



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, 2013

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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: Dan Son, sonshine92@comcast.net
Parliamentarian: Eric Clifton, ericjclifton@comcast.net
Nominating Chairman: Jesse Hoover, hooveje@gmail.com
Legal Agent: Mike Hay, me.hay@comcast.net
Northmoor Chairman: Nick Johnson (interim)
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)

Articles may be submitted via two email addresses: ls_hay@yahoo.com or Starlighteditor@gmail.com. Deadline for articles for the next 2013 publication is: November 20. (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, 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. 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 one new member: Bob Gayhart, Peoria and Brian Medendorp, Peoria. Welcome!

WELCOME BACK:

The Peoria Astronomical Society welcomes back two members: Neal Rudy, Peoria and Brian Rowe.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

President of the PAS
Vice President of PAS
Program Chairman

If you are willing to serve in one of these offices/positions, please contact Jesse Hoover, hooveje@gmail.com or 309-258-0343

BANQUET DATE/SPEAKER

SAVE THE DATE!!!! September 21, 2013, the annual banquet will be held at The Kickapoo Sportsman club. Guest speaker will be John Briggs.

This year's PAS Annual Banquet and program will be held at the Kickapoo Sportsmen's Club (see map in our website, www.astronomical.org, calendar for map) on Saturday afternoon on September 21, 2013. Gather around 4:00ish for conversation. Meal will be at 5:30 and program will be at 7:00. This year the meal will be catered from the Jubilee Cafe, featuring their famous roasted chicken and all the fixin's and dessert. PAS will furnish the iced tea and coffee. The meal will cost \$12/person. Send in your reservation and check for the meal to:

Perry White, 12028 W. Du Bois Rd, Brimfield, IL 61517 Cell Phone: 309-256-5683 Phone reservations no later than Tuesday, September 17,2013.

The program will be John Briggs, astronomer, at the HUT Observatory at Eagle, Colorado and formerly astronomer at the Yerkes Observatory, and Mt. Wilson Observatory. His program will be: "Antique Telescopes and Their Makers".

John Briggs has an extensive background in astronomy. He was at the Center of Astrophysical Research in Antarctica for 1year, Apache Point Observatory for 4 years, National Solar Observatory for 3 years, Yerkes Observatory for 13 years, Magdalena Ridge Observatory for 1 year, and has been at the HUT Observatory for the past 3 years. He was also a Faculty Astronomer at Dexter and Southfield Schools for 4 years and a Visiting Scholar in Astronomy at Phillips Academy for 1 year.



SLATE OF OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED AT ANNUAL BANQUET

The members at the annual banquet will be asked to vote for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and Directors: Nomination Chair, Parliamentarian, and Legal Agent. Director At Large is the past President.

(FOR 2013-2014)

Officers:

President – Open

Vice President - Open

Secretary - Tatiana Johnson

Treasurer - Dan Son

Directors:

Nominating Chairperson - John Barra

Parliamentarian - Nick Johnson

Legal Agent - Mike Hay

Director at Large - Rich Tennis

Standing and Special Committees:

Northmoor Observatory Committee Chairperson - Nick Johnson

Membership Committee Chairperson - Scott Swords

Jubilee Chairperson - Bob Pauer

Public Relations - Kathy Dittmeier

Starlite Committee Chairperson - Mike Hay, Linda Hay

Program Chairperson - Open

Peoria Academy of Sciences Rep - Bill Cole

Light Control Chairperson - Jesse Hoover

Light Control Committee - Rich Tennis, and potentially Kathryn (Kate) Shackelford

Website - Jesse Hoover

Observing - Gary Bussman

Nominating Committee - Rich Tennis

RICH' S RAMBLINGS

STAR PARTIES
(FROM GARY BUSSMAN)

The ICC star party schedule at Jubilee Observatory: 9/6, rain dates, 9/7, 9/27, 9/28, 10/4 and 10/5.

