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General Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2023

Call to Order:

- Meeting called to order by President Art Arnold-Roksandich at 6:00 p.m.
- 78 in-person attendees at the Prescott Library

Announcements:

- Signup sheets: Art reminded everyone to sign in at the entrance table with Lisa Anderson, and pointed out that there are sheets for nonmembers to sign expressing an interest in the club.
- Art welcomed new members and attending guests. We now have 76 club members on record. Last year at this time the club had about 58 members.

Upcoming Speakers:

- July 5th: Justin Hagerty, USGS “Planetary Mapping Project
- August 5th: Club member 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 and Events:

- June 8: Camp HONOR at Camp Wamatochick (set up at 7 p.m.) At least one more scope volunteer is needed.
- June 20 and 27: Camp Tuku at the Orem School in Mayer (setup at 7 pm). Talk with Brian if you’re interested in volunteering.

- June 10-17, 2023: Grand Canyon Star Party (GCSP). Visit the Grand Canyon Park website for more information.
- **Field Trip to Lowell Observatory:** Art is coordinating the field trip to the Lowell Observatory. This is a club-member-only event that will include exhibits and tours followed by astronomical viewing on the 24-inch PlaneWave telescope – (starting at 6:30 p.m.). It's expected that the field trip can accommodate a maximum of 50 people. An email from Art with further details is coming.

Featured Speakers:

Our speakers this month were Joshua Ballze and Manuel Lucero of the Museum of Indigenous People presenting "Indigenous Skies." Adam England introduced Joshua and Manuel, giving some of their background information. Joshua and Manuel discussed their research and findings on the archaeology of astronomy, the history of indigenous cosmology, and more generally the role of Indigenous people in the advance of science. Their talk covered a range of topics from Sinagua petroglyphs depicting supernovas to Chumash star charts and Cherokee stories of meteors.

Of special note was the announcement today that the Museum of Indigenous People were selected as a winner of the 2022 IAU NameExoWorlds exoplanet and host star naming competition. Manuel Lucero and team members presented details of their exoplanet/host star names. The star in question is a red dwarf, 30 light years distant in the constellation Leo. The chosen name is Noquisi – "star" in the Cherokee language. The exoplanet planet has been given the name Awohali – Cherokee for "eagle." Links were given for additional information:

IAU announcement: <https://www.iau.org/news/pressreleases/detail/iau2304/>

NameExoWorlds winning entry information:
<https://www.nameexoworlds.iau.org/2022approved-names>

The presentation was followed by an extensive Q & A period.

PAC Presentation: Art presented the Museum of Indigenous People with a donation of \$250. Note that, prior to the start of tonight’s general meeting, Art assembled a quorum of PAC Board members to approve the donation.

Because of the special nature of this meeting, the normal business topics were not addressed. For the record, they include the following:

- **Treasurer’s Report for April 2023:**

- Cash flow:
 - Income: \$132.52
 - Expenses: \$2.16
 - Net: \$130.36
- Account balances:
 - Paypal: \$0.00
 - Checking: \$3,774.34
 - Savings: \$4,053.14
 - Cash: \$9.00
 - TOTAL: \$7,836.48

- **Next PAC Board Meeting:** The next PAC Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20, 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 July 5 at 6:00 pm at the Prescott Public Library, Founders Suite. The featured speaker will be Dr. Justin Haggerty of the USGS Astrogeology Science Center discussing the rise of the USGS in planetary exploration.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Report submitted by Jack Evans, PAC Secretary