



The Meridian

The newsletter of the
Quad Cities Astronomical
Society

March 2012

Secretary's Notes

Dale Hendricks

Members in attendance:

Dana Taylor	Brian Haysbrook	Karl Adlon	Jim Rutenbeck
Steve VanHyfte	Craig Cox	Bruce Brooker	Robert Mitchell
Dale Hendricks	Gary Charnoski	John Baker	Joe Bannon

Treasurer's report: Craig reported a total of \$2,482.72.

Old Business - Venus transit - 5 June at St Ambrose. We verified that school would be out and that the transit would be an admissions event. POC is Dr. Robert Mitchell.

NASA Art Exhibit - Dana provided an update following his meeting at the Figge 14 March. There will be an exhibit room upstairs on the north side of the Museum. We don't know yet how much room we will have for an exhibit so our "art work" needs to be selected carefully. Scopes outside will be problematic - we should, perhaps, be ready to set up some scopes for viewing on good nights. The Figge will advertise our Star Nights and we will have some presentations in the auditorium which seats approximately 200 people. For our memories, the other groups solicited to participate during this time frame with NASA art exhibit are:

- Girl Scouts
- Quad City Rocket Society
- Quad City Elite
- QC Engineering and Science Council (QCESC)

Current information indicates that some of these groups will not be participating in a fully committed manner and it was suggested that we have some "hip pocket" presentations to be ready to provide in the auditorium if other groups do not

6" scope: Bruce Brooker updated us on the 6" scope - it has been fixed and tested and works 4.0. He took it back to the block house. A big "thanks" to Bruce for this rehabilitation effort. As a follow on to this conversation it was suggested that a thorough inventory be taken of all instruments and accessories the Society has and what is held privately.

Miscellaneous:


Spring arrives (arrived) 1214 on the 20th (my birthday, by the by).

Dana provided some info on the 2017 full solar eclipse. It will provide 2.5 minutes of totality further south. His plan and info is to drive down to Carbondale, IL and try to find a place, perhaps with another observation/astronomy group in the area, to have more viewing and recording time. We will no doubt discuss this again. Keep us to speed, Dana.

New ladder - Steve VanHyfte informed us that he had taken the 10' ladder in the observatory (it was his) with the 20" scope and that we need to have another. Dale volunteered to look at various places to determine types and costs. (Update - Dale checked with K&K and Home Depot for 10' ladders. The ones I found were fiberglass and the type we need for safety and quality.) In subsequent conversation, it has been determined that Dale will buy the ladder at Home Depot (\$198.00) and will be reimbursed for the expense.) I'm looking for someone to pick it up at my house and transport it to the Sherman Park site - my SUV is doing duty in Newport, RI so I am currently "hauling" challenged.

New Observation Dome: Jim Rutenbeck provided an update on the dome, its placement and the Clinton County Conservation Commission. They are basically ok with the new "add" to our site and asked if we would be supportive of the tear down of the "auditorium" out there - for those who didn't know there was an auditorium there it is the rotting wooden benches just to the east and a bit south of our observatory at Sherman Park. Dana provided a slide show of the removal of the observatory and where it now sits (and will probably stay) south at the west end of the Sherman Park observatory. It was also suggested that a survey be drafted and sent to all members for feedback on what we want the new structure to be/provide for our members and guests. The survey was sent out Monday, March 23 and is due back by 2 April. Please give it your attention and send it back to Karl as soon as possible so that we have the best thinking and input for our new capability. (As of this writing - Besides Dale and Karl, only 3 others have responded! -Karl)

Next meeting: Next meeting is 23 April.

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
A P R 1		2 1845- First photograph of the Sun	3	4	5	6 Full Moon	7 Passover begins
A P R 8	Easter	9	10	11	12 1961- Yuri Gagarin first man in orbit	13 Last-Quarter Moon	14
A P R 15	Texas Star Party begins	16 7PM - QCAS Meeting @ Bettendorf Library	17	18 Dawn: Mercury: greatest elongation, ~7° below Moon	19	20 Sunset: 7:50 PM	21 NEW MOON Lyrid Meteor Shower
A P R 22		23	24 Venus 6° north of Moon	25 1990- Hubble Space Telescope deployed	26	27	28 QCAS Star Party
M A Y 29	First-Quarter Moon	30 Memorial Day 	1 Mars 8° north of Moon	2	3	4 Saturn 6° North of Moon	5 1961- Alan Shepard first American in space
M A Y 6	Full Moon	7	8	9	10	11	12 Last-Quarter Moon
M A Y 13	Mother's Day	14 1973-Skylab launched	15	16	17	18 Bootleg Astronomy Star Party at Green River Conservation Area	

Annular Solar Eclipse: May 20/21

We will be on the fringe of the viewing path and here is what it looks like across the US. The eclipse ends in New Mexico and it will be below the horizon for us.

Venus Transit: Robert suggested that we might be able to see more of this transit from the SAU Ballroom Balcony - it is above the tree line and should provide for a few more moments of transit.

Upcoming Celestial and Club Events

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@nelsonstaylor.com	Facilities	Jim Rutenbeck	jrutenbeck@frontier.com
Vice-president	Joe Bannon	mzbannon@aol.com	Web Master	Dana Taylor	dana@nelsonstaylor.com
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Director	Karl Adlon	kmja79@yahoo.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.