Star party at Lake Thunderbird at Putnam County is on 9/7 which is a Saturday night!

I would like a scope count on who can attend any of these star party's. weather will determine what happens.

(Note:Larry Wilson will send a message on e-group with directions and/or cancel due to weather on the Lake Thunderbird star party. Brian Bill will decide on all ICC star party's if on or off.)

BANQUET: The PAS banquet will be held on September 21 at Kickapoo.

Peoria Public Library- Observe the Moon night, October 21, 2013.

The Planets and Stars:

Mercury: The best night to observe Mercury is on the early evening on 9/24 right after sunset. You will need a clear horizon to view this in the low west. Mercury will pass close to Spica shining at -0.1.

Venus: This planet is still hanging around in the lower west after sunset. On 9/8, the moon and Venus will be close to each other. Should be a good visual.

Mars: This planet can be found in the constellation of Cancer, the Crab shining at 1.6. On 9/8 and 9/9, Mars will be in the open cluster, the beehive (M44). Use binoculars to look at this in the early morning in the east.

Jupiter: This is a very bright morning star located in Gemini. Should be a great view thru the month of September. This planet will be shining at -2.1. Bright!!

Saturn: Still hanging around in the south/west. It will be moving toward Venus thru the month.

Uranus: Shining at 5.7 the planet lies in the constellation of Pisces. It will have a blue/green disk looking thru a telescope.

Neptune: Shining at a faint 7.8, this blue/grey planet is in the constellation of Aquarius. Telescope is a must!

Pluto: Good Luck!

TELESCOPE CLINIC

The Peoria Astronomical Society will offer a Beginning Telescope Clinic on the second Saturdays of September (9/14/13).

FUTURE PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS' MEETING TO BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE.

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.

Article for sale (from the PAS website)

6" Celestron Reflector Scope on a "go to" mount.

Here is an article by Ian Morison of Jodrell Bank Observatory talking about it:

<http://www.jb.man.ac.uk/public/im/cel130SLT.html>

Here is an add for one :

<http://www.celestron.com/portal/celestron-nexstar-130slt.html>

It comes with a 25mm and a 9mm eyepiece, and all the manuals and cd's that came with it.

Asking \$350.00

Please contact Ron Ghighi if interested.

Please contact the [Webmaster](#) if you have an astronomy-related item for sale

FROM JESSE HOOVER:

I have a friend who is selling their Zhumell 12 in. dobsonian reflector telescope. It's \$700 new and they are asking \$500. Like new condition.

Let me know if you are interested...

Thanks,

Jesse Hoover

<mailto:hooveje%40gmail.com>

(309) 258-0343

FROM TIM McGRATH:

Hey everybody,

Now that I have an Obsession, I doubt my 10" dob will ever get any more use, and I have no need for 2 scopes!

So... I'm offering for sale to anybody in the club my 10" Discovery f4.5 dob. It is the original DHQ model, with the white base. It has a 2" R&P focuser, eyepiece holder, and telrad base (sorry, the telrad was destroyed). It also includes encoders and hardware for an electronic DSC computer. It does have some customizations: The base has John Dobson's signature on it from his visit Peoria and Jubilee observatory several years ago. The tube has STS mission patches from the Challenger and Columbia shuttles.

I'm asking \$250, which represents less than under half of what I paid for it. I also have a JMI Max DSC computer and cable I will include for an additional \$100.

I can provide pictures on request. Email mailto:astropunk_2000%40yahoo.com

From Starlites Past

By John Barra

50 Years Ago
Fall Newsletter 1963

“Smiles lit up the faces of Bruce Brown, Eric Clifton, and Tracy Pitzen as they walked from the observatory to the parking lot as new keyholders of NorthMoor Observatory....Eric got his on July 16th....”

That means Eric has been a keyholder for 50 years. We ought to give him a golden key. Or at least paint his key gold. Then again copper color looks like gold.

