



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

WINTER, 2013

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

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Directors:

President: Jesse Hoover, hooveje@gmail.com
Vice-President:
Secretary: Tatiana Johnson, 2gsheps@gmail.com
Treasurer: Dan Son, sonshine92@comcast.net
Parliamentarian: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
Nominating Chairman: John Barra, jbarra31@aol.com
Legal Agent: Mike Hay, me.hay@comcast.net
Northmoor Chairman: Nick Johnson, johnsnl@comcast.net
Jubilee Chairman: Robert Pauer, sbpauer@winco.net

*****NOTE*** January Members meeting is scheduled for January 8.*****

PEORIA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/PeoriaAstronomicalSociety

Editor's Notes: Starlite Editors: Mike and Linda Hay: me.hay@comcast.net or ls_hay@yahoo.com (little L not #1)

Articles may be submitted via two email addresses: ls_hay@yahoo.com or Starlighteditor@gmail.com. Deadlines for articles for the 2014 publications are: February 19, May 21, August 20 and November 19. (Please submit all articles in a **WORD** format. I have an older Windows XP desktop computer using Word 2000. Files sent as PDF files cannot be read on it.) I appreciate the cooperation with meeting the deadlines. It makes my job so much easier. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE:

Please notify Scott Swords at sswords3@comcast.net if you will be getting a new mailing address, 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:

Brandon Bressner, Eureka
Ronald Pruse, Dunlap
Thomas Golemon, Brimfield
Tommy Liening, Washington
David Reed, Pekin
Katy Shackelford, Peoria
Rex Murray, Peoria

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Vice President of PAS

Program Chairman

If you are willing to serve in one of these offices/positions, please contact Jesse Hoover, hooveje@gmail.com or 309-258-0343

Standing and Special Committees:

Northmoor Observatory Committee Chairperson - Nick Johnson

Membership Committee Chairperson - Scott Swords

Jubilee Chairperson - Bob Pauer

Public Relations - Kathy Dittmeier

Starlite Committee Chairperson - Mike Hay, Linda Hay

Program Chairperson - Open

Peoria Academy of Sciences Rep - Bill Cole

Light Control Chairperson - Jesse Hoover

Light Control Committee - Rich Tennis, and Kathryn (Kate) Shackelford

Website - Jesse Hoover

Observing - Gary Bussman

Nominating Committee – John Barra

Submission of photos / article content for the website:

If you have taken a nice photo that you would like to display on the PAS website, please send these to hooveje@gmail.com. Photos can be anything relating to astronomy. Maybe you snapped a good photo from a star party, club event, personal viewing, etc. Any astrophotography is encouraged! Also, if you have educational content, tips, techniques, lessons learned, or how-to articles with photos, we encourage that material also for the website. Just send me your photos or content, and I can review and post it to the website. Thanks! –Jesse Hoover

The Caterpillar Matching Gifts Program

From Brian Hakes

As of July 1, 2012 the Cat matching gifts program changed. Employees/Retirees are asked to submit matching gift forms electronically via the Caterpillar Foundation website, www.caterpillar.com/foundation.

The process is easy. Once you made your gift to the PAS you can go on line to the Cat Foundation website and complete the electronic form, there is no paper involved. Once the form is registered with the foundation they will notify the PAS and the treasurer will then verify the gift has been received. Because there will be no mailings, the turnaround time for the whole process will be negligible. This is especially advantageous at the end of the calendar (tax) year.

This is an excellent way to support the PAS. If you can, please participate in this generous program. This is a great way to help the society and the promotion of astronomy in the greater Peoria area.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: From Jesse Hoover

First off, I'd like to sincerely thank everyone who has volunteered or contributed any form of donation to the society. We could not operate without you, and I thank you for that support.

This past year, we have had several new members. This is a wonderful characteristic for growth of any non-profit society, as it brings new talent, experience, etc. to the organization. It's pretty impressive to have some technique you've been using for years... and all of the sudden, a new member suggest an alternative way to do the same thing. Wow! I had no idea you could do it that way! This is extraordinary feeling. The best thing about astronomy is getting out there, observing, and swapping information. We all have different scopes, eyepieces and physical mounts, so it is always a great experience to learn about others' equipment.

