



The Meridian

The newsletter of the
Quad Cities Astronomical
Society

May 2013

Secretary's Notes (Dale Hendricks)

20 May

Members in attendance:

Bruce Brooker	Dana Taylor	Dr. Robert Mitchell	Matt Neilssen	David Heard
Alex Freund	Preston Ross	Brian Archibald	Cecil Ward	Craig Cox
Dale Hendricks				

Agenda:

1) Reports - Treasurer

Committees/Subcommittees

- Facilities
- Grants
- Outreach
- Other

1) Treasurer Report: Current balance is \$2131.03. (John's notes sent in his email tome - "I have not checked the post office box for a couple weeks. There is probably a utility bill in there for \$21.14. I donated about \$100 of my own money for wire, outlets and electrical stuff for the dome".)

2) Secretary Position: This position needs to be filled. This is not an option - we need to have this position filled and soon.

3) Bylaws: We have this as an unresolved issues. The work done to date needs to be identified, corrections need to be made and then published with changes/amendments. Dana volunteered to gather up the info, make the changes and report back with his product.

4) Other business -

5) Astronomy Stuff -

- Sun viewing
- Other : "outreach" activities
- Presentation?
- Upcoming events and commitment to support these activities

1) Reports: Facilities -

➤ New observatory:

Telescope - Bruce Brooker repaired a 40+ year old 10" Meade Newtonian telescope which was at the Muscatine High School and transported it to the Sherman Park site to the new observatory. It is on a German equatorial mount and has been calibrated. It is suitable for both optical and photography and can be used in the new observatory as is. Many thanks, again, Bruce - great work. * Note from John Baker re the telescope - Bruce and I went to Sherman Park Tuesday night and set up the 10" telescope that belongs to Muscatine High School. We were hoping to get it polar aligned so that we could mark the position of the tripod on the floor. Unfortunately the clouds did not cooperate. Bruce collimated the scope and the views looked really good. We were able to get some good views of the Moon, Saturn, and Mizar/Alcor.

P.S. Bruce, I saw a picture of Einstein's telescope in the last issue of Sky and Telescope. It looks remarkably similar to the one we put in the dome! (from John Baker)



Dome - John Baker and Bruce fixed the glitches and it now rotates freely. There was suggestion that the crank could be retrofitted to use a reversible drill to open and close the dome. Bruce did not think this a good idea. See John's notes appended here from his emails after the meeting Monday. * We discovered an issue with the dome. If you open the shutter as far as it will go and position the opening towards the north it interferes with the entrance door and you can lock yourself in the dome (see attached picture). You can see a small dent in the door from when I first tried to go outside of the dome. (There is probably another dent on the inside of the door from my head hitting it so be aware of this if you use the dome until we decide how we want to address this.

I went out today (Saturday 25 May) and purchased some outlets, wire, and switches to start installing the electrical. I tried finding some red, incandescent, rope lights to put on a dimmer switch but did not have any luck. I will keep searching.

John Baker

Connectivity at Sherman Park - from John Baker's notes, 25 May - I also brought my WiFi extender and tried placing it in different positions close to Chuck's house. The best place...to put it was outside, hanging from his deck by the door. It worked like a champ and I was receiving 4-5 bar signal on my laptop inside the dome and main observatory. We tried putting it in several other places both inside his house and out in the garage but reception was reduced tremendously. When we put inside the garage it could not pick up their WiFi consistently. Bruce suggested placing it

inside of a water tight glass container of some type and hanging it outside. There is an outside power outlet on the side of the garage facing their house he said we could use.

Another option: Have him plug it in upstairs of their house then get a second extender to place it the block house but I am not sure what kind of signal we would get through the bricks.

Another option: find a more powerful extender placing it upstairs in their house.

Another option: We could go high tech and use a stainless steel colander to increase the range. http://www.ehow.com/how_4603628_build-satellite-dish-internet.html and try putting it back upstairs in their house.

- **20" observatory:** there have been questions/concerns re the roll off roof observatory but the report from Bruce is that one 4'X8' sheet of siding would be sufficient to repair two places. Cut the sheet in two, install and paint and we are in good shape.

Meeting adjourned and next meeting set for 17 June. I will be returning from an overseas trip and will not be back in time for this meeting. We need to have someone be willing to conduct the meeting AND take notes. A Secretary would be useful here.

Upcoming Celestial and Club Events

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JUN	3 Good month to observe SATURN	4	5	6	7	8	NEW MOON QCAS Members' Star Party
JUN	9 Look for crescent Moon at sunset	10 Look for crescent Moon	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15 Menke Star Party
JUN	16 Father's Day First Quarter Moon	17 7PM - QCAS Meeting	18	19	20 Shortest night the year	21	22
JUN	23 Full Moon	24	25	26	27	28	29 QCAS Star Party / Open House
JUL	30 Last Quarter Moon	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6 QCAS Members' Star Party
JUL	7	8 NEW MOON	9	10	11	12	13 Menke Star Party
JUL	14	15 7PM - QCAS Meeting	16 First Quarter Moon	17	18	19	20 PAC Niabi Zoo Star Party
JUL	21	22 Full Moon	23	24	25	26	27 QCAS Star Party / Open House

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	Dale Hendricks	dhusna68@mchsi.com	Facilities	John Baker	johnbsys@aol.com
Vice-president	Craig Cox	admiralcox2000@yahoo.com	Web Master	Dana Taylor	dana@nelsonstaylor.com
Secretary	Open		Outreach	Matt Nielssen	Matt.nielssen@gmail.com
Treasurer	John Baker	johnbsys@aol.com	Programming	Jim Rutenbeck	jrutenbeck@frontier.com
Director	Dana Taylor	dana@nelsonstaylor.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. (for the short term)