



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

SPRING, 2012

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

List of Board of Directors
Editor's Notes
Address/email changes
New Members
Future Programs
Saying Goodbye
Observing, 2012
Starlite Past Article
President's Message
President's Vision
Items for Sale
Board Meeting Minutes
Financial Status
Northmoor Hosting Schedule
Jubilee Mowing Schedule

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

Editor's Notes: Articles may be submitted via two email addresses: ls_hay@yahoo.com or Starlighteditor@gmail.com. Deadlines for articles for the 2012 publications are: May 16, August 15, and 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!!!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

The Peoria Astronomical Society welcomes two new members: Adam Cook, Lincoln, IL and Chris Sopher of Peoria, IL.

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

March 7: Messier Marathon with Binoculars: John Barra

April 4: Organizational Meeting: Filling Committee Vacancies

May 2: Video: 50 Year Anniversary of the Space Program: Rich Tennis

SAYING GOODBYE:

The Peoria Astronomical Society has received news since our last edition that two of our members have passed away. We say goodbye to Brad Karnes, August, 2011 and Jim Granneman, January, 2012. They will be missed.

OBSERVING FOR 2012:

CHAIRMAN: GARY BUSSMAN

The observing season is approaching and there will be some events this year that you will want to mark your calendar for. They will be announced either thru the Starlite or E-Group. If you are not a member of the E-Group it is very easy to get. This is where we all keep in touch with a variety of things that are happening during the upcoming months. If you would like to join, send a email to mfrasca@att.net. Give him your email and he will put you on the group. Every month I will send you the upcoming events, star parties, and whats happening in the sky.

Events that I know now:

April.....ICC Star Party, April 13th. Rain dates, 14,20,21.

May.....3rd quarter and new moon weekends are 14th and 21st.

June.....Venus Transit on the 5th. At Lakeview 5PM. Star party June 9th at Jubilee Observatory. Rain date is June 16th.

July.....Star Party on July 14th at Jubilee Observatory. Rain date is July 21st.

August.....Star Party on August 11th at Jubilee Observatory. Rain date is August 18th.

September.....ICC Star Party, date to be announced. Banquet is on Sept. 22. Location to be announced later in the summer. We will have a star party after.

October.....3rd quarter moon weekends are 6th and 13th.

Star parties for June, July and August are the member meeting . We look forward to the upcoming observing season and again will keep you up to date on the upcoming events.

FROM STARLITES PAST

By John Barra

50 Years Ago

Spring Newsletter 1962

“Construction of the planetarium should start by April first and be completed in the fall. Dick Johnson, who already does the work of two with his double classes, is cheerfully looking forward to the time when he will take his place as director.”

The new planetarium at the new downtown museum should be open later this fall/winter, fifty years later. The Starlite and our webpage should keep you informed of the PAS plans later this year. We continue to seek member input.

“The lecture by Dr. Werner Van Braun will be held at Bradley Fieldhouse on Tuesday evening, April 3rd. Don't forget to keep this date open. You will receive another announcement card for reservations.”

As program chairman, I wish I could get such speakers at our meetings. Oh well, I guess you will have to get by just with me at my Messier Marathon Binocular presentation at this month's general meeting.

Starlites past cont.

25 Years Ago

Spring Starlite 1987

“Please keep in mind that the 24-inch telescope is temporarily out of service due to work being done on the mirror. The 14-inch at Jubilee is now back in service and ready for use.”

Hopefully I will be able to announce in the next newsletter that the 14-inch at Jubilee is once again back in service and ready for use. Our next job will be to begin work on the 24-inch dome.

“There will be an important Keyholders’ meeting on Saturday, March 21, 1987 at 7:30 pm. We haven’t had such a meeting for some time. This meeting will be to retrain the keyholders after the renovation of Northmoor Observatory.”

Bill Cole has indicated that annual Northmoor cleanup will be held Saturday morning, April 14. Final work still needs to be done to make sure that the renovation project will be entirely completed prior to a dedication ceremony for new dome this year.

RICH’S RAMBLINGS

We are well into the winter months although temperatures and snowfall have not been major issues. This winter has offered some nice evening skies for observing celestial objects both clear as well as those “dim fuzzies”. The plus is that, with winter’s short days, we can start our viewing before supper. The double plus is that we have our monthly e-mails scoop on what’s up there from our Observing Committee Chairperson, Gary Bussman.

For another way to get to know the treasures of the night-sky, pick up a copy of the astronomy magazines at your favorite bookstore. Better yet, look for used copies of “Astronomy” or “Sky & Telescope in the Lakeview Museum used book corner. The sky is the same for stationary objects each month so the year of the magazine is irrelevant and you can use the information no matter what the date of the magazine. The sky maps will help you locate these objects whether you are star-hopping or using a Go-To scope. Our PAS quarterly magazine “Reflector” lists a more challenging menu for observing the night sky.

We have been privileged to have Astronomical Awards Chairperson, John Barra, to instruct us about observing. Our March 7th meeting is on the Binocular Messier Marathon and all of us should have the equipment to participate in this fun annual event.

As evidence of John’s expertise, it is our great privilege to award the ultimate in observing awards to him at our **March 7th** meeting. John has earned the Astronomical League’s “**Master Observer Award**”. He is only the 123rd recipient of this honor. To earn this award, John earned the following observing awards: Messier Club, Binocular Messier Club, Lunar Club, Double Star Club, Herschel Club, Lunar II Award, Globular Cluster Award, Open Cluster Award (advanced), Deep Sky binocular Awards, and Urban Sky Award. In total John had to locate and record, 1,095 celestial objects. To make all this even more impressive, he did it all by star-hopping.

