



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

January 18, 2022: Volume XXIX, Issue 29



Rock Island Rotary welcomes the

Popular Astronomy Club



Roy Gustafson, a current officer of the Popular Astronomy Club of the Quad Cities (PAC), visited our Rotary Club today to express his sincere excitement for the galaxies nearby and far, far away!

Roy visited the Adler Planetarium in Chicago as a second grader, which first got him interested in astronomy. Since that time, he has presented astronomy programs for more than 20,000 people! In addition to being a retiree from John Deere, he is also an astronomy teacher at Black Hawk College. Roy's presentation focused on the large amount of community outreach that he and the PAC does throughout the Quad Cities and outlying areas.

Founded in 1936 by Carl Gamble, the PAC currently has about 60 members who meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm at the Butterworth Center. The public is invited to attend these meetings to learn more about the club. (They even let people borrow telescopes so that you can try one out before making a big purchase!). The PAC also has the Paul Castle Memorial Observatory near Milan, a permanent observatory used exclusively by PAC members - a perk of becoming a member!

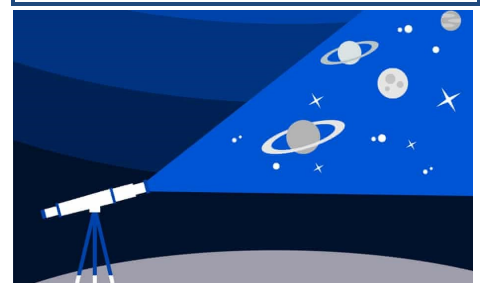
Aside from many great pictures, including a beautiful shot of the Orion Nebula, the bulk of Roy's presentation was about the numerous outreach initiatives of the Club, including a little bit about how COVID affected them. Since the majority of what they do is in the open air, they are still able to offer many great programs to the public. There is a Calendar of Events listed on page 3 of the newsletter!

From April through November, on the 3rd Saturday of each month, the PAC parks their mobile observatory at Niabi Zoo from dusk until "no later than midnight." The public is invited to come out and experience stargazing with friends and family.

Continued on next page...

Upcoming Programs

- Jan 25 - Kevin Maynard, Executive Director, Quad City Arts presents "Emerging Public Art Initiatives in the Quad Cities"
- Feb 1 - Nicole Cisne Durbin
- Feb 8 - Neil Dahlstrom - Deere Company Author
- Feb 15 - Rebecca Wee - Augustana Poet
- Feb 22 - Joel Vanderbush - Niabi Zoo
- Mar 1 - TBD
- Mar 8 - TBD
- Mar 15 - Laura Fontaine Director - World Relief Quad Cities
- Mar 22 - Mikhayla Hughes-Shaw, former Miss Iowa - currently hostess of "Living Local" on WHBF-TV - "How About H.O.P.E. Mental Health Awareness"



According to their website, the **Popular Astronomy Club** is "Designed to secure the pleasures and benefits of an association of persons interested in amateur astronomy; to promote the science of astronomy; to promote astronomical work and craftsmanship in its various fields; to correlate amateur activities; and to act as interpreter of astronomical developments and events to the public."

Learn more at:
www.popularastronomyclub.org



P.O. Box 4514
Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

Officers

Justin Peterson, President
Cindi Gramenz, 1st Vice-Pres
Eric Westphall, 2nd Vice-Pres
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer
Angela Campbell, Past President

Board Members

Amber Brummit
John Daly
Rick Devinney
Monta Ponsetto
Sue Rector
Gary Rowe
Molly Shattuck
Kathy Trone
Co-Sergeants at Arms
Cindi Gramenz
Bob Swanson

Program Chairs 2021 - 2022

Aug. – Sep Gary Rowe
Oct. – Nov Frank Lambert
Dec. – Jan John Wetzell
Feb – Mar Kai Swanson/
Dave Hodge
Apr– May Kathy Trone/
Jeff Rose
June – July Tom Hammar

Club Notes & Announcements!

WELCOME GUESTS! We did not have any in-house guests this week, but Mark Zimmerman, from the Davenport Club, joined us via Zoom. Glad to see you, Mark!

EARLY LEAVERS: It was a busy day for our Rotary group, with four folks leaving early, with regrets to our speaker. Kathy Lelonek, Kim Calhoun, Jim Moran, and Eric Westphall each paid \$1 to leave early.

DON'T FORGET – KEEP THEM ENGAGED! For **January**, we are collecting **coloring books/puzzle books/word searches/crossword books - any fun, educational books you can find!** We have 300 Earl Hanson students to supply with a fully stocked summer activity bag to “Keep Them Engaged.”

GREETERS NEEDED - Greeters are needed for February and beyond! All that is required is the ability to come a few minutes early and bring your great smile. Handshake, fist bump, elbow bump - whatever your pleasure is fine. It's a great way for newer members to get to know your fellow Rotarians. Sign-up at the Sergeant-at-Arms table.

WINE RAFFLE BEGINS! More information is included in the newsletter, but Jeff Rose graciously made an official announcement at today's meeting regarding the new & improved raffle, with many positive changes ahead. Contact Gary Rowe to purchase tickets.

2022/2023 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: 1st Vice-president, Cindi Gramenz, is getting a jump start on her presidential duties by asking members to email her your preference(s) for committee assignments for the next fiscal year. It's better to choose a committee rather than have one chosen for you.

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER? Email them to bobdebswanson@att.net. If you attend a Rotary event and take pictures, please also email or text them to Bob.

