



General Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2023

Call to Order:

- Meeting called to order by President Art Arnold-Roksandich at 6:01 PM
- 45 in-person attendees at the Prescott Library

Welcome new members and guests:

- We now have 69 club members on record.

Special Announcements:

- **Sign-up Sheets:** Lisa Anderson now serves as official club greeter at PAC general meetings. Art reminded everyone to sign in at the entrance table.
- **Upcoming Speakers:**
 - 5/3: Ernest Cisneros from Arizona State University will present follow-up information on the Mastcam-Z/Perseverance rover MSL. Ernest presented this topic around a year ago. He now has more rover data.
 - 6/7: Joshua Ballze and Manuel Lucero from the Museum of Indigenous People – will present on pertinent archeology of this area.
 - 7/5: Justin Hagerty, USGS planetary mapping.
 - 9/6: Dr. Nick Moskovitz, Lowell Observatory – “Earth strikes back: NASA’s first planetary defense experiment.” -- a follow-up on the DART mission.
 - 10/4 Open
- **Upcoming Star Parties:** See below.
- **Field Trip to Lowell Observatory:** Art mentioned the potential field trip to the Lowell Observatory and reminded those interested to sign the sheet at Lisa Anderson’s table.

Featured speakers: Our speaker this month was Dr. Noel Richardson, Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Joining Dr. Richardson were three of his ERAU students: Mari Beltran, Teagan Laws, and Megan Peatt. The group discussed research that they conducted aboard the world’s largest flying observatory: NASA’s Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). The talk included a good deal of background information on the SOFIA project, the specific observing runs conducted and a summary of data analysis.

Business Topics:

- **February Minutes:** The March General meeting was cancelled because of weather. The February general meeting minutes to be posted on the website.
 - **Decision:** Minutes approved after we waived reading them during the meeting

- **Treasurer's Report for March 2023:**
 - Cash flow:
 - Income: \$0.51 (from interest)
 - Expenses: \$261.17 (insurance and Astronomical League dues)
 - Net: \$260.66
 - Account balances:
 - Paypal: \$0.00
 - Checking: \$3,591.90
 - Savings: \$4,050.36
 - Cash: \$0.00
 - TOTAL: \$7,642.26
 - **Decision:** Treasurer's Report accepted after we waived reading it during the meeting

- **Outreach Report:** Brian Blau presented the club's currently planned outreach activities:
 1. The March 23 Starry Nights at the Williamson Valley Trailhead was **cancelled** because of wet conditions.
 2. The April 15 David Covey member only star party is still on. Details coming in email.
 3. A star party in May at Williamson Valley Trailhead is still under consideration.
 4. The June 11 Starry Nights star party is still on.
 5. The September 16 Starry Nights at Lynx Lake is to-be-determined.
 6. The October 17 Talking Rock Outreach event is still on.
 7. The October 19 Highland Center walkaround star party is being planned.
 8. The October 14 Annular Eclipse event is being planned with the Prescott Public Library. This will be an early event as sunrise is at 8:15 a.m.
 9. The November 6 Starry Nights is to-be-determined.

Volunteers: Art appealed to club membership to become more involved in club activities through volunteerism. More help is needed in a variety of areas:

- **Leadership:** Board elections are scheduled for November and members are encouraged to investigate board service.

- Star Parties: More telescopes are needed at star parties. If you don't bring a scope you can still help by serving as guides, serving as night sky tour leaders, answering astronomy-related questions, and assisting with set up.
- School outreach coordinator to make contacts with schools and plan events.
- The club needs a second web master to help with our website.
- Astronomical Event Planning: Assistance is needed in designing and coordinating club activity around special events such as eclipses, occultations, random alignments, conjunctions, comets, etc.
- Field Trips: There are a lot of astronomy-related places to visit in Arizona. The club needs someone to organize field trips, make contacts, etc.
- Help is needed in coordinating and setting up special events such as the holiday party.
- Greeters: Lisa Anderson has taken on the role of official greeter, and she could use help.
- Zoom and other forms of live streaming: Currently, club leadership does not have the bandwidth to do a good, quality job dealing with the intricacies of live streaming club meetings. We need one or two individuals to focus on this area.

Art asked that the members interested in volunteering their time send an email to one of the club officers.

Upcoming Events:

- **Field Trip to Lowell Observatory:** Art is coordinating the field trip to the Lowell Observatory and will design the trip based on club members preferences. The trip will most likely involve an overnight stay. This would be a club-members-only event that would potentially include tours followed by astronomical viewing. A decision is still pending based on what members would prefer. Art asked that members express their interest by signing in with Lisa Anderson.
- **Grand Canyon Star Party** – Marylin Unruh updated the membership on the Grand Canyon Star Party planned for June 10th through the 17th. So far, several members have signed up for the event. Any questions should be directed to Marylin.

Announcements:

- The next PAC Board meeting will be held on April 18th, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Prescott Valley Public Library in the 2nd Floor PC Lab. If you would like to attend, please send a request to President Art Arnold-Roksandich p@prescottastronomyclub.org. Also let him know any suggested agenda items.

Closing:

- Our next general meeting will be on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Founder's Suite of the Prescott Public Library. The featured speaker will be Ernest Cisneros discussing the Mastcam-Z/Perseverance rover on the MSL mission.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Report submitted by Jack Evans, PAC Secretary