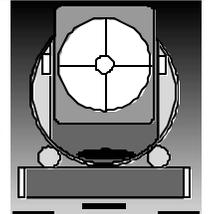


STARLITE



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**PEORIA
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Herb Speaks out at Lakeview

By DeWayne Bartels

David Herb pulled no punches when he arrived at Lakeview Museum on Oct. 29 to present the program, "From the Skylab to the International Space Station and Beyond." His talk featured some highlights on the space station race, but the most compelling aspect of his presentation was about NASA's failures. Anyone expecting a pep rally for NASA was disappointed. Herb made no bones about pointing out the flaws at NASA, something the U.S. Congress has been doing a bit of itself. He also criticized the president's plan to send aid to Iraq.

"It worries me what will happen with the \$87 billion for Iraq," Herb said. "The space mission, I'm afraid, will suffer."

Herb hails from the NASA Glenn Research Center speaker's bureau. Herb is a construction manager at NASA's Test Facilities & Test Engineering Division, outside Cleveland, Ohio. He has been with NASA for 45 years.

Herb's most controversial

comments were aimed at the Challenger and Columbia shuttle disasters. On the Columbia disaster in 2003 he said: "Forty three things went wrong with the shuttle. Not all of them will be corrected by the time it goes up again, but most will."

"The pilots and astronauts didn't know what was going on. NASA didn't say anything to them."

Herb offered an explanation as to what happened to cause the disaster, in addition to the heat tile problems. "A wheel filled with 1,000 pounds of hydrogen blew up tearing off one wing," he said. "As the pilots tried to adjust the craft the other wing was torn off by the stresses."

"The astronauts knew something was wrong when they couldn't get the steering back," Herb said.

On the Challenger accident in 1986, Herb said part of the problem was confidence that led to complacency. NASA was so confident, he said, of

(Continued on page 10)

Stars Up Lights Down

By Rich Tennis

Illinois Senator Dale Risinger will be introducing a bill into the January Illinois State legislative session that would make Wildlife Prairie State Park and perhaps Jubilee State Park dark-sky preserves. The opportunity to take this step came with visits to Senator Risinger in August of this year. Summer months for contacting state legislators was recommended by Mr. Bill Rutherford, who fully endorsed the addition of his park to become the first Illinois state park to have the distinction of a dark-sky preserve. Senator Bill Shadid and Representative Dale Leitch have also been contacted, but Senator Shadid has not replied as of this date. Representative Leitch was supportive of the idea. Personal letters to these and other state legislators from PAS members and friends will help get it passed. To get address and phone number of your legislator

(Continued on page 8)

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Message from the Ansible

by Tim McGrath



Does anybody know what happened to Autumn? If so, please fill me in. This fall has been one of the busiest for me on record. One

minute I am at Astrofest dreaming of one day owning that dream Observation telescope, the next minute I find myself in my new house struggling to write my first Starlite article as president. So what has happened? Looking back, I was quite surprised when I learned that Scott Hay would be stepping down from the presidency after only a year. I enjoyed Scott's enthusiasm and was looking forward to his leadership in promoting our society endeavors. At first I had thought that Scott was simply giving up. Now I see that he is not giving up at all, but is in fact following his true passion. Scott has taken on an even more difficult job as the Northmoor Observatory restoration chairperson. His enthusiasm is still showing, and the

committee is already showing some promising progress. The committee recently had its first formal meeting. We set some short term goals, and we discussed the important issue of fundraising. Of greatest importance is our effort to transition ownership of the complete observatory building to the PAS. The park district verbally agreed to this a while back, but we need the paperwork to make it official. Once we can show we own the observatory, we will have removed a major stumbling block for receiving grants. Battling on another front, Rich Tennis and the



Light Control Committee is on a roll. Rich has been in contact with local, county and state representatives, and city and highway planners. He continues to spread the word about good and bad lighting, and the efforts of the International Dark Sky Association. Rich has

devoted a lot of time in his efforts, and they are paying off. We should be able to expect some good news in the near future concerning Wildlife Prairie State Park. Closer to home, Eric Clifton is nearing the final stages of the restoration of the 14" dome at Jubilee. Even though Eric "retired" and I was named as the Jubilee chairman last year, he has never really been that far distant from it. His dedication to Jubilee extends beyond mere pride, but is an effort born out of love. Eric has stepped up once again to the position to allow me to take on my new role as president. There is much more going on - and many more folks are contributing. There is just not enough space to write about them all. It is an exciting time, and some changes are coming. We all have felt frustrated at times with the progress of things, but lately I have felt excited in anticipation of the things to come. They will not happen overnight, but they will happen... --- By the way, you may be wondering how I came up with the name of my column. If so, I suggest you read the sci-fi book "Ender's Game" by Orson Scott Card. Not only will it explain what an ansible is, but I'm sure you will thoroughly

*...take on
my new
role as
president...*

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PeoriaAstro@yahoogroups.com

compiled by Jeff Pittenger

Here are some highlights from the Peoria Astronomical Society's e-mail group. If you are an active member of the PAS and would like to subscribe to PeoriaAstro, send an e-mail message to Michael Frasca <frasca@uic.edu> with the following information: name, snail-mail address, and e-mail address. You will be added to the group.

@ @ @

Thank you, Bill Cole, for getting the word out. "The Peoria Astronomical Society had about 2000 visitors at NorthMoor Observatory last week to see Mars. The scheduled public viewing of Mars was for the evenings of Aug. 23rd thru Aug. 30th.. The evenings of the 23rd thru the 27th were great weather-wise. The 28th cleared off late but the final Friday and Saturday were complete washouts. There were a lot of school age children that missed out on the Observatory viewing that weekend. Due to this weekend's weather forecast of favorable skies, the PAS is offering the additional public free viewing of Mars on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings." Very nicely worded.