John has helped many of us achieve our observing goals. Be sure to come to our March 7th meeting at 7:30 PM, Lakeview Planetarium to hear John’s own description of how he accomplished all this. See you then.

PRESIDENT'S VISION:

From Rich:

(This was compiled by Mike Frasca about 10 years ago during a PAS brainstorming session. I think it is still valid and support its reinvigoration and action. PAS members: please consider the “how to do” as some “homework” for the near future.)

The PAS will help its member improve their observational and technical skills

Regular keyholder classes

Optic cleaning sessions

Make a computer and software available for member use

Have a technical orientation for new members

Instruction in observing techniques

Orientation to the sky for new members

A formal mentor system for PAS/public instruction

By maintaining and improving its' facilities, the PAS will provide it's members and the general public with the finest observing conditions possible.

Find a better dark sky site

Replace Van Zandt dome

Erect a new building at Jubilee with running water, toilets and a dark room

Have more organized work parties with more of the membership taking part

Obtain an hydrogen-alpha scope for solar observing

Make improvements to the Jubilee concrete pad

The PAS will aggressively promote astronomy to the general public

Organize a “Planetary Tour” for other groups besides cyclists

Have a “Solar System” day using the community solar system model

Arrange for “Astronomical Field Trips”

Sponsor a “Traveling Astronomer” road show

Sponsor public viewing with “sidewalk astronomers”

The PAS will serve as an education resource to the Peoria community

Give more formal presentation during weekend public viewing

Hand out fact-sheets during public viewing

Have a back-up program available for cloudy public viewing nights

Astronomical social events will be an important part of the club's program

Star picnics

Team observing contest

More formalized star parties

President's vision cont.

The PAS will support the creation of special interest groups within the club

CCD club
Binocular club
Photography club
Messier club

The PAS will expand its' membership ranks by actively recruiting young people

Information board at the planetarium
More programs to attract young people
Active recruitment of school groups
Target marketing

The PAS will market itself to the Peoria community

Advertisement in Journal Star's Cue section
Fund-raiser for the Van Zandt dome
Endowment program
Souvenir shop

The PAS will improve its accessibility and visibility by effective public relations

Do TV shows and classes
Van Zandt observatory signs
Get our own phone number
Distribute brochures in appropriate places

The PAS will update its information resources

NASA link at observatories
Help public library update their books
Upgrade the PAS library

ITEMS FOR SALE:

From Rich Tennis

I talked to the gentleman from Pekin that has this mint condition telescope for sale. He had it in the Peoria Journal Star, but did not have a single call, except mine. I had called him to get the story. Dave Beuscher bought it upon retirement, but changed his mind on it after a short use of it. He is to have cataract surgery sometime in the future, but wants to start again with a smaller telescope later. I got permission from him to add it to our Starlite. It is to be as follows:

"Telescope for sale - Meade 8-inch SCT LX-200 GPS Includes: tripod, full diameter sun filter, anti-dew shield, eyepieces - (6.4mm, 9.7mm, 24mm), f/6.3 focal reducer, "Bob's Knobs". Used only six times. \$2,200 firm. (309) 353-6311 Pekin, IL"

From Louis Carr

“My curiosity about what’s out there in space led me to purchase a Meade MTS-SN8 telescope 23 years ago. I recall that the telescope was purchased from a store in Minneapolis and cost a bit over \$900. However, it has been years since I used the telescope since my neighborhood on West Lake St. in Peoria has become the location of numerous motels and shopping centers. The light pollution is terrific. So I’ve decided to sell the Meade MTS-SN8. I have two eyepieces for the scope and have also mounted it on a wheeled platform so that it can be moved about. The scope has been sheltered in a special sealed cabinet that I made for it in my garage and to the best of my knowledge is in good working order. I am asking \$600 for the package. I can be reached at 309-691-8927 or by email at lcarr@mtco.com and would be glad to show the package to any interested parties.”

BOARD MEETING MINUTES (highlights)

November, 2011 (not available)

December, 2011

Minutes were approved for November. Brian Hakes presented the treasurer’s report. The report was accepted. Bill Cole reported that he has been working on fine-tuning the thermostat adjustment for the new warm up room heater. He asks that no one adjust it until further notice. Eric Clifton reported he and Gary Bussman discussed relocating the 14” telescope to Gary’s residence for cleaning. Perry White asked if there was a need for a reference copy of the installation instruction for the garage door that was installed last summer. The group thought it would be a good idea to have one. Mike Hay suggested keeping a copy at the Jubilee site and the original with other PAS papers. Mike reported that the most recent Starlite was mailed during the week after Thanksgiving. He received one undelivered mailing and resent it. John Barra reviewed the 2012 program schedule. There were no changes. Jesse Hoover reported the “DB Connect” problem has been permanently fixed. He also reported that the calendar on the website may not work for people using older version of Internet Explorer. The best fix is for members to update to a more recent version of IE. Brian brought up the topic of mounting the new Northmoor plaque (along with the old one) in the curved surface of the observatory dome. He suggested that an alternative to that would be to mount them in kiosk fashion on either the east or west wall with one of the existing ceiling spotlights directed toward them. This item was tabled to be part of the 2012 phase of the restoration project.

January, 2012

Minutes from the December meeting were approved. Brian Hakes presented the treasurer’s report. It was accepted. Bill Cole reported that he is receiving preferences for 2012 Northmoor hosting from some members. Scott Swords reported that there were two new members, Adam Cook and Chris Sopher. Mike Hay reported that the next Starlite will be published by the 1st weekend of March. Gary Bussman reported he was still working on arranging for a portable toilet at the Northmoor site.

