

# THE MERIDIAN

Newsletter of the  
Quad Cities Astronomical  
Society

[www.qcas.org](http://www.qcas.org)



## NOVEMBER 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!

The end of October already... how time flies! Looking back over the year, not only do I wonder where time went, but why I couldn't have figured out a way to do more astronomy...

It was pretty easy for me to come home from work on Friday, plop down on the couch in front of the tube, and just feel too tired to go out and do something constructive... the times that I did go out, I was soon recharged as the adrenaline kicked in... Even on work nights, when I had planned on heading home around 10 PM, I found myself just spending another 15 minutes there... which inevitably turned into an extra hour or two...

I also found that I tend to shy away from public outings... but obligation takes over and I soon find the same thing happens... adrenaline kicks in... and my interest is again put into high gear, and I soon lose track of time... the hobby is contagious, so it's not how much you know... it's how infectious the hobby is!

Now, all my confessions are made with a point in mind... don't let the hum-drums of the day drag ya down... there IS life after work... and at public events! Get out and practice and share your hobby... you will always be amongst friends!

Another way you can immerse yourself in the hobby is by taking a more active role in the business and leadership opportunities that running for office affords... and this is the perfect time for that! If you have ideas that would help grow the club... and member interest, you can let an officer know, or take a more active role by running for office... or do a good turn for a fellow club member who has interesting ideas but may be too shy to run... nominate them! To do so, just let Mike and Paul know, they can take it from there!

So... how do you grow your hobby?

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

Clear Skies!  
Jeff



### Last Society Meeting Minutes

#### **Date/Time Location**

6:30 PM on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>

Bettendorf, Library

#### **Attendance** (11 in attendance)

Jeff Struve, Craig Cox, Mike Ombrello, Robert Mitchell, Don Robinson, Mike Dannenfeldt, Jim Rutenbeck, Karl Adlon, Barry Garrels, Byron Davies, Paul Levesque

#### **Presentations**

##### Outings

- 10/15 – Jeff and Mike O went to Menke 10/15: worked on 14" SCT mount, insert Teflon, set up for Pole Master
- 

##### New Gear and First Lights

- Round table discussion on the solar eclipse

##### Main Presentation

Guest speaker Tom Field of Field Tested Systems and contributing editor to Sky & Telescope live streamed a presentation and Q/A session from Seattle. The presentation, "You Can *Almost* Touch the Stars", showing the use of the filter grating method and the R-Spec software. This was a very interesting presentation followed by a lot of Q & A... Jeff, for a future presentation, will be putting together a demonstration... more of a 'hands on'... giving a closer look at how the software works.

#### **Treasurers Report**

- No report at this time
- Dr. Mitchell was able to secure transportation reimbursement from St. Ambrose University for the trip to Aurora, Nebraska... Jeff and Mike agreed to leave the funds in the club account. The amount was approximately \$450.00
- Membership dues can now be submitted for the 2018 year.
- Please check with your places of employment 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 September Minutes as per the October Meridian were approved.

## Old Business

- 10/14 – Yerkes Field Trip w/PAC was rescheduled, due to weather, to 11/11/17. Our group is planning on leaving in the morning to visit Mt. Jennings Observatory, that afternoon to visit Astro Physics, then that evening to tour Yerkes and view through the 40" refractor.
- 10/20 – The Putnam Museum will be hosting NASA's Journey to Tomorrow trailer... Dana will be inside with a display and his Space Shuttle... Craig will be outside with a solar scope for public viewing... please try to attend and help out.
- 10/24 – Craig and Matt will be out at the Jens-Wendt Observatory to shingle the block house roof... help out if you can!
- 11/20- November Dinner
  - Will be held at the Dynasty Buffet
  - Elections will take place... Mike O and Paul L are heading up the Nominating Committee. Send nominations to them.
  - Bingo, Astro Trivia by Paul Levesque
  - \$100.00 was allotted for prizes
- 12/18 – The Society meeting will be held at St. Ambrose University again.