John Deere Middle School has partnered with the PAC to bring educational programs to the students. The PAC has also have visited the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, local libraries, and recreation areas for families and children to learn more about astronomy. One of their most popular programs was having children “Make their Own Comet,” an exercise that taught participants about the numerous debris-types found within a comet, and why comets travel with their tail away from the sun. Fascinating stuff!

Even the visually impaired now have a braille book called *Touch the Universe*, which teaches the wonders of the universe to those who cannot see. The book description states, “Universally designed for both the sighted and visually impaired reader, *Touch the Universe* takes readers on a voyage of discovery, starting at Earth, proceeding through the solar system, and ending with the most distant image taken by Hubble, the mind-boggling "Hubble Deep Field" photo-the first telescope image ever to bring home to human consciousness, in a deeply fundamental way, the literal infinite reaches of our universe of galaxies.”

With more than 100 slides, Roy's presentation was extremely rich in content - what an amazing astronomy club we have in our area. See their calendar of events and visit their website to learn more!



PAC Activities 2022

- Monthly meetings at Ben Butterworth Center:
February 14th, March 14th, April 11th, May 16th,
June 13th, July 11th, September 12th,
November 14th, December 12th
- Niabi Zoo dates: March 19th, April, 16th, May
21st, June 18th, July 16th, August 20th,
September 17th, October 15th, November 19th
- Also check our website for updated events
popularastronomyclub.org
- First Quarter Moon – February 8th, March 10th,
April 8th, May 8th, June 7th, July 6th, August 5th,
September 3rd, October 2nd, November 30th,
December 29th
- April late and early May – Comet C/2021 could be
visible to the naked eye in the west-northwest just
after sunset
- May 15th – a total lunar eclipse begins at 8:32 pm,
maximum eclipse at 11:11 pm
- June 19th – 4:13 am – Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Moon,
and Saturn span the sky from northeast (Venus) to
southeast (Saturn)
- July 13th – Moon closest to Earth, will be the
largest full Moon of the Year
- August 11th and 12th – Perseid meteor shower
(full moon)
- August 13th – 9:00 pm - Saturn in the Eastern
Horizon
- September 25th – 8:56 pm – Jupiter in the
Eastern Horizon
- September 26th – Jupiter closest to Earth, will
be very large
- November 8th – a total lunar eclipse begins at
8:02 pm, maximum eclipse at 10:59 pm
- December 7th – 7:13 pm – Mars and Moon
close together in the east

Planisphere = skymaps.com
ISS = Sputnik!



FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

\$2 from Kathy Trone in honor of family members who are recovering from illnesses.

\$2 from Rebecca Arnold as a "Thank You" to the MidAmerican Energy team for volunteering at the King Center, and in honor of another successful Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.

\$1 from Dr. Bud Phillis in celebration of Andre Curbelo's return to the Fighting Illini basketball roster after being out for an injury.

\$1 from John Wetzel because both the University of Illinois and Augustana basketball teams lost this past weekend.

\$38 "Happy/Sad Dollars" from Sue Rector, who is officially retiring from Augustana College on 1/31/2022, after a very successful 38-year career. Congratulations to Sue!



FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT



Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of Sauvignon Blanc.

Sue Rector won the \$27 and donated it to the Foundation
Jeff Rose won the wine

Proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary International Foundation. **Thanks to all who participated!**

ROTARY CPR

Continuously Promoting Rotary



Want to learn more about why the Rock Island Rotary Club has Corporate memberships? Want to have some input on how the Club tweaks membership opportunities? Come have an adult beverage or two, some snacks and Rotary camaraderie on **Thursday January 27 at City Limits around 5:30**. Anne McGlynn will start a discussion of the Club's current structure, how the bylaws support this structure, and whether this structure is the best one going forward. There WILL be handouts, but no quiz. All Rotarians, questions, and input are welcome. Hope to see you there!

The Rotary Club of Rock Island
is proud to present the 2022

Wine Raffle

All proceeds benefit the
Fred Houlton
"Service Above Self"
Scholarship
of Rock Island Rotary

Drawing will be held
on May 24, 2022

1st Prize— \$500 in Wine

2nd Prize— \$300 in Wine

3rd Prize— \$200 in Wine

PLUS 7 Additional Fine Wine Prizes

*Winners get to choose their own
Wine from The Grape Life

NEW for 2022:

Only **300** tickets will be sold!

\$20 per ticket

Purchase Tickets Online via Square at:
[Facebook.com/rockislandrotary](https://www.facebook.com/rockislandrotary)

Or email us at:
rotaryclubrockisland@gmail.com for more info.



Must be 21, need not be present to win





Rock Island Rotary Literacy Committee Introduces

“Keep them Engaged”

Summer Packs for Earl Hanson School

JANUARY COLLECTION ITEMS:

coloring books/puzzle books/word searches/crossword books

The Goal: Collect and assemble items in engaging Summer packs for every student at Earl Hanson Elementary School. That means we need 300 of each item!

**JANUARY GOAL: We are looking for coloring books/puzzle books/word searches/crosswords
Bring your donation items or cash to purchase them to our meeting**



COAT DRIVE A GREAT NEW PROJECT!

So far, 43 coats were brought by Rotarians and donated to the Heart of Hope Food & Clothing pantry. They were extremely appreciative and are excited that we hope to bring them more!

Currently, they are accepting only coats because of their limited storage space. In the future other clothing will be appreciated, but for now, it is strictly the much needed warm, winter coats. Bring coats you no longer wear to Rotary, and we will see that they get delivered to Heart of Hope. All sizes are needed, men's, women's, and children's from toddler on up! .What a wonderful opportunity to turn something you don't need or use into a lifesaver for someone in need. Let's keep them coming!! Our goal is 50!