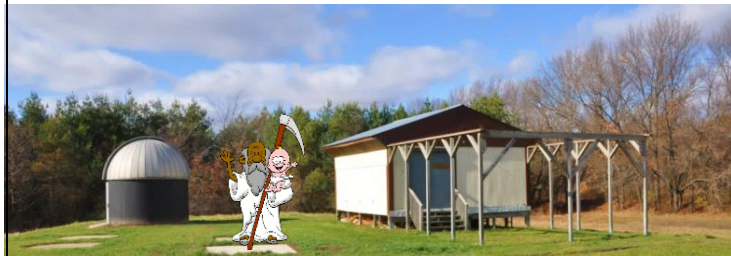


THE MERIDIAN

Newsletter of the
Quad Cities Astronomical
Society

www.qcas.org



JANUARY 2017

QCAS Mission Statement:

To stimulate an interest in the science of astronomy in the Quad Cities Area, to nurture an ongoing desire by Quad Cities Astronomical Society members to study the cosmos and to provide members of our community opportunities to experience the beauty and joy of Astronomy.

Presidents Greeting

Welcome to the January 2017 Meridian! I hope that you all had a very Merry Christmas and holiday season... I'd like to thank all that attended our December meeting, and hope to see all of you, and those that couldn't attend, at the meeting being held on January 16th.

This issue of the Meridian is a little shy of imagery due to the cold weather... and clouds... but a few members are gearing up to run their rigs wirelessly so they can operate from the warmth of their home... or car... or warm room. We can talk more about this at the next, or a future meeting...

Mike gave a talk on PixInsight at the December meeting... maybe armed with a bit of that knowledge and the aid of a quick start sheet that he's provided, (going out as an additional attachment with this newsletter) you can download the demo of PI, and give it a shot for yourself while the weather is less than cooperative! I still have 1 new 'Inside PixInsight' book available for purchase at \$25.00... retail is as much as \$35.00... let me know!

Karl's Poncet platform demo was quite interesting too... a number of us indicated that we owned Dob's, and maybe we should organize something where we can get together and build one or more of these units... whatcha think???

A final note... please remember to send me notes on your astronomical endeavors since our last issue of Meridian... stories, new gear, events, things you want to sell, and of course pictures!

I would like to extend to each and every one of you, your families and friends an astronomically prosperous new year and may your skies always be clear!

Clear Skies!
Jeff



Last Society Meeting Minutes

Date/Time Location

6:30 PM on Monday, December 19th
The Bettendorf Library

Attendance

Ken Boquist, Sam Snow, Robert Mitchell, Mike Ombrello, Karl Adlon, Mike Dannenfeldt, Greg Weinberg, Matt Neilssen, Craig Cox, Jeff Struve

Presentations

After the greeting, the group had open discussion on a couple of interesting topics...

Ken did a bit of Solar Observations, reporting that at the time of his outing, not much was going on with the sun... no sun spots and very few prominences... We did a little bit of talking about the differences between Ha and white light solar viewing, and broached on the differences between Lunt, Coronado, and Daystar solar scopes.

Mike discussed his process used to remotely control his imaging rig... set it up, high-tail it to a warm area and control it from your easy chair! Hopefully we'll have a presentation demonstration on this soon.

After the discussion we had 2 formal presentations, as follows:

Mike Ombrello gave a talk and demonstration of PixInsight processing... from the importance and creation of calibration frames through integration... He basically gave us a run through of the standard process that he goes through, and has provided his work flow for distribution with this news-letter. Jeff has 1 copy of Warren Keller's book available for purchase for \$25.00.



Karl Adlon brought in his Poncet platform, demonstrated how and why it worked... what it was used for and what different variations could be found. A number of club Dob owners may be interested in getting together to build one or more of these units.



Thanx guys!

Treasurers Report

- At the time of reading, we had \$3920.55.
- PAC donated \$37.50 for our help in the Adams School event.
- Club dues can be paid from September until March 31st at which time membership may lapse. Matt will be sending out notices.
- The report was approved.

Review of Minutes

- After correcting the date of the December Board meeting, the minutes as per the December Meridian were approved.