- Scott Hay

@ @ @

Thanks to all of you members who assisted at the NorthMoor Observatory during the special public Mars viewing opportunities these past two weeks.

I estimate that we had about 3900 visitors. The "PAS Public Observing Fund" received donations from the visitors amounting to about \$1900.

-Bill Cole

@ @ @

On Looking Up by Chance at the Constellations

by: Robert Frost

You'll wait a long, long time for anything much

To happen in heaven beyond the floats of cloud

And the Northern Lights that run like tingling nerves.

The sun and moon get crossed, but they never touch,

Nor strike out fire from each other nor crash out loud.

The planets seem to interfere in their curves
But nothing ever happens, no harm is done.

We may as well go patiently on with our life,

And look elsewhere than to stars and moon and sun

For the shocks and changes we need to keep us sane.

It is true the longest drought will end in

rain,

The longest peace in China will end in strife.

Still it wouldn't reward the watcher to stay awake

In hopes of seeing the calm of heaven break
On his particular time and personal sight.

That calm seems certainly safe to last to-night.

- Rich Tennis

@ @ @

I went to NorthMoor again last night to try some more Mars imaging. This time I captured the video stream direct to the laptop for higher resolution. The results are positive.

You can view them at:

<http://www.macknife.org/portal/modules/myalbum/photo.php?lid=10>

-Jeff Pittenger

@ @ @

Here is an item of interest on Light Pollution:

Some of you may know or heard of Bob



Crelin, anti-light pollution advocate and creator of the "Glarebuster." He's written a book for kids about light pollution.

"There Once was A Sky Full of Stars" See:

http://SkyandTelescope.com/shopatsky/detail.asp?catalog_name=SkyPub&product_

-Dave Grebner

@ @ @

DAVID M. HERB, from the NASA Glenn Research Center speaker's bureau, will be speaking at the Lakeview Museum Planetarium Wednesday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m.

The title of his lecture will be "From the Skylab to the International Space Station and Beyond". The program will start with a look at "Skylab", our first orbiting space station, then "Space Lab", which is carried on-board the Shuttle in the cargo bay, and progress to a review of the ISS program. It will also take a short look at the future of manned and un-manned space flight. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Mr. Herb, a Manager at NASA's Test Facilities & Test Engineering Division, has been

with NASA for 45 years. He joined the staff of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's John H. Glenn Research Center in 1959.

-Sheldon Schafer, V.P. of Education

@ @ @

I have heard the positives of painting the inside of the 14 inch dome black..won't reflect outside light (light pollution?) into the observers eyes. Recently, I read about a new dome that TCAA has at their Sugar Grove Nature Center. In the Panagraph article, they had a picture of the inside of their dome. It was a light blue color. So, I don't know if that is to be painted black by the customer of the dome, or they don't worry about the reflected light pollution. When we get our NorthMoor dome replaced, will the Ash Dome folks paint it any color we want, or do we get a light colored interior that we have to finish in black. More light pollution at NorthMoor than at Jubilee. It would seem that if red lights are inside the dome that the reflected light would be red.

Henry Ford once said about the colors of his first cars. "You can have any color you want, just so its black."

Clear and dark skies,

- Rich Tennis

@ @ @

At the board meeting you both spoke of seeking more PR opportunities. I have one for you. I spoke to my editors and sold them on allowing the PAS to write articles on celestial events that might interest our readers. I told them I would contact you about writing an article that will tell our readers about the upcoming lunar eclipse and the Leonid meteor showers. The writer will get a byline and at the end of the article we will acknowledge the article was written by a member of the PAS which owns and operates the Northmoor Observatory.

Interested?.

-Dewayne Bartels

@ @ @

In case some of you don't know about this site ... any time there are fires or hurricanes or something interesting happening on the Earth, 9 times out of 10 there will be images of it here:

<http://rapidfire.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/gallery>

- Dan Son

@ @ @

Thanks for the heads-up about the solar activity. Went out this morning at 2:45 a.m. The Northern Light show was great. As seen from my house there was a curtain of red in the eastern skies with a wide streak of pinkish-white light toward the center. Within 15 minutes it had dissipated. It was well worth getting up so early to look at. Again, thanks.

- DeWayne

@ @ @

Of Starlites Past

by John Barra

40 YEARS AGO Winter Newsletter 1963

“As early as the ‘30’s, Dean Arthur E. Gault of Bradley tried to form an amateur astronomy group. Plans never really got off the ground until 1949, when Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Mehl form the Astronomy Club. At the annual business meeting of the Peoria Academy of Science in December of 1951, the Astronomy Club was accepted as a new section with about twenty members.”

Over 50 years, later we are still growing strong-with about 5 times the number of members.

“During the last board meeting....George (Triff) suggested the PAS offer classes on several different phases of astronomy....on the following subjects: planetary observing, lunar observing, occultations, solar observing, constellation study, observational optics, comets and meteors, astro-photography, binary star observing, variable stars, deep sky observing, and mirror grinding.”

Well, Donald Hill is still teaching his class. And many of our members still share many of the same interests as those members 40 years ago, with a few new ones not even thought of back then.☛



25 YEARS AGO Winter Starlite 1978

“Mrs. Josephine Robinson was unanimously voted an Honorary Member of PAS for her years of dedication, receiving a framed certificate. Recognition of 20-year members was given to 26 people, 8 of whom were charter members in 1954.”