## New Business

- 10/28 –
  - We are looking for volunteers to participate in the Davenport Halloween parade. Dana will drive his Space Shuttle, and have a trailer with scopes on display.
  - Public Night at Sherman Park
- Plans are already in progress for the 2018 Eastern Iowa Star Party. Dr. Paul Sipiera will give a talk and bring his collection of space rocks... Dr. Jennifer Anderson will tentatively give a presentation on impact craters, and Jeff is hoping to find a speaker to talk on historical comets/meteors 09/30 – Public Night at Sherman Park

## Next Society Meeting

### Date/Time Location

6:30 PM on Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>  
The Dynasty Buffet Restaurant

### November Presentation

The November meeting is our annual dinner meeting where we will present a brief re-cap of the year and hold our officer elections.

Nominees are as follows:

- President – Jeff Struve
- Vice President – Craig Cox
- Treasurer – Matt Neilssen
- Secretary – Robert Mitchell

It's not too late to send Mike and Paul your nominations!

Along with dinner, Paul will lead a trivia contest, and we will play a bit of bingo...

This will be a family friendly event, although, youngsters may not be as attentive to the goings on...

So far, reservations have been received for myself, Cindy Glenn, Joan Struve, Alan and Sara Sheidler, Byron and Sharon Davies, Mike and Pat Ombrello, Mike Dannenfeldt, Craig Cox, Robert Mitchell, Paul Levesque and maybe his better half...

If your name is not listed, and you plan on attending, please let me know as soon as possible!

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

## Other Business

- Welcome to Barry Garrels who has joined the QCAS!
- The December meeting will be held at St Ambrose University in McCarthy Hall, room 105 again.

## Last Board Meeting Minutes

### Date/Time Location

6:30 PM on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
The Village Inn on Elmore and 53<sup>rd</sup> in Davenport, IA

### Attendance

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

Mike Ombrello  
Karl Adlon

### Agenda

#### Primary Topics

- Solar Eclipse
  - SAU reimbursed for transportation - \$452.61
  - Mike and Jeff will leave \$\$\$ in for gas
- EISP Wrap Up
  - Software Bisque
  - Receipts
  - Karl Donated Awning (Tax Receipt?)
- Nominations
  - Committee
    - Mike Ombrello
    - Paul Levesque
- October 16<sup>th</sup> Society Meeting
  - Tom Field
    - 3:30 Wednesday w/Tom
- 11/20<sup>th</sup>, Annual Dinner and Elections held in November
  - 2017 Recap
  - Elections – Yes
  - Bingo – Yes
  - \$100.00 for Prizes
  - Guest Speaker – Paul Levesque, Trivia
- Documents
  - Membership App/Trifold
  - Membership Cards
    - We have about 2 years supply – Add officers signature to the front in the future
  - Business Cards
    - Put on hold until the website is up
- 10/20 Putnam Event
  - Dana and Craig
  - Set up 3pm
  - 3 café tables
  - Battery and Lunt for Craig
  - Ask for volunteers

- 2018 Meeting Location
  - St Ambrose University –
    - Dr. Mitchell will check
    - Advertise in The Buzz
- Website
  - Update old with
    - Meeting date changes
    - Bylaws
  - New website
- Wayne Jens Archive
  - Sunspot Sketches – Matt will digitize after we pick up from Wayne
  - Mirror grinding paraphernalia – Display at Menke
  - QCAS records – Matt will house
  - Slides and video tapes – try to hire done
- Join NASA Night Sky Network?
- Reroof Blockhouse
  - Last week of October
  - Craig will get with Mike D for tools and felt
  - Matt will get a truck to haul old shingles
  - Solicit for help sometime between 10/22-28
- 2018 Mars – August
  - Make a Mars & Meteor Shower event at PVHS
- PVHS Showing
  - Byron knows how to collimate a refractor
  - Cleaning might be too ambitious
  - Jan and Feb... Clean scopes... next meeting sky map
- Menke Mount
  - Center bolt
  - Teflon
  - PoleMaster
- Documentation re-write
  - Trifold
  - Astronomy Etiquette
  - Membership Application
  - Sherman Park/Menke Map
  - Large sign and yard signs
  - Bylaws
- 2018 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 a High School Ambassador Program
    - Club Projects
      - Learn PixInsight
      - Build a Poncet Mount for the club dob

### Things to do – Open Items

- 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
  - Gopher tunnels
    - Not sure if anything can be done
- Interview Wayne Jens
  - Letter sent on 6/05 to assisted living
    - Robert, Craig and Jeff to do interview
- 9/07/18 EISP
  - Same as last year
    - No lodge
    - Add swap meet
  - Go ahead and advertise
  - Figure out a fee?

