

THE MERIDIAN

Newsletter of the Quad Cities Astronomical Society

www.qcas.org



OCTOBER 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

Hi all!

At the time of this writing, we have seen another Eastern Iowa Star Party come and go... but had a spectacular way to go!

Although the star party was an official 2 nights and an unofficial 3rd... some attendees spent a 4th night... Thursday through Sunday nights... and each night proved to be a wonderful night to celebrate our hobby.

We had at least 2 amateur astronomers out on Thursday, 17 on Friday and Saturday, and about 6 on Sunday nights... lots of astrophotography, visual, electronically assisted work went on as well as a lot of learning, experimentation, and comradery.

We had 3 excellent, formal presentations. Dr. Robert Mitchell gave a great talk on the Cassini mission... from start to finish; Zachary Luppen, an Astro-Physics major from Iowa City, gave a presentation on all of the work that institution has contributed to the space program. Zach was instrumental in putting together the displays for the Hawkeyes in Space Exhibit at the Old Capital Museum; lastly, Lisa and John Allseits provided updates as to their progress building the Mt. Jennings Observatory near Pearl City in Illinois. All of the presentations involved discussion and Q&A time

Along with midnight chili on Friday night and midnight beef stew on Saturday night, we held 5 raffles... 1 on Friday, and 4 on Saturday. About 25 items were given out in all, thanks to donations by club members, Sky and Telescope, Software Bisque, Orion, Celestron, and Explore Scientific. Please frequent these vendors and support them as they have supported us!

The main prizes were awarded at sunset on Saturday as follows: 5th place prize, an Orion Binoculars Starters Kit went to Dana Taylor, 4th place, Celestron 15 X 70 Sky Master Binoculars went to Mike Dannenfeldt, 3rd place, a 1.25" 2X Televue Barlow went to Mike Ombrello, 2nd place, a 5.5mm 62 degree Explore Scientific eyepiece went to Eric Claeys (Naperville Astronomy), and 1st place, a 32mm 100 degree Explore Scientific eyepiece went to Matt Neilssen... congrats guys!

Lastly, I'd like to extend special thanks to Craig, Jim, Mike O, Mike D, and Matt for their help with the party and to Dr. Mitchell for his allowing us to again use Menke Observatory

So, future events...

Saturday, September 30th

Public Night at Jens-Wendt Observatory – Please be in attendance to help out!

Saturday, October 14th

Field trip to Mt. Jennings Observatory and accompanying PAC to Yerkes Observatory to view through the 40" Refractor – Attendance by reservation!

Friday, October 20th

Family Night at the Putnam Museum – 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM... set up at 3:00 PM... The Putnam was able to secure the Journey to Tomorrow trailer from the NASA Glenn Outreach Center... exciting news!!! Please do what you can to attend and assist Dana and Craig for this event

Monday, October 16th

Society meeting at the Bettendorf Library

Saturday, October 28th

Public Night at Jens-Wendt Observatory – Please be in attendance to help out!

A side note... elections are coming up, we'll be looking for committee members... start thinking about nominating someone, or even volunteering yourself, and send those to a committee member once they are announced!

That's it for now... see ya soon!

Jeff

YOU CAN'T RUN THROUGH A CAMPGROUND



YOU CAN ONLY RAN, BECAUSE IT'S PAST TENTS

Last Society Meeting Minutes

Date/Time Location

6:30 PM on Monday, September 18th
105 McCarthy, St Ambrose University

Attendance (15 in attendance)

Jeff Struve, Dana Taylor, Craig Cox, Mike Ombrello, Alan Sheidler, George Baily, Robert Mitchell, Don Robinson, Matt Neilssen, Candy Neilssen, Christen Allen, Mike Dannenfeldt, Ian Spangenberg

Guests –

Angela and John Phillips

Presentations

Outings

- 7/25 – PV Girl Scouts
- 8/12 – Meteor Shower Party
- 9/15 – Jeff Struve and Mike Ombrello at Menke

New Gear and First Lights

- RSpec – Jeff Struve
- DSLR – Mike Ombrello

Main Presentation

- Eclipse – Dana Taylor gave a very nice review on the eclipse as experienced from Casper Wyoming... the talk also gave an overview of historical locations along the trip there n back. Great talk and pictures!
- Eclipse round table

Treasurers Report

- Matt reports that we have \$3847.55 as of today
- Please check with your places of employee to see if they have grant programs that we can take advantage of... We have utilized collecting funds from MidAmerican Energy, 3M, and potentially Verizon... funds are needed to advance the direction of the club!