I did not have the privilege of knowing Mrs. Robinson. But as I read these names in old issues of the Starlite, it would be nice to find out more information about them. Anyone who can provide more information on her, please write me a letter or a short note or phone call, so that I can print more information about her next issue

“...Van introduced Eric Clifton who officially started the evening’s program with a slide talk of his experiences in Canada. Because of several difficulties Eric didn’t get any telescopic pictures of the eclipse. However, he did show several “shots” taken with a 35 mm. camera pointed directly at the sun.”

Since then Eric has taken many more solar eclipse trips. And he has made many more presentations to the society showing great eclipse slides. Anyone know when there will be another solar eclipse near enough for Eric to view? Our program chairman is always looking for good program topics.☛

Astronomical Calendar

December 8

Full Moon

December 14

Geminid meteor shower peaks

December 16

Last Quarter Moon

December 17

PAS Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Northpoint Shopping Center Hardees

December 22

Winter Solstice at 1:04 a.m.
Ursid meteor shower peaks.

December 23

New Moon

December 30

First Quarter Moon

December 31

Saturn is at opposition 3 p.m.

January 6

Quadrantid meteor shower peaks

December 2003						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2004						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2004						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

January 7

Full Moon
PAS Members Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Lakeview Planetarium

January 9

Asteroid Ceres is at opposition

January 14

Last Quarter Moon
Venus passes 0.9° south of Uranus, 7 p.m.

January 17

Mercury at greatest western elongation

January 21

New Moon
PAS Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Northpoint Shopping Center Hardees

January 24

The Moon passes 4° south of Venus

January 27

The Moon passes 3° south of Mars, 10 p.m.

January 29

First Quarter Moon

February 2

The Moon passes 4° north of Saturn, 10 p.m.

February 4

PAS Members Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Lakeview Planetarium

February 6

Full Moon

(Continued on page 5)



The Bulletin Board

New Members

Welcome to:

DeWayne Bartels
Jane Bailey

☾ ☾ ☾

NorthMoor Fundraising Progress

The NorthMoor Fundraising and Restoration Committee met November 17.

Next Meeting is December 10th, the 2nd Wednesday of the Month at same place:

Fon Du Lac Park District Administrative Center in the Board Room,

201 Veterans Dr. East Peoria, IL 61611.

This is directly across the street WEST-NORTHWEST from Wendy's Hamburger restaurant Just off Interstate 74 at mile marker 96, Exit 96, Washington Street Exit in East Peoria.

Calendar...

(Continued from page 4)

February 8

The Moon passes 3° north of Jupiter

February 13

Last Quarter Moon

February 18

PAS Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Northpoint Shopping Center Hardees

February 20

New Moon

February 23

The Moon passes 3° south of Venus, 1 p.m.

February 25

The Moon passes 0.9° south of Mars, 8 p.m.

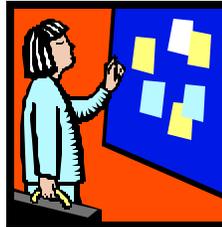
February 27

First Quarter Moon ☾

Take the first hallway on your right past the front office. The boardroom is halfway down the hall on your right. We need the two committees to meet together to get the estimate numbers as precise as they can be.

- Scott Hay

☾ ☾ ☾



Normal Adopts Lighting Ordinance

An exciting ordinance on lighting passed in the town of Normal. This is really a large step forward for Central Illinois. If you have web access visit the link below to read the one-liner on lighting.

We now have a local community of good reputation that can be shown that governmental bodies can write such an ordinance.

This may break the ice on such ordinances in other governmental chambers.

http://www.pantagraph.com/stories/120203/new_20031202030.shtml

Clear and dark skies

-Rich Tennis

Light Control News

I just got word from Senator George Shadid's office that a meeting is planned to discuss a dark-sky preserve at Wildlife Prairie State Park. The 5 - 6 p.m. meeting in January 2004 could have some other legislators there. They asked me how many would be coming from PAS. So, I quickly said four or five. But, if you would like to come to the meeting please let me know. I would like to keep it small and of the members of the Light Committee.

Since we have some high-powered folks, I cannot assure you that it is my choice of when we meet. So, give me some idea when you will be out of the country.

Things are beginning to move and shake!

- Rich Tennis

☾ ☾ ☾

Stellar Delight

Poetry by Bernice Prill Grebner

It is stellar delight

In the night sky so bright

Sparkling like a beam of light

As my eyes travel to the heights of
delight



Monthly Program Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, meetings will be held in the Lakeview Museum Planetarium, with all programs beginning at 7:30 p.m.

January 7, 2004

Tim Lester

Where are they now

February 4, 2004

ISU professor Dan Holland

March 3, 2004

TBA

April 7, 2004

John Barra

Star Hopping

Can You Spot This?

NGC 2261

by John Barra

Can You Spot This? premiered in Starlite Issue #144, December 2000.

In this edition of Can You Spot This, not only will you locate the main object—a variable, bright nebula, but you will also find a spectacular open cluster on your way there. Both objects should be worth your patience.

Our target for today is NGC 2261, known as Hubble's Variable Nebula.

While it is in the constellation Monoceros, to locate it you must start at Gemini. There are so few bright naked-eye stars in Monoceros that few can look at the constellation and pick out any figure.

Gemini, on the other hand is easy to spot. Start with Chart 1. The

heads of the “twins”, Pollux and Castor, stand out in the winter sky. Their four feet are at the opposite end. Xi Geminorum is the star that represents the foot farthest to the left. You can start with a low power eyepiece and aim your Telrad or other finder at Xi. Or if seeing is good enough to see 15 Monocerotis, make your first aim at it and skip a step.