### Next Board Meeting

#### **Date/Time Location**

Unless otherwise noted, Board Meetings will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Village Inn Restaurant on Elmore and 53<sup>rd</sup> 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 November DINNER ND ELECTIONS
- Discuss the 2018 Calendar
- Discuss the new web site

#### **New Business**

- 2017 Biennial Report
- 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

9/30 Public Night at Jens-Wendt

Thanx to Craig, Matt, and Dana for helping with the 9/30 public night at Jens Wendt Observatory...

Craig brought his 16" Dob for visual work... I brought my 152mm Mak-Newt for EAA, and Matt and Dana manned the 16" and 20" Newtonians...

We went until about 11pm... Clouds started rolling in from the South as we were packing up, otherwise a very nice night with a handful of very appreciative guests!

Some of the unprocessed screen prints from the Mallicam Extreme connected to a 152mm David Levy Comet Hunter Mak-Newt:



Saturn



Moon



Part of the Veil Nebula

10/02 Nomination Committee

Thanks to Mike Ombrello and Paul Levesque for volunteering to lead the Nomination Committee. Please send them your nominations ASAP... they will need to email out the ballots not less than 2 weeks before the November meeting.

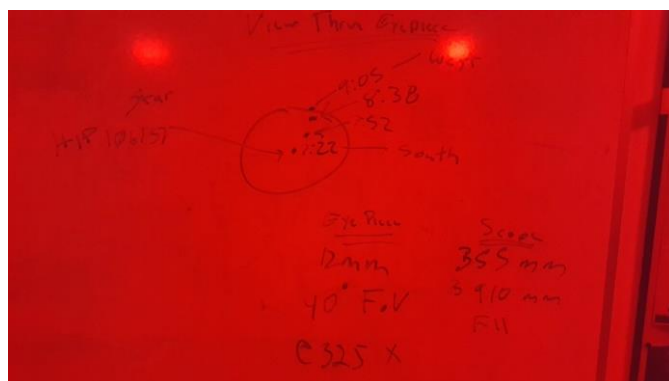
10/09 Wayne Jens Archive

Jeff and Robert met with Chris Jens at Wayne's house to start picking up astro paraphernalia that his father wanted the club and St. Ambrose to have. A file cabinet with misc documentation, plus years of solar sketches were picked up along with quite a few video tapes that need to be digitized. We will need volunteers to help pick up the rest of the items before the end of November.

10/15 Work on the Menke 14" SCT

Jeff, Mike, and Craig met at the Menke observatory, removed the scope, mount and pier from the dome, installed a center bolt and Teflon spacers between the pier and mount and after reassembling, Jeff and Mike completed a polar align with PoleMaster.

Jeff will be visiting the site again to perform a drift align to see if tracking improved from the below:



10/20 Putnam Museum Family Night

Thanx to Dana and Craig for representing the QCAS at the family night... Dana brought his shuttle for display on the show room floor along with displays of astro photographs taken by club members. Craig was set up outside with 2 solar scopes. Along with a few members from PAC, the NASA Journey to Tomorrow trailer was available!



### 10/22 Block House Re-Roof

Thanx to Byron, Mike D, Craig, and Matt for re-roofing the block house... over the years, the weather had really taken its toll... we lucked out because of their careful removal of the old roof, we were able to reuse the existing tar paper and ridge cap... Thanx guys!



### 10/28 Davenport Halloween Parade

Dana is contemplating bringing his shuttle to drive in the Davenport Halloween Parade... of course this is weather pending... but it is also pending his being able to have a few club members volunteer to participate...