Among the many things going on in the society, we have added some new things to our presentations downtown in the Planetarium at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. We will maintain our history of putting on various programs, as presented by the members... but we are testing out a new style of program by scheduling speakers, with astronomical expertise, to present in a live video conference session. We will have ability to ask questions back and forth in the planetarium.

The equipment configuration is still in the experimental stage, since I overheated my PC about six times at home testing this setup... but I am confident I will have the bugs worked out (or a better PC) for our speaker on the December 4th meeting, as well as the January 8th meeting.

I thank the staff at the Peoria Riverfront Museum for their continued support and providing services as we meet on the first Wednesday of each month.

I feel we are headed in the right direction as far as the future of the society. One significant goal of the society is to bring on new members who are in the younger age groups. We have gained new members who are excited in the club and we have a lot of talent and expertise in astronomy, and I look forward to continuing that effort. As always, please ask us any questions you have, the information is out there and there are many willing to help out.

Clear and Dark Skies,
Jesse Hoover
President

STARLITES PAST

By John Barra

50 Years Ago

Fall/Winter Newsletter 1963

“The observatory has a new look, and it’s all due to the efforts of Mrs.Landen. Pat Landen has, during the past years, done all of the printing for the PAS....The new look is the latest pamphlet of the observatory. On the front is an excellent photograph of the observatory, and the center page describes the services which we offer to the public.”

I guess with new technology, our web page substitutes for the pamphlet. Jesse is always looking for new photographs and material to include on the webpage, so if you have anything, forward it to him.

“After briefly mentioning the new policies of the observatory, 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 35mm camera pointed directly at the sun.”

Eric, our in-house, solar eclipse expert, has done numerous programs on subsequent eclipses of the sun. He still has not figured out how to get pictures through the clouds.

25 Years Ago

Winter Starlite 1988

“This year’s public nights at Northmoor were very successful. The weekend of Mars’ closet approach, we had over 400 guests.”

A few years back when Mars was at its closest approach in many years, one night in the middle of the week we had guests lined up to the parking lot. I’ll never forget the fact that we could not close up until 2:30 in the morning to accommodate everyone.

“Using the 24” took a change for the better this summer. A “CAT” was installed by Van and Eric and the gang. We are talking a GREAT piece of hardware. This purchase has done as much as reconfiguring of the mirror to improve the telescope.“

Our new Jubilee Chairman Bob Pauer has been getting more people trained at using the 24. If you are interested in learning when the weather gets better this spring, just contact him.

Article for sale (from the PAS website)

6" Celestron Reflector Scope on a "go to" mount.

Here is an article by Ian Morison of Jodrell Bank Observatory talking about it:

<http://www.jb.man.ac.uk/public/im/cel130SLT.html>

Here is an ad for one :

<http://www.celestron.com/portal/celestron-nexstar-130slt.html>

It comes with a 25mm and a 9mm eyepiece, and all the manuals and cd's that came with it.

Asking \$350.00

Please contact Ron Ghighi if interested.

Please contact the [Webmaster](#) if you have an astronomy-related item for sale

FROM JESSE HOOVER:

I have a friend who is selling their Zhumell 12 in. dobsonian reflector telescope. It's \$700 new and they are asking \$500. Like new condition. Let me know if you are interested...

Thanks,
Jesse Hoover
<mailto:hooveje%40gmail.com>
(309) 258-0343

FROM TIM McGRATH:

Hey everybody,

Now that I have an Obsession, I doubt my 10" dob will ever get any more use, and I have no need for 2 scopes!

So... I'm offering for sale to anybody in the club my 10" Discovery f4.5 dob. It is the original DHQ model, with the white base. It has a 2" R&P focuser, eyepiece holder, and telrad base (sorry, the telrad was destroyed). It also includes encoders and hardware for an electronic DSC computer. It does have some customizations: The base has John Dobson's signature on it from his visit Peoria and Jubilee observatory several years ago. The tube has STS mission patches from the Challenger and Columbia shuttles.

I'm asking \$250, which represents less than under half of what I paid for it. I also have a JMI Max DSC computer and cable I will include for an additional \$100.

