

# THE MERIDIAN

Newsletter of the  
Quad Cities  
Astronomical Society

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



**DECEMBER 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:

On behalf of the 2017 and now 2018 officers, thank you very much for your continued support... please send us ideas as to the types of topics that you'd like to have presentations on, and what types of events that you'd enjoy participating in.... you are also encourage to give a presentation or two, and participate in all of our events!

Reminder...weather pending, our last public open for 2017 will be on Dec 16th at Jens-Wendt Observatory... it'll be fun getting together to do some visual/AP/EAA together!

Next, we had a great dinner meeting... 18 in attendance... everyone won a prize.... MidAmerican Sun Visors, Gift Certificates to Bruegger's, or metal models of space related vehicles... don't miss next year's event! Special Thanx to Mike and Paul for doing the elections and Paul for doing the trivia!

Thanx to Mike Ombrello and Robert Mitchell for packing up and hauling much of the Wayne Jens artifacts to St. Ambrose. There are quite a few thigs to sort through, including many year of solar sketches that Wane drew... a few are in this month's Gallery. We are going to plan a memorial get together on June 21 in Wayne's memory and do a bit of solar viewing... hopefully at the Davenport Lutheran Home on 53<sup>rd</sup> in Davenport.... We'll keep ya posted!

Oh... Happy Birthday to Mike Ombrello and Robert Mitchell... celebrating on 11/21 and 11/28 respectively!

Last... don't forget... our next meeting is at St. Ambrose McCarthy Hall again... We'll be in room 105 again...

Clear Skies!

Jeff



What 1968 cult classic was the above pic taken from?

## **Last Society Meeting Minutes:**

### **Date/Time Location**

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

### **Attendance** (18 in attendance)

Jeff Struve, Joan Struve, Cindy Glenn, Alan Sheidler, Sara Sheidler, Mike Ombrello, Pat Ombrello, Byron Davies, Sharon Davies, Jim Rutenbeck, Jan Rutenbeck, Paul Levesque, Andrew Levesque, Dana Taylor, Dianne Taylor, Mike Dannenfeldt, Robert Mitchell, Craig Cox

### **Presentations**

Jeff Struve gave a greeting followed by the buffet dinner. After dinner, Jeff gave a recap of the year (Included later in this newsletter). Paul Ombrello and Paul Levesque asked for any last minute nominations, and there being none, held the elections. As there were no nominations other than the current officers, a motion was made to reinstate the current members to another term. This was seconded and passed unanimously.

After elections, on behalf of the officers, Jeff thanked the club for their continuing support and provided a high level insight as to what items were going to be reviewed in 2018. These items include writing Standing Rules, working on a new Trifold/Membership Application form with Astronomy Courtesy tips, work on the new web site, and continued work on the observatory relocation.

Following the meeting, Paul ran the trivia contest where Robert Mitchell won... this was followed by a number of games of bingo where all eventually won prizes. Prizes for the activities included metal models of space related objects, \$5.00 gift certificates to Bruegger's Bagels, and MidAmerican Energy sun visors.

### **Treasurers Report**

None

### **Review of Minutes**

The October Minutes as per the November Meridian were approved.

### **Old Business**

- Most items were addressed in the presentation.
- For the 10/28 QCAS Public Open....

The weather was a bit foreboding... and although it looked like a window was to open in time for the event, it was still expected to be pretty cold at our unheated facility... and none of us are accustomed to the cold yet... not sure if that's good or bad!

We compromised and moved the open house to the St. Ambrose University Menke Observatory at the Wapsi River Environmental and Educational Center outside of Dixon, Iowa... Not far from our site...

We would offer a tour of that site and have the Lunar presentation after that... and if weather permits, still do a bit of observing...

We set the first tour for 6:15 pm... the presentation for about 6:45 pm... and a second tour for those who missed the first after the presentation... if the skies are good, we would open the dome and take a peek at the heavens!

No guests were in attendance so we spent the time sorting through the storage cabinet.

- 2018 EISP (Sept 7-9)... speakers are shaping up!

Dr. Sipiera is in... looks like we have a great chance for Dr. Anderson as per her email responses... we need to figure out what size honorariums we can give... Dr. S is local, but will be bringing space rocks to show and talk about... Dr. A, I believe is coming down from Wisconsin and will be bringing very young children...

If Dr. A confirms... and this will be a toughie...and may cost us... but I'll start working on David Levy... I think a speaker like David may be something we could charge for and maybe have at the Legion and offer tickets for non EISP participant's...

But let's not count on this... first things first!

### New Business

Addressed in the presentation

### Next Society Meeting:

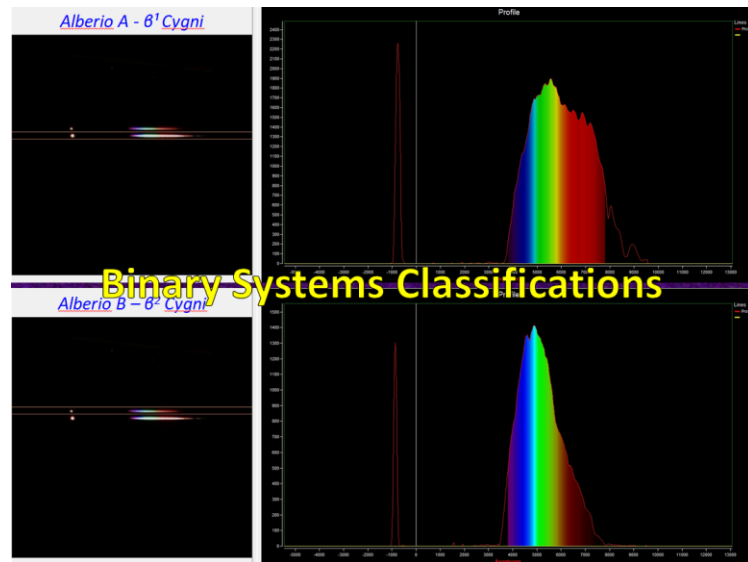
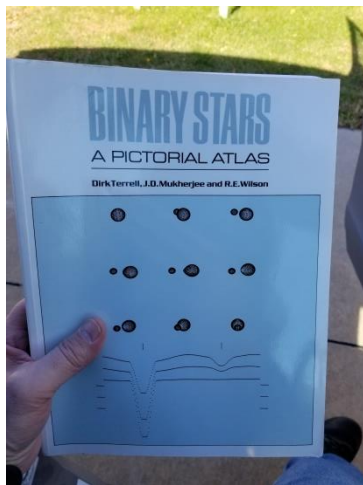
#### Date/Time Location