### 10/28 Jens-Wendt Public Night

We have a public night on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, and Dr. Mitchell will be bringing a dozen or so St. Ambrose students to participate. We can use as many helpers... with or without scopes to provide a great experience for students and other guests. So far, along with Dr. Mitchell and Jeff, Craig and Mike will be there...

Jeff will be trying a new platform for public events in Dixon. A featured object will be selected, in this case it will be the moon, a short informative but high level presentation will be given just after sunset followed by Q&A and then all scopes... visual, EAA, and AP will be trained on that object... after all guests have viewed that object, pending time, other key objects mentioned in the presentation can be viewed...

### 11/11 Yerkes Field Trip

About 15 members from QCAS, PAC, and CAA (Cedar Amateur Astronomers) will be taking a field trip to visit the Yerkes Observatory, take a guided tour of the facility, and then spend some time looking through the famous 40" refractor housed at that facility.

Jeff expanded the trip for those riding in his vehicle, Robert, Mike, Jim, Craig, and Doug (CAA), to meet at the Duck Creek Pancake House at 8:00 AM, tour the Mt. Jennings Observatory at 10:30 AM, tour the AstroPhysics facility around 2:30 PM and continue with the 6:30 PM Yerkes tour and visual astronomy... we plan on getting back home around 2:30 AM...

There may be a few seats available for the Yerkes portion of the field trip... let us know ASAP!

### 11/20 November Dinner Meeting

Key agenda items for the meeting, other than dinner, are a re-cap of the year and elections... for entertainment, Paul will provide a bit of trivia and we will have bingo... and yep, we have a few prizes!



09/07-09 Eastern Iowa Star Party

We have started working on the 2018 Eastern Iowa Star Party... to get a head start; we have scheduled the event for September 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>...

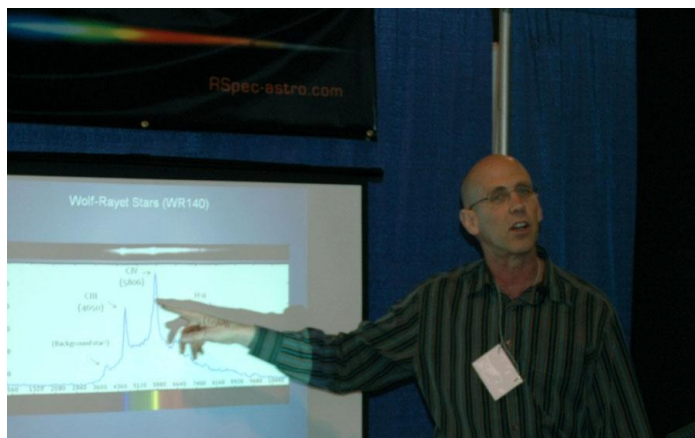
We have secured Dr. Paul Sipiera to give a talk on meteors, meteorites, and comets. He also has quite a spectacular collection of space rocks which he will bring for viewing...

I am also in communication with Dr. Jennifer Anderson who gave a presentation at the 2017 NCRAL event on Impact craters... this was such an exceptional presentation that I have been keeping in touch with her to give the same presentation for our participants... who can NOT like video's with high impact explosions???

I am trying to line up a pretty famous individual whose name I know you'd recognize as our third speaker... hopefully talk about famous comets and his experiences looking for them... this is really an iffy possibility, and if it works, there may be a fee involved, but dropping his name, I'm sure that a nominal registration fee would gladly be accepted by EISP registrants.... His participation also may lead to a special grand prize for our raffle!

