

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

FALL, 2012

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Directors:

President: Rich Tennis, rltennis7@gmail.com
Vice-President: Perry White, whitepe@hughes.net
Secretary: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
Treasurer: Brian Hakes, bhakes@sbcglobal.net

Parliamentarian: Eric Clifton, ericjclifton@comcast.net
Nominating Chairman: Jesse Hoover, hooveje@gmail.com
Legal Agent: Mike Hay, me.hay@comcast.net
Northmoor Chairman: Bill Cole, wmrcole@comcast.net
Jubilee Chairman: Eric Clifton, ericjclifton@comcast.net
Starlite Editors: Mike and Linda Hay, ls_hay@yahoo.com (underscore after s)

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

Editor's Notes: Articles may be submitted via two email addresses: ls_hay@yahoo.com or Starlighteditor@gmail.com. Deadlines for articles for the next 2012 publication is: November 21. (Please submit all articles in a **WORD** format. I have an older Windows XP desktop computer 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 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. 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

Welcome to the 5 new members since our last publication. They are: Steven Lawson, Washington, IL; John and Jacob Pipis, Washington, IL; Jay Varadarajan, Peoria, IL; Craig Rohlf, Dunlap, IL; and Andrew Barth, Germantown Hills, IL.

SAYING GOODBYE

Sadly we must say goodbye to a former member: DeWayne Bartels, who passed away in late July unexpectedly. He will be missed by many people who worked with him and knew him.

SLATE OF OFFICERS:

The following officers will be voted upon at the annual banquet on September 22 at Kickapoo Sportsman Club. Nominations may be made from the floor.

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

POSITION AVAILABLE

Public Relations -

When schools, organizations, or individuals make a request for club services, or equipment, you would be the point of contact for carrying out these requests. You would also be submitting various dates and announcements to the Journal Star for public PAS activities, including summer Northmoor sessions. The primary goal of the Public Relations (PR) Chair is to assure that PAS maintains a positive reputation within the local and scientific communities. If you are interested, please contact Jesse Hoover.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: (note locations)

September 22 Annual Banquet, Kickapoo Sportsman Club (see additional article)

October 3 @ Northmoor Observatory: Technology Night: Learning how to use:
Setting circles and Sidereal Clock, Binocular eyepieces, Video eyepieces

November 7 @ Riverfront Museum: Astrojeopardy: Gene Hodel (in the planetarium)

December 5 @ Riverfront Museum: New Planetarium at the Riverfront Museum:
Sheldon Shafer

BANQUET INFORMATION: SEPTEMBER 22

Date: September 22, 2012

Place: Kickapoo Sportsman Club, 11016 W. Us Highway 150, approximately 1 mile west of Kickapoo (Has indoor restrooms and covered pavilion with tables.)

Time: 5:00 PM

Meal: Fried Chicken (provided by PAS)

Everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share, their own table service.

Lemonade will be provided as well as hot water for tea and coffee.

The slate of officers and By-Laws proposed changes will be voted upon during the business portion. A public star party (weather permitting) will take place afterwards. It would be a good idea to bring lawn chairs. Any members who are willing to bring out telescopes are encouraged to do so. Any further questions, please contact Perry White.

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

RICH'S RAMBLINGS (President's Message)

Your Peoria Astronomical Society has an important upcoming election and I not only want each to vote, I want you to consider serving on a committee! What's that, you say, "You want me to be on a committee?" Yes, I want you to seriously consider being on one of the PAS committees as well as attending Board meetings to learn more about the work of your Society.

There are two standing committees that need chairpersons. These committees are the Public Relations Committee and the Education Committee. These committees are crucial to make our activities and organization known and to encourage the hobby of astronomy. The scope of these two standing committees is boundless and vital to the growth of knowledge about astronomy and for the growth of our Peoria Astronomical Society.

Finally, while we do have a chairperson for other standing committees, they all would welcome new members so the committees remain vibrant. These committees are Inventory, Nominating, Starlite, Program, Light Control, Website, Northmoor Observatory, and Jubilee Observatory.

Our upcoming Annual Banquet meeting is September 22nd at 5:00 PM and will be at the Kickapoo Sportsman Club. Specific details are in this Starlite. I encourage you to come for an always fun gathering of PAS members and their families: Good Food, Good Stargazing, and a bit of Society business.

At the Annual meeting, we will have an update on the new location for PAS meetings at the new Peoria Riverfront Museum. It will be very exciting to be meeting in this very modern planetarium with it up-to-date Ziess projector, the SKYMASTER ZKP4 with SPACEGATE Quinto. How exciting is that!!

Clear and Dark Skies, Rich

OBSERVING, FALL 2012

From Gary Bussman

The ICC Star Party will be happening this month. Here are the dates: Sept. 7th. Then the rain dates are Sept 8th, 14th, 15th, and 21st. Third quarter moon weekend is the 7th and new moon weekend is the 15th. Those are the two best weekends for observing since the moon will not be

a factor. Hopefully the ICC star party will happen on the 7th. If not it will be moved to the next date available.