6:30 PM on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

105 McCarthy Hall, St. Ambrose University, Davenport IA

### December Presentation

Jeff Struve has prepared a presentation on Binary Star Systems.



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

### Other Business

None



Another busy night at all the British henge sites as staff work all night to move the stones forward by an hour.  
imgur.com

## **Last Board Meeting Minutes:**

### **Date/Time Location**

Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM  
Village Inn – Elmore, Davenport

### **Attendance**

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

### **GUESTS**

Mike Ombrello - Present  
Karl Adlon

### **Agenda**

- November Diner Meeting
  - Elections
    - Print off small paper ballots
  - 2017 Recap
  - 2018 Preview
  - Social Activities
- 2018 Calendar
  - March F16, S17, S18 – Messier Marathon
  - April Sat 21 – Astronomy Day w/evening Public Night - BHS
  - August Sat 11 – Meteor Shower Party w/Constellations and Mars – PVHS
  - September 7-9 EISP
  - Public Nights
    - Lights Off Signs
    - People to direct traffic
    - Canned Presentations (need ideas for May, July, and November)
      - Spectroscopy and Double Stars (January)
      - Imaging (February)
      - Orion and Other Nebulae (March)
      - EAA (April)
      - Star Clusters (June)
      - Planets (August)
      - Moon (September)
      - Andromeda and other Galaxies (October)
      - ISS, Satellites, Iridium Flares (December)
    - Add SAU Menke Nights
- 2018 Society Meeting Relocation to SAU
  - Advertise in the SAU News Letter, The Buzz
- Web Site
  - 2018
- Wayne Jens
  - \$25 to Grace Lutheran
  - Jens Solar Day – June 21<sup>st</sup>, Wayne’s Birthday
  - Help Chris Jens load
- Administrative
  - Treasurer Report
    - \$4350.52
    - Get a Debit Card

- Trifolds
- Membership Registration/Renewal Forms
- Membership Cards
- Haul away old shingles from Jens Wendt

### **Calendar of Events – 2017**

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

### **Calendar of Events – 2018**

01/07/18 – Board Meeting  
 01/15/18 – Society Meeting  
 01/20/18 – Public Night at Jens Wendt (Waxing Crescent 5:00 PM Intro to Spectroscopy and Double Stars Presentation)  
 02/04/18 – Board Meeting  
 02/17/18 – Public Night at Jens Wendt (Waxing Crescent 5:30 PM Intro to Imaging Presentation)  
 02/19/18 – Society Meeting  
 03/04/18 – Board Meeting  
 03/16-18/18 – Messier Marathon  
 03/19/18 – Society Meeting  
 03/24/18 – Public Night at Jens Wendt (First Quarter 7:00 PM Orion and Other Nebulae Presentation)  
 04/01/18 – Board Meeting  
 04/16/18 – Society Meeting  
 04/21/18 – Bettendorf High School Astronomy Day w/evening Public Night at Jens Wendt (Waxing Crescent 8:00 PM EAA Presentation)  
 05/06/18 – Board Meeting  
 05/19/18 – Public Night at Jens Wendt (Waxing Crescent 8:30 PM)  
 05/21/18 – Society Meeting  
 06/03/18 – Board Meeting  
 06/16/18 – Public Night at Jens Wendt (Waxing Crescent 8:30 PM Star Cluster Presentation)  
 06/18/18 – Society Meeting  
 07/01/18 – Board Meeting  
 07/14/18 – Public Night at Jens Wendt (Waxing Crescent 8:30 PM)  
 07/16/18 – Society Meeting  
 08/05/18 – Board Meeting  
 08/11/18 – Pleasant Valley High School – Meteor Shower Party w/Constellations and Mars  
 08/18/18 – Public Night at Jens Wendt (First Quarter – 8:00 PM Planets Presentation)  
 08/20/18 – Society Meeting  
 09/02/18 – Board Meeting  
 09/07-09/18 – Eastern Iowa Star Party  
 09/17/18 – Society Meeting  
 09/29/18 – Public Night at Jens Wendt (Waning Gibbous – 7:00 PM Moon Presentation)  
 10/07/18 – Board Meeting  
 10/13/18 – Public Night at Jens Wendt (Waxing Crescent 6:30 PM Andromeda and other Galaxies Presentation)  
 10/15/18 – Society Meeting  
 11/04/18 – Board Meeting  
 11/10/18 – Public Night at Jens Wendt (Waxing Crescent 5:00 PM)  
 11/19/18 – Society Annual Dinner Meeting and Elections  
 12/02/18 – Board Meeting  
 12/15/18 – Public Night at Jens Wendt (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 4:30 PM ISS, Satellites, Iridium Flares Presentation)  
 12/17/18 – Society Meeting

**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 2018 Calendar
- Society meeting relocation
- Observatory Relocation
- Discuss the new web site

**New Business**

- 2017 and 18 Biennial Reports
- Discuss selling our heavy fiberglass step ladder and replacing it with an aluminum ladder for use in the roll off roof building.

