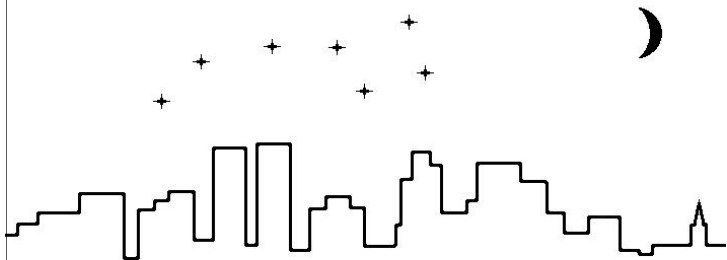


# STARLITE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE PEORIA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

[www.astronomical.org](http://www.astronomical.org)



Peoria Astronomical Society

SUMMER 2007

Inside this issue:

## Star Parties to Replace Summer Programs By John Barra

Star Parties to Replace Summer Programs	1
Lands End Clothing	
Upcoming Events	
Astronomical Data Calendar	2
Winery Star Party Report	3
PAS Board Info	
From Starlites Past	4

Please welcome our newest members!

JEFF ARNETT

DAVID JOHNSON

This summer, there will be no general membership meetings at Lakeview Planetarium. Instead we will have monthly star parties. General membership meetings the first Wednesday of the month resume in September at the planetarium. Below is a list of information on the summer star parties hosted by the PAS:

**Saturday, June 23** at Northmoor Observatory at Donovan Golf Course.

This event will be a special star party to coincide with the regular public viewing at the observatory. In addition to viewing in the dome, members are asked to bring telescopes to set up outside for viewing by the public. In addition to a first quarter moon, the planets Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn should be in the evening sky to observe.

Members of the public are invited to bring out new telescopes if they need help from our members to learn how to set them up and use them.

**Saturday, July 14** at DGV Observatory at Jubilee.

This party is a members-only star party at Jubilee. Of course, members are always welcome to bring guests. This is an old-fashioned star party on a new moon weekend. Everyone is welcome to bring their scope.

In addition to the usual summer star party viewing, people can compete in the seasonal, mini-marathons. Checkoff lists will be available at the site. Certificates will be awarded to anyone who completes any of the seasonal marathons.

**Saturday, August 11** at the Prairie Lane Shelter at Jubilee State Park.



This star party will also be open to the public. Members are encouraged to bring their scopes. This night will also be on a new moon weekend. Therefore, good deep sky viewing should be available, weather permitting.

An added bonus is that this night is the beginning of the Perseid Meteor Shower. So far park officials have indicated we can stay as late as we want. It should make for a good night to get nonmembers interested in astronomy and the club.



## Get the PAS Logo on Land's End Clothing! By Dan Son

The Peoria Astronomical Society has a wonderful Logo and we have the ability to have it put on clothing from Lands End. From now until July 31st, we can order any item from Lands End Business Outfitters, and have the logo put on. Many members have shirts and hats with the PAS logo. If you want more information call Dan Son at (309)698-8611 or email him

at [Sunshine92@insightbb.com](mailto:Sunshine92@insightbb.com). The deadline is July 31st, so call early. Look at the Lands End Business Outfitters web site for clothing & other items offered.

<http://ocs.landsend.com/corpsales>

## Upcoming Events

### SUMMER MEETING LOCATION CHANGES!!

This year, we will not be holding our summer meetings at Lakeview Planetarium. Instead, we will be holding star parties for our June, July, and August meetings.

**June 23**—Northmoor Star Party (public invited)

**July 14th**—Jubilee Star Party (PAS members & guests only)

**Aug 11**—Jubilee Star Party (public invited)— This one will be at the Prairie Lane picnic area in the park.)

### AREA STAR PARTIES

#### Prairie Skies Star Party

September 13 - 16, 2007  
<http://www.prairieskies.org/>

#### Illinois Dark Skies Star Party

September 13th - 16th  
<http://www.sas-sky.org/main.html>

#### Astrofest

September 6th—9th  
<http://chicagoastro.org/af/index.html>

### PAS Annual Banquet

Sep 29th @ Midstate College

We will have a Special Guest speaker. Officer and board member elections will be held following dinner.. This meeting will also replace the October membership meeting!

