



General Meeting Minutes for July 5, 2023

Call to Order:

- Meeting called to order by President Art Arnold-Roksandich at 6 p.m.
- 58 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.
- **Welcome:** Art welcomed new members and attending guests.
- **Picnic Signup:** The club picnic is scheduled for August 19th. We will send out a notice via email to sign up. Doug Tilley will need a head count to order parking permits. We'll also need a couple of volunteers to help set up and clean up. The club will provide the main course (burgers and brats) and participants are asked to bring a side dish as well as drinks.
- **Beginner SIG:** Art is going to set up a beginner Special Interest Group where new astronomers can learn the fundamentals of telescope observing. Stay tuned. In the meantime, if you'd like to learn more about observing, come to a star party.
- **Volunteers Needed:** Art stressed the importance of volunteer participation in club operations. We will need one additional person to help with the board. Elections are toward the end of the year. We also need additional volunteers for activities such as star parties and school outreach.

- **Zoom:** The club needs someone who knows Zoom to help us out. This will allow us to expand club meetings online. Please let Art know if you're interested.
- **Camp Tuku Donation:** Club members recently participated in several camp sessions operated by Camp Tuku, a mindfulness, eco summer camp for kids and teens from all over the country. The club subsequently received a donation of \$1,000 from Camp Tuku – the largest donation anyone can remember!

Upcoming Star Parties and Events:

- The club is attempting to schedule public star parties around the area's variable weather patterns. We will send out an email notification, via *groups.io*, to members a couple of days before a planned star party.
- August 2nd: Club member Swap Meet. Club equipment and member items will be offered for sale.
- Sept 6th: Dr. Nick Moskovitz, Lowell Observatory "Earth strikes back: NASA's first planetary defense experiment (DART follow-up)"
- Oct 4th: Open

Featured Speaker:

Our speaker this month was Jim Skinner, sitting in for Dr. Justin Haggerty of the USGS Astrogeology Science Center – who was called away because of a family emergency. Jim is a Supervisor Geologist and Mapping Coordinator. He is actively involved in Geologic mapping training for engineers and NASA personnel. Jim's talk was entitled: "The Rise of the USGS in Planetary Exploration."

Jim discussed the past, current, and future activities of the USGS Astrogeology Science center in relation to the exploration of our Solar System. He described how the USGS conducts innovative, fundamental research that advances the fields of planetary spatial data infrastructure, geoscience, and remote sensing.

The talk included a discussion of the Astronaut Training Program and the USGS' involvement in planetary spacecraft missions.

USGS Astrogeology current activities include working on maps of Pluto and Charon and NASA's return to the moon through the Artemis program. Jim also described the extensive astronaut field training conducted in Flagstaff.

Take Aways:

1. The USGS is a long-term resource for NASA,
2. The United States is returning to the moon and planning for a sustained presence,
3. The USGS-NASA collaboration includes assisting in testing, training, and product development (e.g., map development).

Club Business:

- **Reading of the Minutes:** Reading of the minutes of the June PAC General Meeting was waived.
- **Treasurer's Report for June 2023:**
 - Cash flow:
 - Income: \$1,068.50
 - Expenses: \$819.01
 - Net: \$249.49
 - Account balances:
 - Paypal: \$0.00
 - Checking: \$4,014.33
 - Savings: \$4,054.64
 - Cash: \$17.00
 - TOTAL: \$8,085.97
- **Membership Report:** We now have 79 club members on record. New members include Tom Benson & family, Jonathan Mason, as well as Dan & Jeanette Shiel. Last year at this time the club had about 60 members.

- **Eyepieces and Cases for Club Loaner Scopes:** Art reported that the club needs to purchase some basic eyepieces for the loaner telescopes. The PAC Board approved the expenditure of \$250 for the purchase of new eyepieces and cases. That decision must be ratified by the general membership. It was moved and seconded to approve the expenditure for eyepieces and cases. Approved.
- **Next PAC Board Meeting:** The next PAC Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, 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 August 2 at 6:00 pm at the Prescott Public Library, Founders Suite. This is the annual member swap meet.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Report submitted by Jack Evans, PAC Secretary