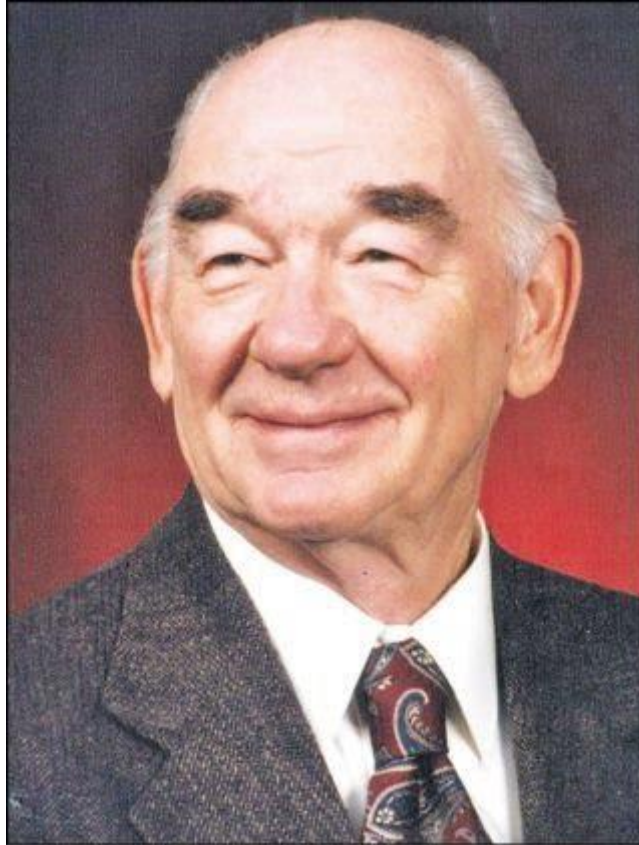
**Secondary Topics**

- PixInsight meetings



**Member Spotlight:**

*Wayne Jens Interview, by Dr. Robert Mitchell*



A few months after I started teaching at St. Ambrose, Wayne Jens visited me in my office. He wanted to get to know Ambrose's new astronomy professor and the new director of Menke Observatory. During our visit, he told me about the Quad Cities Astronomical Society and invited me to join. I did, and for Menke, it was the best decision I ever made. I came into the Quad Cities with little practical experience with telescope operations and maintenance, and frankly the observatory needed work. Wayne and the other QCAS members taught me a lot and helped me clean up and maintain the facility and helped me run the monthly star parties. The star parties wouldn't have been nearly as successful without his and the club's help.

One of the laboratories in the astronomy class that I teach at Ambrose is about the Sun and space weather. Part of the lab is to have student groups make sketches of the sunspots, just as Wayne spent decades of his life doing. For the first several years that I taught the course, I had a solar-filtered telescope set up outside so students could view the real Sun, and invited Wayne to come to the lab and talk to the students and help them out while they were working. He was always eager to do so and he interacted wonderfully with the students. He really knew how to make solar astronomy not only accessible but fun for the students.

As time passed, Wayne stopped coming to QCAS meetings regularly due to declining health, and honestly, I lost touch with him. Then earlier this year, his wife Arlene recently sent me a letter saying they had moved to the Lutheran assisted living center. Wayne had suffered a few strokes and was now in intensive care. A little later, their son Chris contacted me that he was starting to clean out his parents' old house and that Wayne wanted some of his astronomical possessions to go to the club and to St. Ambrose.

On July 24, I paid Wayne and Arlene an impromptu visit at the center. Wayne's speech was slurred and his recall was a bit off, but he was happy to visit with me and I just sat by his bed and let him talk about the QCAS and some

of his experiences with the club, the search for a new site for Ambrose's observatory, his family and his other hobbies, and so on. It was a very pleasant visit, even as it would turn out to be the last time I saw him alive.

For a few months prior, the club's board had been talking about doing an interview with Wayne for the Meridian, but his health was an issue. I would therefore like to submit my last conversation with Wayne as his final interview, with a few extra talking points provided in part by his son Chris:

As is already known, Wayne is a charter member of the Quad Cities Astronomical Society and was in fact President in 1982. During his time with the QCAS, someone donated a 20-inch scope to the club, and members would take it out to river parks for star parties or for solar viewing. One time, the filter wasn't on, and a passer-by didn't believe that the Sun through an unfiltered scope could be that dangerous. To prove it, a club member invited the passer-by to try lighting a cigarette in the light coming out of the scope just as the Sun was "moving" into position over it. It lit, and the passer-by got the message.

Wayne was an avid telescope maker as well, grinding his own telescope mirrors in his basement; he remembered making 2 to 3 8-inch mirrors and 4 to 6 6-inch mirrors. His son Chris showed me a lot of the equipment his father used in his mirror grinding. During our "interview," Wayne reminisced about a high school senior in West Davenport who was trying to grind a telescope mirror before graduation, and contacted Wayne for help. Wayne told him he was going too fast; grinding too fast makes heat that makes the mirror material expand and contract, rendering it hopelessly out of shape. This former student now lives in Arizona working with big telescopes.

Wayne also mentioned that a former QCAS member moved to Arizona to work for a company that makes mirrors for big observatories. (He didn't say specifically if the student and this former QCAS member were the same person. Something for the club to research, perhaps?)

In Wayne's day, Davenport used street lights with lenses that sent some of the light upward, which of course is a problem for observatories, including the former St. Ambrose observatory that used to be located on campus along Lombard Street. Wayne was there when the Ambrose observatory needed to be torn down to make room for expansion of the athletic building and track (Lee Lohman). He and Morris Calsyn, the Ambrose astronomer at the time, searched around different places for a new location: Davenport, Rock Island, Blue Grass, etc. Someone suggested building the new site on an island in the Mississippi, but that would have been prone to flooding.