The banquet will be held on Sept. 22 at the Kickapoo Sportsman Club. Look for this in this Starlite. There will be observing held that night, so bring out your scopes. This will be a great night so plan on attending.

The observing season is winding down so plan on coming out to Jubilee on 3rd quarter moon-new moon weekends. If you are not sure if anyone is going out just send a message the e-group and let them know your are going out. That way everyone know someone is going. The ICC star party is always a great star party. For those of you attending with a scope, let me know so I can have a head count. Brian Bill will always have a lot of kids out there. The more scopes the better. Whoever attend the ICC star party in July knows what I mean.

The Caterpillar Matching Gifts Program

From Brian Hakes, Treasurer

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.

STARLITES PAST

By John Barra

50 Years Ago

Newsletter from 1962

“Publicity Chairman Goldena Caswell’s efforts in our behalf during the past year have been well repaid. Due to this and Mrs. Patterson’s faithful presence, the response of every member called upon for special groups and public nights, our income was well over two hundred dollars.”

The position of publicity chairman has been open for a very long time. We could really use one to spread the news of the PAS. Anyone interested in serving in this important position should contact any board member and the word will get to President Tennis.

“Kenneth Rhoads, chairman of the popular observing nights, has revised his list of members who take an active part and added new ones who would like to participate. Enclosed is the new schedule.”

Those of you with a special interest in observing through our Northmoor telescope should not miss our October general meeting which will be at Northmoor on Wednesday, October 3rd at 7:30. Learn how to use the setting circles with the sidereal clock, our binocular eyepiece and the video eyepiece.”

STARLITES PAST (CONTINUED)

25 Years Ago
Fall Starlite 1987

“The Society has been notified that it has been awarded a grant of \$300 from the Peoria Area Arts and Sciences Council (PAASC)..../The money granted will be used, along with society funds, to purchase a Farquhar Celestial Globe and a Sun-Earth-Moon model.”

Keeping up with the new technology has always been a goal of the board. The recent purchase of digital sidereal clock is one example. We still have some money left over from our fund-drive for the Northmoor restoration. Any one with a purchase suggestion should contact any board member.

“This fall, we will begin a telescope loan program for our members. Two telescopes will be used--a 3-inch Unitrom donated by Betty Ohl, and an 8-inch Dobsonian. Details of this program will be found in this issue and the telescopes will be on display at the annual banquet.”

It is sad to say that program no longer exists, at least not formally. One telescope that was used as part of a successor program has been ‘missing’ for years now. The board is contemplating officially restarting this program. A volunteer to monitor it would be helpful.

BY-LAWS REVIEW AND CHANGES

The Board of Directors initiated a project in 2011 to review and update the PAS By-Laws. Rather than trying to review the By-Laws in their entirety, the review committee decided to break the work into smaller, more manageable packages. Proposed amendments to each package could then be independently brought before the Board for approval. Once approved by the Board, each package requires approval by the general membership. This approach allows the review to take place over a longer period of time and allows for membership approval to occur over multiple Society meetings.

The next package was submitted to and approved by the Board. You will be asked to approve these changes via vote during the Annual Meeting on September 22. ***In this Starlite***, you will find both the current and proposed versions of Articles IV, V, VI and VII. These Articles are

presented in their entirety – not just the changes.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact any of the Directors via email.

PAS BOARD MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS- (MAY-JULY)

May 16, 2012

The meeting was held at the Hardee's in Northpoint Shopping Center. The meeting was called to order by Rich Tennis. Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. Bill Cole requested a minor change be made regarding the portable toilet at Northmoor. The modified minutes were then accepted. The Treasurer's report was presented for April. The Board accepted the presented report. Bill Cole reported Sheldon Schafer held a class at the observatory on the weekend prior to the official opening. Approximately 15 of Sheldon's students attended. Brian Hakes reported he has procured the materials for the plaque framing and plans to complete that work in the following weeks. Rich Tennis reported he has no updates on new posters for the warm up room. Nick Johnson reported he received two estimates for AV equipment and cabling from Advanced Audio. One estimate included an overhead projector and screen, while the second substituted a 46" flat screen monitor in the system. Both estimates were in the \$3000 range. Both estimates included equipment, cabling for both the warm up room and dome, a wall mounted input panel and labor. Nick pointed out that the estimate did not include a camera or splitter for the telescope, but did provide the cabling in the dome to support a scope-mounted camera if we decide to procure one. Eric Clifton reported that all 6 ICC spring star party dates were cancelled due to weather. He added that Brian Bill requested a summer ICC star party. Planning dates are July 13,14, 20 and 21st. Jesse Hoover reported the position of Public Relations is currently open and the position of Treasurer will become open in September. Mike Hay reported that he will begin writing the next Starlite during the week of May 20th. Jesse Hoover reported connectivity problems continue to occur sporadically with the website. Rich Tennis reported that Sheldon Schafer will meet with the new museum directors to determine arrangements for PAS use of the museum for public meeting starting this fall. Rich also reviewed the upcoming June 23 Northmoor rededication.