Note that the orientation of Xi and 15 is slightly different between Chart 1 and Chart 2. (They were made at different times hence my charts from TheSky are at different angles.) If you start at Xi, put in a higher power eyepiece. Note the relation of Xi (also called 31 Geminorum) with 30 and 32 and hop to 15 Monocerotis. Or if you aim di-

rectly at it with your finder, then put in your higher power eyepiece. Once you have 15 in the center of your view, you will know that you are in the middle of something big.

You are now looking at a fairly large and bright open cluster known as the Christmas Tree Cluster or NGC 2264. It is a little brighter than magnitude four and nearly a degree in size. You may be able to see some nebulosity, but do not expect to see the dark Cone Nebula within it. 15 actually represents the base of the Christmas Tree while the remaining bright stars in the cluster form the tree.

The tree actually points south or down (towards NGC 2261), but if your scope inverts your view, the Christmas Tree will be upright. After viewing it for awhile, hop to the Hubble Variable Nebula. It is about a degree away in almost a perfect straight line from Xi and NGC 2264.

This variable nebula is very interesting. It is only about 2 arc minutes in size and it is erratic in brightness. This phenomenon is thought to be caused by dense clouds from its illuminating star R Monocerotis causing shadows. R is at the nebula's southern tip.

Despite its variation, it always appears to me to be bright enough to see. It looks just like a small comet. Its wedge shape is easy to spot. If you were a little off line in hopping, you may run into a small 10th magnitude open cluster, NGC 2251. Don't worry if you find it instead. Go back to the Christmas Tree and try again. You should find it and when you do, you will know it.

OBJECT STATISTICS:

Name: NGC 2261

Type: Bright Nebula

Magnitude: Variable

Size: 3.5' x 1.5'

Coordinates: 06 hr., 39.2 min.
+08 ° 44' ☾

...It looks like a small comet...

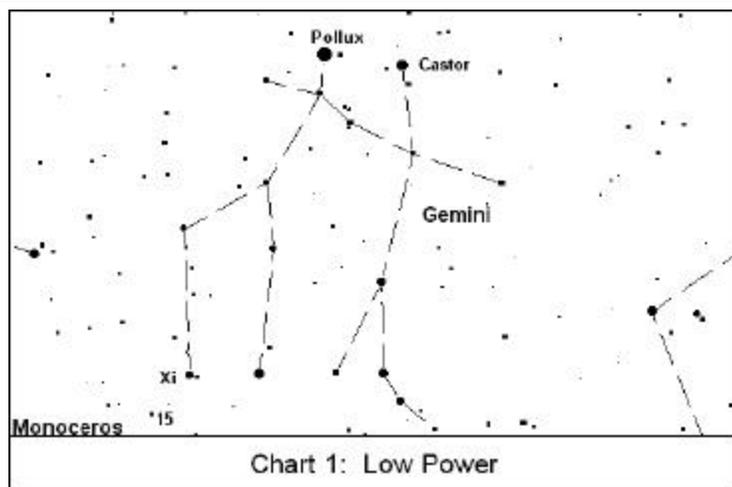


Chart 1: Low Power

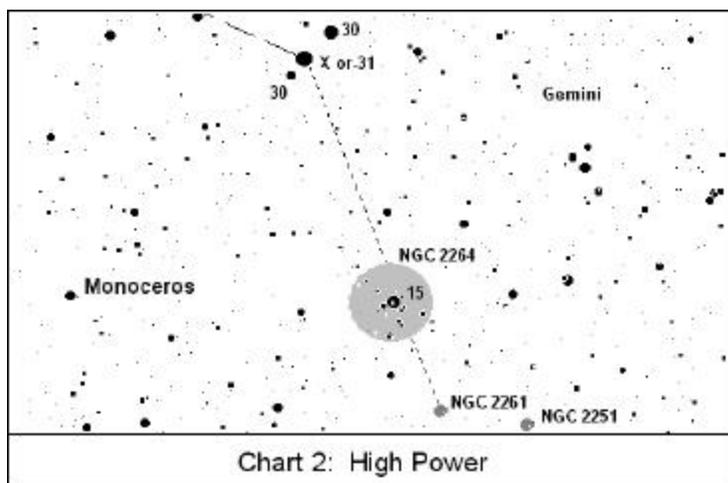


Chart 2: High Power



Minutes of the Board of Directors

by Dan Son, PAS Secretary

Board meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the month. Those referenced below were held at the Hardee's of Willow Knolls Court in Peoria. Future PAS Board meetings will be held at the Hardee's of Northpoint Shopping Center in Peoria. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

August 20, 2003

Attendees: Calene Fleming, Mike Hay, John Barra, Scott Hay, Scott Swords, Eric Clifton, Tim Lester, Tim McGrath, Stephen Russell, Mike Shelton, Bill Cole, Brandt Bechtold, Nerio Calgaro, Don Ware, DeWayne Bartels, Jeff Pittenger, Rich Tennis and Dan Son.

Treasurer's Report: (Mike Shelton)

Mike presented the Treasurer's report (copies attached) for the month of July.

A motion was made that when our yearly membership dues mailing goes out we will include a donation line for NorthMoor Fund. Motion to accept was made by Rich Tennis, 2nd by Tim Lester. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Education: (Scott Hay)

Nerio Calgaro is the new Education chairman. Currently he is an East Peoria High School Science teacher. He has a B.S. in Physics from Illinois St. and a M.S. in Curriculum & Instruction from ISU.

Jubilee Observatory: (Tim McGrath)

Mark Koonce is a new keyholder. Toilet seat is repaired.

Brian Bill and Larry Kellerman's ICC classes will be coming out on Oct. 3rd with a rain date of the 4th. We expect around 40 plus persons. Jason Beverlin is the new Jubilee site superintendent and he will be invited out also on the Oct 3rd date.

