



The Meridian

The newsletter of the
Quad Cities Astronomical
Society

June 2012

Meeting Notes

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 28th 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 7th... 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.

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)

Next meeting: Next meeting is 16 July.

Upcoming Celestial and Club Events

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
J U L Y	8	9	10	11 Last-Quarter Moon	12	13	14 
J U L Y	15 Moon, Venus, Jupiter & Aldebaran form quadrangle in dawn sky	16 7PM - QCAS Meeting	17	18	19 NEW MOON	20 	21 SAU Menke S.P.
J U L Y	22	23	24	25	26 First-Quarter Moon	27	28 QCAS Star Party
A U G	29	30 1971- Apollo 15 lands on Moon	31	1	2 Full Moon	3	4
A U G	5	6 1961- Gherman Titov first person to sleep in space	7	8	9 Last-Quarter Moon	10	11 Jupiter only 0.1° north of Moon SAU Menke S.P.
A U G	12	13 Venus 0.6° south of Moon	14 Venus at greatest western elongation (46°)	15 Mercury at greatest western elongation (19°)	16	17 NEW MOON	18

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.

Attachment 1 – Two Astrophotos

Attachment 2 – Venus Transit photos – Karl Adlon

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 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.



2012 Venus Transit

June 5, 2012

About 30 people viewed the transit.

Right: Venus about 1/2 hour after start of transit. Sunspots are also visible.

Middle row: **Bob Dixon**, then **Ralph Wilshusen**, then I (**Karl Adlon**) have a look.

Bottom right and left: We wait for the clouds to move out of the way.



Bottom center: The 2006 Mercury Transit. Note the smaller apparent size of Mercury; a little less than 1/2 the diameter of Venus but much further away. A solar prominence is visible at the 11 o'clock position on the limb of the sun.