Finally, they went to a Boy Scout camp at what used to be Camp Minneota and is now the Wapsi River Center. This was chosen as the site for the new observatory. Wayne participated in the groundbreaking ceremony in October 1992 and was a big part of the construction process right up until its completion and "first light" in July 1994.

In addition to his passion for astronomy, Wayne served in the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, during WWII. He also belonged to the National Rifle Association and to the Davenport Schuetzenverein (German Shooting Club). The Schuetzenverein used to meet at a place in Schuetzen Park which is now a nursing home. Later, they met at another place just outside Davenport, which meant the German members were allowed to have their own bar. Wayne's great-grandfather was a Schuetzen member way back in 1866. Wayne and his father also developed their own home movies in the basement, where they had spindles for dipping 50-foot and 100-foot reels into the developing fluids.

Wayne's oldest son John is a geologist in Virginia, working for the Corps of Engineers. His youngest son Chris lives in Des Moines; he used to work for company there. Wayne's son and granddaughter still belong to the same shooting club he himself belonged to, and sometimes his granddaughter out-shoots his son. (He didn't specify which son.)

I'll end by saying that some of Wayne's descendants have also caught the astronomy bug, and will take possession of a lot of Wayne's old astronomy gear. It's good that his family members share his love of the field and hopefully will continue to pass it on. This from another astronomy lover who is also grateful for what he shared.



## Obituary QC Times

[October 25, 2017](#)

DAVENPORT — Wayne E. Jens, 96, passed away Wednesday, October 25, 2017, at Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 29, 2017, at Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport. Burial will be in Davenport Memorial Park. Memorials may be made to Grace Lutheran Church, Quad-City Astronomy Society or German American Heritage Museum. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.rungemortuary.com](http://www.rungemortuary.com)

Wayne was born [June 21, 1921](#), in Blue Grass to Elmer Jens and Anna (Petersen) Jens. He served for our country in WWII from January 1943 to November 1945 in Europe. He received the Purple Heart and five Campaign Stars for action in Italy.

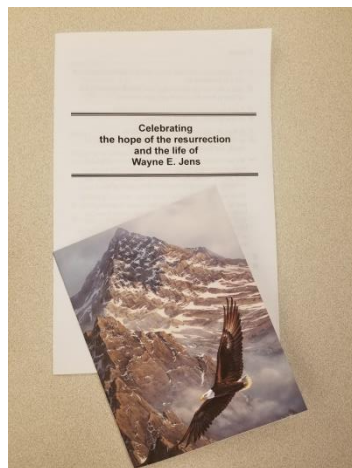
Wayne married Arlene Johnson on [September 1, 1947](#), in Fairfield, Iowa. Wayne was employed as a machinist and production planner at the Rock Island Arsenal from WWII until his date of retirement in 1978.

Wayne was a charter member of Mississippi Valley Ski Club, Quad-City Astronomy Society, Davenport German Heritage Museum and the Third Infantry Division Association. Wayne was a life member of Davenport Shooting Association, which he served as secretary for 32 years. In that capacity he was instrumental in preserving the long history of that organization. He has been a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport, in 1950.


Wayne is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Arlene; sons, John C. Jens Sr., Manassas Park, Virginia, and Chris Jens, Ankeny, Iowa; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Wayne was preceded in death by his brother, Earl Jens.

[View on http://www.qctimes.com](http://www.qctimes.com)



*In Loving Memory*  
**Wayne E. Jens**



*A Tribute to Wayne Jens*

*See that mountain wide and high?  
Its top seems rushing to the sky,  
As though it reaches to the Lord  
To shake the hands with God's accord.*

*That mountain shrinks when challenged by  
A skier whose slats cannot be shy.  
Wayne puts them on, then winds his way  
In and out of trees that sway.*

*Today, Wayne who has tackled snow  
Found challenges from trees that blow.  
He shakes their limbs, as to be free,  
For freedom is God's charity.*

*God has found a way to bless  
And lift Wayne from earth's wilderness.*

*By Arlene Jens  
October 26, 2017*

**Date and Place of Birth**  
*Tuesday, June 21, 1921 – Blue Grass, Iowa*

**Date and Place of Death**  
*Wednesday, October 25, 2017 – Bettendorf, Iowa*

**Date and Place of Service**  
*Sunday, October 29, 2017 2:00 p.m.  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Davenport, Iowa*

**Officiating**  
*Pastor John Grebner*

**Interment**  
*Davenport Memorial Park Cemetery  
Davenport, Iowa*

I met Wayne for the first time back in 1994. My son's Boy Scout troop was working on their Astronomy merit badge. I knew Brian Hayesbrook belonged to the QCAS and asked if he could arrange to have someone from the club come out and talk to the troop. Wayne came out and gave a presentation on the planets and answered questions in his normal cheerful voice and I was hooked. I joined the club the next day and purchased my first telescope. I'll never forget, my daughter asked me if I could see Heaven through my telescope. If only we could...  
– John Baker



Say "Wayne Jens" and the first thing I think about is his organizing public star parties at Davenport High School and the enjoyment of those events. Wayne's personality was such that his presence at a meeting made it more enjoyable. I remember his generosity, bringing to a meeting a secondary mirror for someone that was looking for one and when asked what he wanted for it, replying "just make a donation to the <astronomy> club." I remember he and Arlene coming to an Open House at the Jens-Wendt Observatory and I remember lively discussions happening during it, but not what was being discussed. Thanks Wayne! -Karl Adlon



## Submitted Article:

## **The year in review:**

### Presentations

Oct 2016 –

Jeff Struve was elected to the President's office and provided an impromptu overview of some of the goals and objectives that he would like to present to the club for review.