14 Inch: (Mike Shelton)

Eric is working on the dome

24 Inch: (Eric Clifton)

The baffle is in place

Light Pollution: (Rich Tennis)

Rich talked to Woodford County committee on Aug. 18th.

Rich has talked with IL State Rep. David Leitch and IL Senator Dale Ringer about making certain state parks dark sky preserves.

Rich made a motion to spend \$44 on IESNA RP-33-99. 2nd by Mike Shelton. Motion passed.

Nominating: (Stephen Russell)

President – Tim McGrath

Vice-President – John Barra

Secretary – Dan Son

Treasurer – Mike Shelton

Legal Agent & Parliamentarian – Mike Hay

Nomination – Dan Son

NorthMoor Observatory: (Bill Cole)



Motion made by Bill to have Jeff Pittenger as a new keyholder. 2nd by Dan Son. Motion passed.

It is important that PAS members scheduled at NorthMoor keep their obligation.

More persons are being trained for keyholder duty.

Stephen Russell made a motion to buy an Orion Camera for NorthMoor. 2nd by Dan Son. Motion passed.

Will set up scopes along the trail to the dome.

Need all members able to come out to please do so.

NorthMoor Restoration: (Scott Hay)

Nothing

Observing Club: (John Barra)

Mid Year Messier will be at the Jubilee on Oct. 25th.

Messier Marathon will be held at the Star House (Rich Tennis house).

Program: (Dan Son)

Oct. - Computers and Astronomy by Dan Son

Dec – Jeopardy challenge with Gene Hodel

April – Star hopping with John Barra

Public Relations: (Brandt Bechtold)

Brandt has talked to Peoria Park District about upcoming Mars event and will contact Peoria Police.

Gene Hodel with members Eric Clifton and Rich Tennis had a star party at Roanoke High School with over 150 attending.

Starlite: (Jeff Pittenger)

Deadline for Starlite will be November board meeting.

Send in those articles

Membership: (Scott Swords)

We have 1 new member, DeWayne Bartels.

Website: (Mike Radigan)

Handout for what web sites provide with cost and storage capacity.

Old Business:

Ameren Smartlights grant applications end Sept 1st.

PAS Logo to be continued.

New Business:

Will get the new TMB telescope on Insurance policy. Tim McGrath asked to take the TMB out to the Winery star party. It was agreed that would be ok after scope is on the insurance policy.

September 17, 2003

Attendees: Calene Fleming, Mike Hay, John Barra, Scott Hay, Scott Swords, Eric Clifton, Tim McGrath, Mike Shelton, Bill Cole, DeWayne Bartels, Jeff Pittenger, Mike Radigan, Rich Tennis and Dan Son.

Treasurer's Report: (Mike Shelton)

Mike presented the Treasurer's

(Continued on page 8)

DarkSky....

(Continued from page 1)

look at <http://www.legis.state.il.us>.

At the request of Mr. Bill Rutherford, a study of Wildlife Prairie State Park's exterior lighting was made and recommendations for changes to the outdoor lighting were submitted. The study found many unnecessary floodlights aimed on a horizontal plane, which obscures, rather than illuminates, the park in the evening. Most of the lighting fixtures were not full cut-off. Many wall-mount lights were the glaring examples.

Mr. Rutherford indicated that the recommendations would be taken on during the upcoming winter season. It was hoped that the changeover to International DarkSky Assoc. (IDA), recommended lighting practices would demonstrate to state legislators of what the lighting is in a dark-sky preserve.

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, TCRPC, is writing an umbrella ordinance for exterior lighting control for Woodford County, who requested it. Tom Gererd of TCRPC is writing the ordinance and has asked for assistance in the makeup of the ordinance. I have agreed to head up that assistance. Mr. Gererd is planning on presenting it at the December TCRPC meeting.

In that regard, on behalf of the Light Control Committee I asked that the members of PAS and friends encourage their county board representatives in Peoria and Tazewell counties to back the request of Woodford County for such an ordinance. This umbrella lighting ordinance would then be able to be picked up by any of the counties and municipalities for their own lighting ordinance. Standardizing language and cov-

erage of the lighting ordinance will make the ordinance easier and less expensive for architects, contractors, builders, hardware stores and residents in the tri-county area to follow the ordinance. What is not needed is 57 varieties of lighting ordinances with various definitions and coverage. (If ever 57 lighting ordinances would be written in Central Illinois) The Light Control Committee is able to give a presentation to whomever wishes to know more about controlling outdoor lighting.

Work is also going on with the City of Eureka on their updating the downtown beautification project. The Beatification Committee agreed that the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America

(IESNA) guidelines in IESNA RP 33-99 as well as those recommendations of IDA. The city of Normal is also about to adopt a lighting ordinance, perhaps as soon as this December.☀



Minutes....

(Continued from page 7)

report (copies attached) for the month of August. Rich Tennis made a motion to accept the report. Mike Hay 2nd Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Academy of Science: (Scott Hay)

Thank you for your generous donation

Jubilee Observatory: (Tim McGrath)

Dome is now flat black thanks to Dan Son and JC Kline.

We will have a work party Sept 27th.

We have had a new phone line installed due to the old line breaking. Reception is much clearer now.

ICC will be coming out Oct 3rd/4th.

Oct 17th/ 18th will have an Edelstein group coming out.

Light Pollution: (Rich Tennis)
I will be talking with Senator Shadid about making Jubilee Park and Wildlife Prairie Park as Dark Sky Preserves.

Questionnaires (copies attached) will be sent out to all person's in the test area.

NorthMoor Observatory: (Bill Cole)

Thanks to everyone for their help! We had 3900 people come thru NorthMoor and received \$1900 in donations.

