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## General Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2023

### Call to Order:

- Meeting called to order by President Art Arnold-Roksandich at 6:03 p.m.
- 50 in-person attendees at the Prescott Library

### Announcements:

- Signup sheets: Art reminded everyone to sign in at the entrance table and pointed out that there are several different signup sheets:
  - Guests
  - Those wishing to volunteer with the club
  - Nonmembers expressing an interest in the club.
  - Beginner Sessions (ABSIG)

### Upcoming Speakers:

- Oct 4<sup>th</sup>: Dr. Wasserman recently of the Lowell Observatory will present “Things that go bump in the night: Transits, Eclipses and Occultations.”
- Nov 1<sup>st</sup>: Club Budget and Board Elections. If you are interested in volunteering for a board position, please contact Doug Tilley at [dougbt51@gmail.com](mailto:dougbt51@gmail.com)
- Dec 6<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Party (replaces the general meeting).

### Upcoming Star Parties and Events:

- Sep 8<sup>th</sup>: Star Party at the Whiney Cats at Granite Creek Winery in Chino Valley – starting at 7 p.m. For those who signed up as telescope volunteers – an email from Brian is coming soon. Club members get in for free. A

quick count of those present indicated that 18 people plan to come to this event.

- Oct 14th: Partial Annular Eclipse Viewing at the Scenic Overlook on Eastbound Pioneer Parkway – starting at 8 a.m.
- Oct 17th: Member-only event at Talking Rock. A collaboration with local residents and PAC members.
- Oct 20th: Star Party at The Highlands Center. Details are coming.

### **ABSIG (Astronomy Basics Special Interest Group):**

- Art will host the ABSIG on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Setup starts at 5:45 p.m. and viewing begins at 6:30 p.m.
- The location is 2675 W. Rainmaker off Williamson Valley Road – (Art's house).
- These meetings are designed for beginners and for those wanting to know more. Art is soliciting input. Later he'll develop some presentations.

### **Prescott Dark Skies Committee:**

- This is a new committee which will locate and document dark sites near Prescott for the use of club members. The group will also search for a permanent site for club observing and will work to increase public awareness for preserving dark skies.
- The first meeting is scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Prescott Public Library in the Founders Suite A. Starts at 5 p.m.
- Please attend if you are interested in volunteering.

## **Featured Speaker:**

Our speaker this month was Dr. Nick Moskovitz of the Lowell Observatory presenting a follow-up discussion of NASA's first planetary defense experiment (DART mission): "The Earth Strikes Back." This is a follow-up to an earlier talk by Dr. Moskovitz exactly one year ago.

Dr. Moskovitz divided his presentation to address three fundamental questions:

1. Why did we do DART?
2. What happened?
3. What are we learning?

The DART vehicle impacted the smaller member of a binary asteroid. The mission was considered to be a great success in that the impact changed the orbital period of the target body by half an hour. As with any successful experiment, it raised several open questions that are being studied:

- Why does the post-impact target body show 2 tails?
- What caused brightness changes over various timescales?
- How long will there be a tail?
- Did Dimorphos get re-shaped by the impact?
- What does Dimorphos look like now?
- Is the binary orbit stable post impact or is it changing?

The HERA project, a companion mission operated by the European Space Administration, is planned for 2026. HERA will study this asteroid system with a variety of instruments.

## **Club Business:**

- Art welcomed new members and guests.
- **Reading of the Minutes:** Reading of the minutes of the June PAC General Meeting was waived.
- **Treasurer's Report for August 2023:** (Not covered during the meeting)

- Cash flow:
  - Income: \$149.52
  - Expenses: \$58.37
  - Net: \$91.15
- Account balances:
  - Paypal: \$0.00
  - Checking: \$3,925.31
  - Savings: \$4,057.67
  - Cash: \$87.00
  - TOTAL: \$8,069.98

- **Membership Report:** As of August 31<sup>st</sup>, PAC memberships totaled 86 compared to 66 members at the end of August last year. New and returning members included Sandy Eubanks, George Jaeger, Alan Krause, Virginia & Ray Nowell, Michael Paoletti, and Philip Venturelli.
- **Next PAC Board Meeting:** The next PAC Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Prescott Valley Public Library, Glassford Hill Room. If you would like to attend, please send a request to [p@prescottastronomyclub.org](mailto:p@prescottastronomyclub.org).

**Closing:**

- The next PAC general meeting will be Wednesday October 4, at 6:00 pm at the Prescott Public Library, Founders Suite. The featured speaker will be Dr. Wasserman -- formerly of the Lowell Observatory, presenting "Things that Go Bump in the Night: Transits, Eclipses and Occultations."
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Report submitted by Jack Evans, PAC Secretary