They have a long list of speakers including our own Sheldon Schaffer and possibly Scott Altmon, a Pekin native and current astronaut.

Sign up early; attendance will be limited to 500.

The park has lots of daytime

activities including hiking, biking, fishing, horseback riding and hunting. JEPC is just 30 minutes from historic Lincoln sites such as Lincoln's Tomb at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield; Lincoln's Home and Law Office, Springfield; Lincoln Homestead at New Salem State Park, Petersburg. JEPC is also just minutes from grocery stores, restaurants, and shops in the

small nearby communities of Ashland, Chandlerville, Newmansville, Petersburg, Philadelphia, and Virginia.

Here is the web site address:
<http://www.sas-sky.org/star_Party.htm> y



Monthly Program Schedule

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

September 4, 2002

Video: John Dobson, part 1

October 2, 2002

"The Latest Scoop — from Mars"
Dr. Steven H. Williams

November 6, 2002

Video: John Dobson, part 2

December 4, 2002

TBA

Can You Spot This? Open Cluster NGC 7789

by John Barra

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

NGC 7789 is one of the open clusters many astronomers associate with a list of those objects that Charles Messier somehow missed when he compiled his famous list.

It is easy to find, both with binoculars and with telescopes. It is fairly large, and its total brightness is spread out over this size. Therefore, it would have been easy to mistake for the coma of a comet with less than perfect optics.

Start your search by finding the W-shape of the constellation Cassiopeia. See Chart 1 and locate Beta. With the naked eye, you should be able to see three stars of nearly equal magnitude and equally

separated to the right of Beta as Cassiopeia as oriented in the chart. They are Tau, Rho, and Sigma. With your lowest power eyepiece in your telescope, place your Telrad or other finder between Rho and Sigma. You should now be able to see NGC 7789 in the eyepiece.

This open cluster stands out with binoculars. However, since it is in a star-rich field in the heart of the Milky Way, one can have a little difficulty picking it out at first from the rest of the background stars in a telescope. If you do, go to Chart 2. Aim your scope at Rho and look at it. Rho appears as two bright stars in the scope. Then aim and look at the three-star pattern of Sigma. With your eye in the eyepiece, swing your scope from Rho to Sigma and back.

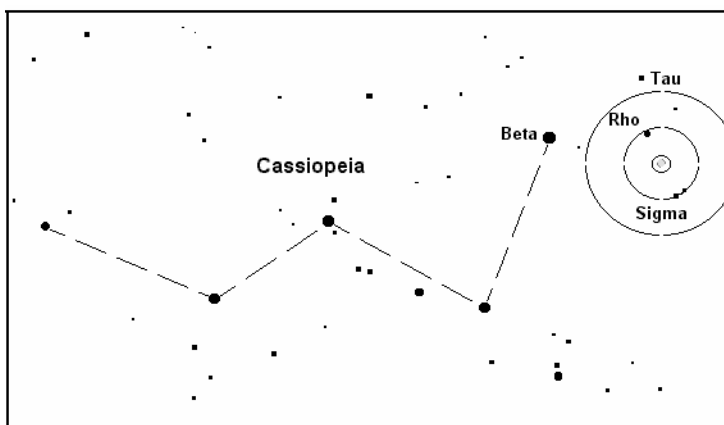


Chart 1: Low Power

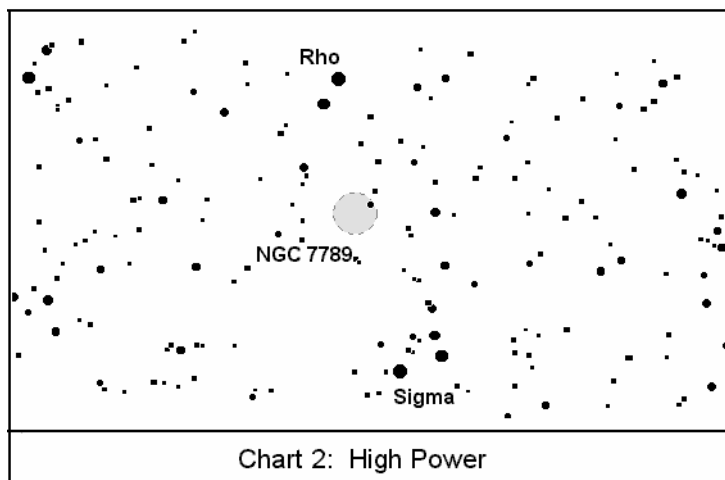


Chart 2: High Power

NGC 7789 should appear without any difficulty.

This open cluster is officially listed at a size of 16 minutes. But I think it is at least a half-degree across. While its total magnitude is in the six category, its huge number of stars are much fainter, but of near uniform brightness. In binoculars, it reminds me of a faint Beehive. In a telescope, it looks like M45 without the planetary nebula.