Review of Minutes

The August Minutes as per the September Meridian were approved.

Old Business

- ByLaws Vote
 - Passed unanimously
- Officers Term Extension Vote
 - Passed unanimously
- 9/22-24 – EISP
 - Updates were given as to the official dates, guest speakers, and raffle items. Invitations were extended as well as requests for volunteers.
- 10/14 – Yerkes Field Trip w/PAC – Alan Sheidler
- 10/16 – Help w/Tom Fields Presentation
 - Jeff Struve
 - Matt
 - Mike O
- 11/20- November Dinner
 - Will be held at the Dynasty Buffet
 - Elections will take place
 - Bingo, Astro Trivia by Paul Levesque
- Website
 - Matt still working on it
- Relocate Observatory to Menke
 - WREEC is good to go... need to talk to Sherman Park

New Business

- 09/30 – Public Night at Sherman Park
- 10/20 – Putnam Family Night
 - Dana and Craig
 - Set up 3pm
 - 3 café tables
 - Battery and Lunt for Craig
 - Announce to club
- 10/28 – Bettendorf Parade
 - Dana Taylor
- 11/XX – PVHS Nite – Ian Spangenberg
 - Dana
 - Jeff
 - Craig
 - Mike O



Next Society Meeting

Date/Time Location

6:30 PM on Monday, October 16th
The Bettendorf Public Library

October Presentation

At our October 16th meeting, Tom Fields will be talking on Spectroscopy... Tom wrote the book; if not the programing for the RSpec application... this will be a Skype meeting.

Presentations for future meetings include Christian Allen on weather forecasting the QCA, and Carl Wenning on the Astronomical League. Contact Jim Rutenbeck or Jeff Struve if you'd like to make a presentation.

Other Business

- November Banquet Meeting
- Elections

Last Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time Location

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

Attendance

Jeff Struve - Present
Craig Cox - Present
Robert Mitchell – Present
Matt Neilssen – Present
Dana Taylor – Present
Jim Rutenbeck – Absent

Mike Ombrello
Mike Dannenfeldt

Agenda

Primary Topics

- 10/20 Putnam Event
 - Dana and Craig
 - Set up 3pm
 - 3 café tables
 - Battery and Lunt for Craig
 - Announce to club
- Sept 18th Society Meeting
 - New Members
 - Barry Garrels
 - Doug Branstetter - Joined
 - Justin Keith
 - Byron Davies - Joined
 - Clinton Law
 - Paula James
 - Dana Eclipse and Trip and 2/79 Eclipse rather than Chris Weather Presentation
 - Amendment to extend the current officers term through 12/31/17, and move elections to the Annual Dinner
 - Bylaws
- Sept 30th
 - PV Night
 - Public Open
- October 16th Society Meeting
 - Tom Field
- Nov 20th, Annual Dinner and Elections held in November
 - Elections – Yes
 - Bingo – Yes
 - \$100.00 for Prizes
 - Guest Speaker – Paul, Trivia
- Facilities
 - 5/10 Meeting with SAU about moving Jens-Wendt to Menke
 - Paula McNutt Dean of Arts and Science and Cook dean of affairs
 - All see win/win...
 - Game Plan
 - TT Wapsi – Extra acre of ground
 - TT Clinton County (not sure of order)
 - Business Plan
 - Architect and Engineer (SAU Students?)
 - Money - Legal

- Contractors
 - Society meetings at SAU
 - Rooms hold 50-100 people... same building but may have to move from room to room
 - Re-roof Block House
 - Gopher tunnels
 - Not sure if anything can be done
 - Inventory
 - Do an inventory of the Roll Off Building
- Interview Wayne Jens
 - Letter sent on 6/05 to assisted living
 - Robert, Craig and Jeff to do interview
- Open Houses
 - Send out email reminder and blind copy everyone
- 9/22 EISP
 - Same as last year
 - No lodge
 - Add swap meet
 - Go ahead and advertise
 - Figure out a fee
 - Explore Scientific Row
- Documentation re-write
 - Trifold
 - Astronomy Etiquette
 - Membership Application
 - Sherman Park/Menke Map
 - Large sign and yard signs
 - Bylaws
- Web Site Update
 - Preference Center
 - Need Content
 - May be ready for demo in July