Old Business

- QCAS Dues – Matt will send out notices.
- New officers met at the bank and old account signatures have been removed, and new officer signatures activated.
- The 2017 Calendar has been approved. The meteor shower event will be worked in conjunction with SAU Menke Observatory and The Popular Astronomy Club. It was decided that tackling a swap meet in 2017 was a bit ambitious and therefore will be postponed until 2018.
- The Board approved and requested the Society to approve the 2004 Bylaws "as is" so it can be used as a base line for a 2017 re-write. This passed unanimously.
- On 12/16 Craig, Matt, Robert, Mike, and Jeff cleaned out the block house. We will begin sorting through on 12/22... Items not associated with the scopes that the club plans on keeping will be made available to the membership then offered for sale, then discarded. Ken Boquist advised that a field guide book belongs to Clinton County Conservation Board. Jim advised that he had donated a solar filter which was modified by Steve for use on the 20" and if this was no longer wanted that he'd like to have it back. Jeff approved.
- Dana deleted/hid 2 of the 3 Facebook accounts so that a single presence can be utilized by members.
- Jeff announced a rewrite of our web site. Matt will be working with Dana and Mike to accomplish this.
- For the 2017 solar eclipse, Dale had secured 2 rooms in Aurora, NE which Robert, Jeff, Craig, and Mike O have claimed. Jeff and Robert will be meeting to set up a test broadcast to ensure the right gear is being taken to the event. Robert is hoping to set up a trip to Aurora to check out the facilities that will be available... electricity... internet...
- The Board voted not to rejoin the Astronomical League, and this will be one of the changes made in the Bylaws.

New Business

- None reported

Other

The club adjourned to the Village Inn located on Elmore and 53rd to continue the comradery. Mike Dannenfeldt, Mike Ombrello, Craig Cox, Robert Mitchell, and Jeff Struve attended.

Next Society Meeting

Date/Time Location

6:30 PM on Monday, January 16th

Bettendorf Library – Check the bulletin board for which room...

January Presentation

Thanx to Programming Chair Jim Rutenbeck, we were able to have PAC President Alan Sheidler agree to make the presentation at our upcoming January meeting. Al gave a talk and led a discussion on the topic of gravitational waves at the 2016 Eastern Iowa Star Party, which resulted in quite a discussion... Thanx in advance Alan!



"It's black, and it looks like a hole.
I'd say it's a black hole."



Thank you notes from Adams School for work done at their Night Under the Stars program.

Last Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time Location

6:30 PM on Monday, December 5th
The Village Inn on Elmore and 53rd in Davenport, IA

Attendance

Jeff Struve - Present
Craig Cox - Present
Robert Mitchell - Present
Matt Neilssen - Present

Agenda

Primary Topics

Moving public open house at Jens-Wendt to the Saturday nearest the new moon or 1st Quarter moon

- Nights have been selected, some on the Saturday near new moon and others near 1st quarter

Reviewing and rewriting bylaws

- At the next board meeting we will pick out the worst few items and start rewriting.

Discussing the standing committees

- Nominating
 - Call Election Committee
 - Update bylaw
 - By Sept Society Meeting
- Outreach – A new committee will be developed to coordinate public relations.
- Director at Large – Go past president by past pres until nomination is required

Discuss joining ALCON

Jeff to see if we have liability insurance via the park board... via asking for the lease

Discuss organizing the 3/24 Messier Marathon, 4/29 Astronomy Day, 6/24 swap meet, 8/12 Perseid Meteor Shower, 8/21 Solar Eclipse, and 9/22 Eastern Iowa Star Party

- No scheduled swap meet this year
- Meteor Shower Party in conjunction w/ SAU and PAC?

Coordinating info on our website and Facebook pages and Registration for and Trifold (add Dark Sky Etiquette)

- Matt will talk to Dana about web/FB.
- Fund raiser for new site.

Talk about purchasing a wide FoV refractor to mount on the 20" Reflector (Jims?)

