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WINTER EVENTS RE-CAP

This winter was busy for the Planetary Studies Foundation. We hosted several events for adults and children; from Paul Sipiera's lecture on the Super Blue Blood Moon (available to watch on PSF's Facebook) to learning about climate change. For more photographs from this winter's programming, go to page 10.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We have scheduled the PSF Annual Member Meeting for **Saturday, August 25** at the Woodbine Bend Golf Course and Restaurant located in Stockton, Illinois at 3500 E. Center Rd. The event time is 1:00 p.m. Official invites will be sent out in the summer newsletter.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to report that 2018 is off to a good start for your Planetary Studies Foundation. Our educational staff is hard at work planning for the Summer Children's Science Workshops. There have also been several interesting one-day programs at both the 1876 Banwarth House & Museum and Earth & Space Science Museum.

The February 19th program on Climate Change featured Eric Sorensen, the popular Quad Cities WQAD television weatherman. In the afternoon, he conducted a mini-workshop for an extremely enthusiastic group of local 7 to 10 year old children. Later that evening, he spoke to an audience of over 30 people and addressed significant questions on how the changing climate will affect our local area.

Although 2018 cannot match the excitement of 2017's Total Solar Eclipse it will still be a good year for astronomy. On January 27th we already had a nice Total Lunar Eclipse along with a Super Blue Blood Moon! Out at our Doug Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory in Freeport, Illinois, Jim Dole and his staff will begin their public viewing sessions on May 5th and continue on alternate Saturdays through October 20th. Thanks to its indoor facility component these sessions will be held rain or shine. Additional observing sessions will be held at our monthly Woodbine Bend Golf Course site also from May through October.

Our research scientists have also been busy classifying and getting approval of 10 new meteorites. The most interesting one in this group was a nice 37 pound iron from Northwest Africa. In March our senior scientist Dr. Tony Irving will be presenting several research papers at the Annual Lunar & Planetary Science Conference in Houston, Texas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members and corporate friends who contributed to our year-end fund campaign. The final accounting gave a total of \$6,155.00. In addition, I would also like to recognize and thank our renewing members who year-after-year continue their encouragement and support of what we do to fulfill our educational and scientific mission. To our newest members, welcome you to our family of scientific-minded and inquisitive individuals. Our varied members range from astronauts who have walked on the Moon to excited seven year olds touching a 220 pound iron meteorite on the floor of our museum. Each one of our museums seems to attract a particular following and our staff enjoys meeting these people and often learns some interesting facts from them.

As I mentioned in the last *PSF News*, 2018 is the year that precedes our 30th Anniversary Celebration Year that will begin on February 8, 2019. We are currently in the planning stages for a number of celebration events that will include our Annual Members Meeting tentatively scheduled for August 25, 2019. All of this planning brings back fond memories of that 1987-88 "dream-time". At that time all five of our founders were either faculty or staff at Harper College in Palatine, Illinois. It was our vision to have a "state-of-the art" planetarium/science facility on that campus. If the traditional state-funded master plan approach to building it did not work, then we would raise the necessary funds and build it ourselves. That in short, is how the Planetary Studies Foundation came about. That was thirty years ago and the dream has not died. Perhaps 2018 will be the "miracle year" that does make PSF's planetarium dream come true. Wouldn't that be a wonderful way to celebrate our 30th Anniversary?



Paul P. Szipiera

DONORS' SPOTLIGHT

2017 YEAR-END FUNDRAISING

General Operations Fund

The Anders Family Foundation
(William and Valerie Anders)

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Apple River State Bank

Karen & Leo Baran

Mary & Alan Becker

Kate Butler

Cecila Cooper

Carol Dehnbostal

Larry Fulfs

Dr. Todd Gephart

Illinois Bank & Trust

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Marilyn Quas

Joan & Larry Reylek

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Summer Children's Science Programs

Jewish Foundation of Cleveland
(on behalf of Audrey & Albert Ratner)