NorthMoor Restoration:

(Scott Hay)

The Academy of Science donated \$1200 to this project.

Future meeting of committee is in the works. We need to get a professional presentation going to present to future potential charitable organizations.

We need to get all the costs redone to make sure our numbers are correct.

Observing Club: (John Barra)
October 25th will be a mid-year Messier Marathon. Fall and Winter Messier will be found.

New Moon in March is the 20th a Saturday night.

Membership: (Scott Swords)
We have a new member

- Jane Bailey

Website: (Tim Lester)

Mike Hay made a motion to use iPowerWeb as our web site host. 2nd by Dan Son. Motion passed.

Their web site <http://www.ipowerweb.com/> says we will have

500mb storage, 30Gb transfer for as little as \$8 dollars.

Old Business:

PAS logo will be tabled till next month.

New Business:

Will give t-shirt to Jeff Pittenger's friend (Chris Hillyer) for all the work he did on the eyepiece adapter.

Audit of our books should be done in September. Eric Clifton, Scott Swords and Mike Hay will do it soon.

(Continued on page 10)

A Day in the Life of an Amateur Astronomer

By Les Blalock

6:45 Alarm goes off awhile before the brain is capable of understanding it's time to get up. With clear skies last night the temptation at the eyepiece was just too great so I didn't get to bed until after 1 AM.

7:19 With a shower and fresh clothes I begin to wake up just as I enter the garage. While picking up the newspaper in the driveway, I make a quick look around to see if I left anything outside. Check the back bumper of my car to make sure I didn't leave any eyepieces on it

7:45 Arrive at work, turn on the computer and check email. Although email correspondence is a big part of my daily work, 16 of the 21 new emails are from astronomy egroups. I'll have to ignore these non-work-related emails until break time.

9:00 Read job-related emails and respond and/or begin necessary research to respond.

9:15 Check Astromart by mistake when I accidentally clicked that link instead of the work-related link in my bookmarks.

9:45 Click work-related link and read appropriate information.

10:00 Email observing buddy to see if he's available for lunch.

10:05 Pick up Orion catalog by mistake when reaching for job-related trade publication.

10:45 Quickly put down Orion catalog and begin scanning index of trade publication.

10:50 Leave office to meet observing buddy for lunch.

11:00 Arrive in parking lot of restaurant. I'm a little early so pull out my PDA to check weekly meetings schedule.

11:01 Turn on PDA and am greeted with extremely dim display. Peel off red Rubylith colored filter to reveal Planetarium application running.

11:10 Standing in restaurant parking lot trying to find Venus as its location is indicated by Planetarium.

11:20 Locate Venus just as two other cars arrive in parking lot. Neither car is my observing buddy's. Occupants walk slowly toward restaurant looking back at me then looking up at the sky in the direction I'm looking. I think about asking if they want to see Venus but, considering the looks they're giving me, decide to keep quiet and just get back in my car.

11:45 Awakened by on-time observing buddy rapping on car window. Noon Go inside barbeque place for lunch.

2:00 Finish lunch and astronomy-related conversation.

2:10 Arrive in parking lot at work and step out of car to see if I can still spot Venus. Building occupants pay no attention to me scanning the sky they know me.

2:30 Back at the ole desk and check email. 15 new emails. 12 are astro egroup posts. I'll get to them as soon as I finish with that stack of paperwork..

2:45 Start on that paperwork.

2:33 Find copy of last month's observing list in financial report. Scan list to note SEEN or NOT SEEN as best I can recall. Oh yea, NGC2158. Can't believe I was not previously aware of it in the field of view with M35. Let me take a quick look in Burnham's Celestial Handbook to see what's said there about it.

2:42 Find copy of Burnham's in office bookshelf between computer user manuals and personnel notebooks.

3:15 Check Dark Sky Clock. Hmmm clear skies tonight.

3:17 Email observing buddy.

3:20 Back to stack of paperwork on my desk.. Gotta update that spreadsheet

3:33 Accidentally click on Astromart link again.

3:50 Close browser and open spreadsheet.

3:51 Spreadsheet reminds me of the eyepiece calculator spreadsheet I found on the internet. Open eyepiece calculator spreadsheet. Man, that 16mm Nagler would give me a great field of view at higher magnification than my 18mm Ultima.

4:00 Open browser, surf to Astronomics to check price of 16mm Nagler.

4:10 Surf to Visa credit card account info to check balance.

4:12 The 18mm Ultima is a great eyepiece.

4:13 Update spreadsheet, compose email and attach spreadsheet. Send (and check) email.

4:14 Break-time! Better read these new egroup posts.

4:55 Where has time gone? Why all this work piling up? Oh well, I'll get it knocked down tomorrow.

5:00 Out of office and headed home. Check out the license plate of that car ahead. "M31OTA".

5:15 Arrive at home. Find new issue of Sky & Telescope in the mail. Yippee No need to put up the scope and accessory case I left out in the living room I'll be using it later.

5:45 Fire up computer and open Sky Map Pro. Print up some charts for those neat targets in S&T.

6:00 Wife calls me to dinner. "Just a minute. I want to check Astromart"

6:30 Set down to cold fish sticks and icy stare. Impish, knowing smile of familiarity from offspring who is eating his dessert.

7:00 Offer to clean off table in hopes of reclaiming human status.

7:15 Sit down on sofa with wifey and make small talk to finish defrosting the room.

7:30 Announce that I think I'll step outside for a breath of fresh air. Announcement receives cordial reply. Good sign.

7:45 Sun setting. Must decide how to gather up telescope gear and justify absence from the family for a few minutes.

