



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, 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:
Jubilee Chairman: Eric Clifton, ericjclifton@comcast.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. Deadlines for articles for the 2013 publications are: May 22, August 21 and 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 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 is pleased to have two new members. They are Brian Austin of Bartonville and Gary Rafool of East Peoria. Welcome to the Society!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Northmoor chairman-

The position of Northmoor Chairman is open to any member who would be interested in coordinating the activities and viewing schedule for the 2013 year. Please contact Rich Tennis as soon as possible if you are willing to fill this position.

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.

Northmoor Hosts for Public Viewing-

Our Northmoor Observatory will again hold observing nights that are open to the public in 2013. These events will take place on Saturday evenings from May 18 through October 19. Northmoor Observatory keyholders along with other PAS members will serve as hosts to the public for these events. It is not uncommon to have more than 100 people visit the observatory on a clear observing night. We frequently meet people who first visited the observatory as a child and are now introducing their children or grandchildren to the wonders of astronomy.

We currently have 3 openings for hosting in the 2013 schedule and are looking for PAS members to volunteer to be added to the schedule. The openings are on June 15, July 6, and October 19. New hosts will be teamed with two experienced Northmoor hosts. You do not need to know how to use the Northmoor telescope to volunteer. The events begin at dusk and normally run until 10:30 to 11:00 PM. **If you are interested in hosting, please contact Nick Johnson at johnsnl@comcast.net.** This is a great opportunity to learn about the Northmoor operations and to contribute to PAS' relationship with our community.

Program Schedule (for 2013 to be updated later)

(All meetings unless noted are at the new Riverfront Museum)

March 6: The Skies of Door County: Gary Bussman

April 3: Great Debate VI: The Future of the PAS (Recruiting board and committee members): John Barra

The general meeting for April 3rd will be the Great Debate VI: The Future of the PAS. The intent is to debate if there is a future of the PAS. The problem is the dire need to get more PAS members active in the board of the society and on its committees. Several of us on the board are getting older and we need younger members to become involved. At the time this article was drafted we have several vacancies, most notably the Chairman of Northmoor Observatory.

In actuality we hope not to reach the debate part. The meeting will start by each officer giving a short presentation on his or her responsibilities. The chairpersons of each committee will also give short presentations on each committee. The vacancies or soon-to-be vacancies will be announced.

Then we will be involved in active on-the-spot recruitment for vacancies. Hopefully, we will be able to fill the main ones and the actual debate will be postponed. So members should give some thought before the meeting as to what positions that might be interested in. Days prior to the meeting, we will list the vacancies on a Peoria Astro email.

North Central Regional Astronomical Meeting

From Rich Tennis

Many of you have not attended an Astronomical Society meeting or a North Central Regional Astronomical League event. I have received information in the mail that the Rochester Astronomy Club will be hosting this year's NCRAL in Rochester, Minnesota on April 12-13, 2013.

More information can be viewed on their web site, <http://ncral2013.com> where you can review all the information they sent me. I would encourage you to review the information and plan on attending the NCRAL 2013 at Rochester, Minnesota, located in SE Minnesota.

PAS Members Star Party at Northmoor Observatory, May 11th, Saturday evening

The PAS Board invites all members to a night under the stars at Northmoor Observatory to gaze at the heavens thru the fine 9-inch telescope and those telescopes, which PAS members bring. Telescopes and lawn chairs are recommended.*

The following week, May 18th, begins the summer viewing for the public to our fine observatory. With our star party by all PAS members the week before; the word is to be spread to their friends and neighbors that the summer of stellar enjoyment has begun.

*Clouds may dim our viewing, but not a tour of the Northmoor Observatory that evening.

Comet PanSTARRS

Comet PanSTARRS should be visible along the western horizon shortly after sunset in March. Look about 30 minutes after sunset in early March. The comet will be moving higher in the sky and to the north during March and April. It is predicted to reach 0 magnitude at perihelion but will dim quickly. Binoculars will be helpful as it is during the twilight.

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 astrophotography 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 Starlites Past

By John Barra

***50 Years Ago
Spring Newsletter 1963***

“For the first time since we started our Newsletter in 1956, you are receiving a spring issue. This portends good things to come because from now on you will be receiving them more often. ”

Being the one compiling this column four times a year, I am glad the society decided to publish the newsletter four times instead of two so long ago. It was tough trying to come up with material in this column four times a year from only two issues a year.

“This year we will be the host society for the seventeenth annual convention of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League....Later in the evening, there will be an observing session (weather permitting) and inspection of the Observatory.”

Hopefully it was clear that night. At least the odds were better with the fact that Rich Tennis was not a member yet. When he arranged for the club's viewing at that other observatory we can't mention, I think it took 12 cloud-outs before we got one with a clear night.

25 Years Ago Spring Starlite 1988

“The 24-inch mirror has never been better !! Since it was refigured last year by Dan Joyce, we've seen things that we've never seen before---things like the Horsehead Nebula, the Rosette and the Stephan's Quintet.”