- Pass

Clean and convert the block house into a warm room/viewing center. Take inventory of club equipment and dispose of

- Board w/go out on 12/16 to grab gear
- Jeff to check if there is room at the studio for gear
- Open gear to QCAS members for free

Next Board Meeting

Date/Time Location

Unless otherwise noted, Board Meetings will be held on the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Village Inn Restaurant on Elmore and 53rd in Davenport, IA. Please notify Jeff Struve if you plan on attending so seating arrangements can be made. Ordering from the menu is Dutch treat.

The January meeting has been rescheduled for January 12th.

Agenda

Primary Topics

- Reviewing and rewriting bylaws
- Discussing the standing committees
- Discuss organizing the Messier Marathon, Astronomy Day, Perseid Meteor Shower, and Eastern Iowa Star Party.
- The August Solar Eclipse
- Coordinating info on our website and Facebook pages.
- Having a single QCAS contact for all outreach endeavors.
- Take inventory of club equipment
- Mole Hills at Sherman Park

Secondary Topics

- Reviewing the Mission Statement
- Society Meeting Location
- Club project – Build a Poncet mount for the clubs Dob
- Club project – convert the 20" scope into a truss system
- Discuss a High School Ambassador Program



Jan and Jim Rutenbeck wish us a Merry Christmas from Florida... They will be attending the Winter Star Party there too!

Member Spotlight

Beginnings by Dave Ruddy

I was asked to do an article on how I first became interested in amateur astronomy. As we all know, this is a hobby that is in our blood and it can sometimes be hard to explain to someone what drives our interest, let alone how and when we first became obsessed with it.

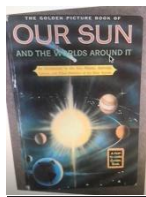
My first memory of interest was in a book that my parents had got for me. It was a children's book titled "Our Sun and the Worlds Around It". I remember being fascinated by the fact that there were other worlds "up there". When I was in 3rd grade, I remember being in the school library at Wilson Elementary for our weekly library visit. One of the other kids sitting just across from me had a book that he was reading that immediately got my attention. It was one of the old Golden Books...classic from the 1960's. The book was titled "Stars" and had a prominent Saturn on the cover with stars all around. I became obsessed with having this book. To my dismay, I had to wait 2 weeks before he turned it back in! But once I had it in my hands, I was hooked. I then continued to collect as many books on astronomy as I could. The books I read got more advanced but for some reason, I never forgot the book that kicked it all off..."Our Sun and the Worlds Around It" even though by now, the book was long gone. To this day I can't remember what happened to it other than being "lost in the shuffle of time".

When I was 14, I spent the summer detasseling corn. I did this for one reason only. There was a refractor telescope in the JC Penney catalog that I HAD to have! It was over \$300 (a lot at the time) but I was transfixed with the setting circles, slow motion controls and the dominating EQ mount. Of course, when I was finally ready to buy the scope, it was suddenly not available. Disappointing but as they say, when a door closes, a window opens. Someone had a homemade brass 5" refractor for sale for \$500. My parents fronted me the extra money I needed and I was finally in business! This homemade refractor was impressive. At 6 feet long, it looked like your typical yard cannon!

I used it for several years on and off but it wasn't until the early 80's that I really started to learn how to use the EQ mount effectively. Like many of us, life happens and even though we have an unexplainable passion for amateur astronomy, we also have other events and interests that drive us. I had never lost my enthusiasm so when I read one day that there was going to be a public star party at Emeis Park hosted by the Quad Cities Astronomical Society I knew I had to be there. Bear in mind, this was the early 80's so many current members were probably not members then. But one member approached me because he was impressed with the "cannon" that I had brought with me. "Wow! That's quite a scope!" I remember him saying. He then helped me to properly align the EQ mount and spent time showing me the wonders of the heavens as well as having me sample other scopes that were set up that night in the park. I viewed the Ring Nebula (M57) in Lyra for the first time that night. A truly glorious site! His passion for amateur astronomy was infectious and he had a tremendous influence on me that has lasted my whole life. At the end of the evening I thanked him for all the time he spent with me. Then he said, "We've spent all this time together and I don't think I even really introduced myself". We shook hands and he said, "I'm Wayne Jens and I'm the President of this club".

