



The Meridian

The newsletter of the
Quad Cities Astronomical
Society

December 2012

Secretary's Notes Dale Hendricks

17 December

Members in attendance:

Karl Adlon	Bruce Brooker	Matt Neilssen	Steve VanHyfte
Cecil Ward	John Baker	Preston Ross	Dana Taylor
Mitch White	Joe Bannon	Jim Rutenbeck	Dale Hendricks

Agenda for the meeting:

- 1) Request approval for proposed amendments to the by-laws
- 2) John Baker/Dana Taylor update on CCCB meeting/proposal to change agreement with this group
- 3) Outreach update -
- 4) Any/all subcommittee updates
- 5) Presentation by any member about any tools/tips members have developed or learned
- 6) Treasurer report (added during the meeting)

The meeting was called to order by Joe Bannon shortly after 7:00pm.

- 1) By-laws approval/acceptance: postponed until January meeting.
- 2) CCCB - Clinton County Conservation Board - update: John and Dana provided a presentation for the group and left a portfolio of them. Their response was positive - excited about activity and impressed. An updated agreement was left for them to review and approve.

May 9th they will sponsor kids coming out to the site on school buses for a presentation by members of our group. Karl volunteered to bring a solar scope for sun viewing by the students.

There was a discussion about wrapping the new observation building and one of the CCCB members is a roofer and offered to donate spare material for wrapping the facility.

It was also agreed to send the Meridian newsletter to Mark Roberts, our contact on the CCCB.

- 3) Outreach update: Matt Neilssen proposed to send a thank you letter to Gene Evans for a columinator. Bruce Brooker traveled to Muscatine/Louisa County Conservation Board and met with

eight people there. Bruce took telescopes and the group watched for meteors. Bruce also agreed to attempt to fix their 10" Meade, a computerized scope. By Bruce's definition "nothing" on the scope worked. After 14 hrs of work it now works perfectly and to follow up on his excellent effort, he has agreed to develop and put up a tutorial for them to help them utilize their scope.

A discussion followed about the need to fully document any and all outreach efforts/activities and make this information part of our database for use in applying for grants.

Upcoming events:

January 10 - Hoover School in Bettendorf - Boy Scout Troop. There will be some staff support for the event which will be inside. Need to find some visual aids, such as the "scale of the solar system" cut outs. Need to ensure that something of real scientific value takes place at this and other meetings/events with these future astronomer/scientists. We will need to have more information ahead of the event. Due to the size and our experience at other such events, we may want to break the group students into two groups to make them more manageable.

Dana informed the group of a science meeting at Garfield School at 7:00pm to which he will take two scopes.

- 4) Committee/sub-committee updates: use the website; keep these on the agenda/in the front of our interests. John Baker, Facilities - shutter opener; there may be a need a motor or a new, real universal joint. It was suggested that we may need a single "U" joint or some combination to fix the problem with the shutter on the new dome.
- 5) Polar Bear Star Party January Saturday 12th New Moon - pencil in on calendars.
- 6) John Baker, Treasurer, provided a finance update: Current balance - \$1,838.73. John was also asked about an updated donations list. He affirms that this information is available and up to date.

Presentations

- 1) John Baker demonstrated some of the capabilities of his new Canon 6D. One was the capability to take images at an ISO of over 100,000 in extremely low light conditions and another was the ability to internally stack multiple low-light images to obtain an image with much reduced noise. We look forward to seeing his astrophotography results with this new camera.
- 2) Karl Adlon demonstrated Deep Sky Stacker's ability to use the Drizzle Function. Using this, additional detail can be brought out in the image stacking process. This detail can then be enhanced using the other usual programs, like PhotoShop. Drizzle does require more computer memory and creates larger files, which Karl says his old Windows XP computer could not handle.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50. Next scheduled meeting is 21 December, 2013. That assumes, of course, that the Mayan Calendar continues past 21 December. Whoa, wait. We're still here. What a relief.

Upcoming Celestial and Club Events

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
D E C						28 Full Moon	29 QCAS Star Party

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
J A N	30	31	1 NEW YEAR DAY	2	3	4	5 Last-Quarter Moon
J A N	6	7	8	9	10	11 NEW MOON	12 Dress for Cold! QCAS Polar Bear Star Party
J A N	13	14	15	16	17	18 First-Quarter Moon	19
J A N	20	21 Jupiter & the Moon will fit in a 1/2 x 1 degree rectangle!! 7PM - QCAS Meeting	22	23	24	25	26 QCAS 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	Joe Bannon	mzbannon@aol.com	Facilities	John Baker	johnbsys@aol.com
Vice-president	Craig Cox	admiralcox2000@yahoo.com	Web Master	Dana Taylor	dana@nelsontaylor.com
Secretary	Dale Hendricks	dhusna68@mchsi.com	Outreach	Matt Nielssen	Matt.nielssen@gmail.com
Treasurer	John Baker	johnbsys@aol.com	Programming	Jim Rutenbeck	jrutenbeck@frontier.com
Director	Dana Taylor	dana@nelsontaylor.com			

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.