You have to hand it to those guys who built the 24 at Jubilee. It truly is an engineering marvel. It is a masterpiece that keeps on working, even if it is a challenge to keep the birds from sneaking into the dome that holds it.

“Getting the half-ton 24 inch telescope aimed at a faint galaxy has always been an art. Since few of us have this touch with the telescope, we got a CAT instead. The society has ordered a Computer-Aided Telescope (CAT) system for Jubilee's largest telescope.”

Now if we can just get the electronics working on the fourteen. If not, us Dobsonian users will have to learn how to starhop with an equatorial mount.

Board Minutes Highlights

October 19, 2012

Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Dan Son gave the treasurer's report for September. Dan noted the report included a donation from Royal Publishing. The Board accepted the report as presented. Bill Cole reported that October viewing sessions for Northmoor had been hampered by the cloudy weather. Erick Clifton reported that the electrical work at Jubilee was completed. The cost was \$998.60.

Eric also reported that he and Bob Pauer got the 24" dome motor repaired. Eric and Bob also figured out a way to move the scaffolding in the dome without removing the 24" telescope. This will allow him to install new "bird baffles" in the dome opening. Eric also reported the OLLI star party was on Oct. 12th but only 4 class members attended. Rich Tennis reported that Jess Hoover has completed his term as Nominations Chair and the position is open. Nick Johnson and Eric Clifton advised the group that it may be advantageous to move the Parliamentarian position to Nick Johnson in order to align with Nick's task of updating PAS bylaws. The Board approved that change. Scott Swords reported there was one new member last month, Jon Crow. Mike Hay reminded the group that any input for the next Starlite should be submitted by the November Board meeting. John Barra reminded the group the first general meeting will be held at the new museum on Nov. 7. The program will be this year's version of Astro-Jeopardy. John added that he still needs program ideas for Feb., March and April's meetings. Rich Tennis announced that Jesse Hoover is taking over the position as Light Control Chair. Gary Bussman reported that the 3rd quarter moon in November will be on the 9th and 10th and that the new moon will be on the 16th and 17th. He added that the Leonid meteor shower will take place on Nov. 17 and suggested we hold a star party. Rich Tennis brought up the topic of charges for the new museum. He asked if we should pay as we hold each meeting or if we should prepay. The group consensus was to prepay.

November 28, 2012

Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and a few typos were noted. The minutes were accepted per those revisions. Rich Tennis informed the group that because Dan Son was not available for the meeting review of the October treasurer's report would be deferred to December's meeting. Bill Cole reported that 17 of the 26 Saturday viewing sessions experienced adequate to good viewing conditions. This represents 65% which is above normal for a viewing season. Rich Tennis reported that Jesse Hoover will continue as Nominating Chair on a temporary basis until a permanent Chair is named, Mike Hay reported the winter Starlite will be mailed 11/29. Jesse Hoover reported the website has been running smoothly. Gary Bussman reported upcoming viewing opportunities included close proximities of the moon and Jupiter and Venus and Saturn. He also reminded the group of the meteor showers on Dec. 13. Nick Johnson recommended that the PAS purchase a holiday plant to present to Hardee's as a thank you for the use of their facility as well as their hospitality during our meetings. The Board unanimously approved the suggestion.

Board Minutes continued

December 19, 2012

Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Rich Tennis informed the group that Dan Son was not available for the meeting but sent him a Treasurer's Report that reconciled accounts through November. The report was reviewed and accepted. Rich Tennis reported he procured and installed Styrofoam insulation for the Visitor's Center windows at Northmoor. Eric Clifton suggested we also consider

insulating the door to the observatory dome. Rich will investigate. Eric reported he still has some unpaid bills for scaffolding rented for the 24" dome repair. He also reported that three member have received keyholder training for the 24" telescope. They are Greg Neavill, Larry Russell, and Nick Johnson. The Board unanimously approved granting keyholder status to these members. Calene Fleming reported she had no new items to report. She added that she will be scheduling an "inventory clean up" event Academy of Sciences. John Barra reported that January and February programs are set. He added that the program for March will feature the Skies of Door County for the 1st half of the meeting but another topic is needed for the 2nd half. Jesse Hoover reported that new pictures have been posted to the website. He continues to ask that content ideas and material be sent to him.

January 16, 2013

Minutes for the December meeting were reviewed. Calene Fleming suggested that an addition be added to document that all committee chairs were to prepare a summarization of their committee's purpose and duties. The minutes were accepted as amended. Rich Tennis informed the group he had not received a Treasurer's report from Dan Son. Rich reported that insulating the dome door does not appear feasible. Bill Cole reported he has access to a used VCR to replace the existing one. Rich reported for Eric Clifton that Eric will try to find someone to repair the switches on the 24" telescope controller at Jubilee. Calene Fleming reported there is a need to get a group together to go through our inventory and make decisions. Gary Bussman provided the date for the new and 3rd quarter moons for 2013. The next step is to make dates for star parties for the summer. The group agreed that the Saturday new moon dates should be used. Nick Johnson reported we do not have enough volunteers to staff Northmoor public sessions using 3 members per session. Mike Hay suggested that non-email group member be contacted directly to solicit for volunteer hosting. Nick will pursue. The possibility of reduced viewing schedule was suggested. The Board approved dropping the first two weekends of May and last weekend of October from the schedule.

