



The Meridian

The newsletter of the
Quad Cities Astronomical Society

June 2011

<http://www.qcas.org>

Jens-Wendt Observatory – Quad Cities Astronomical Society – Located at Sherman Park in Dixon, Iowa

Monsignor Menke Observatory – St. Ambrose University – Located at Wapsipinicon River Environmental Education Center in Dixon, Iowa

Secretary's Notes - D. Hendricks

Attendees:

Cecil Ward Karl Adlon Steve VanHyfte Joe Bannon Gary Charnoski Dale Hendricks

Treasurer's Notes - D. Hendricks for Craig Cox


\$2055.24

We had a very low turnout for the meeting and when Karl and I arrived about 6:50 we were let into the building by one of the people who lives above the meeting hall. After a very short period of time we were confronted by a "security" person who informed us that we were not to be in the building and to leave immediately. When we asked for a reason, he told us that the building was closed for June and July and that we were not to be in the building. We told him that we had met in June for the last three years and did not meet in July and August. He then told us "I don't want to hear it. Get out of the building now". After a fairly brief, abrupt exchange, we turned off the computer and projector that had been set up for a presentation by Karl Adlon.* Our meeting was "adjourned" at approximately 7:45.

The next day, Karl and I both contacted the Deere Wiman office - I provided a brief overview of the events of the evening and provided information that we had met at the Carriage house on in June since at least 2008. I received no response to my inquiry about the reason for the "ejection" and Karl received a confusing note that provided no real information as to why we were treated as we were. Obviously, it had little to do with security issues.

I have since been in contact with the Bettendorf Museum for a meeting room on the 3rd Monday of each month starting at around 7:00 and leaving, after cleaning up our room before 9:00. The cost for each meeting would be \$5.00 per meeting and we would incur no charges for audio-visual equipment as we would have what we needed to conduct our meetings. No commitments have been made but at this time it seems rather certain that we will be meeting at the library starting in September. More information will be made available after my meeting with the scheduling office. We are an Iowa club and changing our meeting site may be a welcome and needed change.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

M	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
J U N E	26 1730-Charles Messier born	27	28	29 1868-George Ellery Hale born	30 1908- Tunguska impact	1 NEW MOON	2
J U L Y	3		5	6 1687-Newton publishes <i>Principia</i>	7	8 First-Quarter Moon	9 Menke Star Party
7/1 – 7/19 – Dusk – Good time to see Mercury							
J U L Y	10 1962 -Telstar 1 launched	11	12	13	14 Not much happened on this date	15 Full Moon	16
J U L Y	17 1850 -First stellar photograph	18 No QCAS Meeting!	19	20 1969 -First Moon walk 1999-"Liberty Bell 7" recovered	21 1961-Grossom's "Liberty Bell 7" sinks	22	23 Last-Quarter Moon
J U L Y	24	25	26 11 PM – M57 @ AZ 130°, ALT 79° from observatory	27 11 PM - rho OPH @ AZ 207°, ALT 21° from observatory	28 11 PM – M13 @ AZ 257°, ALT 70° from observatory	29 11 PM – Veil Neb. @ AZ 94°, ALT 57° from observatory	30 NEW MOON QCAS Star Party
A U G	31 Scott & Irwin drive first lunar vehicle on Apollo XV -1971	1	2	3	4	5 1930 – Neil Armstrong born	6 First-Quarter Moon
A U G	7	8	9	10	11 1877 – Asaph Hall discovers Mars' Deimos	12	13 Full Moon

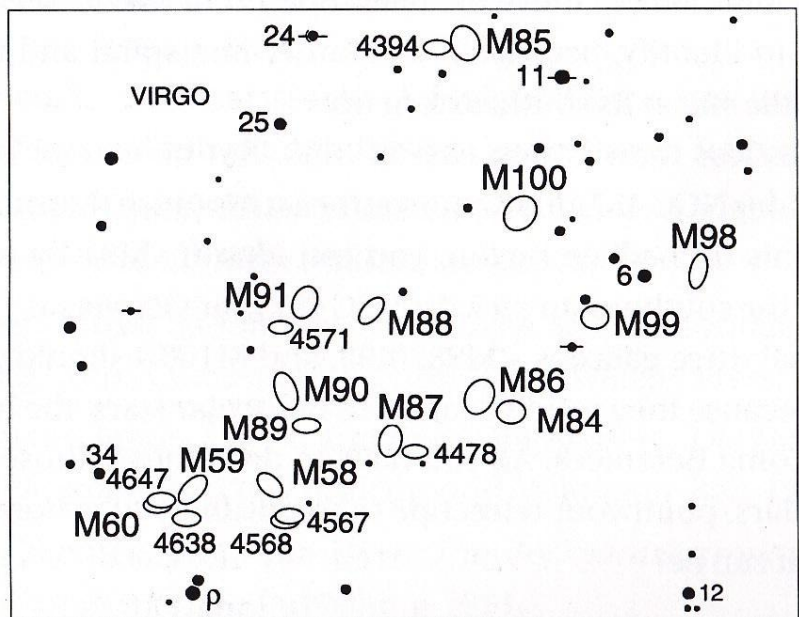
Calendar for May & June

(I chose to include this as it does cover June -)

Heart of the Virgo Cluster

From Stephen O'Meara's "The Messier Objects":

Probing the depths of the Coma-Virgo Cluster may seem like a daunting task. Just look at all of those tiny galaxy symbols jammed together near the center of the wide-field map at the back of this book. But don't let the clutter discourage you. The cluster is actually quite easy to navigate. The simplest approach is to start with M58, one of the brightest members of the Virgo Cluster.