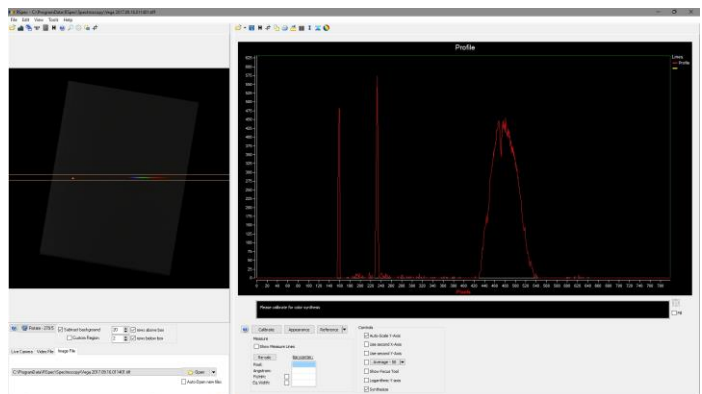
### Gallery

RSpec – Tom Field and Pictures by Jeff:

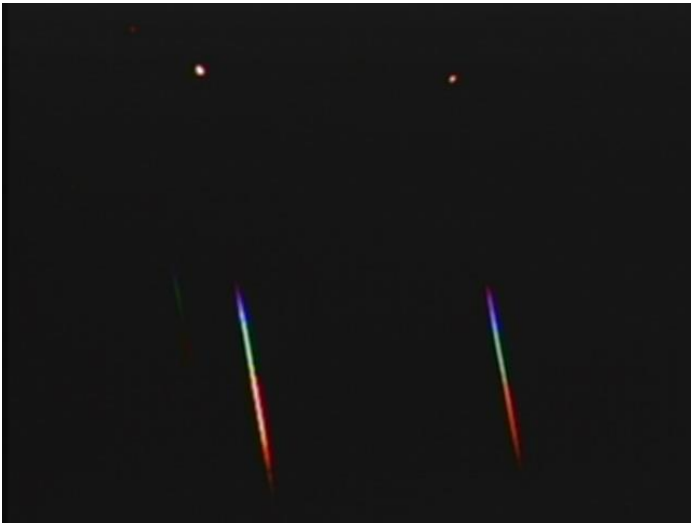


Tom in the flesh!

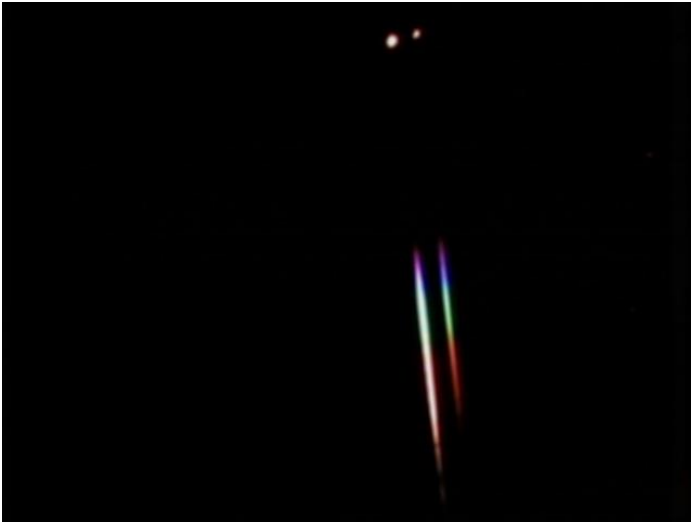
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	<b>Uranus 2017.09.16.021728.jpg</b> Sep 17 09:55 20.23 KB
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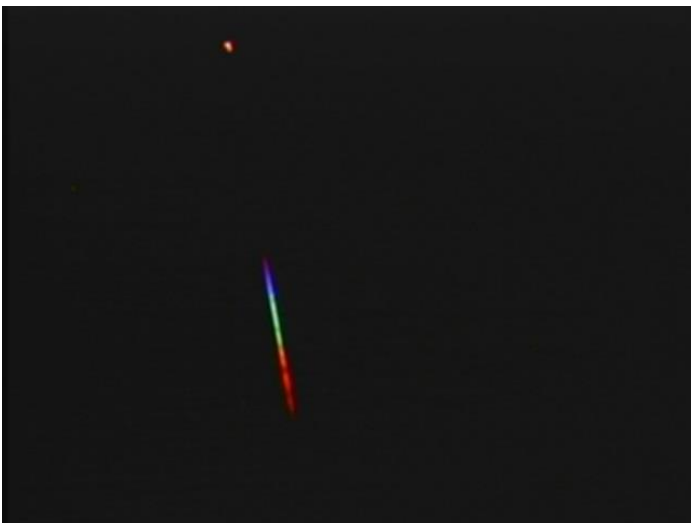
Vega