Rich's Ramblings

I met with PAS's oldest members, Bette Ohl, (see picture), 92. We had a pleasant discussion about her experiences in PAS. She was a PAS member before the Northmoor Observatory was built and a Keyholder after its completion. She still drives, but only in the daytime. She enjoys reading the "Starlite".

Bette was not involved with the administration part of PAS, but volunteered answering questions of visitors who came to the Northmoor Observatory Saturdays. She and other members would also go to schools and give presentations to the students regarding astronomy.

At the time PAS held free viewings to the public on Saturday's, during the summer months. They would also have extra viewings on Wednesdays to special groups. She recalled a large public turnout for a very close approach of Mars. Bette mentioned that the PAS Board met in the homes of the Board members.

Bette recalled some of the members that were active in PAS's early years – Mrs. Patterson, Dawn Gault, Virginia Breckenridge, Ernie Lunden, George Nelson, Rollin Van Zandt , Ernie Landen, Dr. Sam Decker, Bill McCowan, Blaine Sumner, Calene Fleming, and brothers Don and Richard Hill. She also recalled a very young member, Dave Grebner, son of Art Grebner who had an observatory in Metamora.

Bette had a 65 mm refractor telescope that she later donated to PAS when she could no longer use it. Bette was married for 70 years and her husband, Temple, owned Ohl's Radiator Service in Peoria, but seldom attended PAS activities.

Bette said she might come to a PAS meeting at the Peoria Riverfront Museum with one of her sons, Temple or Richard. I would encourage you to come to meet this very charming PAS member.



NORTHMOOR OBSERVATORY HOSTING SCHEDULE 2013

2013 Northmoor Hosting Schedule

May 18 **Scott Swords** Calene Fleming Sheldon Schafer
 May 25 **Bill Cole** Dan Son Dave Grebner

 June 1 **John Barra** Mike Hay Brian Hakes
 June 8 **Phil Burroughs** Tim Lester Bob Pauer
 June 15 **Rodney Nordstrom** Rich Tennis *Open*
 June 22 **Calene Fleming** Scott Swords Nick Johnson
 June 29 **Steve Wrigley** Jon Wrigley Brandt Bechtold

 July 6 **Phil Burroughs** Terry Beachler *Open*
 July 13 **Rich Tennis** Gerald Horst Bob Pauer
 July 20 **Brian Hakes** Brandt Bechtold Rodney Nordstrom
 July 27 **Dave Grebner** Dan Son Jesse Hoover

 Aug 3 **Steve Wrigley** Jon Wrigley Tatiana Johnson
 Aug 10 **Terry Beachler** Nick Johnson Gerald Horst
 Aug 17 **Scott Swords** Calene Fleming Jesse Hoover
 Aug 24 **Bill Cole** Brandt Bechtold Nick Johnson
 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 *Open*

JUBILEE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Jubilee Maintenance Schedule - 2013

<Prep for ICC Astro Class 4/5 thru 4/20>

MAR 30 Brian Bill Eric Clifton Jesse Hoover
MAR 30 Nick Johnson Greg Neaveill Bob Pauer
MAR 30 Larry Russell Rich Tennis Perry White

APR 6 Brand Bechtold Brian Hakes Dan Son
APR 13 Brian Bill Mike Hay Gerry Horst
APR 20 Gary Bussman Jesse Hoover Steve Russell
APR 27 Eric Clifton Bob Pauer Larry Russell

MAY 4 Calene Fleming Cliff Jeske Scott Swords
MAY 11 Dave Grebner Nick Johnson Rich Tennis
MAY 18 Brian Hakes Doug Kasel Perry White
MAY 25 John Barra Mike Hay Greg Neaveill

JUNE 1 Brandt Bechtold Jesse Hoover Bob Pauer
JUNE 8 Brian Bill Gerry Horst Larry Russell
JUNE 15 Gary Bussman Cliff Jeske Steve Russell
JUNE 22 Eric Clifton Nick Johnson Dan Son
JUNE 29 Calene Fleming Doug Kasel Scott Swords

JULY 6 Dave Grebner Greg Neaveill Rich Tennis
JULY 13 Brian Hakes Bob Pauer Perry White
JULY 20 John Barra Mike Hay Larry Russell
JULY 27 Brandt Bechtold Jesse Hoover Steve Russell

AUG 3 Brian Bill Gerry Horst Dan Don
AUG 10 Gary Bussman Cliff Jeske Perry White
AUG 17 Eric Clifton Nick Johnson Rich Tennis
AUG 24 Calene Fleming Doug Kasel Scott Swords
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 Don

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