Jim Rutenbeck gave a talk about his recent attendance at various star parties including the Florida Keys, Bootlegger, EISP, Okie–Tex and SolarFest.

Nov 2016 –

Craig Cox gave a presentation on the use of PoleMaster.

Jeff Struve gave a presentation on an Aztec/Mayan constellation called Tianquiztl which is now referred to as the Pleiades.

Dec 2017 –

Mike Ombrello discussed his process used to remotely control his imaging rig and a talk and demonstration of PixInsight processing.

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.

Jan 2017 –

Alan Sheidler gave the main presentation and led the discussion on Gravitational Waves.

Feb 2017 –

Dr. George Bailey gave the main presentation and led a discussion on his work with Titan Missiles

Mar 2017 –

(At BHS) Peter Bruecken and Chris Like gave an incredible demonstration of the new digitally enhanced planetarium... We watched a program on dark matter, which was followed by Chris demonstrating the abilities of the facility

Apr 2017 –

Jeff Struve gave a presentation on "Astronomical Influences in Numismatics" which was a discussion about astronomical occurrences such as comets, occultations, and transits depicted on ancient Roman and Greek coins. Jeff passed around a number of coins as examples.

May 2017 –

Allen Wang gave a presentation on "Gravitational Waves and LISA". Allen is an Iowa State senior from Bettendorf, a 2017 Goldstar Scholar, and worked at NASA on the LISA Pathfinder.

Jun 2017

Dana Taylor gave a great talk filling us in on the January Star Trek Cruise

Jul 2017

Jim Rutenbeck gave a great presentation on Star parties he's been to including EISP, Okie–Tex, Astro–Fest, Winter Party (Florida Keys), Nebraska and others.

Aug 2017

No meeting was held in August due to the Eclipse

Sep 2017

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.

Oct 2017

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 RSpec software.

Nov 201

Jeff Struve gave a recap of the year

#### Spot Lights

Dec 2016 – Mike Dannenfeldt

Jan 2017 – Dave Ruddy

Feb 2017 – Ian Spangenberg

Mar 2017 – George Bailey

Apr 2017 – Paul Levesque

May 2017 – Karl Adlon

Jun 2017 – Alan Sheidler

Jul 2017 – Jeff Struve

Aug 2017 – Robert Mitchell

Nov 2017 – Wayne Jens

#### Meridian Articles

Nov 2016 – Look, Up in the Sky, it's a.... by Jeff Struve

Dec 2016 – SyFy's The Expanse began last year with Season 1 by Karl Adlon

Jan 2017 – Dancing with the Stars by Jeff Struve

Jan 2017 – Rogue One: A Star Wars Story by Anthony Geisler

Feb 2017 – Notes to Self by Karl Adlon

Feb 2017 – In the Sky by Karl Adlon

Mar 2017 – 2015 Messier Marathon by Jeff Struve

Mar 2017 – In the Sky by Karl Adlon

Apr 2017 – Coma and Coma Correctors by Jeff Struve

Apr 2017 – In the Sky by Karl Adlon

May 2017 – Total solar eclipses: Between faith and reason by Paul Levesque

May 2017 – Seeing Lunar Domes By Ken Boquist

May 2017– Atmospheric Dispersion Corrector by Jeff Struve

Jun 2017 – SAU/QCAS/Putnam Museum Logistics for the Solar Eclipse by Jeff Struve

Jul 2017 – CCD or DSLR for AP by Jeff Struve

Aug 2017 – Total Solar Eclipse News Bits by Paul Levesque

Aug 2017 – Baker's Tips on AP

Sep 2017 – First Annual Meteor Shower Party Recap by Jeff Struve

Sep 2017 – Something Wondrous to Behold by Paul Levesque

Sep 2017 – 2017 Eclipse Trip to Aurora NE by Mike Ombrello

Oct 2017 – Lighting for the new I-74 bridge by Ken Boquist

Nov 2017 – Recap of 2017

#### Added Events

11/04/16 Adams School Evening Under the Stars – Approximately 490 guests

11/18/16 Putnam Museum – Approximately 125 guests

04/01/17 Hawkeyes in Space with PAC – 7 QCAS registered

04/21/17 Astronomy Day at the Putnam with PAC – Approximately 342 Guests

05/09/17 BHC Concert – Approximately 25 guests

07/25/17 PV Girl Scouts – Approximately 50 guests

08/21/17 Solar Eclipse

- Robert, Mike O, Craig, and Jeff plan on viewing from Aurora, NE

- Mike D hopes to be in Boise, ID
  - Alan S plans on being in Columbia, MO
  - Paul L plans to be in Linn, MO
  - George B and Dave R will be staying in the QC area
  - Karl is thinking about traveling to Nebraska
  - Dana will be going to Casper, WY
  - Ken B to Missouri
  - Dale H narrating the broadcasted presentation at the Putnam Museum
- 10/14/17 Yerkes Field Trip – 15 registered – Cancelled due to weather  
 10/20/17 Family Night at the Putnam Museum – Approximately 50 guests

#### Annual Events

- 03/24 Messier Marathon – Cancelled due to weather, 9 registered  
 04/29 BHS Astronomy Day – Held indoors due to weather, Approximately 12 guests  
 08/12 PVHS Meteor Shower Party – Excellent Event, Approximately 50 guests  
 09/22-24 EISP – excellent event - John Allseits, Mt Jennings Observatory... Robert Mitchell, The Cassini Legacy... Zachary Luppen, Hawkeyes in Space... Explore Scientific Row – 24 in attendance