First locate the 3rd-magnitude star Epsilon (ε) Virginis. Five degrees to its west is 5th-magnitude Rho (ρ) Virginis; Rho is easy to confirm in binoculars, because it is the brightest star in the middle of an arc of three stars oriented north-south. Two degrees west of Rho you will find the star 20 Virginis. M58 forms the northern apex of an equilateral triangle with Rho and 20 Virginis. M58 is easy to confirm because it is only 7' to the west of an 8th-magnitude star.

M58 is a member of what I call the "Great Wall of Galaxies - a strong line of six Messier galaxies, oriented slightly northwest to southeast, that spans 5° of sky. Pairs of galaxies punctuate either end of the Wall, making identification of these objects easy. Using M58 as your reference point, move about 1.5° to the east and slightly south, where you will find your first pairing, M59 and M60, separated by only 30'. M60, which is the brightest galaxy in this string, has a very faint companion, NGC 4647, to the north.

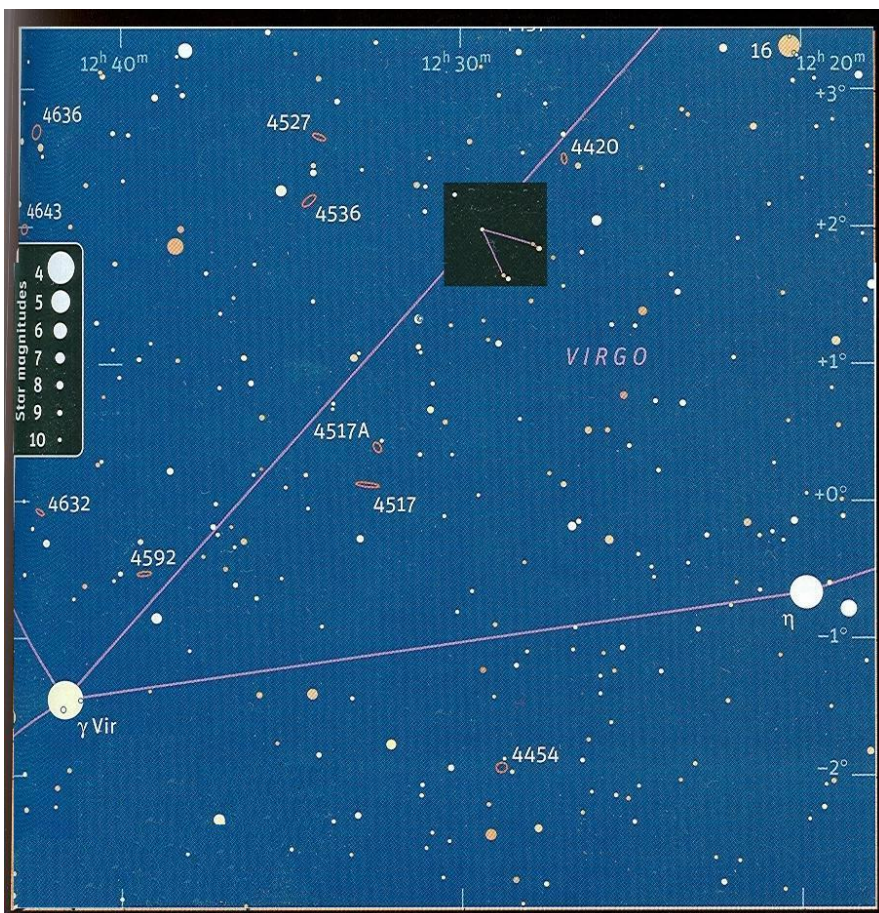
Now return to M58 and continue that line an equal distance to the north-west; there you will come upon the bright, round galaxy M87. One degree farther is the other galaxy pairing, M84 and M86.

The Great Wall also forms the baseline of a coat hanger asterism of galaxies, which includes M88, M89, M90, and M91. On the chart, notice that M90 forms the northern apex of an equilateral triangle with our reference galaxy, M58, and M87. Furthermore, M89 is near the center of that triangle. However, because M90 is the more obvious of the two, try for it first. Not only is it bright, but it is an oblique spiral galaxy and clearly looks different from the other, more elliptical, hazes.

To find M88, simply move the telescope 1.5° to the northeast of M90. M88 is easy to identify, because it is another fine spiral and there is an obvious double star at its southeastern tip.

M91 lies less than 1° due east of M88. But be careful here not to mistake M91 for NGC 4571 just to its southeast. Because there are no other galaxies in this immediate region, you can identify M91 by moving the telescope to the southeast to pickup NGC 4571 (or vice versa).

The final three galaxies – M98, M99, and M100 - should present no problems, because they reside near three binocular stars, the brightest of which is 6 Coma Berenices. All you have to do is locate those stars with your binoculars, point your telescope to them, and you're home free. See how simple it can be?



QCAS Contacts

Elected Officers			Volunteers and Committees		
President	Dana Taylor	dana@nelsontaylor.com	Facilities	Jim Rutenbeck	jrutenbeck@frontier.com
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Director	Karl Adlon	Kmja79@yahoo.com			

All other contacts can be sent to the club at P.O. Box 3706, Davenport, IA, 52808.

Members – be reminded that you can submit articles for *The Meridian* to Dale Hendricks at: dhusna68@mchsi.com. If Dale is not available, as backup, you may submit information to Joe Bannon at: mzbannon@aol.com or jbannon@midamerican.com

* Here is Karl's unrepresented presentation -



Karl's pictures.pps