I no longer have the yard cannon. Like a lot of people, there were a few years that I was not active as life happened. But as we all know, it never really leaves us altogether. Today I have a computer controlled Celestron and am thinking of upgrading again to the beloved EQ mount, a C11 and an 80mm to start astrophotography.

We always seem to return to this passion no matter what happens in life and we don't forget some of the nostalgic items and events that peeked and honed our interest. I think often of that night with Wayne Jens. And more recently as I was skimming through various items on Amazon, I saw something that drew my eye. One of their vendors had an old, used children's book that they were selling. And it was in great condition! To my delight, the name of the book was "Our Sun and the Worlds Around It".



Submitted Articles

Article by Jeff Struve for PAC and publication in the January Argus

Dancing With the Stars

Ok, so 'dancing' may be a misnomer here, but it got your attention. ☺ So, you've been to a number of public events (hopefully) where you could look through club telescopes and see cool views of the moon, Saturn, Jupiter, a few double stars, a star cluster or two... maybe a fuzzy galaxy or two, and that orangish redish star that is actually Mars... but you're still not quite ready to buy a telescope... that is GREAT news! Why??? There are a lot of great opportunities for you to see even more, and more importantly learn a bit about what it takes to do the type of astronomy that you want to do... not just guess at what facets there are and what gear to invest in...

Public events are fun and easy to get to... but you'll notice that most of the amateur astronomers there are directing traffic, and not doing the majority of viewing.... Mmmm... what do they know that Joe Public doesn't? Well, mainly, that the darker the skies, the better you can see the aforementioned objects... not just a little better, but generally a lot better... except for the moon, which astronomers, unless that is the object of study, tend to avoid. Darker skies allow for better viewing and multitudes of other objects therefore also become visible! So, you're thinking, let's have Public Nights during the New Moon (when it can't be seen)! Well, hold onto your scope Galileo... it takes a bit more than that... Light pollution from cities and smoke from factory chimney stacks are also a huge hindrance! So now what?

Well, head west young man (or person to be more politically correct!)... almost literally as I'll get to later. In this case we can call West any place out of town... maybe not just any place, but how about the astronomy clubs observatory? Ask a member when they are going out to their site to do their viewing and astrophotography... they'll be more than happy to work something out with you... it may even be a private showing! I think you'll get more out of it if there are a number of members at the site doing various things so that you can get a better idea as to what can be done and what you need to do it.

Now you want to know why I said 'West'... well, West gives us more stable skies, and more stable weather... but I'm talking pretty far West, like Texas, or Oklahoma, or Nebraska... not crazy about the West? Well, Florida can do pretty well too. Ok, I had a reason for mentioning those states and ending in this manner.

The next step in learning, and one most non-amateur astronomers don't take, is the opportunity to partake in an official 'star party'... these events can have hundreds of amateurs in attendance setting up their gear, some valued in excess of \$100,000... Also, vendors are generally in attendance at the larger events, and of course they offer show specials... but I digress... the reason this is a good thing to do is that for a marginal registration fee, you can see hundreds of different telescopes, view through them, talk to the owners about the pro's and con's, see incredible objects all in a vacation like setting!

So... the locations I mentioned? Google the Florida Winter Star Party (2/20-26/17), the Texas Star Party (5/21-28/17), the Nebraska Star Party (7/23-28/17), and/or the Okie-Tex Star Party (9/16-24/17) ... visiting these sites, to name a few, will have you Dancing with the Stars!

Gallery

Ken Boquist has supplied a number of pics he'd taken of the moon... I think they are labeled quite well and need no further explanation here:

LUNAR II PROGRAM – NUMBER 91, 92



91 – STRAIGHT WALL – SHORTLY AFTER SUNRISE

92 – STRAIGHT WALL – SHORTLY BEFORE SUNSET

Formal name: Rupes Recta
Popular name: Straight Wall

Formal name: Rupes Recta
Popular name: Straight Wall

5.1" f8 APO lens
5 Sep 2011 2056U
Rock Island, IL
Colong: 358.3; Age: 7.0 days; Illum: 54%
Seeing: 3 Transp: 3