#### Public Open House Events

- 01/28 Jens Wendt Open – Cancelled  
 02/25 Jens Wendt Public Open – Cancelled  
 03/18 Jens Wendt Public Open – Cancelled  
 04/29 Jens Wendt Open – Cancelled due to weather  
 05/27 Jens Wendt Public Open – Cancelled due to weather  
 06/24 Jens Wendt Public Open – 8 guests  
 07/29 Jens Wendt – 10 guests  
 08/26 Jens Wendt – Cancelled due to weather  
 09/30 Jens Wendt – 6 guests  
 10/28 Jens Wendt – Moved to Menke due to weather – No guests  
 11/18 Jens Wendt Open – Cancelled due to weather  
 12/16 Jens Wendt
- 02/20 Menke Observatory for Boy Scout Troop 199  
 05/13 Menke Public Open – about 16 in attendance  
 06/03 Menke Public Open – No guests (bad weather)  
 06/21 Menke Undergrad Summer Research Institute Party – Cancelled due to weather  
 07/15 Menke Public Open – 25 guests

#### New Members

George Bailey, Paul Levesque, Alan Sheidler, Eric Sheidler, Sara Sheidler, Doug Branstetter, Andrew Branstetter, Jason Branstetter, Byron Davies, Don Robinson, Barry Garrels

#### Members remembered

Wayne Jens

#### Board doings

Clean Out Block House, New Bylaws, Changed Election Dates, Relocate Society Meetings, Begin to Relocate Club Observatory, Reroof Block House

### **Giving Thanks, by Karl Adlon**

While we haven't sold our house in Port Byron yet, we are moving the majority of our belongings and ourselves to our new home in Southport, NC in early December (they load the truck the 4th). With the warmer weather, fairly open skies, steadier skies, darker skies than Port Byron but maybe not Dixon, IA and planets 7.7 degrees higher in the sky, I'm anticipating spending more time doing astronomy. Be sure to let me know if you plan to be in the area. You have my email address and phone number!

Good luck with your personal astronomy-related endeavors and with future QCAS endeavors!

*Thank you* for sharing you time and talents!

Cheers!

-Karl Adlon

ps – Probably my last QCA astrophoto; the Heart Nebula, from the Menke site.



## 2018 Texas Star Party – Sign up now!

The great tradition of dark sky observing continues with the 40th Annual TEXAS STAR PARTY, May 6-13, 2018 near Ft Davis, Texas

Staying on the Ranch in housing, RV, or camping? Staying off-site in other accommodations? Everyone needs to enter the TSP drawing, held in late January.

You should submit a Registration/Reservation Request Form to ENTER THE TSP DRAWING before [January 19, 2018](http://www.texasstarparty.org). This will provide you the highest possible chance of being selected as one of the 500 people who will be able to attend TSP this year.

Follow this link to get started!  
<http://texasstarparty.org/get-started/>

You can find out the status of your TSP Registration at any time by visiting  
<http://texasstarparty.org/account/>

Find the latest news at:  
<http://texasstarparty.org/news/>

Find out about the TSP Eclipsathon!  
<https://texasstarparty.org/tsp-eclipsathon/>

Questions? Visit our web site for the latest and complete details!  
<http://www.texasstarparty.org/> or email [tsrooms@texasstarparty.org](mailto:tsrooms@texasstarparty.org)

We look forward to seeing you next May!