“The (lunar) eclipse party held at the planetarium site was quite a success. We had about fourteen telescopes ranging in size from Art Grebner’s 12 ½ (inch) to a moon watching-scope brought from the observatory.”

The next total lunar eclipse will be April 15. Some people might even buy a new scope to view it. That is if Uncle Sam left them any money earlier in the day.

25 Years Ago
Fall Starlite 1988

“I (President Mike Hay) would like to address the idea of standing committees in this message. We have five standing committees....COMMITTEE--A group of people chosen....The word I am interested in, from the above definition, is ‘people’. I see people as plural.”

What Mike was saying then is still appropriate today. We are lucky to have a chairman of many committees, let alone plural members. If you are interested in serving on any committee, just say so. I am sure you will be chosen.

“The speaker for our annual banquet this year will be our own R.P. Van Zandt who has, for years, been Mr. Astronomy in Peoria. Van has the ability to explain complex astronomical topics in straightforward, understandable language.”

In reviewing past Starlites, I note that Van has been our banquet speaker on more than one occasion. The same can be said of this year’s speaker, John Briggs, formerly of the Yerkes Observatory. He was our speaker at a banquet in the mid-1990’s, speaking on his 6-month no sun winter in Antarctica. See related article on this year’s topic.

Board Minutes (May, June, July, 2013)

May, 2013 April minutes were reviewed and accepted as written. The Treasurer's report contained reconciliation through April 29. Northmoor committee: Nick Johnson reported that the spring clean up was completed. He also reported that a Northmoor committee was formed consisting of Dave Grebner, Terry Beachler, Brian Hakes, Tatiana Johnson, Phil Burroughs, Bill Cole and himself. The Committee held its first meeting and defined roles and short term goals. Nick also reported that special observing sessions were held for Sheldon Shafer's Bradley class and a Cub Scout group. He noted that the Cub Scout session was arranged through a pilot process in which Kathy Dittmeier, PR chair acted as primary contact for the group. Summer Saturday night observing will begin May 18. Jubilee Observatory Committee: Rich Tennis (representing Bob Pauer) reported that the mower at Jubilee is in good working order. Rich also noted that he and Bob determined that due to safety issues, the painting of the 24" dome would be contracted out. Public Relations committee: Kathy Dittmeier presented an overview of items she had been working on. These included updated PAS references in the Park District Summer Playbook, ExplorePeoria.com, Peoria Journal Star and our Facebook page. She added she was working with the Peoria Public Library on forming plans for the 2-13 Moon Night in October. Under unfinished business, Rich Tennis suggested that Beginner Telescope Clinics be held on the 2nd Saturday of June, July and August at dusk in the Northmoor Parking lot. He will be soliciting experts to staff the clinics.