9.25" F/10 Schmidt-Cassegrain
1 Sep 2010 0708U
Rock Island, IL
Colong: 188.3; Age: 22.9 days; Illum: 49%
Seeing: 2 Transp: 3

Camera: Imaging Source video camera
Stack of 500 images, with no filter

Camera: Imaging Source video camera
Stack of 500 images, with no filter

A few additional shots courtesy of Ken:



NGC 7293 - Helix Nebula
5.1" f8 Refractor
45 minutes (9 5min subs)



M 1 - CRAB NEBULA
5.1" f/8 Refractor
55 minutes (11 5 min subs)
Taken in Rock Island at ISO 400

Mike Ombrello supplied the following... I believe that the Elephant Trunk has been tweaked a bit more since last time...



DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PERIGEE AND APOGEE



27 September 2015 04:28U
(Perigee)



6 March 2015 03:20U
(Apogee)

Both pictures were taken with an 80mm f/6.8 apochromatic refractor using eyepiece projection with a 26mm plössl eyepiece using a Canon Rebel T2i digital single lens reflex camera. Measured increase in diameter was 13.7%. This compares favorably to the calculated increase using Naval Observatory data, which yielded 14.0%.



My First Light as being a Grandpa!

Last Month in QCAS

It looks like the cause of all of our bad weather lately was due to George Baily being extra good this year! Jim is the proud owner of a very nice rig!



The block house has been cleaned out and is ready for you to warm up your tootsies while performing your cold night astronomical endeavors...



Television and Movies



Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, directed by Gareth Edwards, and starring Felicity Jones, Diego Luna, Donnie Yen, Ben Mendelsohn, and Forest Whitaker, is the eighth Star Wars film, and the first non-numbered Star Wars movie.

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story is Disney's first foray into its "Anthology films", which are standalone movies within the Star Wars Universe. This most recent Star Wars installment sits between Episode III and Episode IV, with the plot focusing on the Rebel Spies who stole the plans of the Death Star.

The film is able to effectively blend nostalgia with cutting-edge CGI in a grittier and more somber tone compared to other Star Wars movies.

The movie is definitely a must see for any Star Wars fan, or anyone who is looking for a great movie to see during the holiday season.

By Anthony Geisler (Jeff's nephew)

For Sale – Wanted

For Sale

– Orion 90mm short tube refractor. 500 mm focal length. Equipped with 1.25 inch focuser, 45 degree diagonal, 26mm Sirius Plossl ep, 6x30mm finder and tube rings that are larger than the tube. There is a plate on the bottom of the tube assembly with 1/4 inch x 20 threaded hole for mounting to a camera tripod. Excellent condition. Price \$100.00 Contact Jim Rutenbeck at JRutenbeck@frontier.com

– Baader Planetarium Hyperion 8-24mm Mark III Zoom Eyepiece with original box, great shape, needs cleaning (I'm afraid to clean my eyepieces as I don't want to risk damaging the glass). Great for quality outreach as you don't have to change eyepieces and it is easy to view through. Price \$200.00 Contact Jeff Struve at PwrHsePro@aol.com

– Vixen SLV 6mm eyepiece. Price \$75.00 Contact Jeff Struve at PwrHsePro@aol.com

– Vixen NLV 20mm eyepiece. Price \$65.00 Contact Jeff Struve at PwrHsePro@aol.com



Editor's Note:

Please help improve the substance of our newsletter by submitting articles and pictures for publication. Variety is the spice of life... be spicey!

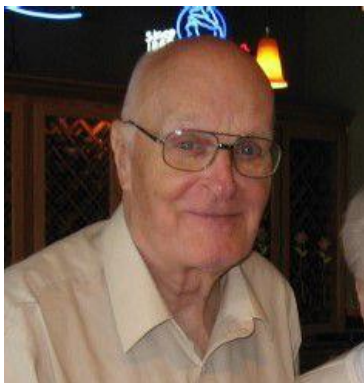
Types of articles that would really be interesting could include What's In the Sky This Month, equipment reviews, experiences you've had in astronomy, sketches you've drawn, trips you've taken to observatories or star parties, a high level overview of your favorite astronomer, movie, book or article reviews, list astronomy gear that you want to buy or sell, and of course pictures you've taken and how they were done...