30 Cyg - o1 Cyg



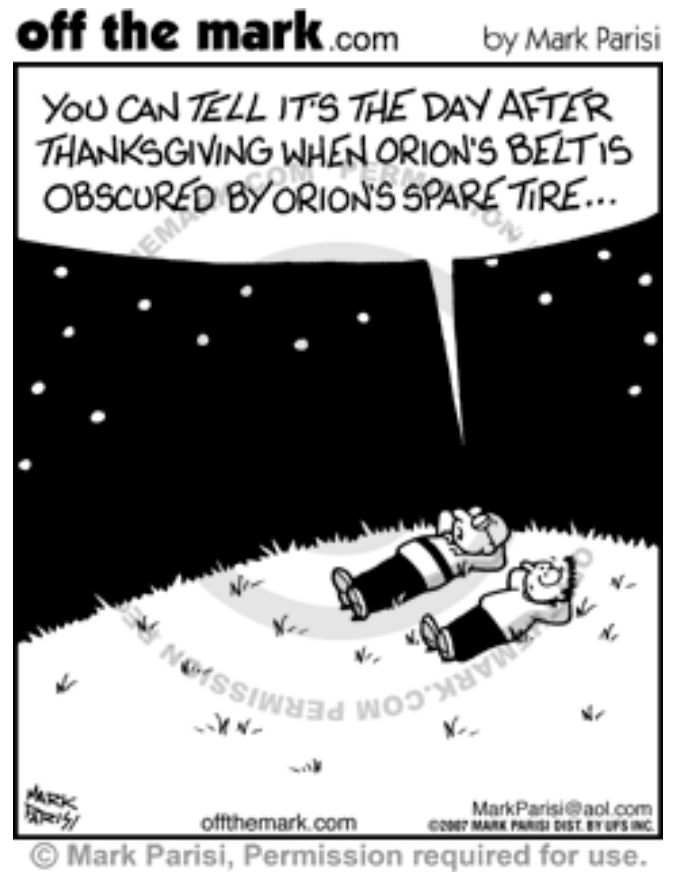
Albireo



Uranus



UnKNOWN PUNster @2017

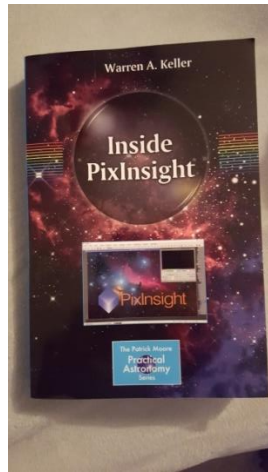


Submitted Article:

N/A

**For Sale – Wanted**

**For Sale:**



– New 2<sup>nd</sup> Addn “Inside PixInsight” by Warren Keller. \$30.00 – 1 left!  
Contact Jeff Struve at [PwrHsePro@aol.com](mailto:PwrHsePro@aol.com)



iOptron ZEQ25 mount with battery style counterbalance weight -  
\$650.00  
Contact Greg Weinberg at [DrHappyTooth@gmail.com](mailto:DrHappyTooth@gmail.com)



Like new Telrad, original base and Orion riser combo - \$75.00  
Contact Jeff Struve at [PwrHsePro@aol.com](mailto: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 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...

