



The Meridian

The newsletter of the
Quad Cities Astronomical
Society

October 2012

Secretary's Notes

Dale Hendricks

Members in attendance:

Karl Adlon	Brian Archibald	John Baker	Joe Bannon
Bruce Brooker	Al Cattoir	Craig Cox	Dale Hendricks
Dr. Robert Mitchell	Matt Neilssen	Jim Rutenbeck	Jeff Struve
Dana Taylor	Cecil Ward		

Elections: This was the night of elections and eating. The Library is ok with food in the room but wants a good clean up and we evidently have a good reputation as our contact said "sure" when asked about having food in our meeting room. Nice selection of food - thanks to all who brought the food and thanks to all who consumed it or took the remnants home with them.

Due to the 3 year rule in our bylaws Dana is not running for President and Craig Cos our Treasurer is also stepping down. The result of our elections are as follows:

President -	Joe Bannon
Vice President -	Jeff Struve*
Treasurer -	John Baker
Secretary -	Dale Hendricks (he has been in office about 7 months and agreed to continue in his current position)

* Jeff Struve sent out an email following the elections stating that, upon further reflection, he can no longer support his commitment to be Vice President. To that point, John Baker, Craig Cox, Joe Bannon and Dale Hendricks met Saturday morning at 10:00 at the Deere Harvester Credit Union, as required by the financial institution, to make the transition to the new officer positions. As Jeff has resigned and was not present, it was agreed in the interim at the DHCU, that Craig Cox would fill the VP slot. This allowed us to complete our paperwork and transfer the account to the new slate of officers for our Society. I will send a follow up note to the members to ensure this assumption of the VP position by Craig is per our bylaws. In the interim, thanks, Craig, for stepping up. Jeff, we understand and hope you continue your participation at our meetings and "viewings" at our observatory sites.

Treasurer's report: Craig reported a total of \$1,819.65 in our account.

NASA Art Exhibit: The exhibit has now closed. Alison and I went to the presentation at the Figge to enjoy Dana's presentation. I don't know how many people were there - the theater holds a few more than 200 - but those who were there saw some really outstanding, professional photos and a good presentation by Dana. Many thanks, Dana. We will draft a note of thanks to the Figge for their support and visibility for our involvement during the run of this exhibit.

EISP feedback: Dana shared a note he received from Mark Roberts, Education Coordinator for the Clinton County Conservation Board - a family arrived at the Menke site (she said it was Saturday - that is in dispute - it was more likely Friday) and had the following alleged experience: they showed up at dusk and "for viewing. An assumption was made that the observatory would be open for the public to view with assistance from the club". "...we spoke to a well spoken nice man who more or less made us feel that if we didn't bring our own scope that it was probably not the place for us. The area was busy but not crazy. We were directed to park way back to the East of the prairie (sic) and walk in after our discussion". The rest of the note goes on with comments about their disappointment and then opting to leave not having a "warm fuzzy" about the meeting. Their 11 year old daughter was disappointed and not wanting to walk back to the Menke site they opted to leave. Unfortunately, she posted this on the CCCB Facebook site. I have since learned that this is not what happened but the bottom line is her experience had some fairly wide distribution so it was determined that an apology should be sent to the woman and her family and made known to Mark Roberts. Dana drafted and sent the note of apology -d you all should have a copy in your email. Misunderstandings and perceptions are usually more lasting than reality - which is truly unfortunate. Let's put this in the past and move on.

Celeston C-14 OTA: the details of this particular instrument are known but the bigger issue was what we would do in the future about possibly purchasing instruments for the Society - and, most likely, our new under construction observatory. This will require more in depth discussion and evaluation of what the new observatory should be and how it should be outfitted. Following this discussion 3 members pledged \$950.00 to a fund for purchases when we have a plan for evaluating and approving purchase of instruments to outfit the observatory/Society.

New Observation Dome: Numerous updates have been sent out to the group about progress on the construction. A call was made for a working party for Saturday at the site and several members made a commitment to be there to continue work on the site. We have an offer for a front end loader from the Clinton County Conservation Board to help put the dome on the structure. More work will have to be completed to strengthen the building prior to the dome being put in place.

Saturday afternoon Dana Taylor, John Baker, Bruce Brooker and Dale Hendricks met at the Wapsi site and "skinned" the framework. Dana provided some photos and I have included those that show the before, during and after work. Very exciting progress. Now we need to put on the exterior of the building and install the door then the dome can be hoisted into position. Very exciting!!





Dark Skies Apparel Door Prize: Jim Rutenbeck had a door prize for the group but was required by the owner of the business to make a "pitch" before awarding the prize. Website for this company is - www.darks skiesapparel.com/products.html

We all took a ticket, put them in Dana's hat and Dale pulled out the winner - who was - Ta Da - John Baker (her probably took 2 or 3 tickets ☺) and was then the proud owner of hooded observing vest. Good products, decent prices and most useful.

Deep Sky Forum: has been brought to us by Darks Skies Apparel and the threads and info on this site can be accessed at - www.deepskyforum.com. Give it a look.

Where to from Here?: The driver of this conversation, which was not formal, was the need to prioritize our needs and wants for the Society as we begin serious activities towards applying for grants across a wide variety of organizations and outlets as well as across state borders. It was largely understood that we really don't know exactly what is required to apply for grants and be successful in the process.



Several members volunteered to undertake this activity and we will most likely need to have some focused direction on this and then ask for volunteers to form a subcommittee to further investigate this activity and make recommendations back to the group as a whole for more discussion and agreement.

Next meeting: Next meeting is 19 November.

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

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 First-Quarter Moon	2	3 Mars at opposition – app. ang. diameter: 14"
MAR 4		5 March 5, Comet Garradd closest to Earth (1.27 AU)	6	7 1792- John Herschel born	8 Full Moon	9 Sunset: 6:03 PM	10 1977- Rings of Uranus discovered
MAR 11	Daylight Savings Begins 	12 Venus and Jupiter 3° apart	13 1781- John Herschel discovers Uranus	14 1879- Albert Einstein born	15 Last-Quarter Moon	16 Sunset: 7:11 PM	17 St. Patrick's Day
MAR 18		19 7PM - QCAS Meeting @ Bettendorf Library	20 First Day Of Spring 	21	22 NEW MOON	23 1840- First photograph of Moon	24
MAR 25	Waxing Moon near Jupiter	26 Waxing Moon near Venus	27 Waxing Moon near Aldebaran	28	29	30 First-Quarter Moon	31 QCAS Star Party
APR 1		2 1845- First photograph of the Sun	3	4	5	6 Full Moon	7 Passover begins
APR 8	Easter	9	10	11	12 1961- Yuri Gagarin first man in orbit	13 Last-Quarter Moon	14
APR 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
APR 22		23	24	25 Administrative Professionals' Day	26	27	28 QCAS Star Party

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.

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		
Treasurer	John Baker	johnbsys@aol.com	Programming	Jim Rutenbeck	jrutenbeck@frontier.com
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.