Things to do – Open Items

- 2017 Event calendar
 - Advertisement/Public Notification
 - QCAS Web Site, QCAS Facebook, Davenport Parks and Rec Web Site will be our primary means of advertisement.
 - Public Nights
 - Make signs reminding public to shut off lights and park in the side lot...
 - Build trifold with info, membership form, and astronomy courtesy.
- Dues/Membership
 - Jeff modified the application forms – Maybe instead, just use the modified trifold, info/calendar/courtesy/membership form.
 - Let's start using the membership cards as receipts
- Misc.
 - Block House Inventory
 - We need to go through gear stored in the dome and in (and under) the roll off roof building.
 - Other
 - Discuss moving our Society Meetings to SAU.
 - Discuss a High School Ambassador Program
 - Club Projects
 - Learn PixInsight
 - Build a Poncet Mount for the club dob

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.

Agenda

- Discuss the new web site
- Discuss re-roofing the Block House

New Business

- 2017 Biennial Report
- We need to talk to the caretaker at Menke Observatory about the club's access to the facility.
- Discuss selling our heavy fiberglass step ladder and replacing it with an aluminum ladder for use in the roll off roof building.

Secondary Topics

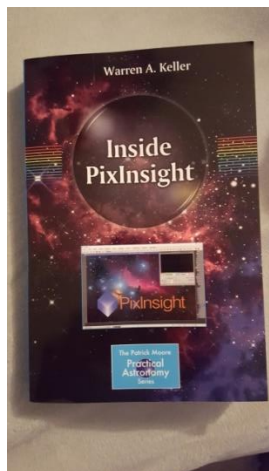
- Society meeting relocation
- PixInsight meetings

Member Spotlight

N/A

For Sale – Wanted

For Sale:



– New 2nd Addn “Inside PixInsight” by Warren Keller. \$30.00 – 1 left!
Contact Jeff Struve at PwrHsePro@aol.com

Submitted Article:

Lighting for the new I-74 bridge.

By Ken Boquist

Well guys, I finally sent some comments to the Iowa DOT regarding the lighting for the new I-74 bridge. I've attached a copy of the comments below. You're welcome to make use of these comments if you would like to send something to them as well at the website I74riverbridge.com. If you do want to send any comments from the club's perspective, or even your own, I would suggest not copying my comments verbatim. Form letters are usually detested by the folks who have to review [comments](#). [Ken](#)

I was looking at the material on your I74Riverbridge.com website, specifically Presentation Part 2, and one of the pictures shown therein has a rendition of the anticipated bridge lighting.

Will all of this lighting be shining down from the arches and bridge structures instead of up? I hope it will be shining down, and that it won't be as bright and garish as the picture suggests it will be. I have been concerned for a long time about the increasing loss of the night sky due to poor lighting.

This picture has me concerned that this bridge's lighting scheme will significantly impact the night sky. In particular, there are a number of observatories in the Quad Cities area that provide regular night time viewing sessions to the public, and they are all having to deal with a substantial increase in the brightness of the night sky.

I hope that you have considered this issue. I'm not against lighting per se, but I hope that you can incorporate a lighting scheme that is attractive, and yet doesn't destroy what's left of the night sky.

I think there is a way to do something that both presents a nice view of the bridge, while not destroying the night sky.

Iowa in particular has been a leader in having numerous partnerships with astronomical organizations to install observatories in the county parks, and there is one just over the border into Clinton County from Scott County. The night sky there has been steadily brightening in the direction of Davenport, and it would be great if this bridge's lighting scheme could be designed such that it shows how to achieve responsible and aesthetic lighting while still protecting what's left of the night sky, and perhaps inspire other entities, both government and corporate, to work towards better lighting, and achieve something similar.

I would appreciate it if the Iowa DOT would consider this in order to preserve one aspect of Iowa's great outdoor culture.

