



The Meridian

The newsletter of the
Quad Cities Astronomical
Society

November 2012

Secretary's Notes

Dale Hendricks

19 November

Members in attendance:

Karl Adlon	Bruce Brooker	Matt Neilssen	Steve VanHyfte	Brian Archibald
Chris Day	Jim Rutenbeck	Cecil Ward	John Baker	Brian Heyward
Dana Taylor	Mitch White	Joe Bannon	Deake Schneider	Robert Mitchell

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05. Joe briefly discussed the proposed amendments to the by-laws drafted at the Board meeting November 11, 2012. All members received an electronic copy of the proposed changes prior to the November 19 meeting; therefore, the 30-day notification required by the by-laws was met and the changes can be voted on at the December meeting. Karl suggested consideration of moving the elections, which are currently held in October. Karl noted this is close to the EISP and attendance at the November meeting is sometimes impacted by Thanksgiving. After some debate about whether to move elections up or back a month, the consensus was to move elections to September and this will be added to the proposed amendments.

John Baker, new Treasurer, provided this finances update: On 10/1 our checking balance was \$1864.69. With \$600 in dues and donations from members minus a couple of small checks for expenses the end of month balance was \$2424.65. To date, in November, we have received \$225 in dues and donations. \$749.78 in expenses for the dome was paid to Dana and a \$35 check was sent to the Bettendorf Library to reserve the room through 11/18/2013 (5/20, 6/12, 7/15, 8/19, 9/16, 10/21, and 11/18). This brings the current balance to \$1864.87.

The need to develop a comprehensive plan for the new observatory was discussed and a committee was named. The goal is to determine the details of how best to equip the new observatory while balancing ongoing maintenance of current structures. John Baker, Facilities chair, will lead this committee comprised of Dana, Bruce, Jim, Chris and Deake.

Bruce raised the issue of siding the new domed facility but after further discussion, it was concluded this isn't a time critical issue. Dana and John confirmed the dome was dry after a recent rain and will endure the winter. Long term, however, the building will need to be sided and Dana has investigated corrugated steel options, some of which come in colors. Karl noted that the Naperville astronomy club

had an observatory with colored walls which resulted in a hotter interior and radiant heat. Dana stated that some steel has air channels which help minimize the heat effect. He estimated it would cost approximately \$300 to cover the sides of the dome to which Bruce said he would contribute \$100. The goal is to order materials in February 2013 for a spring installation.

Joe noted the need for additional help or committees. Jeff Struve offered to relinquish the role of Outreach Coordinator if someone else was willing to take this role. Matt volunteered and Joe said he would talk to Jeff to confirm. (*This was done the day after the meeting and Matt is now the new Outreach Coordinator. Thanks, Matt.*)

Another area discussed was the need for web help. To ensure the club has backup capability for web design and hosting, John and Brian will begin assisting Dana with the club's web site.

After the discussion of committees and assistance, Dana reviewed conversations with the Clinton County Conservation Board in which they expressed some concerns. They received one negative comment related to the EISP and there have been a couple of instances where they advertised a public star party but no one from the club was there. The timing of these comments is unfortunate as a lot of goodwill has been fostered over the past year between our club and the CCCB. Better communication is key to resolving this and it was suggested that once the dome is complete, a special CCCB night, or something similar, should be scheduled. Dana and John are planning to attend the CCCB's December meeting to update them on the progress that's been made and will also discuss proposed updates to the agreement that allows our continued use of the site.

Dana then went through the presentation, a photo/video summary of the progress beginning with deconstruction of the dome in Eldridge to setting the roof in Sherman Park. The seven-minute presentation does a nice job showing the work that's been accomplished by the club and may also serve us well if/when we apply for any grants.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50. Next scheduled meeting is 17 December.

Presidential Ramblings

Joe Bannon

If you attended our November meeting, you hopefully picked up on something I will probably push from time to time: namely, your investment in this club. We all have constraints on our time - for me, it's getting my son or daughter to or from some activity (I half-jokingly say they're the black holes of my time because it's time I never get back). For others, work schedules can make it difficult to come to the observatory or attend a meeting. But I still feel like I have an investment in what we do. I'm not the smartest astronomer but I do enjoy hanging out with this crowd and, every once in a while, I find something I can help with.

So if I called out your name at the meeting to get you to volunteer on a committee or with a task, I hope it didn't offend you - that's not my point. Our club survives on all our efforts. If you don't see how your skills perfectly match an issue, don't worry. More than likely, someone has been in your shoes and will be willing to help. I really do think everyone has something they can contribute and, as I like to say, how hard can it be?

On that note, I hope our future meetings will focus more on astronomy and less on organizational items. I apologize for spending most of the last meeting on the latter, but sometimes that's necessary. For the December meeting, I'm asking everyone to think about some item they created or manufactured, or some trick you learned that's become a routine part of your observing. If you can bring the item with

you, all the better. My contribution will be the wheeled case I have for transporting my scope. It's nothing brilliant, but it works really well, was inexpensive and protects my scope during car rides and walks across fields. I'm sure there are a lot of other examples from the rest of you that we can share and maybe even help someone out a bit.

Upcoming Celestial and Club Events

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOV		26	27	28 Full Moon	29	30	1
DEC	2 Jupiter at Opposition	3	4 Mercury at greatest western elongation	5	6 Last-Quarter Moon	7	8
DEC	9	10	11	12 Geminid meteor shower	13 NEW MOON Geminid meteor shower	14 Geminid meteor shower	15
DEC	16	17 7PM - QCAS Meeting	18	19	20 First-Quarter Moon	21 Winter solstice, 6:10 AM	22
DEC	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28 Full Moon	29 QCAS Star Party
JAN	30	31	1 NEW YEAR DAY	2	3	4	5

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
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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.