



The Meridian

The newsletter of the
Quad Cities Astronomical Society

September 2008

Presidential Ramblings

Karl L. Adlon

It's the start of a new year following the summer meeting abstinence and there are a few topics that need attention:

- ★ Board Meeting
- ★ Dues
- ★ Nominations
- ★ EISP

Board Members: Shouldn't we have a Board Meeting before the September meeting? Please, please let me know your thoughts on having one either just before the September meeting or the Monday before and on the above topics.

Dues: The Board is supposed to recommend the dues rate for the following year at the September meeting. Personally, I think the same rate as last year is good. If you have other ideas, let me or a Board Member know.

Elections are at the October Meeting and we need candidates to fill some current positions. Jim, Steve and I have been in our current positions for 3 or more years. I can't speak for Jim or Steve, but I would like for someone else to be President next year. Will you run for office next year? Will you be on a Nominating Committee (see the By-Laws at qcas.org)? If you are considering an office, such as President, be assured that I'm not going away. I still intend to help with a couple presentations, the occasional Meridian article and, of course, I'll make sure the new drive gets installed and is working to our expectations before next spring. I believe I can speak for the current officers when I say similar support would be provided from them.

EISP is our annual Eastern Iowa Star Party and is the first weekend in October. Some planning is always needed and some commitments to help with EISP duties are needed. We'll devote some time at the September meeting to this topic, but please think about it and let me know if you will help and ideas for improving the event at your convenience.

Well, that takes care of the topics that I think will soon require some level of attention and I hope you'll remember that QCAS is *your* astronomy club. OK – it's *our* astronomy club and it is what we make it. Thanks for your past, current and future support.

At the August 29 Public Star Party we had over a dozen people, come visit. It was a nice turnout and I believe everyone enjoyed themselves. The 20" showed off Jupiter, the Lagoon Nebula, M22 (Cecil recommended this once and we enjoyed it), M13 – the Hercules Cluster, the Ring Nebula and the Double Cluster. Sky conditions were good, but not the best – the sky background seemed to be a little light polluted, not black – there were some patches of low fog seen down the access road and the stars of M13 at 250X seemed to move around a bit. But we enjoyed what the sky offered that night.

Saturday, September 6 is the last Menke star party of the summer and members are reminded that we assist with these in return for use of the Menke observatory during the EISP. If weather conditions are iffy, call 563-333-6141 for a recorded message confirming whether the star party will take place or must be cancelled.

Wishing You Clear Skies!

Karl

Upcoming Celestial and Club Events

Sep. 6	Saturday	Mars is 2.5 degrees above Mercury (Evening)
Sep. 10	Wednesday	Mercury is 27 degrees east of the Sun (Evening)
Sep. 11	Thursday	Mars is 0.3 degrees to the lower left of Venus (Evening)
Sep. 15	Monday	Monthly Meeting (19:30) @ Deere-Wiman Carriage House
Sep. 27	Saturday	Jens-Wendt Observatory – PUBLIC Star Party
Oct. 3-5	Fri. – Sun.	Eastern Iowa Star Party
Oct. 10	Friday	Mercury is 18 degrees west of the Sun (Morning)
Oct. 20	Monday	Monthly Meeting (19:30) @ Deere-Wiman Carriage House
Oct. 25	Saturday	Jens-Wendt Observatory – Star Party

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	Karl Adlon	kmja@mchsi.com			
Vice-president	Jim Rutenbeck	jim@qconline.com	Facilities	Jim Rutenbeck	jim@qconline.com
Secretary	Joe Bannon	mzbannon@aol.com	Web Master	Dana Taylor	dana@nelsonstaylor.com
Treasurer	Steve VanHyfte	svanh@mchsi.com	Outreach	Joe Bannon	qcas@mchsi.com
Director	Gary Charnoski	stargazer_44444@yahoo.com	Programming	Jim Rutenbeck	jim@qconline.com

All other contacts can be sent to qcas@mchsi.com or mailed 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 Joe Bannon at jbannon@midamerican.com and mzbannon@aol.com.
