



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, 2015

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Directors:

President: Dan Son, sonshine1992@gmail.com
Vice-President: Jesse Hoover, hooverje@gmail.com
Secretary: Tatiana Johnson, 2gsheps@gmail.com
Treasurer: Brian Hakes, bhakes02@comcast.net
Parliamentarian: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
Nominating Chairman: Rich Tennis, rltennis7@gmail.com
Legal Agent: Mike Hay, me.hay@comcast.net
Northmoor Chairman: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
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 and underscore between s and h)

Articles may be submitted to Linda via email addresses: ls_hay@yahoo.com
Deadlines for articles for the 2015 publications are: May 20, August 19
and November 18. (Please submit all articles in a **WORD** format. I have an older
Windows XP desktop computer that is 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 (for
in-club use only – not given out to other sources). 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 new members:

Diane and Greg Schwarzentraub, Morton
Tyler Shepke, Tremont
Jeffrey Constable, East Peoria
Vaclav and Jim Ujcik, Edwards, IL.

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

From Dan Son

Well here we are getting warmer by the day. I hope you enjoyed your winter season. As I write this I hope we have clear skies for our Messier Marathon in March. I remember my 1st marathon and working hard to find most of the objects until snow started falling, but you know what, all of us out at Jubilee had fun and enjoyed the time together.

With the Spring issue in your hands I hope you think about helping PAS the summer. We are always in need of a few good hands with mowing at Jubilee. Bob Pauer has made a list for weekend mowers and we can use more help. It's a good way to get a key to the site and meet other members on a Saturday morning. Only takes a few hours and it is nice to actual see the domes in daylight. Don't let me forget about Northmoor. Nick Johnson has his hands full getting everyone lined up for Saturday night public star parties. We have had to shorten the season with less people volunteering. It is not hard to do, show up, learn over time and the best part...all the smiling faces when people see thru the scope at the planets and other deep sky objects.

Spring is one of the best times to gaze thru the scope. Winter constellations are still up, the sun still goes down early in the evenings and it not too cold out. I hope you will make to Jubilee for the new moon weekends, if you are not in the email group, please join. Members announce when they are going out and we would love to share time at the scope with members.

I want to say thanks to Katy Shackelford for a great February public meeting at Riverview Museum. That was a great presentation on your experience with NASA. I hope to see you at the next new moon at Jubilee. Clear skies and keep looking up!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

March 4th: Solar winds and auroras on planets; Professor William Kurth, University of Iowa

April 1st (No fooling): Building your own telescope; Greg Neaveill & Rich Tennis. (See more information later in this issue.

May 6th: NASA Open Innovation Team; Dennis Boniilla, NASA Contractor Senior Digital Strategist – Valador, Inc.

BUSINESS CARDS FOR PAS:

From Rich Tennis

“How many of your friends and acquaintances know that you are a member of the Peoria Astronomical Society? How many know that you enjoy the dark clear skies and the host of objects that you look at? Finally, how many of your friends and acquaintances know that they can know about our FREE Peoria Riverfront Museum meeting for their whole family and friends...and free parking at the PRM during PAS meetings?

If you have not nodded a “Yes” to these questions, we have an answer for you to spread the word on the organization that you are a member of.

(If you need more cards to pass to out about the PAS, please contact Mike and Linda Hay.)

MESSIER MARATHON

From Dan Son

Well it's spring and that means another Messier Marathon. What is that you might ask! Well on the weekend of March 20th & 21st anyone interest can come out to Jubilee and try to find all 110 Messier objects in a single night. Charles Messier was a comet hunter in the 1700's and cataloged these objects that were not comets. To find them all task a clear spring night and lots of hot chocolate. It can be done I'm told, I have yet to succeed. This is why joining the e-group is important, we will be posting the best cloud free night for the event and members will say if they are coming out. Even if you cant stay up all night, you can do a partial and stay out as late as you can. Come to the March members meeting to find out more. The warm up room at Jubilee will be open for business.

OBSERVING INFORMATION

From Gary Bussman, Observing Chair

We are starting to plan the spring, summer and fall star party's for this coming observing season. The best way to know about this is either looking at our website or thru the egroup communication. The e-group is the best way to keep informed. I will communicate the star party's observing nights through this source. It is easy to sign up. Look on the inside cover of the Starlite and follow the directions. The star party's out at Jubilee observatory are usually on 3rd quarter/new moon weekends. Northmoor observatory is open on Saturday nights from May thru October. I look forward to seeing everyone out at Jubilee Observatory and Northmoor Observatory this viewing season!

FROM STARLITES PAST

By John Barra

50 Years Ago, (Spring Starlite)

“The Observing Committee under Chm. Ken Rhoads and Co-Chr. Art Grebner’s leadership has fired our Friday night observing sessions with new life. The ‘College Bowl Quiz’ went over and the meeting on mythology...was both instructive and amusing.”

The ‘College Bowl Quiz’ must have been the predecessor of ‘Astrojeopardy.’ I presume Gene Hodel would not have been in charge back then, so while it may have been instructive, I am sure it was not as amusing as Gene’s ‘Astrojeopardy.’