8:00 Walk back inside and ask wifey, "Wanna take a look at Saturn?". Wife sucker for Saturn (and ONLY Saturn) so get positive response.

8:03 Scope stuff in driveway.

8:09 All set up and scope on Saturn. Call wifey out.

8:15 Wife goes back inside after looking at Saturn and making appropriate remarks about how beautiful the planet is. Rest of night mine.

12:45AM Bang tripod legs on wall while trying to sneak equipment back inside. Wakes wife. "What time is it?" I reply, "around 12, I just got up to go to the bathroom".

6:45 Alarm goes off.

Permission is granted to reprint this article in local (nonprofit) astronomy club newsletters.

Reprint must contain the following:

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Herb Speaks Out...

(Continued from page 1)

the space shuttle's safety record that for the three missions prior to the Challenger disaster the three parachutes that would safely bring the pressurized cabin back to Earth had been removed.

Continuing the theme of NASA screw-ups Herb offered a tidbit on the crash of NASA's first Mars probe.

"What caused the first Mars probe to crash was the propulsion people used metrics and the construction people used English units of measure," Herb said. "They didn't tell each other."

But, Herb's scorn for ineptitude was not confined to NASA alone. He spoke of promising experiments conducted on the space station. Those experiments concerned a cure for diabetes.

"A cure", he said, had been found. "The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, however, would not allow it to be used." They feared side effects, and wanted more experimentation done in space.

"The next generation of tests for that were blown to kingdom come with the Columbia disaster," he said."

On the International Space Station, Herb had some contempt to vent as well.

"We paid for it. The Russians built it. They missed every deadline and went over-budget. When we asked about the progress they would just say they ran out of money. We had to give them more," Herb said.

"It's not working out!"

The men on the space station, he said, spend 65 percent of their time working on keeping the vehicle

in orbit. Only 35 percent of their time is spent on research.

"It won't be long before the taxpayers say this is a waste," Herb said.☛

(Continued from page 8)

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October 15, 2003

Attendees: Mike Hay, John Barra, Eric Clifton, Tim McGrath, Bill Cole, DeWayne Bartels, and Rich Tennis.

Committee Reports

Academy of Science (Scott Hay)

We will meet October 16th at 7p.m. at Independence Village, Northmoor Rd. and University Ave.

Education: (Nerio Calgaro)
Don Hill's Astronomy class meets at 7p.m. every Sunday night this October and the first Sunday in November. The class meets at Northmoor Observatory. Don has 12 students who applied for the class.

Jubilee Observatory: (Tim McGrath)

The dome is now flat black after a 2nd coat of paint done by Eric Clifton.

J.C. Kline replaced the floor legs of the 14 inch floor as they were rotted. Thanks J.C.

The 14 inch dome is on the ring and is round. It is ready to be bolted together. Then the doorways will be measured to fit for the doors. Eric Clifton passed plans around for comments. Some were given by attendee's.

On October 17th / 18th Edelstein student group is coming out to observe.

ICC was clouded out on Oct. 3rd / 4th, but Brian Bill Improvised with a laser show.

Eric Clifton, John Kuntz, _____, and John Barra weed-whipped the sidewalks and carried wheelbarrows of concrete gravel from the observing platform to the driveway.

This is a situation fraught with peril for the integrity of the smooth surface. Need to be refinished with possibly blacktop and a light-colored top-coat

A planned work day at Jubilee by Eric Clifton on October 16th to work on the 14 inch dome.

Light Pollution: (Rich Tennis)
Questionnaire returns showed a 2:1 in favor of the change to FCO

streetlights. Returns were lower than hoped – 10%. Those that were negative in their responses were willing to be contacted later. The Light Control Committee will contact these negative responses to get a clearer picture of the dislikes.

Northmoor Observatory: (Bill Cole)

Of the 24 Saturdays the observatory was open for public viewing, half of them were clouded out. There are two more Saturdays that Northmoor Observatory will be open for the 2003 season. More member applications are needed to hand out to prospective members. Tim McGrath will see to getting them

Northmoor Restoration: (Scott Hay)

No progress since last meeting. We need to meet. Also need to write a grant proposal. Let's try to find a date to get together.

Observing Club: (John Barra)
October 25th will be a mid-year Messier Marathon. Fall and Winter Messier will be found. All members of PAS and the public are encouraged to observe the lunar eclipse on October 31st at 7:13 p.m. Brandt will send out the word to the Peoria Journal Star. It will be low in the east just after sunset.

Program: (Dan Son)
November 5th PAS meeting is "Show & Tell".

Website: (Mike Radigan)
Tim McGrath will be taking over the web site from Tim Lester. Nothing has happened to change over to the iPowerWeb web site host.

Old Business:
PAS logo will be tabled till next month, again.

New Business:
October 30th will have astronaut Scott Altman speaking a Peking High School.
October 24th Eric Clifton will be at Rock Island's Popular Astronomy meeting to present some of his astronomical pictures.☛

Unique Perspective on Lunar Eclipse

By Tim McGrath

There are two hobbies I have that I absolutely love. Naturally astronomy is one. The other is mountain biking. On Saturday evening, November 8th, I had the unique opportunity to combine the two.

I have been mountain biking for a few years now, but I have never been on a nighttime ride. So when a friend I have not seen for almost a year called me and invited me for a night ride, I couldn't say no. He had another friend that had extra sets of helmet-mounted lights. I wasn't sure what to expect. I pictured riding in the pitch black in the middle of the woods, with a small light on my head like a miner's headlamp, crashing headlong into trees and ravines. But I decided to try it out anyway, hearing so many people rave about it.