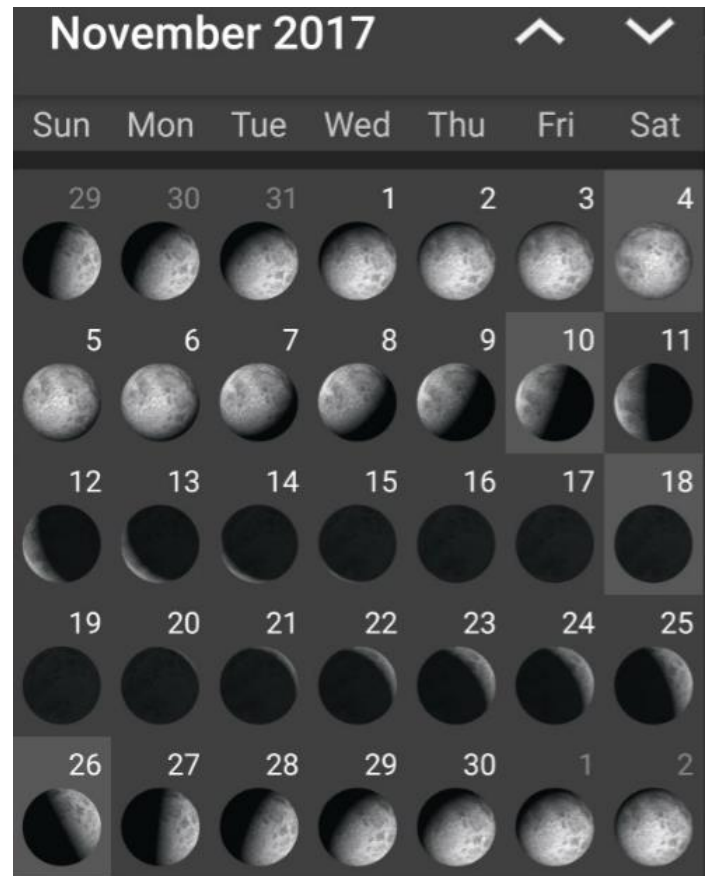
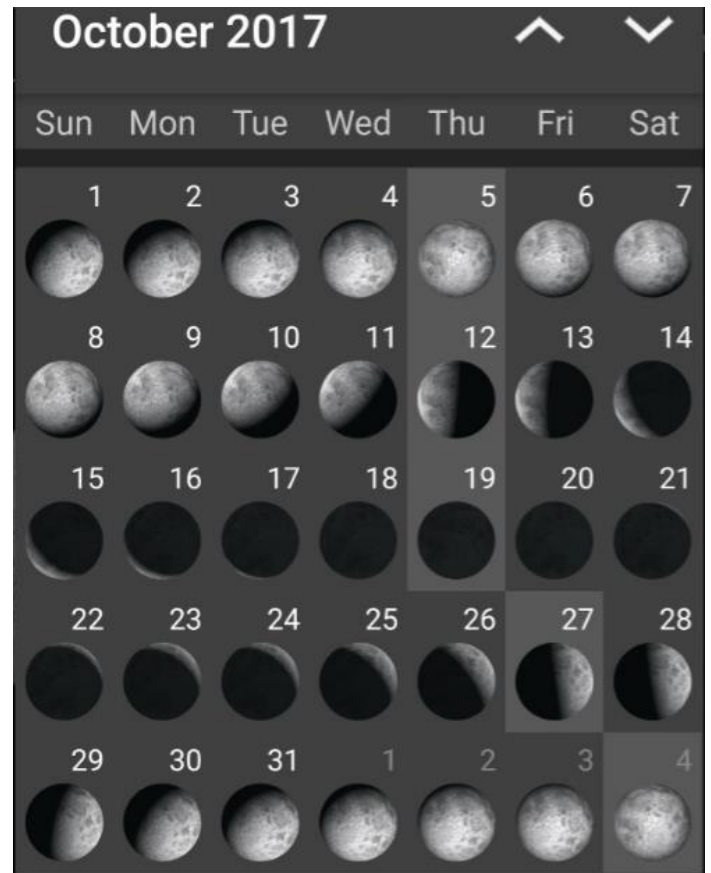
If each member submitted 1 article per year we could have an incredibly varied and interesting newsletter... that is my challenge to you!

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

**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 – Davenport Halloween Parade
- 10/28/17 – Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory
- 11/14/17 – Field trip to Yerkes 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



## 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](mailto:PwrHsePro@aol.com) and/or [MitchellRobertC@sau.edu](mailto:MitchellRobertC@sau.edu)

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