



## Telescope donated to library in Orion

**PAUL LEVESQUE**  
Popular Astronomy Club

The Popular Astronomy Club has donated a telescope to the Western District Library in Orion.

PAC President Dale Hachtel formally presented the telescope during a meeting of the library board on April 22. Also attending the presentation were PAC members Al Sheidler and Roy and Jan Gustafson, who reside in Orion.

The telescope, coincidentally made by Orion Telescopes and Binoculars, is a 4.5-inch "Star-Blast" reflector. The compact "grab and go" design of the telescope makes it portable and easy to use for novice and intermediate level amateur astronomers, but still powerful and versatile enough to observe a full range of celestial objects.

The donated telescope can now be borrowed by library patrons, expanding the range of services offered by the Western District Library.

"Library telescopes are an excellent way to make astronomy more accessible and to reach more individuals who may be interested in amateur astronomy," Hachtel said.

He added that PAC may expand its library telescope program in the future.

PAC was awarded the telescope last year during the annual convention of the Astronomical League. This is the second library telescope awarded to PAC by the Astronomical League. The other telescope was given to the Eldridge Branch of the Scott County Library, where it has proven popular among patrons.

## Skywatch

From A3

Before donating these telescopes, PAC inspected them and performed some minor modifications to make them easier to use. User manuals in plain language accompany the telescopes. PAC maintains and repairs the telescopes as needed and provides other

support when requested.

The Popular Astronomy Club meets the second Monday of every month (except for August and October) at 7 p.m. at the Butterworth Center in Moline. Visitors are welcome.

PAC also has public observing sessions in the parking lot of Niabi Zoo on the third Saturday every month through November, with the next scheduled for May 18 at

sunset. You can learn more by finding PAC on Facebook or visiting its website, at [popularastronomyclub.org](http://popularastronomyclub.org).

The Popular Astronomy Club meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Butterworth Center in Moline. All are welcome to attend. You can also find us on Facebook or visit our website, at <https://www.popularastronomyclub.org>.