Cecile L. Krok

Eugenia Krzyzanski

Diane & Paul Sipiera

Carolyn R. Walmann

Doug Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory

Doug Firebaugh

Golden K Kawanis of Freeport

Janet M. Landato

Robert Remer

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Karl Stocker

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SPRING 2018

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The Anders Family Foundation
(William and Valerie Anders)

Paul & Diane Sipiera

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MEMBERS' CORNER

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Mary & Kevin Ramsden

Family Membership—Renewing

Beth & Jim Baranski
Vicky & Don Franz
Connie & Jim Kahl
Mary Beth & Brett Stark
Nancy & Ramon Ricondo

Individual Membership—Renewing

Larry Fulfs
Janet Moote
Gerald Speer
Harriet Stauffacher
Anne Swan-Johnson

Student Membership—Renewing

Phoenix Baker
Serenity Baker

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

FRANK & KIM CARMICHAEL

Frank and Kim Carmichael became involved with PSF after the "Great Wisconsin Fireball" occurred on April 14th, 2010. They connected with Dr. Paul Sipiera to join their radio show for discussion on the event and the Mifflin, Wisconsin meteorite itself. Ever since, Dr. Paul Sipiera is frequently featured on their show for their science curiosities.

Planetary Studies Foundation (PSF): Can you tell us about your background and education/professional accomplishments?

Kim Carmichael: Frank is a serial entrepreneur. He has owned movie theaters, ice cream shops, restaurants, and has published *Happenings Magazine* for over 40 years.



In addition to that, together we host a weekly radio show Monday through Friday 1:00 PM to 3:00PM on AM 1050 WLIP. We also have an events company that puts on large festivals every year in Kenosha, including our big Fourth of July festival called Celebrate America, 2 weekly concert series entitled Peanut Butter and Jam and Tuesdays at the Shell, Friday Night Flicks (outdoor movies on the big screen), Cheese-A-Palooza, Tribute Island and more. We recently opened a comedy club which features live comedy every Friday and Saturday night.

PSF: Wow! That’s a lot. Do you have time for any other interests?

Carmichael: Our interests include traveling, we have hosted numerous group trips where we take our readers and listeners to have fun, learn, and meet new people. We both love to read and spend time with our smart, and beautiful 13-year-old daughter, Brooke (of course we are both a little biased when it comes to Brooke.)

PSF: Where is the most memorable place(s) you have traveled?

Carmichael: Some of our favorite travel destinations include; the Mayan ruins in Tulum, The island nation of Malta, Pompeii, the rain forest in Costa Rica, swimming with Sharks in Belize (only Kim and Brooke, Frank prefers dry land) visiting the Panama Canal, volcanoes national Park in Hawaii, and closer to home Americas first settlement Jamestown.

PSF: Who are some celebrity guest speakers that you have had on your radio program that you found fascinating?

Carmichael: We have had so many fascinating guests on over the years it's hard to narrow it down to just a few! Here are some favorites that come to mind: actors Olympia Dukakis, Rita Marino, Concetta Tomei and Mark Ruffalo; creators, and executive directors Michael Brandt , and Derek Haas, Chicago Fire, Chicago PD, Chicago Med, authors James Bradley; Flags of our Fathers and The Imperial Cruise; Mary Roach; Packing for Mars, Gulp, Grunt; Brad Meltzer; History Decoded, The Presidents Shadow, The House of Secrets; Ric Gillespie, Executive director of TIGHAR, Norbert Kraft, Mars One Project, medical director, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, Governor Scott Walker. Of course, one of our favorite guests are Dr. Paul Siphera and his fellow PSF member, Jerry Mathers AKA "the Beav."

PSF: Do you have any advice for younger scientist or students?

Carmichael: Our advice for young people... never stop learning. Read, read, read! Ask questions! Everyone you meet possesses some knowledge that you don't. Ask them about it.

