



The Meridian

The newsletter of the
Quad Cities Astronomical
Society

August 2012

Meeting Notes

The 8/20/12 meeting was called to order at approximately 7:03 PM

Attendees:

Dana Taylor	Dale Hendricks	Mitch White	Gary Charnoski
Jim Rutenbeck	John Baker	Robert Mitchell	Jeff Struve
Brian Archibald	Joe Bannon	Matt Neilssen	Craig Cox
Karl Adlon			

Old Business -

- Craig Cox, Treasurer, reported that we had \$1,859.69 in our account.
- John Baker, Facilities Chairman, reported that the forms for the domed observatory slab and the additional individual slab were ready for the concrete pour, which is expected to take place on Wednesday.
- The propose fertilizer plant west of Sherman Park was discussed. It was agreed that QCAS's input will not affect the approval or not of the plant and the best approach would be to approach the engineers/constructors after the construction is approved by the county board.
- Dana discussed the presentations held to date and coming activities at the Figge Art Museum in support of the NASA 50 years of art exhibit. This is an opportunity for those inclined to participate – contact Dana if interested.

New Business -

- Nominations for the October elections will be made at the September (next) meeting. If you are interested in a Board Position (Prez, VP, Treasurer or Secretary) let Dana or one of the Board Members know.

Presentations -

- Dana showed photos of the domed observatory construction, including: the hole dug by the county for the pier (2' dia x 6' deep) and the form for the pier, a video of using an electric jackhammer to break the ground for the forms, completed forms and cutting of the base and top plywood rings. Height of the observatory walls was discussed (a little over 6' tall).

- Jim Rutenbeck asked Karl Adlon to tell about his modified Canon 450D camera prompting his to give a presentation which included pictures produced, the reason for the modification, cost and a question regarding stacking images. See article below for more information.
- John Baker discussed some pictures he had taken with the modified camera and his infrared filter. The raw image is colored red to the eye and additional processing results in striking images, especially of cloud formations, and unexpected results like the spray from a water fountain being dark due to evaporative cooling of the water.

Motion to adjourn was made at approximately 8:08 PM

Next meeting: September 17 - put it on your calendars.

Modified Camera Results - Karl Adlon

The Canon filter in front of the sensor adjusts the light hitting the sensor so the image produced is comparable to that seen by the eye. In the process, the filter blocks ultraviolet, infrared and about 2/3 of the red light entering the camera. A modified camera removes the Canon filter and, typically, replaces it with a UV/IR filter that admits about 3 times the red light or a clear glass that also admits the IR (termed "full spectrum"). Two people, among many, that perform this service are Gary Honis and Hap Griffin and you can internet they names to get more information including DIY instructions.

Having seen the results of the modification, I purchased a 450D body at \$300 and had Gary Honis perform the mod, installing a Baader window that blocks IR for \$300. This is not a full spectrum mod.

Here is a single shot as *the camera displayed it*, a 1 minute exposure at ISO 1600, and when I saw it I thought "**WOW! This is why I spent that \$\$\$!**" I used a 5.5" f3.65 Schmidt-Newtonian for this shot taken at Sherman Park.



Below is my favorite picture to date, taken from my back yard. It is a stack, using Deep Sky Stacker, of five 1 minute exposures at ISO 1600. Fortunately, the North American Nebula is high enough in the sky from our latitude so that the many trees in our yard can be avoided.



If you would like more information, please email me. Thanks! --Karl

Upcoming Celestial and Club Events

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUG	26	27	28 1789- William Herschel discovers Saturn's Enceladus	29	30	31 Full Moon	1
SEP	2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8 Last-Quarter Moon Jupiter 0.6° north of Moon
SEP	9 Ceres 0.6° south of Moon	10	11	12	13 Prairie Skies Star Party	14 Prairie Skies Star Party	15 PSSP; SAU Star Party @ Menke Observatory
SEP	16 NEW MOON	17 7PM - QCAS Meeting	18	19	20	21	22 First-Quarter Moon Autumnal Equinox, 9:49 AM
SEP	23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Full Moon QCAS Star Party
OCT	30	1	2	3	4 1957- Sputnik 1 launched	5 Jupiter 0.9° north of Moon	6

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OCT	7 1959- Luna 3 photographs Moon far side	8 Last-Quarter Moon	9	10	11	12 Eastern Iowa Star Party	13 Eastern Iowa Star Party

Jens-Wendt Observatory – Quad Cities Astronomical Society – Located at Sherman Park in Dixon, Iowa

Monsignor Menke Observatory – St. Ambrose University – Located at Wapsi River Environmental Education Center in Dixon, Iowa

QCAS Contacts

Elected Officers			Volunteers and Committees		
President	Dana Taylor	dana@nelsontaylor.com	Facilities	John Baker	johnbsys@aol.com
Vice-president	Joe Bannon	mzbannon@aol.com	Web Master	Dana Taylor	dana@nelsontaylor.com
Secretary	Dale Hendricks	dhusna68@mchsi.com	Outreach	Joe Bannon	mzbannon@aol.com
Treasurer	Craig Cox	admiralcox2000@yahoo.com	Programming	Jim Rutenbeck	jrutenbeck@frontier.com
Director	Open	- - -			

All other contacts can be sent to the club at P.O. Box 3706, Davenport, IA, 52808.

Members are also reminded that anyone can submit articles for *The Meridian*. Submit articles to Dale Hendricks at dhusna68@mchsi.com.