### ICC Summer Star Party

Primary Date: **Fri, July 6th**

Backup Dates (if needed)  
Saturday, July 7th  
Friday, July 13th  
Saturday, July 14th

## Astronomical Data Calendar

### June

Jun 2 04:56a Mercury Greatest Eastern Elongation, Mag=0.5  
Jun 5 05:57p Jupiter Opposition, Mag=-2.6  
Jun 8 06:43a Third Quarter Moon  
Jun 8 09:36a Moon and Uranus 1.1° apart  
Jun 8 09:43p Venus Greatest Eastern Elongation, Mag=-4.3  
Jun 14 10:14p New Moon  
Jun 16 09:56a June Lyrids peak  
Jun 22 08:16a First Quarter Moon  
Jun 27 03:03p June Bootids peak  
Jun 28 01:39p Mercury Inferior Conjunction  
Jun 30 08:49a Full Moon



### July

Jul 7 11:54a Third Quarter Moon  
Jul 14 07:04a New Moon  
Jul 16 05:41p Moon and Saturn 39' apart  
Jul 20 10:00a Mercury Greatest Western Elongation, Mag=0.3  
Jul 22 01:30a First Quarter Moon  
Jul 28 08:13a Southern delta-Aquarids peak  
Jul 29 07:48p Full Moon

### August

Aug 5 04:20p Third Quarter Moon  
Aug 12 06:03p New Moon  
Aug 12 07:10p Perseids peak  
Aug 13 01:09p Neptune Opposition Mag=7.8  
Aug 15 02:56p Mercury Superior Conjunction  
Aug 17 10:40p Venus Inferior Conjunction  
Aug 18 05:02a kappa-Cygnids peak  
Aug 18 08:47a Mercury and Saturn 28' apart  
Aug 20 06:55a Northern iota-Aquarids peak  
Aug 20 06:55p First Quarter Moon  
Aug 21 06:27p Saturn in Conjunction with the Sun  
Aug 28 05:36a Full Moon  
Aug 28 05:37a Lunar Eclipse  
Aug 29 02:24a Moon and Uranus 1.2° apart


## 2007 PAS Winery Star Party Report By Rich Tennis

PAS members enjoyed a very fine evening of the very clear night skies Saturday May 19th at the Mackinaw Valley Vineyard, provided at no cost to PAS for the fifth year in a row, thanks to Paul Hahn, owner of the winery. About 10 PAS members attended the evenings viewing. Some with telescopes, some to look and converse. However, TCAA had no attendees due to all their members attending the North Central Regional Astronomical League Convention in Fargo, North Dakota. Some PAS members may have attended this same convention, as well, as they were missing from attending the dual star party.

The weather was very good with clear quiet heavens above and temperatures were around the upper 50's with no wind. There was a very good sighting of a close encounter of Venus with the waxing crescent moon early in the evening with Venus. Other solar viewings included Saturn, Jupiter, and Pluto observed during the evening. The Pluto view was provided by Randy Byland and his 11 inch "all-everything" Celestron SCT.

Dan Son worked on his Herschel List and knocked down about ten during the evening. John Barra worked on the Astronomical League's list for open-clusters and his cigar. Rich Tennis demonstrated his "seeing-eye-dog" technique with his two telescopes..."Phoenix" 17.5 inch dob and 8 inch SCT with the green laser. Others did their own program with grins on their faces.

A thank-you card for Paul Hahn and his wife, Linda, was signed by all the attendees. Paul suggested possible future PAS astronomer gatherings at the Mackinaw Valley Vineyard packaging it with one of their concert nights and show the stars after the program ended, at about 10 PM. Further discussions on that will be at the Board meetings.

Oh, the beverage, available during the early evening, was also enjoyed by some who may have wanted to look for double-stars. There were some winery guests who were enthralled with the sights, as well. The evening of enjoyment of the heavens ended with still clear skies beckoning at about 2:00 AM. And, they will continue to beckon all of us to enjoy at future star parties, or private viewings this year. Clear & dark skies for you all. 

### Got E-mail?

Do you have an email account? If so, we encourage you to sign up to receive the Starlite through email. You will not only receive the issue faster, but you will be able to view it in full color and print it right from home. Plus, you will be saving the Society some money by not having to print and mail the paper copies.