If each member submitted 1 article per year we could have an incredibly varied and interesting newsletter... that is my challenge to you!

Also.... Drop an email, text, or make a phone call or two... members want to get together outside of normal club events to discuss and work on our hobby!

Jeff

PS... A special thank you to Dave Ruddy for being in the Spotlight, Ken, Mike, George and Jim for their photo contributions, Anthony Geisler for his movie review, and Dr. Mitchell for his excellent note taking during the 12/05 Board meeting and 12/19 Society meeting... it really helped in putting together this issue!



Morris Albert Calsyn
April 14th, 1932 – December 26th, 2016

Morris Albert Calsyn, born April 14, 1932, and instructor of physics and astronomy at St. Ambrose University died unexpectedly Monday, Dec. 26, at Genesis Medical Center East Rusholme Street, Davenport.

Morris was a founding member of the Quad City Astronomical Society. The QCAS will place a memorial thru St. Ambrose.

Services and a Mass of Christian Burial for Morris A. "Morry" Calsyn, 84, of Davenport, will be 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 29, 2016, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 1923 N. Fillmore St., Davenport. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, East Moline. Visitation is 4-7 p.m. Wednesday at Halligan-McCabe-DeVries Funeral Home, 614 Main St., Davenport. There will be a prayer service at 4 p.m. to begin the visitation that all are invited to attend.

http://qctimes.com/news/local/obituaries/article_daa70dea-47ae-5847-85fa-ceda8df906ea.html

Calendar of Events

2017

01/16/17 – Society Meeting
01/28/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory?
02/20/17 – Society Meeting
02/25/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory?
03/20/17 – Society Meeting
03/24-26/17 – Messier Marathon at Menke Observatory
03/18/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory?
04/17/17 – Society Meeting
04/29/17 – Astronomy Day
04/29/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory
05/13/17 – Menke Observatory Public Open House
05/15/17 – Society Meeting
05/27/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory
06/17/17 – Menke Observatory Public Open House
06/19/17 – Society Meeting
06/24/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory
07/15/17 – Menke Observatory Public Open House
07/17/17 – Society Meeting
07/29/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory
08/12/17 – SAU/QCAS Public viewing of the Perseid Meteor Shower
08/21/17 – Solar Eclipse
08/21/17 – Society Meeting
08/26/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory
09/18/17 – Society Meeting
09/22-24/17 – Eastern Iowa Star Party
09/23/17 – Menke Observatory Public Open House
09/30/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory
10/16/17 – Society Meeting
10/28/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory
11/18/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory?
11/20/17 – Society Meeting – Annual Dinner
12/16/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory?
12/18/17 – Society Meeting

