



# The Meridian

The newsletter of the  
Quad Cities Astronomical  
Society  
June 2012

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The 6/18/12 meeting was called to order at approximately 7:02 PM

Treasurer reported that we had \$2073.45 in our account.

Guests - Brian

#### Old Business

- Facilities – John reported that he was not able to attend the June park board meeting to obtain a formal approval to erect the dome, but he would attend the July meeting. Dana said that depending on the date that he could also attend. John is also working on a detailed set of construction plans.
- Dana advised that the July 28<sup>th</sup> presentation for the Davenport Library was cancelled as they already had a full schedule planned.
- Cecil reported that he did attend the 6/15 Girl Scout event and he set up his 10" OTA for the girls to view through... unfortunately viewing was limited to a few terrestrial objects such as towers and various earth bound lighting
- Venus Transit -
  - St Ambrose – We had about 90 public show up... Dana and Robert gave presentations, and I believe that we had 1 other member speak. I also believe that Augustana College participated and also had a speaker.
  - Muscatine – There were 66 public in attendance
  - Meinke Observatory – 5 public showed up

#### New Business

- Dana announced that Karl resigned his position as Director at Large and he (Dana) will look into the proper steps for his replacement.
- Dana received an email from the Putnam advising of a guest speaker they were having on 7/08... science reporter/author Andrew Chaikin. The Putnam requested the clubs mailing address list so that they could be mailed brochures on the event. Jeff Struve made a motion to send the addresses to the Putnam and Cecil seconded the motion, which was carried.
- Dana also reminded everyone of the Iowa City Spacetacular, a free event, to be held on July 7<sup>th</sup>... details in the email he had previously sent to club members.
- There was a little high level discussion on the type of scope to be put under the new dome. Cecil advised that he had a fork mount that could be used along with the clubs 10". Other members maintain that the dome should be left empty for use in housing personal scopes until a quality scope and mount could be procured.

- Robert Mitchell gave a presentation at the Calamus Library on 6/18... per Robert, "It went pretty well. Only three kids and two adults came, but they enjoyed my talk about Mars. The librarian had PowerPoint on her laptop, so I could show some slides."

#### Presentations

- Dana presented the slide presentation that he had prepared for the Figgie event... the club felt it was an excellent presentation.
- An excellent video of the Griffith Planetarium in Los Angeles was supplied by Dale and was also shown.

#### Two Astrophotos --Karl Adlon

A couple months ago I sent my Canon 450D (XSi) off to Gary Honis to be modified. He removed the Canon filter which blocks about 2/3 of the red light, installed a Baader filter, adjusted the autofocus and put in a custom white balance for daytime photography. My first real test results are at right; M8- The Lagoon Nebula (bottom) and M20- The Trifid Nebula (top). This is a stack of nine 1-minute exposures at ISO 1600 using my TeleVue Genesis refractor (550mm focal length).

This image was taken at Sherman Park. Since Sherman is almost an hour ride each way from my house in Port Byron, I decided to try my heavily treed yard. I found a spot where I could see Polaris (barely) through the trees to the north and waited about an hour for The North American Nebula to clear the eastern trees. The following image is a stack of seven 1-minute exposures like above.

As you can probably guess, I'm quite happy with the performance of the modified camera.



A motion to adjourn was made by Cecil at approximately 8:24 PM

After the meeting Dana, Craig, John, Matt, Chris, and Jeff met at the Village Inn for sustenance... (translation - pie and most likely ice cream ease it down the gullet)