To get the Starlite delivered to your email address, simply send an email to me, at

**starlite@astronomical.org**

Include your full name and the email address(es) you want the starlite sent. And don't worry...I manage the list myself, so you will not receive any SPAM!

Tim McGrath,  
Starlite Editor

### We're seeking a new Webmaster

Are you a computer savy? Are you wanting to get more involved, but don't know where to start? Would you like up-to-the-minute information about what is going on in the PAS? Then perhaps you could be the next **PAS Webmaster!!**

Do you understand terms like PHP, CMS, and MySQL? Then this is the perfect job for you!

Being a webmaster is a great way to learn about what is going on, and get involved! And its easy! As webmaster, you will be periodically updating the content of our website. If this sounds interesting to you, then do not hesitate! Email me today at

**starlite@astronomical.org**

### Did you know?

#### We have a telescope loaner program!

The PAS has a 4 inch refractor telescope that was given to PAS by Dr. Sam Decker in 2003. It is one of the most advanced telescopes owned by the PAS, and is available to PAS members, in good standing. This magnificent telescope that has been sorely under-used by the PAS membership. The new computer system for setting it up has been greatly simplified with a new computer chip installed by Tim Lester and Tim McGrath. So, it might be worth attending this summer's PAS meetings to get acquainted with the operation of the TMB. Perhaps even taking the class so you can enjoy this jewel!

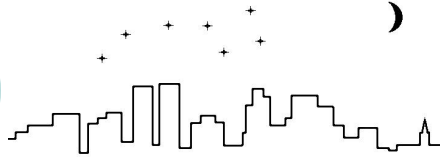
The PAS has a telescope loaner program that allows any PAS member, in good standing, use of some PAS telescopes. The telescopes can be requested in person or in writing, at any of the monthly PAS Board meetings. The loan period of the telescope is two months, with renewals possible. More details can be worked out with the PAS Board.

### Good News, Good Views!

Now that I no longer own a telescope, the only way I can get a good view is to use someone else's! As it turned out, this was actually easy to do because of all the help I had getting around. Sometimes there was a problem getting the eyepiece positioned for me to take a look without falling over, but there was always a way around this problem. The views were terrific. The members have so many high quality scopes. I would like to compliment everyone on the quality of their equipment and all the help. In particular, I want to thank **Randy Byland, Scott Swords, Stephen Russell, and Tim Lester** even though there were many others. Thanks for all the help and for the good views!

- Gene Hodel

# STARLITE



Peoria Astronomical Society

PO Box 10111  
PEORIA, IL 61612-0111

## From Starlites Past...

By John Barra

### 40 YEARS AGO

August Starlite 1967

*"Richard Hill should receive his Bachelor's Degree by January of 1968 from the University of Alabama, Huntersville. Richard is also concerned with the Lockheed orbits of the Saturn Apollo projects. His job is purely mathematical--if they get off orbit, his job is to get them back into orbit."*

That was during the hey day of manned missions, just before the first manned flight to the moon. I hope we can get the excitement back for another trip to the moon or Mars.

*"Then it dawned on me that we are very fortunate to live here in Peoria are where we can observe so many sky objects and where the night skies are so beautiful."*

*--Bert Princen, President Peoria Academy of Science*

Times have sure changed as to light pollution. Twelve years ago I located three-quarters of the Messier Objects from my backyard. Now, I get out my telescope in the backyard in the city to look for craters on the Moon.

### 25 YEARS AGO

June Starlite 1982

*"This will be my last year as Northmoor Property Chairman. If you would like to volunteer to become Property Chairman for 1983, please call me. It is an excellent opportunity to learn."*

*Terry Beachler*

It is nice to see Terry back as a regular attending PAS meetings. He has a

wealth of astronomy experience to share. The layoff probably was a result of having to listen to complaints about the price of gas. Judging from his new found fame in the Peoria Journal Stars, he will probably welcome people only asking about the price of gas.

*"It is very unlikely another planet of appreciable size will ever be discovered within the solar family and Tombaugh is very likely the last planet discoverer. He is the last of his kind."--R. P. Van Zandt*

No one can fault Van for not predicting we would have discoverers of planets in other solar systems. And who would have guessed then that Pluto would be demoted to a dwarf planet.

