



# The Meridian

The newsletter of the  
Quad Cities Astronomical Society

April 2010

<http://www.qcas.org>

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## Secretary's Notes

Joe Bannon

Members in attendance at the March meeting:

Joe Bannon	Dale Hendricks	Dana Taylor	Cecil Ward
All Cattoir	Robert Mitchell	Steve VanHyfte	
Joyce Erickson	Jim Rutenbeck	John Waack	

The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting so no report was discussed

Dana updated the club on e-mails that had been exchanged with the Putnam Museum regarding donating club equipment. The museum is interested but cannot guarantee a "permanent" display. As Cecil had mentioned in a previous meeting, the museum is most interested in items that have a local connection. Dana said he would see if Wayne or Augie Wendt's son-in-law have any scopes to donate. The son-in-law may also be able to provide some background on Augie that could augment a display on Augie or his observatory, which still stands on Forest, north of Kimberley. Dana said the current homeowners use the observatory as a storage shed.

On a related note, the Putnam expressed interest in having the club help with the opening of the Hubble in 3-D movie. Dana created and had on hand three tri-folds. Two highlighted Hubble images and the third showcased the QCAS and member astrophotography.

Joyce made a motion that the club reimburse Dana for the expenses he incurred, which passed. Another idea was expressed to make the tri-folds on a more permanent display; something sturdier than the cardboard tri-folds.

Al asked if the club wanted to host a star party closer to the Quad Cities and suggested the soccer fields in Davenport, near the airport. Dale, who is a member of the Airport Commission, said he'd look into this.

Robert mentioned he received a request to host a star party for junior high students on April 23 and asked anyone who was interested in helping to let him know.

The club then watched a video presentation of Dana's Hubble images as well as club member astrophotographs.

*Editors note: The following is repeated from last month's Meridian:* Steve mentioned he received a spreadsheet of club equipment that Jim had previously developed. Some of the equipment is missing and may have been in Mike Valdez's possession before he passed away, making them unrecoverable. One of the items that should be located is paperwork associated with the club's Articles of Incorporation. If any member has these, they should contact Steve or a board member.

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## Opening Day

### Karl Adlon

"You can observe a lot by watching."—Yogi Berra

Is Yogi an astronomer who is giving us some observing advice?

"It's deja vu all over again"

It's Spring and a good time to start observing again, even if you haven't stopped.

"I usually take a two hour nap from one to four"

Good advice after a night of observing - especially if you get a 3 hour nap in 2 hours.

"The future ain't what it used to be"

I'd love to have the dark skies of my childhood - with tomorrow's telescopes, cameras and computers.

"If the people don't want to come out to the ballpark, nobody's going to stop them"

Ditto the observatory.

"Never answer an anonymous letter"

Yogi must have had a premonition about email in the future – for which this is excellent advice.

"When you come to a fork in the road....Take it"

Yogi has trouble finding the observatory, too.

"It gets late early out here"

Ever been out observing, check your watch and wonder where the time went?

Harry Carry used to say "You can't beat fun at the old ballpark." What do you think?

You know I'm going to tell you what I think. I like baseball and going to games, especially during a full moon or cloudy night. But I like better a lukewarm day on an ocean beach and a lukewarm night under a clear dark sky (while listening to a baseball game on the radio).

"It ain't over 'til it's over"

And now this is.

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## Upcoming Celestial and Club Events

Apr. 1 – 15	Mercury, Venus and zodiacal light visible in the west
Apr. 3	Antares visible below the Moon approx. one hour before sunrise
Apr. 10	Menke star party for SAU astronomy and physics students
Apr. 11-12	Waning Moon above and then left of Jupiter
Apr. 13-20	Mars and the Beehive Cluster fit together in a binocular's FOV
Apr. 15	With binoculars, Venus, Mercury and Moon visible
Apr. 16	Moon is above Venus and the Pleiades are visible above the Moon
Apr. 21	Mars appears above the Moon
Apr. 23-25	Venus and the Pleiades fit within a binocular's FOV
Apr. 24-25	Moon is lower right and then lower left of Saturn

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	<a href="mailto:dana@nelsontaylor.com">dana@nelsontaylor.com</a>	Facilities	Jim Rutenbeck	<a href="mailto:jrutenbeck@frontier.com">jrutenbeck@frontier.com</a>
Vice-president	Chris Hebel	<a href="mailto:Chrishebel57@yahoo.com">Chrishebel57@yahoo.com</a>	Web Master	Dana Taylor	<a href="mailto:dana@nelsontaylor.com">dana@nelsontaylor.com</a>
Secretary	Joe Bannon	<a href="mailto:mzbannon@aol.com">mzbannon@aol.com</a>	Outreach	Joe Bannon	<a href="mailto:mzbannon@aol.com">mzbannon@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	Craig Cox	<a href="mailto:Admiralcox2000@yahoo.com">Admiralcox2000@yahoo.com</a>	Programming	Jim Rutenbeck	<a href="mailto:jrutenbeck@frontier.com">jrutenbeck@frontier.com</a>
Director	Karl Adlon	<a href="mailto:Kmja79@yahoo.com">Kmja79@yahoo.com</a>			

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 Joe Bannon at [jbannon@midamerican.com](mailto:jbannon@midamerican.com) and [mzbannon@aol.com](mailto:mzbannon@aol.com).

## FOR SALE

Cecil is selling this Pristine TeleVue 101 refractor for a friend. This scope was used only occasionally and has been meticulously taken care of. Included: TeleVue OTA with TeleVue Qwik Point, TeleVue Telepod, TeleVue padded hard case, TeleVue 20mm Plossl, Orion 9mm orthoscopic, Orion Skyglow and 80A filters, Meade #140 2X Telenegative Amplifier, 2' diagonal, and padded eyepiece case. The tripod does show some minor marks, the 20mm Plossl has very minor use marks, and the Meade 140 is missing the set screw. New this would sell retail for over \$4,000; selling price is \$3,000. Shipping to CONUS paid by buyer. Money order or certified check.