*...it is in a
star-rich
field in the
heart of the
Milky
Way....*

OBJECT STATISTICS:

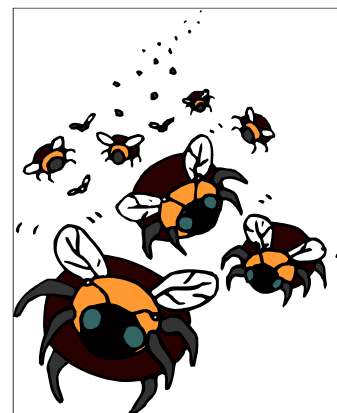
Name: NGC 7789

Type: Open Cluster

Magnitude: 6.7

Size: 16'

Coordinates: 23 hr. 57.0 min.;
+56 deg. 44 min. y



Minutes....

(Continued from page 7)

Nominating: (Stephen Russell) President: Scott Hay; Vice President: Tim Lester; Secretary: Dan Son; Treasurer: Mike Shelton; Legal Agent and Parliamentarian: Mike Hay; Nominating Chairmen: Stephen Russell

NorthMoor Observatory: (Bill Cole) Bill Cole is now NorthMoor Chairman.

Observing Club: (John Barra) Perseids on August 11th and August 12th.

Program: (Dan Son) August will be CCD; September TBA; October TBA.

Membership: (Scott Swords) We have 1 new member.

Old Business: Banquet is September 28th, a third-quarter Moon.

New Business: We have a concern of people (kids) running up to Jubilee. Stephen Russell made a motion to spend up to \$300 for supplies on repainting the Dome of the 14-inch scope. Seconded by Mike Shelton. Motion passed. y



Minutes of the Board of Directors

by Dan Son

Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Hardee's of Willow Knolls Court in Peoria. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

May 15, 2002

CCD: (Stephen Russell & Tim McGrath) Ron Wodaski is going to donate a signed copy of his book *The New Astronomer*.

Jubilee Observatory: (Eric Clifton) Cub Scouts coming out on May 17th. Kathy Ludoff from 4H (Glasford Timber Tigers) will be coming out with about 15 people on June 14th-15th with rain date of July 12th-13th. We have a new used John Deere mower. Mike Hay made a motion to spend an extra \$305.88 on the mower. Seconded by Dan Son. Motion passed.

14-Inch: (Mike Shelton) The power module is being worked on to see if it is fixable. We are now going to be working on the dome for the rest of summer or until finished. Starting Saturday, June 1st, all key-holders and anyone who wishes to learn and help are asked to come out at 9:00 a.m. for a work party. This will be every Saturday from now on until the job is completed, weather permitting.

NorthMoor Observatory: (Steve Wrig-

ley) We had a big crowd on May 5th, over 75 people. All other nights have been a rain-out!

Program: (Dan Son) June will be Stephen Russell on CCD. No meeting in July. August TBA.

Starlite: (Mike & Jessica Frasca) Deadline for Starlite will be August board meeting. A put together party will be May 29th.

New Business: Eric will check possible dates at Jubilee for the PAS Banquet.

June 19, 2002

Treasurer's Report: (Mike Shelton) Mike made a motion to remove Ed George, Jim Frey, David Kobilka, Sharon McDonald, Calvin Patterson III, and Travis Unruh from our member's list. Seconded by Scott Swords. Motion passed.

CCD: (Stephen Russell & Tim McGrath) Will look into replacing red filter wheel.

Jubilee Observatory: (Eric Clifton) June 28th & 29th will have ICC class coming out. Rain date will be July 5th & 6th. Boy Scout troops 55 from Concordia Lutheran School along with Glasford 4H group will be July 12th & 13th. We had five Cub Scouts out on June 14th.

14-Inch: (Mike Shelton) On May 25th the scope was disassembled and put in its case. JC Kline took the wheels from the dome home to clean and lubricate them. Took the Dome off on June 1st. Still working on the Power Module.

24-Inch: (Eric Clifton) Need to put on a bird baffle on the back of the shutter. The counter-clock button is getting stuck on dome rotation and needs to be replaced.

Light Pollution: (Rich Tennis) Eureka and El Paso will write to the county about some kind of lighting code being needed.

Nominating: (Stephen Russell) Need to get working on the Slate of Officers.

Observing Club: (John Barra) Perseids in August, get ready!

Program: (Dan Son) July no meeting. August will be CCD.

July 17, 2002

Academy of Science: (Scott Hay) Interplanetary Bicycle ride on Aug. 10th. We are doing Princeville (Uranus) and Kewanee Rest Area (Pluto).