Last, but not least, as I have gotten older, I'm finding it much harder for my eyes to adjust as I drive on a roadway when the lighting on one part of the roadway is much brighter than the rest. This affect can readily be seen when passing the Iowa 80 truck stop on I-80 near Walcott, IA. Thus, I have an interest from a safety standpoint about how much lighting is used on this bridge.

Thanks!

Gallery

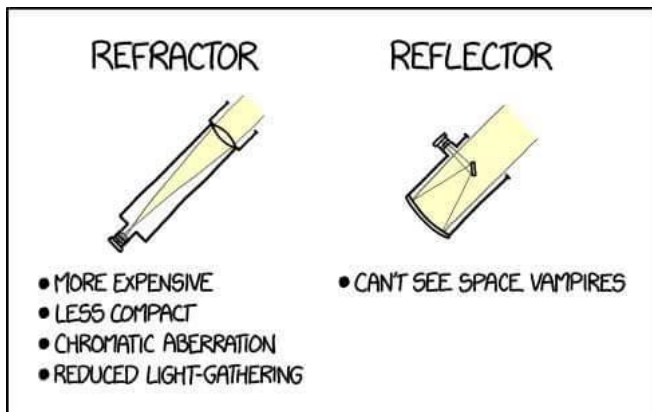
A quick snap shot of the eclipse from George



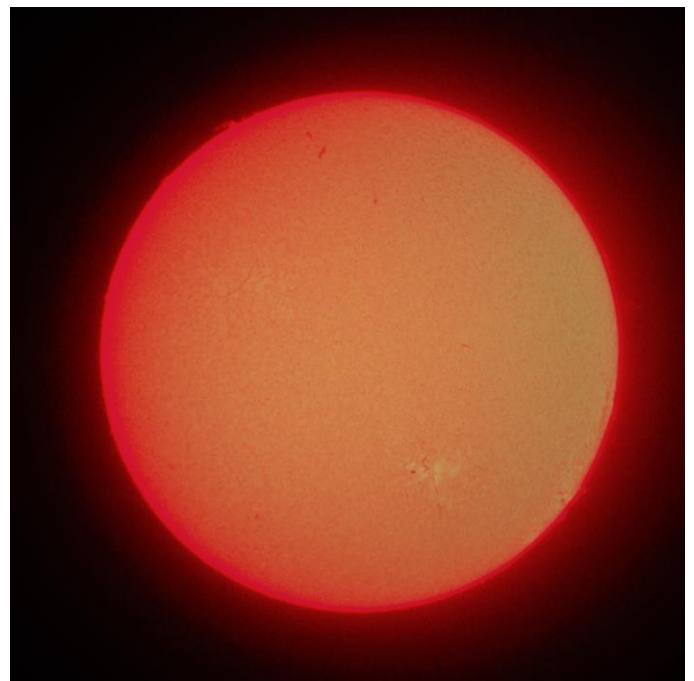
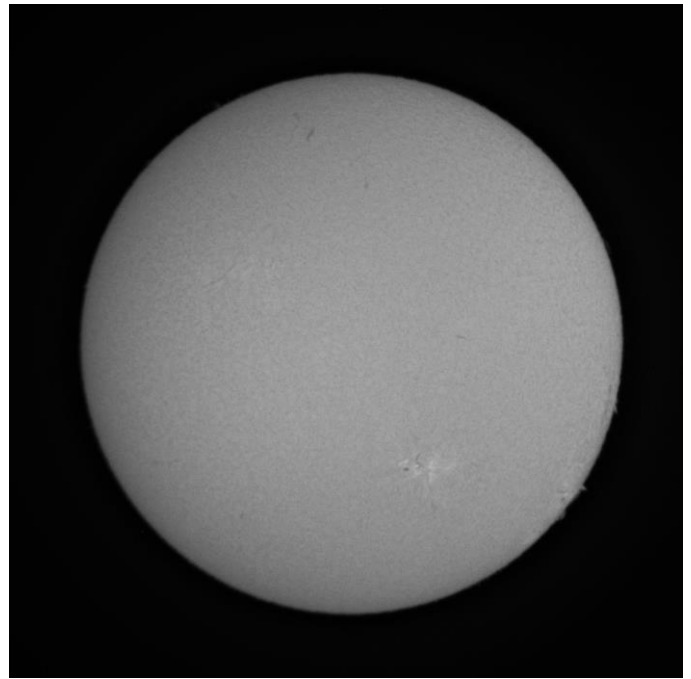
Another solar shot by George