**WOODBINE
BEND**



GOLF COURSE & RESTAURANT

3500 E. Center Rd., Stockton, IL 61085



Star Gazing Nights at Woodbine Bend

MAY		JUN	
May 19		June 16	
SEP		OCT	
Sept. 15		Oct. 13	

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

These four day children's workshops are open to students age 7-12 and run from 10:00am until 3:00pm

Please bring sack lunches.
Limited to the first 10 registrants.

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Elizabeth, IL 61028
Phone: 815-858-2014
Email: dsipiera@planets.org

Office located at 115 N. Main Elizabeth, IL 61028

Make check payable to the Planetary Studies Foundation and mail it to the address above or drop it off at the PSF Earth & Space Science Museum, 115 N. Main St. Elizabeth, IL.



#1 June 11-14 Space Week - This new workshop will teach about the future of the U.S. Space Program, but what other companies are planning for future colonization. They will be learning about planning, experimentation of various foods and products, solar energy, back to the moon and basic astronomy. Your child will be invited to attend an astronaut dedication in Savanna, IL to meet astronauts.

#2 June 25-28 Living in the 1800's and Family Genealogy Students will learn what it was like to live in the late 1800's. Children will learn various responsibilities for boys and girls. They will learn calligraphy, hand sewing, how to make soap, and various other experiments. The children will learn how far back does their genealogy goes, how to make a family tree, the importance of cemeteries, how to use the Elizabeth Historical Society and how to use ancestry.com.

#3 July 9-12 Geology Week - The young scientist will be introduced to rocks and minerals, starting with the eight major characteristics of all rocks. New hands-on experiments will be performed. Students will also learn about the layers of the Earth and be able to answer the "Can plants grow in meteorite dust?"

#4 July 23-26 How Things Work – Wondering how an egg timer works? Why hot sauce can make a penny look new? Your young scientist will learn how basic chemistry and physics is part of their lives, but are not aware of it. Numerous experiments will be explored.

Pricing	
\$50.00 for PSF members' children	\$60.00 for non-members children before May 1
\$70.00 for non-members children after May 1	
No Refunds on Children Summer Workshops because prices are based upon materials and staff.	

2018 SUMMER WORKSHOP APPLICATION (Please submit application no later than one week prior to workshop start date)

Child's Name and Age	Parent/Guardian's Name
Address	City, State & Zip code
Guardian's Phone Number & Email	
Program Number(s) Enrolled Into	
<p>Waiver & Release As a parent or guardian, I accept all responsibility for my child health and behavior while participating in this event. I release the Planetary Studies Foundation from all liability for any injury my child may incur while participating in this event.</p>	
Parent/Guardian's Printed Name	
Signature	

DOUG FIREBAUGH OBSERVATORY

2018 VIEWING SCHEDULE

APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
4/28: Open House (11a to 4p)	5/5: Double Stars of Spring, Exploring in Cancer 5/3 through 6/7: Park District 'Starting Out in Astronomy' Class	6/2: Highlights of Coma Berenices Region 6/16: Doubles Stars in Bootes and Canes Venetici Region	7/7: Messier's Best Summer Objects 7/21: Mars in 2018
AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV-DEC
8/4: Exploring Hercules, Draco Region 8/18: Bright Stars in the Summer Sky	9/1: Milky Way Star Clusters 9/15: Summer Milky Way, Cygnus Star Hop	10/6: Deep Sky Objects in the Milky Way 10/20: 2018 Observing Season Review, Fall Constellation	<p style="text-align: center;">See you next season!</p>



SPECIAL FEATURE

ERIC SORENSEN'S VISIT TO THE EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE MUSEUM



Eric Sorensen's program *How Our Earth is Affected by Climate Change* was held on Monday, February 19 at the Planetary Studies Foundation Earth and Space Science Museum. Climate change has been going on for millions of years. This discussion group touched on how various oceans are changing physically and how weather patterns across the world are making countries either prospering or struggle. The discussion group was to make the general public aware that we must be prepared for these changes.