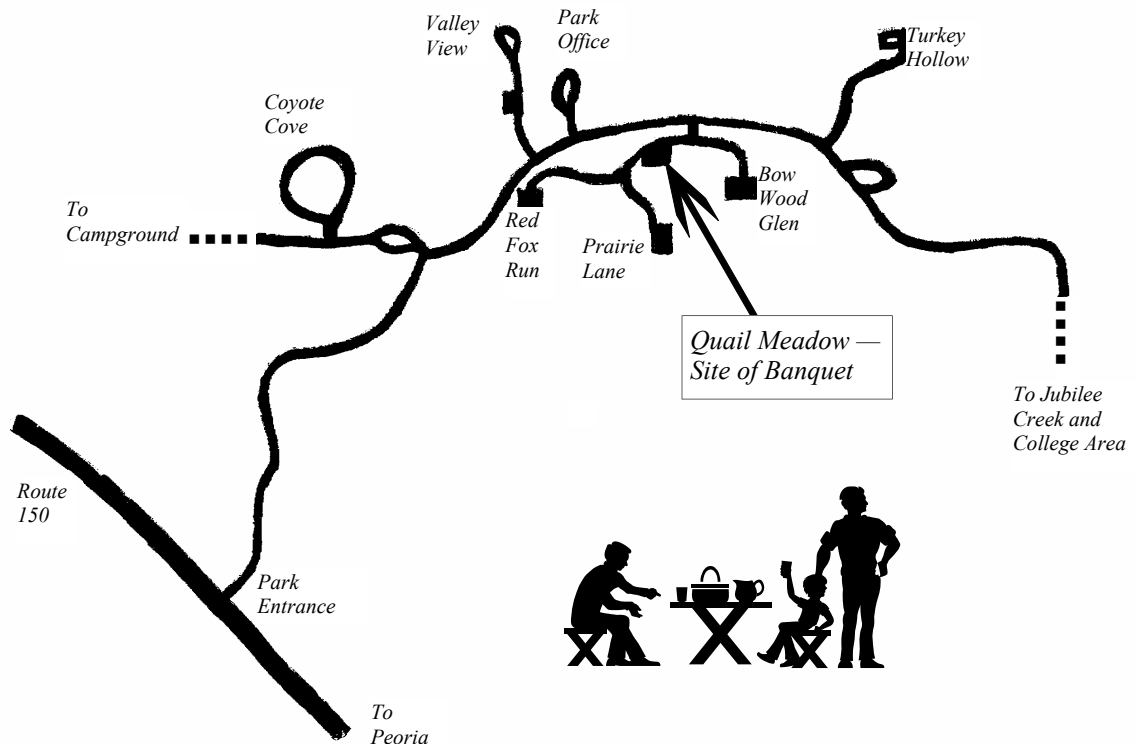
Education: (Scott Hay) Scott will be holding a class for Fondulac Park District on Monday night from 6:30 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. at the River Hill site across from Jonahs.

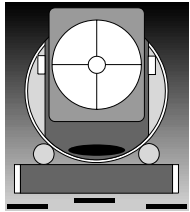
14-Inch: (Mike Shelton) New cat system is here and works with our power supply.

CCD: (Stephen Russell & Tim McGrath) Will have more information on the Red Filter Wheel next month.

(Continued on page 6)

Jubilee College State Park: Map to Banquet Site





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In This Issue...

Star Parties Galore, Banquet Near, Slate of Officers, Can You Spot This?, and more....

Observing Club Notes

by John Barra

Public Viewing at NorthMoor in Jeopardy

As most of you know, the condition of the dome at NorthMoor has greatly deteriorated over the past 10 years. Once again, the condition of the dome was an important topic of discussion at the August Board Meeting of the Peoria Astronomical Society.

An update of the condition of the dome and the lack of commitment on behalf of the Peoria Park District. The Society owns the nine-inch telescope while the Park District owns the building and dome housing the telescope. The report to board makes it clear that the Park District has no intention of spending

money to refurbish the dome.

Because of the potential danger due to the deterioration of the dome, I presented a motion to the board to cease public viewing at the end of this viewing season unless the Park District gives the needed support to refurbish the dome. The motion was seconded by Rich Tennis. After some debate, it was unanimously agreed to table the motion to allow from further input the membership and to monitor current developments.

It is anticipated that the subject will be renewed both at the board meeting and the annual picnic in September. If anyone wishes to have input on how to proceed next, please attend at least one of these meetings.

Where Have All The Perseids Gone

Something was wrong with the

picture out at Jubilee on the late evening of August 11th, early morning of August 12th at Jubilee. It was cloudless and clear. The Moon had long set. Perseus was rising to its prominence in the sky. Perfect for the usually reliable Perseid Meteor Shower. But the half-dozen PAS members present found it very difficult to find very many Perseids.

Most of us counted less than 15 Perseids in nearly three hours, a much lower number than the normal 30-60 per hour total usually associated with this shower. Reports from other PAS members in the area were similar. Pay attention to reports in the astronomy magazines and other media outlets to see if this is an aberration or new pattern. Meanwhile, a new full Moon will hamper efforts to view both the Leonids in November and the Geminids in December. y

...the condition of the dome was an important topic of discussion....