Facebook Humor



A couple of solar pics from Ken



Visual Curiosity by Karl

SCHRÖDINGER'S CAT IS
ALIVE

EISP Stuff

- Jeff





- Dana



- Mike O - Explore Scientific Row



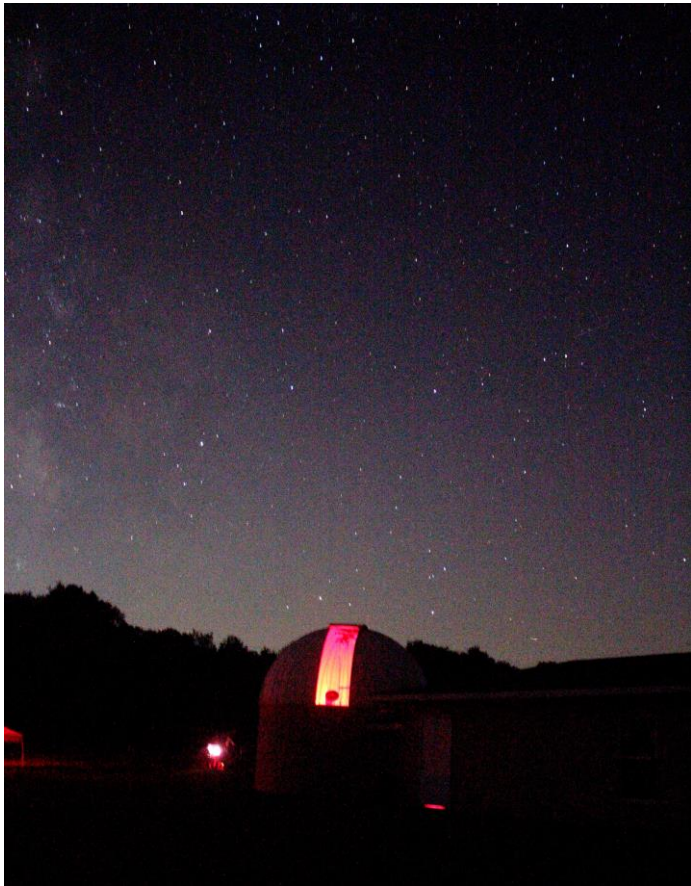
- Other Mike O pics



- Mike D

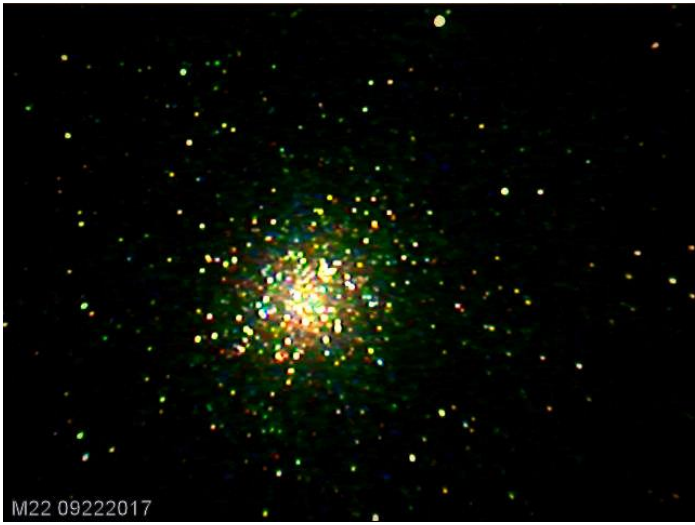


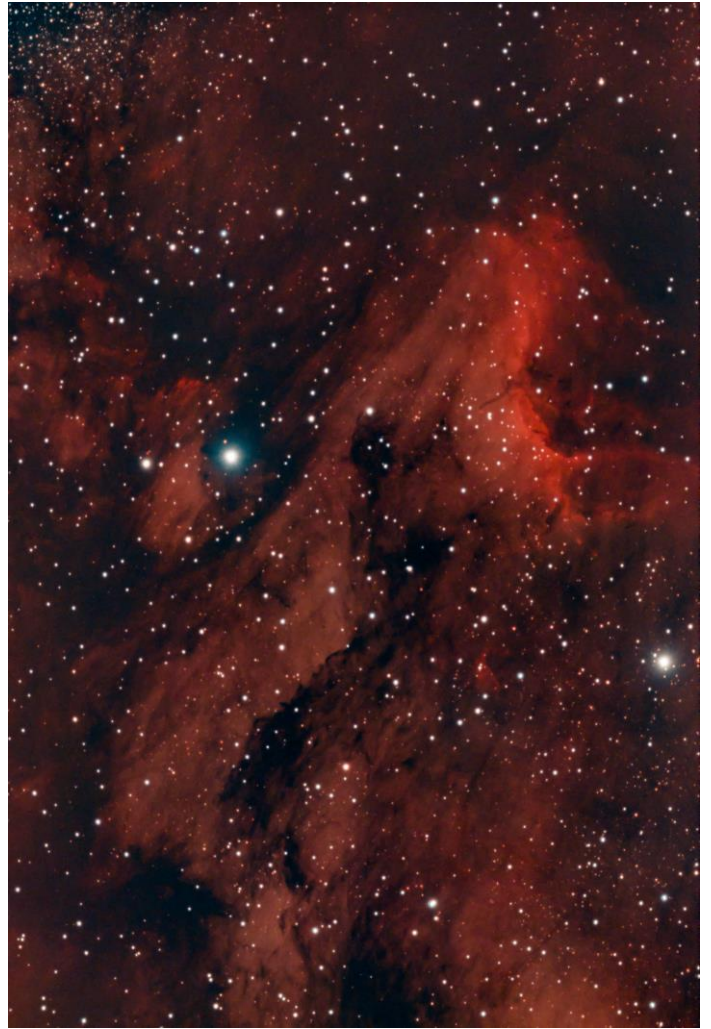