I can provide pictures on request. Email mailto:astropunk_2000%40yahoo.com

BOARD MINUTES

August 21, 2013

Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed. Scott Swords commented that Brian Rowe was a returning member rather than a new member. Mike Hay clarified that a cost to replenish supplies for the Starlite would be occurring rather than a publication cost increasing. The minutes were accepted as revised. Rich Tennis read the treasurer's report for July from an email he received from Dan Son. No printed copies were available, therefore no approval vote was taken. Nick Johnson reported he met with Morris Heating and received advise for a lower cost alternative to the \$2100 commercial dehumidifier proposal from Bix Basements systems. The new alternative would use a residential dehumidifier with provisions to add additional units as needed. Nick added he and Rich met with Mike Baietto and Jimmy Dunne of the Peoria Park District to review that plan. Both Mike and Jimmy thought the alternative was a good approach and would meet our needs. We then discussed a shared approach for installing the dehumidifier and painting the interior and exterior block walls of the dome. PPD will do all the construction work for installation, install the dehumidifier, provide floor venting, procure all painting materials, and prep and paint the exterior surfaces. PAS will procure the dehumidifier, prep and paint all the interior surfaces and pay for ½ of the paint materials cost. Nick then made a motion for the Board to authorize expenditure for up to \$750 for the project. John Barra seconded the motion and it was approved by Board vote. Bob Pauer could not attend the meeting. Rich Tennis reported that Bob communicated the painting of the 24" dome would begin next month. Scott reported two new members joined the Society. They are Bob Gayhart and Brian Medendorp. He also reported that Brian Rowe has rejoined the Society. Jesse reported that he is working with Hanna City regarding light control. He plans to use Bloomington as a model for proposed lighting ordinances.

September 18, 2013

Minutes of the August meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Dan Son presented a treasury report covering account reconciliation through August. The report was approved via Eric Clifton's motion, Nick Johnson's second and Board vote. Nick gave an update on the dampness mitigation project at Northmoor. He reported that items in the sub-floor storage area were moved to Jubilee to allow work to be performed in that area. He added the dehumidifier is installed and the Park District planned to complete the external block painting yet this fall. Eric Clifton gave a report for Bob Pauer concerning the break-in at Jubilee after the Sept. 6 ICC Star party. Eric reported that it appeared that the intruders broke in specifically to get to the gun safe in the warm up shed. They did not, however, take the telescope that was in the safe. Jesse Hoover presented the official candidate slate for the September annual meeting. His report included both elected and appointed candidates. The candidates for elected positions are President – open, Vice President – open, Treasurer – Dan Son, Secretary – Tatiana Johnson, Nominating Chair – John Barra, Parliamentarian – Nick Johnson, Legal Agent – Mike Hay. Scott Swords reported we have three new members: Rex Murray, David Reed, and Katy Shackelford. Mike reported he received zero returned Starlites. He also stated he has a bill for \$128.44 to submit to cover the cost of supplies and mailing. Jesse reported that he is contacting both Metamora and Washington for an inquiry for a copy of their current lighting protocols.

October 16, 2013

Minutes from September were reviewed and accepted. Dan Son provided an account reconciliation report for September. Nick Johnson provided a detailed report on moisture abatement at Northmoor. The Park District completed external painting of the observatory and they did a nice job. The PAS needs to paint the interior, which may need to wait until spring if the weather does not permit painting this year. The dehumidifier has been shut down for the winter to protect it from freezing. Eric Clifton reported for Bob Pauer that the 24" dome had been painted and looked great. A combination lock has been installed, the same combination as the gate. Motion was made by Eric to vote John Crowe in as a new keyholder. Gary Bussman seconded the motion. Motion was approved by the unanimous vote. Scott announced the winner of the science treasure hunt—Tommy Leining of Washington, whose prize was a one year membership to the PAS. He also reported three new members have joined the PAS, Thomas Goleman of Brimfield, Brandon Bressner of Eureka, and Ronald Pruse of Dunlap. Nick reported on the cost estimate of the video system at the visitor center at Northmoor. Rich stated it is advantageous to have the installation as a second attraction where visitors can watch a program on astronomy in addition to the telescope being the main attraction. The programs could be selected to accommodate groups of different ages and backgrounds. Nick quoted the total cost to be \$3122, including tv, control panel and cables. The motion to make the purchase was made by Rich and seconded by Nick. After discussion the motion did not receive a majority vote for passage.

