



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

SUMMER, 2015

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Members Roster

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: 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:

Elias Samaha, Peoria
Dr. Diane Rigley, Peoria
Robert La Porte, Bloomington

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

A little Sonshine!

Well I hope you are enjoying these spring nights. The planets of Venus, Jupiter and Saturn are making a good showing in the night sky in early evenings. I was out a few weekends ago camping at Ingersoll for Boy Scouts. I really enjoy the dark sky that this area provides (London Mills). The constellations get lost with all the stars that shine.

Northmoor Observatory is up and running, I hope everyone makes a trip out to observe thru the scope, and remember we are always looking to train members to use this scope and help out a few nights during the summer. The view of the planets is a memory that will last a lifetime with this fine scope, and kids and grand kids will enjoy the memories with you at this great observatory.

Watch for the up coming group nights at Jubilee and the Banquet in September is being planned as I write this. I hope you will make some time for enjoying your astronomy adventure this Summer. Members please make your dates for Jubilee maintenance as the grass is growing faster at times than we can mow it. A missed weekend will cause a larger problem for the next weekend people.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

From Sheldon Schafer

I'm working on the program schedule for next year as the new program chair. I have most of the slots filled. However, for the March 2, 2016 meeting, I'd like to have a program titled "Astronomical Tourism" at which 8 - 10 of you would share where you've visited or attended, or may be intending to. This could be a regional star party, major observatory, astronomical historic site, etc. Examples might be the Texas Star Party, the Nebraska Star Party, Mt. Palomar, Kitt Peak, Mars Hill-Flagstaff, Maine Solar System, Greenwich Observatory, the Tropic of Cancer, CarHenge and so forth. If you didn't take any photos, you could supply them from the internet or from the events website. These places could also include things coming up for you

in the summer of 2016 - for example I'm planning to go to <http://greenbankstarquest.org/> in 2016, and CarHenge 2017. Where might you be planning to go?

Please reply directly to me sschafer7@gmail.com or to the list, and I'll see what transpires. I think this could be a fun program and give lots of us ideas for places to go in the future.

BUSINESS CARDS FOR PAS:

There are still business cards for the PAS available. Contact Mike Hay if you need some.

OBSERVING INFORMATION:

TELESCOPE CLINICS: (from Rich Tennis)

Free instruction on how to use your equipment.

When: Sat, June 13, 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Open to the public, free event.

PAS will have PAS members help folks to better use their telescopes.

Location: Observatory coordinates below, please park in the former Leo Donovan golf course parking lot. This will be held at Donovan Park (alias Golf course) from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

Dates are June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, and October 10 (weather permitting). It will be held in conjunction with the operation of the Northmoor Observatory.

From Gary Bussman

Just a note, pay attention to Jupiter and Venus over the next month. By the end of June, they will be within a half degree of each other. Keep watching each night as they converge on each other.

We will be hosting once again the ICC star party out at Jubilee Observatory. The nights scheduled are: Friday, June 12th with the rain dates as Friday, June 19th, July 10th and July 17th. The ICC star parties will be on Friday nights only. Members' star parties will usually be on a 3rd quarter and new moon weekends. We always will try a Friday or Saturday night depending on having clear skies. Saturdays, June 13th, and June 20th will be slated for next month. July 11th, July 18th, August 7th and 8th, and August 14th and 15th will be future dates. If the ICC star party gets its observing in early, then those Friday nights can be open for members' star parties. We will just have to see. For those of you who are on the e-group, I will be sending this information out on the Monthly. If you are not sure about going out, just send a message thru the e-group to see if anyone is going out. For those of you who don't have a key to Jubilee, send a message out to make sure someone is going out. Hopefully we will get some timely clear skies for observing!

From Brandt Bechtold

The Peoria Astronomical Society is having a star party on Saturday, June 13, 2015. The location of the star party is Hartenbower Hectares Airport located just east of McNabb on 81 N. 17th Road. The airport has many amenities including: indoor plumbing, a warming room, and electricity. On Sunday morning of the 14th, there is a breakfast fly-in scheduled. The breakfast will take place no matter what is happening with the weather. For a small fee, you can partake in

the all you can eat breakfast. The number of airplanes that fly-in is weather dependent. Many people choose to drive to the Airport just for breakfast. Camping will be available for astronomers wishing to spend the night at the airport. To insure that we have enough campsites available, attendees wishing to camp overnight are requested to RSVP to Brandt Bechtold at bbb913@aol.com. Camping is free. Directions are available from Brandt.

From Dan Son:

Helpful Observing aids!

Hello everyone! I thought I would write about something I use a lot while out observing. The Sky & Telescope Sky Atlas 2000.0 is one of my favorite tools. You can find it at Sky & Telescope web site and the cost is \$79.95 for the field-laminated edition. For anyone hunting Messier, Caldwell or the Herschel 400 objects this will help. The atlas has 26 pages that are 18 ½ by 13 ½ inches with whites stars and deep sky objects on a black background. It shows stars brighter than 8.5 magnitude. I think it is very well suited for keeping it with you at the telescope because the pages are laminated and don't get damaged by dew. This atlas comes spiral bound but I took it apart for easier access to the individual pages so I can find objects in the area I am looking. It comes with a companion book for NGC objects found on the charts and a description of what they are, I have this but don't use it very often. The cost of the companion book is \$29.95. This Sky Atlas would make a great Christmas list item or is a birthday coming up? Look me up at Jubilee some night I can show you this item. Keep looking up!