What is your current job title and what news station do you work for?

I am the Senior Meteorologist for WQAD-TV, the ABC affiliate serving Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois.

What led you to meteorology as a science?

The changeable nature of weather has always been a source of wonder to me. As a child, growing up in Northern Illinois, I was hooked on how storms could blow in so quickly.

What led you to becoming a meteorologist on television?

The man who did the weather on Channel 13 in Rockford, Illinois when I was a young child was Eric Nefstead. Since we shared the same first name, I wanted to be just like him. As an adult working at a neighboring television station, I was able to tell him how much I felt about him. He stayed on Rockford television until his death just a few years ago. I was very fortunate to have him understand the impact he had on my life. It's also something I have the opportunity to give to youngsters who watch me.

In 2008, you lead a relief effort to help those affected by devastating floods in Iowa. Could you add more about your involvement with the event and why it was important for you to assist in the relief efforts?

My brother Mike is a private pilot and is involved in Angel Flight, an organization that transports medical patients and their families. When Cedar Rapids got flooded out, I got the word out on television and he organized many pilots who donated their time and money. Illinois U.S. Senator Dick Durbin even showed his support at the Chicago-Rockford International Airport, signing a banner which was given to the city of Cedar Rapids.

How did you become involved with Planetary Studies Foundation?

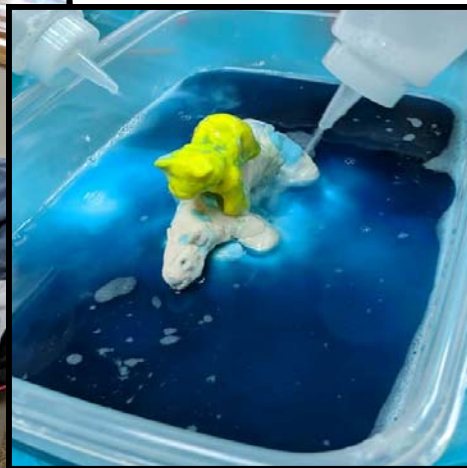
I was asked to speak to children about the study of weather and climate. After talking it through, we added a session for adults.

Why is the subject of climate change important to you?

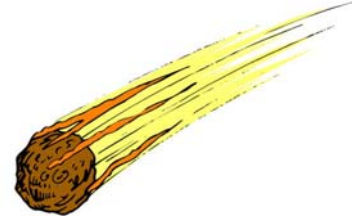
I am in the business of educating. Normally, I give people weather education in three-minute intervals on WQAD-TV. However, the process of informing the public has to go beyond that. Climate change is an important issue for everyone, and is already having an effect on our way of life. I believe the cost of mitigating the problems arising from climate change will be minimized with a more informed populace.



IN PHOTOS: WINTER PROGRAM RE-CAP



FUN PAGE



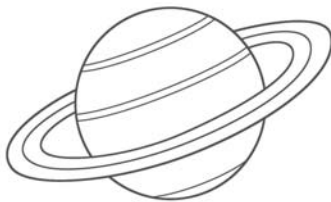
ASTRONOMY WORDSEARCH

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NEPTUNE
SUN
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PLUTO
ASTEROID
SUPERGIANT
JUPITER
NEBULA
ERIS
MERCURY
BLACK HOLE
WHITE DWARF
MOON
ORION
LEO
COMET
VENUS
EARTH
METEOR
MARS

ASTRONOMY TRIVIA (Answers on Back Page)

1. What is the name of Jupiter's largest moon? _____
2. True or False. The entire surface area of Pluto is smaller than Russia. _____
3. Which planet has the longest day? _____
4. True or False. A new star is born in our galaxy every 1 day. _____
5. The largest volcano in the solar system can be found on Mars. What is its name? _____



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Fun Page Astronomy Trivia Answers

1. Ganymede
2. True
3. Venus
4. False. A new star in our galaxy is born every 18 days.
5. Olympus Mons

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