There were four of us in a group, and we arrived at the trailhead around 8:30. I looked up and the moon was nearly half way eclipsed. I pointed it out to the others, and got the usual reactions - "Sweet!" "Cool!" "Wow! I forgot there was going to be a lunar eclipse!"

Observing

(Continued from page 12)

advantage of moonless Saturdays and Sundays this winter. Assuming that the weather is not too cold (probably 25 degrees or greater) and there is no snow on the ground, I would be willing to make an attempt at viewing if my schedule allows. I have a electric heater to use in the warm-up shed. (I hate the smell of kerosene.)

Anyone wanting to be contacted let me know by e-mail or phone. I will send out an e-mail a few days ahead of time and follow it up with a phone call to those who respond. I will then go out and set-up and view if I have at least one more who confirms he or she will also be there. ☘

Once we had the lights and our equipment set up, we set off into the dark woods. They were right...night riding was a blast! It was a very exciting to be in the dark woods, careening down a narrow trail filled with hazards like logs, dips, and rocks, with leaves covering it all. The spotlights lit up the front of the trail, but there was darkness all around the sides, back, and above you. Occasionally we would stop to relax after a hard climb to catch our breath. During these stops, we shut off the lights to save the batteries. Naturally we would all look up toward the moon and watch the progressing shadow. At one point during totality I stopped and told the others to take a look. We could see the familiar reddish hue. This point just happened to be the middle point of our ride.

As we continued, I recognized the moon re-appearing, and pointed

it out to the others. By the time we got within a mile from the end, the moon was three-fourths the way un-eclipsed. This was also about the time our batteries were fading, and our lights were dimming! There was no time to waste now! I pressed on, not stopping to look anymore at the moon for fear of getting stuck out in the woods in the dark. By the time I got back to the trailhead, my light was completely dead. Fortunately by this time the full moon was also back, and its light helped me see my way back to my car. The timing of the ride, the batteries, and the eclipse could not have been more perfect.

I survived my first night ride with only two minor crashes. I have never had such a majestic experience. I love mountain biking through the woods. I love gazing at the stars in the night sky. And I really, really love doing both! ☘

Academy Gives Generously

By Scott Hay

At the November 20th Peoria Academy of Science Board Meeting, Brian Poelker stated that the Board of Directors of the Geology Section of the Peoria Academy of Science approved a motion to donate \$500.00 dollars to the NorthMoor Restoration project!

At the September 17th meeting, The Peoria Academy of Science Board passed a motion to donate \$1,200.00 from its general fund to the NorthMoor Restoration fund.

As the year draws to a close, please remember what a worthwhile cause this is. Science education is critical in a society where any one of us may be called to sit on a jury and hear facts based on DNA evidence and testimony.

Astronomy education should not consist solely of television specials. We all benefit by preserving this gift as it is passed from generation to generation. ☘

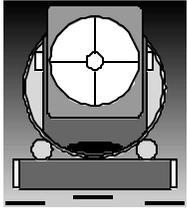
I-74 Upgrade

By Rich Tennis

Lighting along the improved route I-74 will be full cut-off. This according to IDOT engineer, Randy Laninga. The lighting is in accordance with the new directive for all Illinois highway lighting guidelines. Lighting that comes near residential areas will be further shielded to prevent light trespass in those areas.

Mr. Laninga told Rich Tennis, Chairperson of the PAS Light Control Committee, that the extent of the new directive for lighting along state highways includes that which is going through any municipality. Roadways need to meet this new directive as new light fixtures are installed along highways. Mr. Laninga has been trying to contact Peoria city officials to discuss this with them. He has not been able to get with anyone.

So, there is a light of hope glimmering for the residents living along new highways for better exterior lighting that will illuminate, not obscure. ☘



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In This Issue...

Herb Speaks out, Stars Up - Lights Down, ...Can You Spot This?, Lunar Eclipse, and more....

Observing Club Notes

Messier Awards Presented to Three

At the November general meeting of the society, several members were presented with PAS Messier Certificates. Rich Tennis and Mark McGrath were presented with PAS Messier Certificates for having viewed 100 Messier objects in a telescope. They have already received the Astronomical League Certificate for having viewed all 110 objects.

Brandt Bechtold received the PAS Intermediate Messier Certificate for having viewed 50 Messier objects with a telescope. He recently recorded enough Messier objects to qualify for the AL's Honorary Certificate for having observed 70 such objects and will receive the AL certificate shortly.

by John Barra

Finally, Rich Tennis received the PAS Mini-Marathon Certificates for having viewed all the Messier Objects in one night for both the PAS fall and winter mini-marathons. Although our October mini-marathon session was canceled because of cloudy skies all weekend, Tennis had the foresight to do the mini-marathons during the preceding week.

Anyone interested in learning more details for any of the Astronomical League awards should connect to the league's website. Contact the PAS website under Messier Club to learn the requirements for any of the many PAS Messier awards.

Planning for Viewing During the Winter Months

We all know that the dark sky is beautiful during the winter, filled with many Messier and Herschel objects.

We also know that cold weather and snow usually means that very little viewing occurs during those three months.

I am hoping to generate a little more interest in trying to do a little more viewing in the winter--mainly because there are some Herschel objects that can only be viewed then.

To do so takes a little more coordination among members who may wish to do the same.

I always take the position that I will not go to Jubilee alone, especially in the winter. I also take the position that I always set up before dark. Because that occurs between 4:30 and 5 p.m., Friday viewing is difficult. However, since getting to Jubilee by that time means you can get 45 hours of viewing and still be home by 10 or 11. That fact makes viewing on Sunday night a good substitute for Friday nights.

Therefore, I hope to take more

(Continued on page 11)

...more viewing in the winter...