



General Meeting Minutes for May 3, 2023

Call to Order:

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

Announcements:

- Signup sheets: Lisa Anderson now serves as official club greeter at PAC general meetings. Art reminded everyone to sign in at the entrance table. Name badges were distributed to members.
- Upcoming Speakers:
 - June 7th: Joshua Ballze and Manuel Lucero, Museum of Indigenous People -Research and findings on the archaeology of astronomy and the history of Indigenous cosmology.
 - July 5th: Justin Hagerty, USGS “Planetary Mapping Project
 - August – swap meet
 - Sept 6th: Dr. Nick Moskovitz, Lowell Observatory “Earth strikes back: NASA’s first planetary defense experiment (DART follow-up)”
 - Oct 4th: Open
- Upcoming Star Parties:
 - May 6th: Kiwanis outreach star party at Camp Wamatochick - 5101 S. Senator Hwy
 - Grand Canyon Star Party (GCSP), June 10-17, 2023. Visit the Grand Canyon Park website for more information.

Featured Speaker:

Our speaker this month was Ernest Cisneros, Research Professional at the Arizona State University, working in remote sensing and planetary science. Ernest discussed his work on the Mastcam-Z camera system in use on the Perseverance rover, exploring Mars for signs of ancient life. This mast-mounted camera can take detailed 3D pictures as well as videos. Ernest reviewed the anatomy of the Perseverance rover and described its various cameras and instrumentation. He also gave a detailed description of the mission, the rover search area within the Jezero Crater, as well as the geology discovered so far. For those interested in more information, Ernest directed everyone to the following websites:

- Mastcam z website <https://mastcamz.asu.edu>
- Where is Perseverance: <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/mission/where-is-the-rover/>
- NASA JPL Website: <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/missions/mars-2020-perseverance-rover/>
- NASA website: <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/>

Welcome new members and guest:

- We now have 74 club members on record. Last year at this time the club had about 56 members.

Business Topics:

- **April Minutes:** The April general meeting minutes will be posted on the website.
 - **Decision:** Reading of the minutes was waived and minutes were approved.
- **Treasurer's Report for April 2023:**

- Cash flow:
 - Income: \$128.75
 - Expenses: \$64.89
 - Net: \$63.86
- Account balances:
 - Paypal: \$0.00
 - Checking: \$3,652.38
 - Savings: \$4,051.74
 - Cash: \$2.00
 - TOTAL: \$7,706.12
- **Decision:** The reading of the Treasurer's Report during the meeting was waived and the report was accepted.

- **Outreach**

- This Saturday (May 6) the Kiwanis club will be bringing kids to Camp Wamatochick. Brian explained that the weather may be a factor and we may need to cancel. He will send out email with the final decision.
- A star party in May at Williamson Valley Trailhead is still under consideration. We are waiting to hear back from Prescott National Forest officials. If permission is not given for the star party, we'll choose another site. The approximate date is May 20.
- The June 11 Starry Nights star party is still on.
- The September 16 Starry Nights at Lynx Lake is to-be-determined.
- The October 17 Talking Rock Outreach event is still on.
- The October 19 Highland Center walkaround star party is being planned.
- 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.
- The November 6 Starry Nights is to-be-determined.

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 include exhibits and 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 up with Lisa Anderson at the reception table.

- **ALCOR Observing Programs:** Ken Olsen, Astronomical League Coordinator for the Prescott Astronomy Club, described the AL and available observing programs. The AL is a large, national organization supporting public astronomy. Club members can participate in various AL observing programs and receive recognition in the form of badges and certificates.

Information regarding observations must follow AL protocols and include a sketch of the object. This information is described on the AL website. Upon completion, the observation record is submitted to Ken, who in turn will verify and submit the information to the AL. The use of computerized telescope tracking is prohibited in favor of star hopping. The intent is to hone observation skills and knowledge of the night sky.

Announcements:

- The next PAC Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2-4 pm at Prescott Valley Public Library, Glassford Hill Room. If you would like to attend, please send a request to p@prescottastronomyclub.org.

Closing:

- The next PAC general meeting will be Wednesday June 7 at 6:00pm at the Prescott Public Library, Founders Suite. The featured speakers will be Joshua Ballze and Manuel Lucero from the Museum of Indigenous People.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Report submitted by Jack Evans, PAC Secretary