June 20, 2012

The meeting was held at the Hardee's at Northpoint. Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed. Brian Hakes and Bill Cole requested two minor changes. The modified minutes were accepted. Brian Hakes present the treasurer's report for May. The Board accepted the report as presented. Brian also reported he is in the process of contacting the Peoria Academy of Sciences in order to reconcile membership dues PAS owes. Bill Cole reported the June 16 public observation session was cancelled due to weather. He also reported that he was contacted by the Peoria Public Library regarding this year's "Observe the Moon Night". The library would like to co-sponsor the event coinciding with one of our regular Northmoor viewing sessions in September. Rich Tennis reported on the upcoming Northmoor Re-dedication event. Invitations have been sent to the Park Board, the Labor Union that performed the remodeling work and all organizations that contributed to the renovation. Bill Cole reported that both plaques are now mounted on the east wall of the warm up room. Eric Clifton reported that he and Perry White repaired the mower at Jubilee. He also reported that the 24' dome currently has a problem that prevents it from being opened. Jesse Hoover reported there are no current candidates for the Public Relations chair and the upcoming Treasurer vacancy in September. Scott Swords reported that there were three new members last month, Craig Rohlfs, Andy Barth and Jay Varadarajan. Jesse Hoover reported he will update the website with the Northmoor rededication recap and photos when they are available. Gary Bussman reported that 6 members have committed to bring telescopes to the next ICC star party at Jubilee. He also reported a recent occurrence where a new member had to wait outside the Jubilee gate until another member arrived. He recommended that the gate combination be given to all new members. In Unfinished business, Rich Tennis

brought up the topic of the Memorandum of Understanding for use of the new museum for next year's general membership meetings. Eric Clifton made a motion that the current document be rejected as currently written. Scott Swords seconded the motion. In the ensuing discussion, Eric pointed out the ambiguity of statements relating to PAS assistance to the museum and what obligations that might hold. He would also like to see more recognition of PAS as co-hosts at museum events as well as public acknowledgment of PAS skills and capabilities in any publications regarding the proposed partnership. Eric offered to draft a revised memorandum. The Board then voted to approve Eric's motion and reject the current memorandum version and to table the topic until a revised document is completed.

BOARD MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

July 18,2012

The meeting was held at Hardee's at Northpoint. Minutes from the June meeting were reviewed. Bill Cole noted one typographical error. The modified minutes were accepted.

Brian Hakes presented the Treasurer's report for June. The Board accepted the report as presented. Bill Cole reported that weather has been spotty during the last month's Saturday viewing sessions. Rich Tennis reported that the Central Illinois Community Assn. plans to visit Northmoor to see the renovation results. He expressed appreciation for the job the Peoria Park District performed. He recognized Brian Hakes for his great work in mounting the plaques and Dan Son for providing drinks at the event. Eric Clifton reported that the ICC star party is scheduled for the next weekend (July 20,21). He added that John Doolin, an instructor at Carol Sandberg Junior College plans to attend with 8 of his students. Eric also reported that he and Jesse Hoover inspected the malfunctioning 24" dome and found that the motor was not driving the dome. He suggested that Ash Domes be brought in to assess the situation and provide an estimate to bring the dome mechanics to a more "off the shelf" condition. Eric then made a motion that Ash Dome be contracted for an assessment. Calene Fleming seconded the motion. In the ensuing discussion, John Barra reminded the group that the Board had previously agreed that no improvements would be made to the 24" dome until the 14" dome was fully operational. Mike Hay added, that with both domes down, we need to stop talking and start spending to repair the PAS assets. Eric's amendment was modified to engage Ash Domes to address only the items required to make the 24" dome operational. The amendment also allows Ash Dome to make repairs in the event the dome can be fixed with materials Ash Dome has on hand during the visit. Any other "improvement" items for the 24" dome will be deferred until the 14" dome is operational. The amended motion was passed. The board also reaffirmed their previous approval to engage a certified electrician to assess and repair the electrical feed to the 14" dome. Jesse Hoover reported he has no candidate for the Public Relations position. Scott Swords reported that there was one new member this month, John Pippis. Mike Hay reported that the Starlite will be published approximately 10 days after the Board meeting. John Barra reported that the "swap" meet planned for October has been cancelled and as a replacement program, the October meeting will be at Northmoor with the intent of reviewing the equipments and operations. Jesse Hoover reported that the constellation links on the website are now operational. Nick Johnson reported that per last month's meeting, he investigated any potential legal ramifications of sending member phone numbers and address to other PAS members. He found that current privacy laws do not prohibit such distribution unless specifically requested by a member.