“Our time Capsule at Lakeview Center contains a 1964 membership list, and a photo of some of the original members of the Astronomy Section after the Observatory was built and before the lecture room was added.”

I wonder if the time capsule is still there? And how easy would it be to get it? Now that the museum is closed, it might be interesting to see if we can get to it and see what else may be there.

25 Years Ago (March Starlite, 1990)

“The latest word on Comet Austin is one of caution. For the last 3 weeks, it has slowed its brightening that led to a predicted magnitude of 0 at perihelion. Current estimates are in the range of 1.5 or even fainter. The board had hoped to put on a public start party if Austin turned out to be a truly spectacular object.”

In reviewing several articles on the internet, Comet Austin did not become a great viewable comet, certainly not like Hale Bopp that allowed for great public viewing. Some compared Austin to another greatly anticipated fizzle, Comet Kohoutek of 1973.

“Dr. Sam Decker has announced his intention to donate the C!\$ Compustar telescope, currently located in the small dome at Jubilee, to the society. The C14 has been a very popular telescope since he allowed us to install it there about 2 years ago.”

It was a sad day recently when we learned that the old electronics on the C14 could not be fixed. I remember in the late 1990’s when I was between prescriptions and had trouble reading the numbers on its display. I had my then young daughter key in the numbers and we slewed the scope to the objects. Great fun.

April's Program features two of Central Illinois' Best Amateur Telescope Makers!

(Postponed from January)

Who builds a telescope when you can buy one so cheap? Well, two of our members have done just that; one having just completed his second scope.

Don't miss our April 1st program where it will be a "Show and Tell" featuring Rich Tennis and Greg Neaveill. Rich completed his 17.5" Dobsonian back in 2005. Greg completed his 10" Dobsonian back in 2009 and just completed his 8" DOB-in-a-Briefcase this month. Get a look behind the scenes at what went into their making with a PowerPoint presentation by Rich and Greg. All three telescopes will be at our meeting so you can touch (except the mirrors) and ask all the questions you want. You'll have to travel quite a ways before you'll see three finer home-made telescopes . . . perhaps you will be inspired to build your own.

BOARD MINUTES (November, January---no meeting in December)

November 18, 2014

Board members in attendance were: Scott Swords, Calene Fleming, Dan Son, Mike Frasca, Rich Tennis, Brian Hakes, Gary Bussman, Mike and Linda Hay, Nick Johnson and Tatiana Johnson. Minutes from the Octobers meeting were reviewed and corrected as follows: 500 business cards were mailed instead of 250. Brian Hakes reported the dues renewal form would be published in the Starlite in an effort to save on postage by eliminating the membership dues reminder as a separate mailing. Nick Johnson reported that the observatory was winterized. Terry Beachler identified the source of one of the leaks, but the other continued to be a mystery requiring further investigation. Nick also reported that planning the members' night late in the season seemed to be problematic due to scheduling conflicts. Nick suggested planning it for late April or Early May of 2015. Public observing stats were reported as follows: 7 clear viewing nights, 11 cloudy. A total of 667 visitors attended donating a total of \$294. Calene reported the sky survey images donated by Van Zandt were added to the inventory. Rich reported he would have a slate of candidates ready by Sept. If a committee/position was not active, it was suggested to eliminate it. Mike stated that according to the constitution, the President would establish special and standing committees for the year. Nick inquired about increasing membership dues. After a brief discussion, it was agreed membership dues should remain at \$30. In light of Donovan golf course becoming a park, Mike Hay and Eric had a discussion about PAS posting a sign in the park describing the society and its hours of operations with the permission from the Peoria, Park District. Nick suggesting contacting Peoria Part District to find out what the plans for the park were and whether PAS were considered in the future development of the park. Nick also suggested negotiating with the Peoria Park District allowing PAS to use the building in the park to hold meetings.

January 21, 2015

Board members in attendance were: Scott Swords, Calene Fleming, Dan Son, rich Tennis, Brian Hakes, Gary Bussman, Mike Hay, Nick Johnson, Bill Cole, Jesse Hoover, Terry Beachler, Eric Clifton and Tatiana Johnson. Brian Hakes provided a consolidated report for the months of December and January. He commended that membership dues announcement in the Starlite was working well and dues were coming in as well as donations. He reported about 50% of the member renewed their membership to date. Nick reported that Mike Baietto with the Peoria Park District planned to attend the PS Board meeting to discuss the future plans for the Donovan Golf Course, but was unable to attend and agreed to attend the February meeting. Rich reported he was preparing a rough draft of the slate of candidates to present to the Board. Rich also reported that the January program was cancelled due to inclement weather. It has been rescheduled for April. Brian reported that payment to the museum has been waived due to the cancellation. Jesse reported two new people expressed interest in serving on the Light Control Committee. Gary reported he would prepare the schedule of star parties for the upcoming viewing season, including a few at Northmoor. The leak in the Northmoor dome was discussed. Terry Beachler determined it would require flashing in the dome and a seal on the door to mitigate the leak. Rich spoke with Tim Lester, and the C14 telescope electronics were reported fixed. It was unclear however whether it was powered or not. Eric will check on it and test it.