- Karl



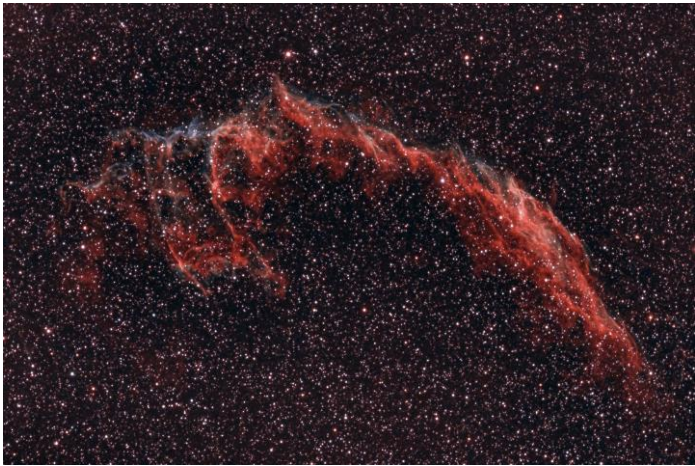
- Terry Dufek (PAC) Revolution II EAA Screen Prints







- Mike O



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 spicy!

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 Jim, Karl, George, Ken, Dana, Mike O, Mike D, and Terry for your newsletter submissions!

