



The Meridian

The newsletter of the
Quad Cities
Astronomical Society

October 2011

Secretary's Notes

Dale Hendricks

Members in attendance at the September meeting:

Joe Bannon	Al Cattoir	Dana Taylor	Gary Charnoski	Chris Hebel
Karl Adlon	Robert Mitchell	Cecil Ward	Crag Cox	Jeff Struve
Bruce Brooker	Bill Mahoney	Dale Hendricks		

Treasurer's report - Craig reported a total of \$2,348.37 in the club account. During the meeting 5 more members paid dues for a total of \$85.00. Total club account now is \$2433.37.

QCAS website - Dale was asked if there was folder or place in or on our web site where Society members' pictures could or were posted. Dana confirmed that there was a place and that he posts all photos and is working to create an upload feature for members to upload their photos without submitting them.

EISP - Cecil Ward commented, with agreement from all who attended, that this year's EISP was the best "viewing" in recent memory. Not too cold and the moon cooperated making conditions nearly perfect. Many photos taken during the event have been shared and are excellent.

Election of Officers - Karl asked if there were any contested positions. Dana indicated that Joe Bannon offered to stand for VP. Chris Hebel (who was in attendance for the first time in months) indicated that he was committed to travel for the next two years and felt he should step down. He also offered to stand for office when the travel was no longer necessary. Bylaws were referenced regarding whether the quorum at the meeting was sufficient for holding a legal vote. Since ballots can be either paper, email or oral and since we did have a quorum, a vote was held for VP and Joe (who had not yet arrived) was nominated. Joe, upon arrival, accepted the position. There being no challenge to the slate, it was accepted by unanimous vote

20" mirror - Last meeting there was discussion about the apparent issues with the 20" mirror. There previously had been debate about the best course of action and Dana said he thinks the tube is no longer straight and the secondary ring may be misaligned. At this meeting Cecil shared that he found an outlet in Hong Kong that sells a 20" mirror for \$900.00.

Star Party - Dana noted September 24 was the last public star party for 2011 and how the previous one resulted in three new members: Bruce Brooker, Bryson Cale and Deake Schneider (family). At that party several DSOs were observed and Dana demonstrated how astrophotography can bring out details the naked eye can't see. Over the Labor Day weekend, he and Bruce went looking for the supernova in M101.

To follow up on his offer made during the September meeting, Bruce Brooker has cleaned the 10" scope and offered at this meeting to make new legs for it. Thanks for the good work to date, Bruce, and we look forward to the scope being returned to a fully functional life.

In September Joe Bannon mentioned that October 15 is Universe Day at the Bettendorf Family Museum. The event was covered well by Joe, Jeff Struve, Craig Cox and Cecil Ward - nice job and thanks to you all - BZ!! For those who have not attended/participated in this event, I can only share that I attended last year and though, as Joe pointed out, this is not a target group the kids are fun and some are quite knowledgeable. Joe made a point of mentioning that there were sunspots to view this time and there were none last year. Looks like the 11 year cycle has started up again.

Dale suggested that we think about having a "viewing" night at the Library in April or May of next year. We could engage quite a large number of adults and at the same time provide an activity for the Library which is hosting us through, at least, next June. We could set up on the north end of the parking lot south of the Bettendorf Museum. Positive reaction to this suggestion and Dale offered to follow up with the staff person at the Library (and Museum) to determine the planning and details.

Two other suggestions re the Library and our group - we could put together a collage of our photos in the entryway area of the Library with some info on the QCAS and check to determine if the Library has a communications link with library members as a quick, easy and free way to provide information on the club and upcoming activities. Cecil made a statement that at this point in our history we have not invited the public to the nights when we want to have a members only viewing night. It was a good point and a practice that we determined we wanted to continue so only public viewing nights would be the only ones referenced in the email communications, if the library is willing and able to do this.

Karl Adlon provided a presentation on astro "shooting" with some very simple equipment and some basic knowledge. There were photos in the presentation that none of us had seen and they were, in a word, stunning. What makes this even more impressive is how little investment and time are required to take some great photos. (Presentation attached)



Basic AP.ppt





A final event that was mentioned and discussed was the transit of Venus across the sun 5 June. We determined that we would find a place where the western sky could be seen well beginning about 5:15 PM up to sunset which will be 8:24 pm for us. This all depends on whether or not we make it past this Friday, the 21st.

Dana also asked that Dale check with the Putnam Guild to determine if and or when they would like to have another presentation. Will do, Dana.

Thanks much to those who brought treats to the meeting. Give some thought to how we want to do this for future meetings to ensure we have enough but not too much.

And one final but important reminder - our new meeting times are 7:00pm to 8:45pm at the Bettendorf Library. We have to be out of the room by NLT that time with the room in the condition in which we found it. If we want set up there is a charge. However, Jeff Struve and I set up the room this time and thanks to all for the tear down and put away. The room was open before 7:00 so any who show up early, please pitch in and help with the set up.

Upcoming Celestial and Club Events

Mo	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
O C T				19	20 Last-Quarter Moon.	21 Orionid meteor shower peaks; Moon passes 6° south of Mars	22
O C T	23	24	25	26 Moon at perigee (221,862 miles) NEW MOON	27 Moon passes 0.2° south of Mercury at 21:00	28 Moon passes 1.8° south of Venus; Jupiter at opposition	29 QCAS Star Party (Sherman Park)
N O V	30	31 Saturn passes 5° north of Spica	1	2 First-Quarter Moon.	3 Laika first living creature in space-1957 	4	5
N O V	6 Daylight Savings Ends	7	8	9 Evening - Binoculars show Venus, Mercury and Antares in a line	10 Full Moon 	11 Pleiades above bright Moon – try binoculars	12
N O V	13	14	15 William Herschel born, 1738 	16	17	18 Last-Quarter Moon	19
N O V	20	21 7:00pm – QCAS Meeting – Bettendorf Library	22	23	24 Thanksgiving 	25 NEW MOON	26 Evening – Crescent Moon 3° - 5° right of Venus QCAS Star Party
N O V	27	28	29	30	1	2 First-Quarter Moon	3

Jens-Wendt Observatory – Quad Cities Astronomical Society – Located at Sherman Park in Dixon, Iowa

Monsignor Menke Observatory – St. Ambrose University – Located at Wapsi River Environmental Education Center in Dixon, Iowa

QCAS Contacts

Elected Officers			Volunteers and Committees		
President	Dana Taylor	dana@nelsonstaylor.com	Facilities	Jim Rutenbeck	jrutenbeck@frontier.com
Vice-president	Joe Bannon	mzbannon@aol.com	Web Master	Dana Taylor	dana@nelsonstaylor.com
Secretary	Dale Hendricks	dhusna68@mchsi.com	Outreach	Joe Bannon	mzbannon@aol.com
Treasurer	Craig Cox	admiralcox2000@yahoo.com	Programming	Jim Rutenbeck	jrutenbeck@frontier.com
Director	Karl Adlon	kmja79@yahoo.com			

All other contacts can be sent to the club at P.O. Box 3706, Davenport, IA, 52808.

Members are also reminded that anyone can submit articles for *The Meridian* to Dale Hendricks at dhusna68@mchsi.com.