June, 2013 May minutes were reviewed and accepted with the correction of adding Mike Hay to the attendee list. The Treasurer's report was distributed by Rich Tennis for Dan Son. The report contained all the activity between April 30 and May 31, with the exception of savings interest. The report was accepted as written. Northmoor Observatory committee: Nick provided a summary of Saturday public viewing attendance through June 15. He reported that a couple of eyecups on the Northmoor eyepieces were missing. Steve Russell will try to get them replaced. Nick also reported on the paint situation at Northmoor. One of the goals for Northmoor is to repaint the dome interior walls. Nick met with a rep from Sherwin Williams regarding the type of paint to use. Upon review of the paint condition, the rep stated the real problem is moisture in the block walls and that any paint is not likely to last until that issue is resolved. Nick met with a rep from Bix Basement Systems and a masonry expert from the Peoria Park District. Both agreed that moisture in the blocks was a problem and pointed out that both the interior and exterior walls were experiencing paint loss. Both reps also agreed that the moisture was most likely being absorbed through the surface of the block walls rather than a leak. There is also significant condensation and small areas of mold in the area beneath the dome floor. Their joint recommendation was the installation of dehumidifier equipment in the lower dome area with internal vents in the dome floor and stairway door. This would be followed by prepping and painting both the exterior and interior walls. Jubilee Committee: Bob Pauer reported the 24" mirror was cleaned and thanked those members who helped. He added that the cleaning process was documented as the process took place. Eric gave recognition to Perry White for grading the jubilee access road. Eric also reported on the mirror cleaning and expressed disappointment in the lack of discipline he observed with people working around the mirror. He stressed that there must be only one person in charge and that newer members need to watch and learn. General discussion followed with the common thought that a written mirror cleaning process based on the documentation of the recent effort would help eliminate some of these problems. Nominations committee: Jesse Hoover reported that the president, Vice President and Northmoor Chair position were still open for 2014. Starlite committee: Mike Hay reported that one Starlite had been returned from the recent mailing. Public Relations committee: Rich Tennis reported for Kathy Dittmeier that 3 people came to the initial "How to Use your Telescope" session. He will continue to hold sessions from 6-8 on the 2nd Saturday of the summer months at Northmoor. Unfinished business: Perry White reported that Jubilee Café can provide a chicken dinner at the cost of \$10.50 per person for the annual Meeting. We would need to provide drinks, plates and dinnerware. Perry made a motion to use this dinner option with a member price of \$12 per person. Calene Fleming seconded the motion and it was approved by the Board.

July, 2013 Minutes from the June meeting were reviewed. Perry White noted that the cost of the meal for the annual meeting should be \$11.75 rather than \$10.50. The minutes were approved as revised. The Treasurer's Report: Dan Son reported he was unable to prepare a complete June report as he was unable to access the bank's online website. Dan will email a report on 7/18. Dan did provide an amended May report that included interest receipts. Northmoor committee: Nick provided an update of Saturday Public viewing sessions. He also reported that Steve Russell cleaned the eye pieces and he encouraged hosts to make an effort to protect them from fingerprints. Jubilee Report: Rich Tennis reviewed the quote from McClanahan Painting for painting the 24" dome. The motion to approve the project as quoted was made by Dan Son and seconded by Perry White. Nomination committee: Jesse Hoover reported that a candidate for President was identified but not confirmed. Starlite committee: Mike reported the next Starlite will be published at the end of August. He stated he needed a candidate slate for the annual meeting. Light control committee: Jesse reported that the light polluting tower in Hanna City has been corrected. Website committee: Jesse reported he posted pictures of the ICC star party on the website.

2013 Northmoor Hosting Schedule

Aug 31	Steve Wrigley Jon Wrigley Phil Burroughs
Sept 7	John Barra Mike Hay Tim Lester
Sept 14	Sheldon Shafer Rich Tennis Bob Pauer
Sept 21	Dan Son Sheldon Shafer Gerald Horst
Sept 28	Dave Grebner Terry Beachler Tatiana Johnson
Oct 5	Brian Hakes Rodney Nordstrom Jesse Hoover
Oct 12	John Barra Mike Hay Tim Lester
Oct 19	Bill Cole Bob Pauer <i>Open</i>

Jubilee Maintenance Schedule - 2013

AUG	31	John Barra	Dave Grebner	Greg Neaveill
		< Prep for ICC Astro Class - Date TBD >		
SEPT	7	Brandt Bechtold	Brian Hakes	Bob Pauer
SEPT	14	Brian Bill	Mike Hay	Larry Russell
SEPT	21	Gary Bussman	Jesse Hoover	Steve Russell
SEPT	28	Eric Clifton	Gerry Horst	Dan Son
OCT	5	Calene Fleming	Cliff Jeske	Scott Swords
OCT	12	Dave Grebner	Nick Johnson	Rich Tennis
OCT	19	Brian Hakes	Doug Kasel	Perry White
OCT	26	John Barra	Mike Hay	Greg Neaveill