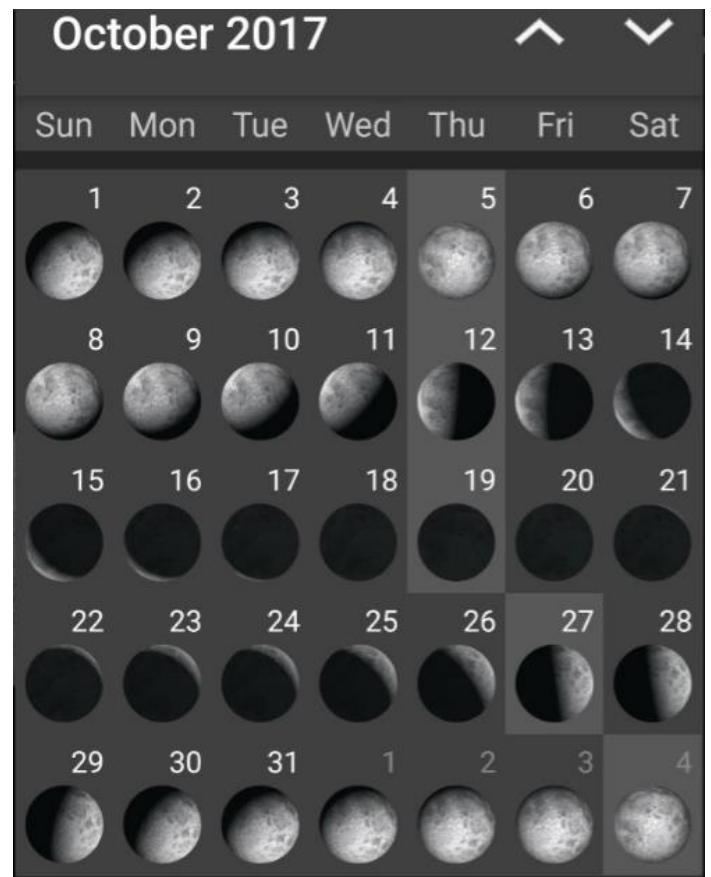
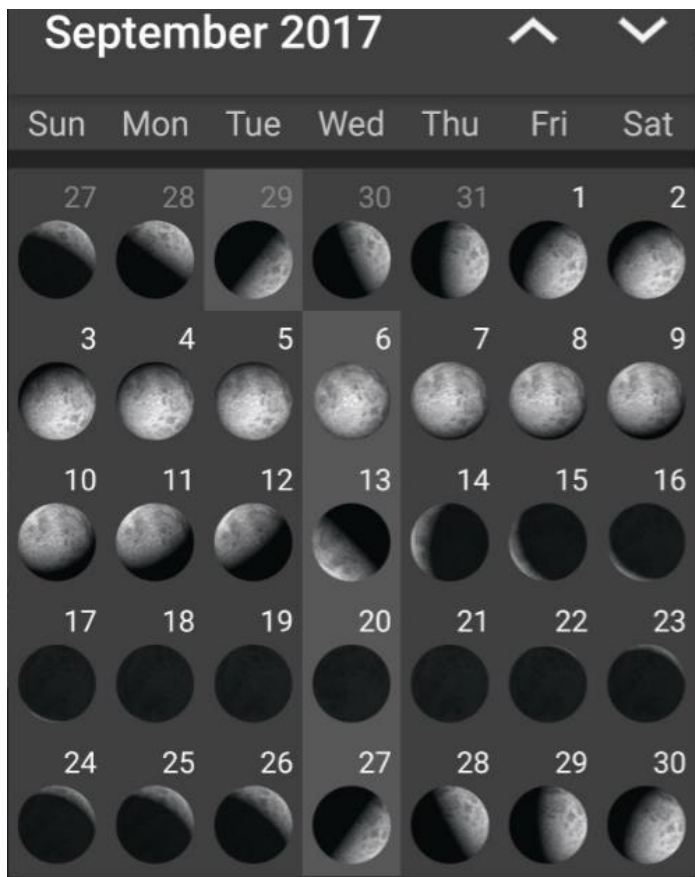


2017 Calendar of Events

- 01/16/17 – Society Meeting
- 01/28/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory
- 02/18/17 – Menke Observatory Scouts Tour
- 02/20/17 – Society Meeting
- 02/25/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory
- 03/18/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory
- 03/20/17 – Society Meeting
- 03/24-25/17 – Messier Marathon at Menke Observatory
- 04/01/17 – Hawkeyes in Space Field Trip
- 04/17/17 – Society Meeting
- 04/21/17 – Assist PAC at the Putnam Museum
- 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
- 06/03/17 – 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 Perseid Meteor Shower Party
- 08/21/17 – Solar Eclipse
- 08/21/17 – Society Meeting CANCELLED
- 08/26/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory
- 09/18/17 – Society Meeting
- 09/22-24/17 – Eastern Iowa Star Party
- 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

Silhouette?





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/or 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:	Matt Neilssen	Matt.Neilssen@gmail.com
Programming	Jim Rutenbeck	JRutenbeck@frontier.com
Web Master:	Dana Taylor	Dana@NelsonTaylor.com
Publicity:	Paul Levesque	Levesque5562@att.net