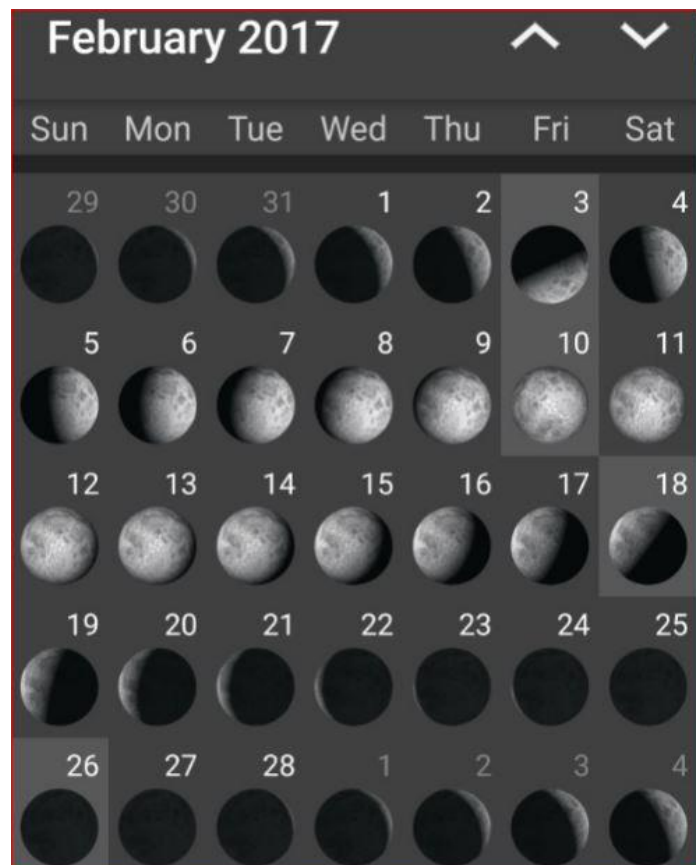
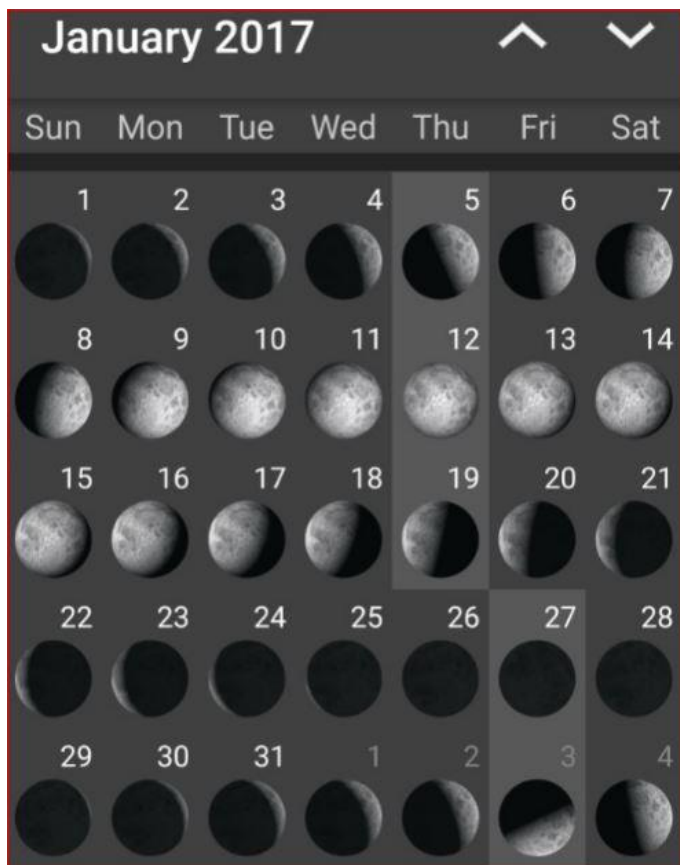


Carrie Frances Fisher
October 21st, 1956 - December 27th, 2016

Carrie Frances Fisher, daughter of singer Eddie Fisher and actress Debbie Reynolds, born on October 21st, 1956, passed away on December 27th, 2016 at the Ronald Regan UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles CA.

An American actress, writer, producer, and humorist. She was best known for playing Princess Leia in the Star Wars film series.

Along with the Star Wars films, she played roles in 44 movies, and appearances and roles in 45 television shows, and 3 video games



QCAS Correspondence:

Please contact the society at: P.O. Box 3706, Davenport, IA, 52808.

Members are welcome and encouraged to submit articles for The Meridian. Submit any and all interesting items (via e-mail) to: PwrHsePro@aol.com and MitchellRobertC@sau.edu

QCAS Officers and Contacts:

Officers

President:	Jeff Struve	PwrHsePro@aol.com
Vice-Pres:	Craig Cox	AdmiralCox2000@yahoo.com
Secretary:	Dr. Robert Mitchell	MitchellRobertC@sau.edu
Treasurer:	Matt Neilssen	Matt.Neilssen@gmail.com
Director:	Dana Taylor	Dana@NelsonTaylor.com

Chairpersons

Facilities:	Dana Taylor	Dana@NelsonTaylor.com
Meridian Editor	Jeff Struve	PwrHsePro@aol.com
Outreach:	Pending	Pending Acceptance
Programming	Jim Rutenbeck	JRutenbeck@frontier.com
Web Master:	Dana Taylor	Dana@NelsonTaylor.com