



# The Meridian

Newsletter of the Quad Cities Astronomical Society • April 2015

## Upcoming QCAS Meetings

All meetings start at 6:30pm.

**May 4th**, Astronomy dialogs/meeting.

**May 18th**, monthly business meeting.

## Upcoming Open Houses

**April 25th** all at Wayne Jens Observatory

**May 30th** in Sherman Park.

**June 26th**

**July 25th**

**August 29th**

**September 26th**

## Meeting Notes

### Business Meeting, April 20th.

Notes by John Robbins.

Attending were: Bruce Brooker, John Baker, Craig Cox, Jeff Struve, Sam Snow, Jakob Wethington (guest of Sam's) Dr. Robert Mitchell, Ava & Shawna Duncan (guests), Becky Brooker, Dana Taylor, Karl Adlon and John Robbins.

Meeting was called to order at 6:36pm by Bruce Brooker. No treasurer's report was offered.

*Open House on the 25th of April.* A BHS program has been designed and coordinated by Peter Bruecken, Karl Adlon and Dale Hendricks with the intent of connecting BHS to QCAS open house activities. Doors open at BHS at 6:30pm, Show begins at 7:00pm with Karl making a presentation, followed by a BHS planetarium show. At this point people will be free to make the trek to the Wayne Jens Observatory at Sherman Park, or to stay and look through Karl's and John Robbins' telescopes, at BHS.

Dana Taylor, Bruce Brooker and John Baker have committed to be at Sherman Park for the observatory open house. Plans at Sherman include a tour of the observatory buildings, an outdoor presentation

(indoor if weather is inclement), with viewing (again, if weather permits). Bruce promised to clean-up the observatory and vacuum up lady bugs and anything else that doesn't belong on the floor.

*20" Telescope Cooling Fans.* Dana proposed to purchase three 200mm, 900rpm cooling fans to fit behind the 20" mirror. Fans would, essentially, exhaust air from the tube, rather than blow into the system. Each fan weighs about 2 ounces and costs \$12-15, each.

*Roll-Off Roof Vent Fan Update & 20" Mirror.* Everything is in our possession, just need time to install. Dana's plan was to remove the 20" mirror (for refiguring and coating) on the 26th and install roof vent fan afterwards. Secondary mirrors are to be tested and defects are to be remedied. Based on a thermal current study of the 20" mirror, made by Bruce and Dana, a main conclusion is that the vent fan will help a great deal.

*Projection Screen.* Mounts for a large projector screen have been added for outdoor and indoor presentations. Chair count is on the order of 15. It is estimated that 19-20 people could be seated inside the roll-off roof building.

*Report on March 19th event at the Bettendorf Family Museum.* Dana set-up a C8 telescope that permitted attendees to look at various terrestrial objects. Event was attended by a "couple dozen" people.

*Tracking Attendance.* An issue was raised about doing a better job of tracking the numbers of people who attend our events. This is an important number, especially when seeking grant funding. Discussion involved suggestions of ways to gather attendance information which could be placed in a central location.

*Menke Notes.* Secondary mirror on the 14" scope to be fixed on April 22nd. Drive motor issues to be addressed, too. Bruce Brooker offered to help.

*Mallincam Experiences.* Jeff Struve shared a story about

having some trouble with his Mallincam camera that he recently acquired. He called Rocky Mallincam to speak directly about the issues and Rocky said to send the camera to him so he could examine and fix whatever was wrong with it for free. Jeff informed Rocky that he was a second owner, but Rocky sands behind his products. Jeff says that he's climbing the learning curve as best he can.

Eastern Iowa Star Party. Dates for this year's star party were split between September 12th or October 10th. A suggestion was made to check the Wapsi schedule. Most thought that the October 10th date might be better,

Meeting adjourned at 7:56, moved by John Robbins and seconded by Dana Taylor.

**Departing Note from QCAS Secretary, John Robbins**

I have very much enjoyed being part of QCAS and serving as it's secretary for nearly the last three years. I think I had attended about three QCAS meetings before I stepped forward to serve as club secretary. I am grateful for the opportunity to bring my excitement of the hobby, along with all of you, to people young and old, who enjoy looking up at celestial beauty and pondering grand meanings. With planned improvements to our facilities, continued outreach and communication, I am confident that QCAS will continue to grow and thrive.

My wife, Brenda, and I will make a new start in North Aurora, Illinois, where I hope to connect to the Fox Valley Astronomical Society. When I was a teenager, living in DeKalb, IL, I made a connection with the group in 1970. Lacking a driver's license I never made it to a meeting, but hope to this summer.

Again, it has very much been a blessing to have been part of the group. Clear skies and keep looking up! JR



**QCAS Officers and Contacts:**

President: Dale Hendricks	Vice-Pres: Bruce Brooker
Secretary: open	Treasurer: John Baker
Director: Dana Taylor	Facilities: John Baker
Web Master: Dana Taylor	Outreach: Tom Bullock
Programming: Jim Rutenbeck	

**Celestial Calendar**

- Apr 25 18:55 FIRST QUARTER MOON
- 26 13:06 Jupiter 5.5°N of Moon
- 27 22:38 Regulus 4.0°N of Moon
- 28 22:55 Moon at Apogee: 405085 km
- 30 20:29 Mercury 1.6°S of Pleiades
- May 01 04:50 Moon at Ascending Node
- 02 06:10 Spica 3.5°S of Moon
- 03 22:42 FULL MOON
- 05 08 Eta-Aquarid Meteor Shower
- 05 11:19 Saturn 2.0°S of Moon
- 07 00 Mercury at Greatest Elong: 21.2°E
- 11 05:36 LAST QUARTER MOON
- 14 15:37 Moon at Descending Node
- 14 19:23 Moon at Perigee: 366024 km
- 17 23:13 NEW MOON
- 19 01:51 Mercury 5.7°N of Moon
- 22 20 Saturn at Opposition
- 24 02:03 Jupiter 5.1°N of Moon
- 25 06:14 Regulus 3.8°N of Moon
- 25 12:19 FIRST QUARTER MOON
- 26 17:12 Moon at Apogee: 404246 km
- 28 09:40 Moon at Ascending Node

from [www.astropixels.com](http://www.astropixels.com)



Hubble View of the Horsehead

**QCAS Meetings:** First Monday (workshop) at 6:30pm, and third Monday, (business), at 6:30pm, Bettendorf Library, 2950 Learning Campus Dr., off of 18th Street, Bettendorf.

**QCAS Correspondence:**

Please contact the society at:  
P.O. Box 3706, Davenport, IA, 52808.  
Members are welcome and encouraged to submit articles for The Meridian. Submit Any and all interesting items (via e-mail) to: Dale Hendricks.