WATCH THE FALL STARLITE FOR BANQUET INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER!

FROM STARLITES PAST

By John Barra

50 Years Ago, (Summer Starlite 1965)

“News editor, Bernice Grebner, started off her first issue of ‘Starlite’ chock full of new ideas and enthusiasm. Watch our readers interest grow.”

Not too many members now knew that Bernice used to be the Starlite editor many years ago. The Grebner name, of course, has been an important part of the Peoria Astronomical Society organization for a long time.

“By Saturday May 1, the Observatory will be oiled up, scrubbed down and ready for public viewing. There will still be some work to do, such as: painting and roof repairs; but these jobs will have to be done when favorable weather prevail.”

By the time this issue gets printed, another public viewing season will have begun. I wonder how the public attendance will be now that the golf course has been closed. Hopefully, it will be enough to make our work there worthwhile. Only time will tell.

25 Years Ago (June, Starlite 1990)

“AUGUST MEMBERS‘ MEETING: Program: Help make a scale model of the solar system. Comprehending astronomical distances and scales can be mind-boggling! Scott Martin will lead us on a walk through the solar system--in scale, and yes, it takes the whole golf course!”

I wonder if this scale was a precursor to Sheldon's famous scale model or was it similar to the lesson on the scale of the solar system that Scott Hay used to do before ICC star parties?

“The Board would like you to be aware that significant damage may occur to PAS or to your telescopes should the optics be exposed to high velocity winds which contain particles such as sand and fine grains of dust. Protect the optics of these fine telescopes from dust storms such as the two recently experienced in the Peoria area.”

I thought by the time 25 years ago had rolled around that all the cornfields next to the golf course had long disappeared. Or was there a volcano nearby that I had forgotten all about.

BOARD MINUTES

March 18, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 by President Dan Son.

Attendees were: Scott Swords, Calene Fleming, Dan Son, Rich Tennis, Brian Hakes, Gary Bussman, Mike Hay, Eric Clifton, Mike Frasca, Jesse Hoover, Bill Cole and Nick Johnson.

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. Two corrections were noted. The donations mentioned in the Treasurer's report was for \$200 rather than \$250. Also addition of the 10" mirror referenced in New Business to the PAS inventory is not required. The minutes were then accepted as modified.

Brian Hakes provided an overview of the financial activity and balances through February 28. Dan reported that Bob Pauer informed him that the planned workday at Jubilee is scheduled for March 28. Nick Johnson reported he, Rich Tennis, Eric Clifton and Terry Beachler attend the Peoria Park District Planning Committee meeting held March 10. The focus of the meeting was to discuss plans for the conversion of Donovan Golf Course to a park. The areas around the clubhouse and down to the observatory will be maintained, but much of the rest of the area will be turned into "nature areas" with walking paths. Nick also reported he met with Mike Baietto, Parks Division Superintendent, regarding near term items. Highlights of that meeting included that the Park District has a line of sight to actions to provide visible securing, clubhouse restrooms will be available but no porta-potties will be available, the current clubhouse WIFI will continue, and that notification of observatory usage should be sent to Mike's office. Mike also committed to installing mulch around the observatory to facilitate mowing. Nick added that he communicated that our group may have interest in utilizing the clubhouse for our winter meetings. We would like to get our name in early for any offering of that space for public use. After Nick's update a brief discussion took place regarding notification for observatory use. Dan Son remarked that he was not aware that notification was to be given for keyholders using the observatory for private viewing. Nick will have further communication with the Park District. Rich Tennis reminded the group of the program topics for the last two winter meeting. The programs are: Homemade Telescopes (Greg Neavill and Rich Tennis) and Cosmic Dust, a skype program by Dennis Bonilla of NASA. Gary Bussman reminded the group of the following planned events: March 20, Messier Marathon, April 10 ICC star party and May 9, Northmoor members' night and star party.

April 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 by President Dan Son.

Attendees were: Scott Swords, Calene Fleming, Dan Son, Rich Tennis, Brian Hakes, Garry Bussman, Mike Hay, Bill Cole and Nick Johnson.

Brian Hakes provided an overview of the financial activity and balances through March 31. Brian also inquired if the names of the delinquent dues list should be removed from the roster. Mike Hay moved that the members should

be dropped. Rich Tennis seconded the motion, which was then carried by majority vote. Dan Son reported that Bob Pauer had informed him that the 24" telescope is up and running. He also added that the TMB is set up in the 14" dome and that operation training sessions will be held. Nick Johnson reported that the paint on the interior walls of Northmoor's dome showed sign of bubbling, indicating that moisture is still getting into the block walls. Nick also reported that a second Part District planning was held concerning Donovan Park. He said there were no significant plan changes from those presented at the first meeting. Rich reported that the Secretary position will be open for next year. Rich reminded the group of the final winter public meeting on May 1 with the program of Cosmic Dust. Bill Cole reported that the last Academy of Science meeting for the year is the banquet on April 17. Gary Bussman reported the ICC star party was a success and that the weather was great. He thanked Dave Monroe for sending pictures of the event. Gary also reminded the group of the Northmoor star party planned for May 9. Rich Tennis reported he contacted the Peoria Journal Star and received a commitment to include Northmoor Observatory in the PJS part district information announcements.