Sincerely,  
The volunteers for Texas Star Party



Gallery

November 2018 QCAS Annual Dinner



**ASTRO TRIVIA**  
How much do you know about our favorite subject?

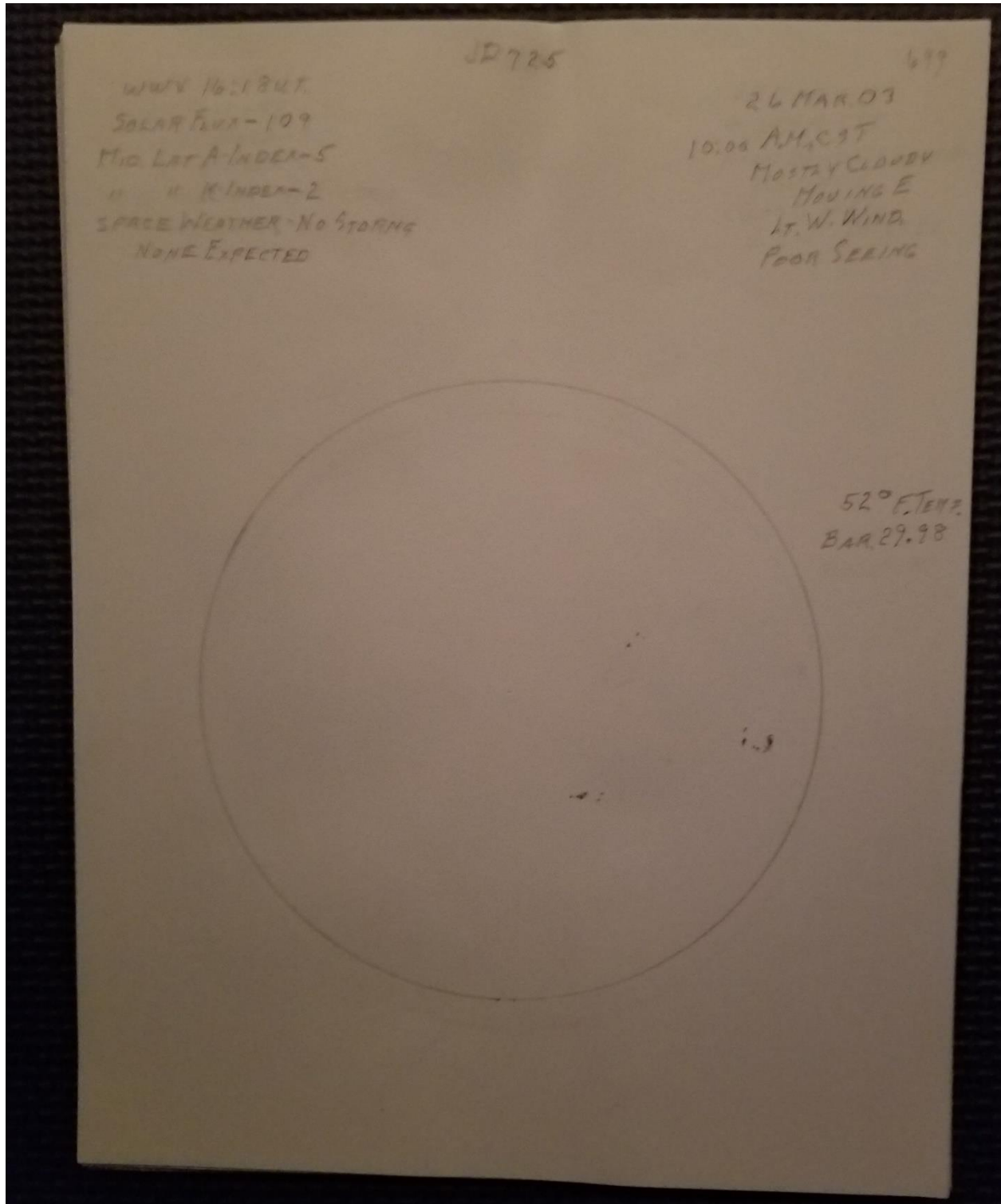
**Eat. Drink.**



**Think. Win.**



March 26<sup>th</sup> 2003

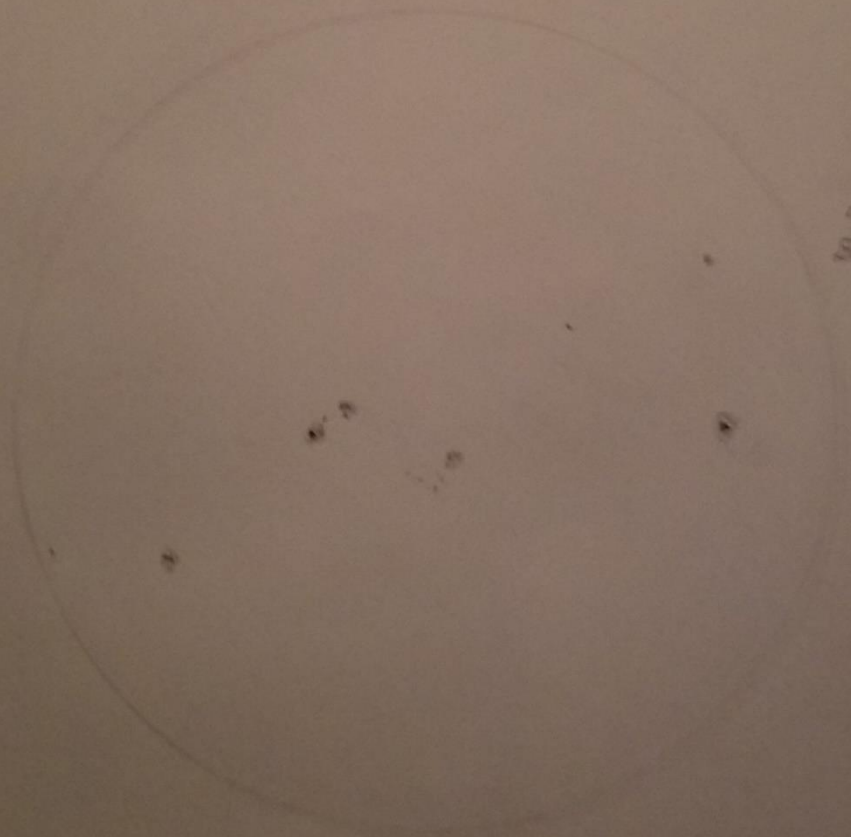


March 30<sup>th</sup> 2003

JD729

WWV 13:18 UT  
SOLAR FLUX - 153  
MID. LAT A-INDEX - 21  
" " K-INDEX - 3  
SPACE WEATHER - MINOR STORM  
GI STORM OBSERVED MORE EXPECTED

