



General Meeting Minutes for April 3, 2024

Call to Order:

- Meeting called to order by Vice President Brian Blau at 6:02 p.m.
- 53 in-person attendees at the Prescott Library.

Announcements:

- Signup sheets: Brian 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 Meetings:

- PAC General Meeting: May 1st, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Prescott Public Library, Founders Suite. Our speaker will be Dr. Jeff Hall speaking on “The Curious Case of Our Wild & Crazy Sun.” Dr. Hall is a solar astronomer and the Executive Director of Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff.

Upcoming Star Parties and Events:

- April 8th Solar Eclipse viewing at 10 a.m. at the Prescott Valley Public Library. However, the weather may be a factor. This Friday, (April 5th) Brian will report on group.io of any cancellation.
- April 4: Outreach at Camp Womatochick – Cancelled because of forecasted high winds.
- April 12: Outreach @ Camp Womatochick
- May 3: Outreach @ Camp Womatochick

- May 4: Starry Nights public star Party, Williamson Valley Trailhead, 7:30 p.m.
- June 8: Outreach @ Iron Springs Camp
- June 27: Outreach @ Prescott Public Library. Club astronomers will make presentations followed by an observing session after the meeting.

ABSIG (Astronomy Basics Special Interest Group):

- The next ABSIG will be held on April 18th at Art's residence. Check your email in the coming weeks for confirmation.
- 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.

APSIG (Astrophotography Special Interest Group):

- April 15th: 10:30 a.m. Zoom meeting information will be sent to the club's groups.io email list before the meeting.

Featured Speaker:

Our speaker this month was Dr. Jason Barnes of the University of Idaho, discussing NASA's Rotorcraft Lander Mission to Saturn's Moon Titan. Dr. Barnes studies the physics of planets and planetary systems. He uses NASA spacecraft data to study planets that orbit stars other than the Sun and the composition and nature of the surfaces of Saturn's moon Titan. He is Deputy Principal Investigator on the Dragonfly NASA space mission, which will land a robotic rotorcraft on Titan in 2034.

Dragonfly is a robotic (nuclear powered) octocopter space mission heading to Titan, the giant moon of Saturn. Dragonfly will land on the surface of the hazy moon to explore prebiotic chemistry, to evaluate its habitability and to look for chemical biosignatures.

Dr. Barnes fielded numerous questions about the mission from the audience. This was another extremely well-received presentation.

Club Business:

- Reading of the March PAC General Meeting minutes was waived by unanimous vote.
- **Treasurer's Report for March 2024: (Minutes only)**
 - Cash flow:
 - Income \$8.04
 - Expenses: \$864.16
 - Net: (\$856.12)
 - Account balances:
 - Paypal: \$0
 - Checking: \$4,015.76
 - Savings: \$4,066.89
 - Cash: \$139.34
 - TOTAL: \$8,221.99
- **Membership Report (Minutes only):** As of March 31st, PAC memberships totaled 79. At this time last year there were 69 total members.
- **Next PAC Board Meeting:** The next PAC Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23rd, 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.
- The 2024 Grand Canyon Star Party is scheduled for June 1st through the 8th at both the north and south rim locations. Start planning ahead for this event by checking the event's website:
<https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/grand-canyon-star-party.htm>

Closing:

- The next PAC general meeting will be Wednesday May 1st, at 6:00 pm at the Prescott Public Library, Founders Suite.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Report submitted by Jack Evans, PAC Secretary