



## General Meeting Minutes for August 2, 2023

### Call to Order:

- Meeting called to order by President Art Arnold-Roksandich at 6:15 p.m.
- 45 in-person attendees at the Prescott Library

### Announcements:

- Doug Tilley reminded everyone that the Club Picnic is August 19<sup>th</sup> at the Upper Ramada of Watson Lake Park, and that the final date to notify him that you're coming is August 10<sup>th</sup>. He'll need this lead time to order parking passes. The passes will be left at the park gate. Tell the gate keeper that you are with the Prescott Astronomy Club.

The club is providing the main course. Participants are asked to bring a side dish as well as their own drinks. About 48 people plan to attend.

- Art reminded everyone of the Lowell Observatory Field Trip on October 6<sup>th</sup>. A notice will soon be going out to those who signed up. We may need to limit the number of participants to around 45. We currently have around 50 who have expressed interest. More details are coming.
- [Pacinfo@groups.io](mailto:Pacinfo@groups.io). Art urged members to join [Pacinfo@groups.io](mailto:Pacinfo@groups.io). This is the main notification vehicle for club activities, particularly for short-notice star parties (known as "popups." Art also invited members to post their astrophotography images to [Pacinfo@groups.io](mailto:Pacinfo@groups.io) and to also send them to our Ephemeris editor Hilary Legacy and to Al Schober who maintains the club's Facebook page.

- Art summarized his recent email notice requesting more volunteers for club activities. He emphasized our current need for volunteers in the following areas:
  - Board service: Art does not plan to run again for president so this board position will be open. Doug Tilley will soon be calling club members to gauge their interest in this important post.
  - Web Master: We need a second web master to assist our current web master.
  - Star Party Volunteers: We need club members to come to public star parties, with or without scopes, to assist in public outreach.
  - Club Events: The club could use some help with the upcoming Club Picnic – set up and clean up. Help is also needed at the Club Christmas Party.
  - Refreshments: Another pressing need is for a backup person to help with refreshments at club meetings.

Art asked everyone to read the complete list of volunteer opportunities in his recent email and to pay attention to longer-term volunteer needs.

### **Upcoming Speakers:**

- September 6<sup>th</sup>: Dr. Nick Moskowitz, Lowell Observatory will give a presentation entitled “Earth strikes back: NASA’s first planetary defense experiment. This is a follow-up to his earlier presentation on the DART program.
- October 4<sup>th</sup>: Open
- November 1<sup>st</sup>: Board elections and club budget
- December: No Meeting

### Upcoming Star Parties and Events:

- September 8<sup>th</sup>: Brian announced a Star Party at the Winey Cats Winery in Chino Valley. Brian will put details and times on the club website.
- October 14<sup>th</sup>: An observing event is planned for the Partial Solar Eclipse from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Brian is checking out locations.
- Art discussed the Astronomy Basics SIG. More specific information will be sent out regarding this series of basic informational meetings on the basics of amateur astronomy.

### Featured Event: Club Member Presentations and Swap Meet:

- **First Speaker: Jim Haley.** Jim described his astrophotography activity in Williamson Valley and showed pictures of his work and his scope – a Takahashi FSQ-106N. Jim also recommended an inexpensive new scope/camera setup, the SWO Seestar S50 that is available from Starzона.
- **Second Speakers: Doug Tilley and Joel Cohen.** Doug and Joel spoke about the Grand Canyon Star Party that ran for 8 days in June. Forty-two volunteer astronomers participated along with guest speakers. Over 9,200 people attended this year's event. Joel showed a video that he created to summarize the star party. Next year's Grand Canyon Star Party will run from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **Third Presenter: Sandy Eubanks.** Sandy spoke about the astronomy interests and activities of her and her late husband, Steve. She thanked everyone for the outpouring of condolences from club members.
- **Fourth Presenter: James Vaughn.** James discussed his activity in radio astronomy and showed pictures of his radio telescope which he constructed from off-the-shelf parts. The instrument is configured to receive 21 cm hydrogen line signals. He showed the receiver display and a graphic of the sky at 21 cm. James often demonstrates the scope at club star parties.

**Swap Meet:** The formal meeting concluded at 6:30 p.m. with the remainder of the time spent on the swap meet.

**Closing:**

- The next PAC general meeting will be Wednesday September 6 at 6:00 pm at the Prescott Public Library, Founders Suite.
- The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

Report submitted by Jack Evans, PAC Secretary