30 MAR 03  
11:47 AM, CST  
CLEAR LT. HAZE  
W. BREEZE  
AIR WARMING  
GOOD SEEING



41 25 25  
MAR 30 27

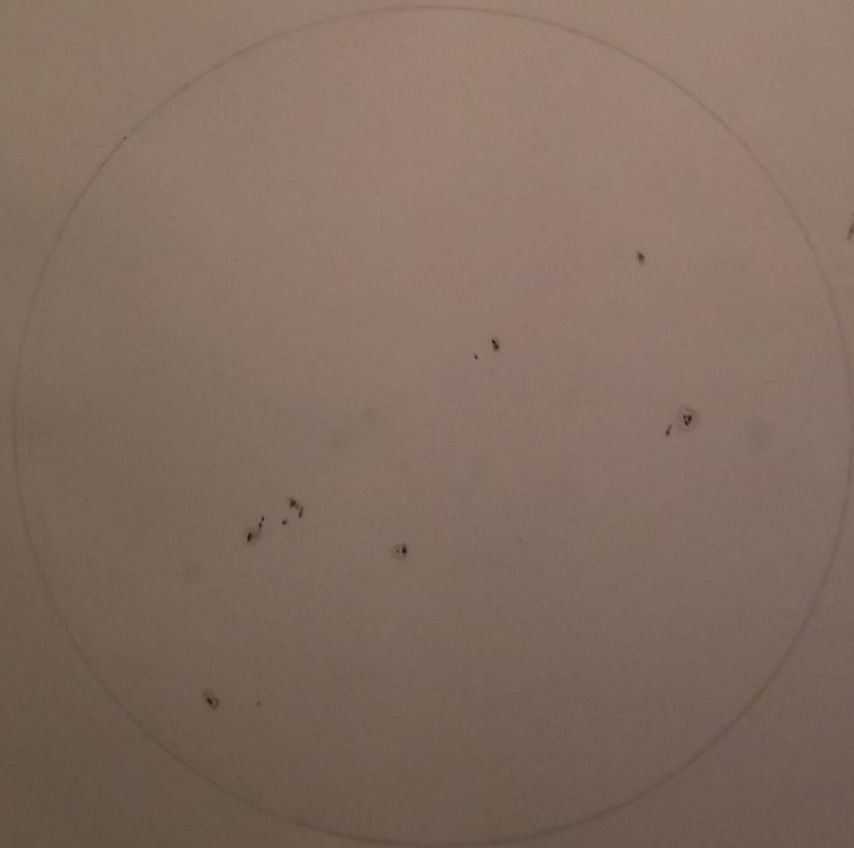
March 31<sup>st</sup> 2003

JD 730

699

WWW 16; 18 UT.  
SOLAR FLUX - 155  
MID. LAT. A INDEX - 4  
" " K INDEX -  
SPACE WEATHER - MINOR  
G-1 GEOMAGNETIC DISTURBANCE  
OCCURRED

31 MAR 03  
10:05 AM, CST  
CLEARING, HIGH  
THIN CLOUDS  
MOVING SE.  
AIR WARMING  
GOOD SEEING



45 ° TEMP.  
BAR. 30.08

## For Sale – Wanted

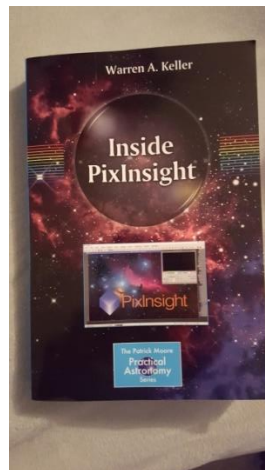
### For Sale:

- A gentleman by the name of Jerry Hansen is selling his telescope, filters, and other associated equipment. If you are interested in finding out more about it, please let me know and I will send you his contact information so you can find out more and negotiate directly with him (if interested). It looks like a nice unit. Thanks. Al Sheidler. [ADSheidler@gmail.com](mailto:ADSheidler@gmail.com)

### **INSTRUCTION MANUAL 6", 8" & 10" STARFINDER REFLECTING TELESCOPES**



- 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)



**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!

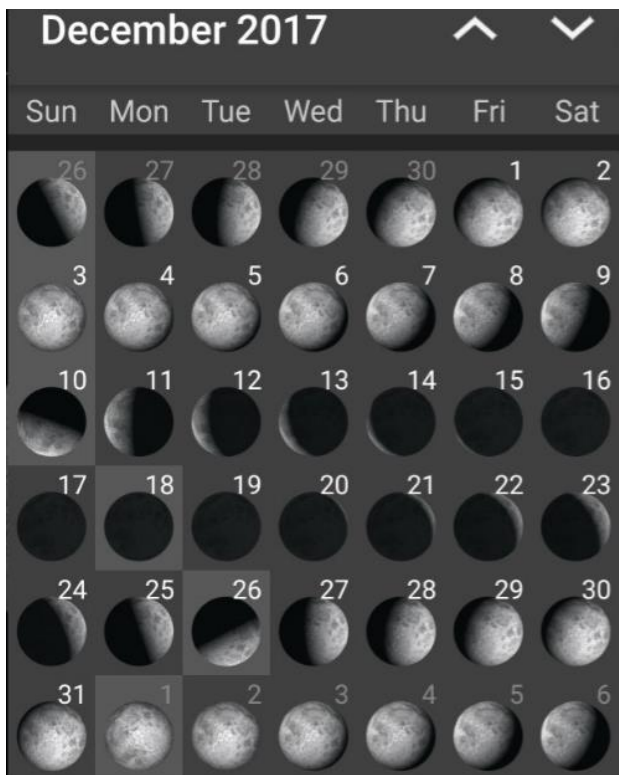
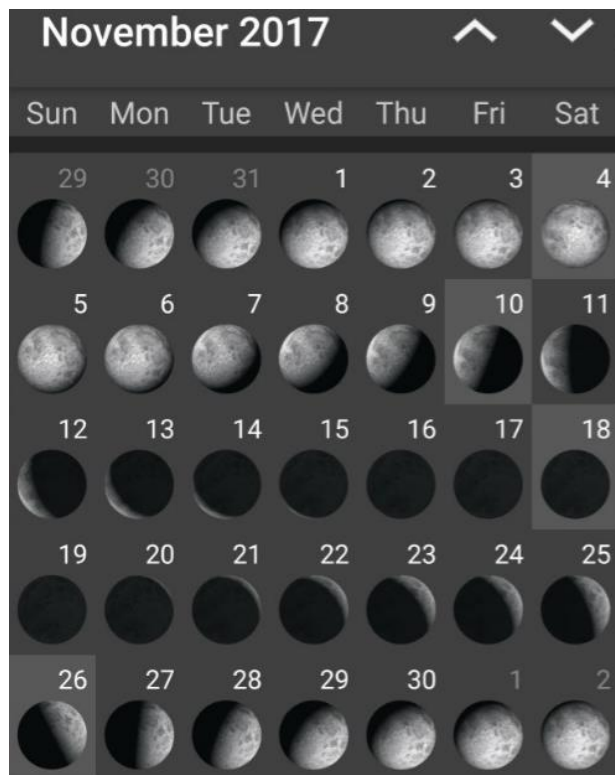
Also.... Drop an email, text, or make a phone call or two... members want to get together outside of normal club events to discuss and work on our hobby!

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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