

Saskatoon Skies

The Newsletter of the Saskatoon Centre
of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Volume 32 **October 2001** Number 10



This historical woodcut depicts the Leonid meteor storm of November 12, 1799.

Will this year's Leonids storm like this in Canada?

Find out November 17/18.

And see page 11 for details!

But first, the Orionids fire nice meteors on October 20/21. BBQ at the Sleaford Observatory with the Regina crew that evening.

RASC Calendar Happenings

Date (2001)	Event	Contact	Telephone
Oct. 11 - 20	Possible to see Naked Eye Geosynchronous Satellites in dark skies	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Oct. 12	Youth Group Meeting – Nutana Collegiate	Tyrone Klassen	652-4599
Oct. 15	General Meeting & Annual Elections	Darrell Chatfield	374-9278
Oct. 17	Saskatoon School Board Teacher's Tour at Sleaford (date changed)	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Oct. 20	Meet the Regina Centre BBQ & Orionid Night at Sleaford	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Oct. 24	Teacher's Tour Back-up night (Sleaford)	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Nov. 10	Sleaford Community Starnight	Darrell Chatfield	374-9278
Nov. 17/18	Leonid Meteor Peak	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Nov. 19	General Meeting , rm 8313, City Hospital	Les Dickson	249-1091
Apr. 2002	Edmonton Centre Georges Moores Workshop	Rick Huziak	665-3392

Sky Buys and Mirror Sells The Saskatoon Centre's Swap and Sale Page!

For Sale: Brass lined trunk for SC-8 or SC-10, 9 mm Kellner eyepiece, 0.965 "6x30" eyepiece with crosshair for a spotter, and some very good astronomy books: *The Pocket Guide to Astronomy* by I. Ridpath, *Astronomy* by Menzel, *Introduction to Practical Astronomy* by Jones, *Burnham's Celestial Handbook* (3 vol. set, hardcover). All books are in excellent shape. Call Darrell Chatfield for prices at 374-9278.

Wanted: I'm looking for a 6mm eyepiece – most any type will do. Call Gord Sarty at 966-2321 (work).

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Saskatoon Centre

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IN THIS ISSUE

	<i>page</i>
Calendar of Events & Sky Buys and Mirror Sells	2
September's Membership & Renewal Vote Results – Important!	4
October's General Meeting and Elections	5
The November 10 th Sleaford Open House and Starnight	7
Minutes of the September 11th Executive Meeting – by Al Hartridge, Secretary	8
Minutes of the September 17 th General Meeting – by Al Hartridge, Secretary	8
The Planets this Month – October 2001 – by Murray Paulson, Edmonton Centre	9
This is Geosynchronous Satellite Flare Month – by Rick Huziak	10
Leonid Meteors Likely to Storm This November – by Roger Sinnott, Sky & Telescope	11
You know you are deep sky person when.... – contributed by Ron Waldron	12
Saskatoon: Meet Regina on October 20th	13
Messier, FNGC, H-400 & Binoc Club – by Rick Huziak	14
The Sleaford Observatory Page – by Rick Huziak	16

Saskatoon Skies is published monthly by the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC. Distribution is approximately 165 copies per issue. *Saskatoon Skies* welcomes unsolicited articles, sketches, photographs, cartoons, and other astronomy or space science articles. Articles can be sent by mail in any format to the Centre's mailbox. Submissions may also be sent by e-mail - preferred as **plain unformatted ASCII text files without line breaks**. Images sent by e-mail should be attached .GIFs, .TIFs .JPGs or similar. Send e-mail submissions to the editor at <huziak@SEDSsystems.ca>. Submitted materials can be returned upon request. Please send articles in "generic" formats, with standard grammatical formatting appreciated - 5 spaces at the beginning of paragraphs, two spaces after periods, one space after commas. A separate subscription to *Saskatoon Skies* is available for \$15.00 per year. Articles may be reprinted from *Saskatoon Skies* without expressed permission (unless otherwise stated), but source credit is requested. **DEADLINE for submissions is the 26th of each month.** *Saskatoon Skies* accepts commercial advertising. Please call the editor for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items free of charge.

This is supposed to be the header for page 4 but the really stupid Microsoft Word 2000 software deleted it and I can't get it back
– see page 6 for my salvation!

September's Membership & Renewal Vote Results – Important!

At the September General Meeting, the membership voted to approve that the Saskatoon Centre remain “opted-in” to the National membership system, and as a result, the “official” membership list is now managed by Bonnie at the National Office. Each month that list is sent to Saskatoon's membership Coordinator, Bob Christie, who assures the accuracy of the list. The revolving membership year also remains intact. This means that members will be sent two notices from the National Office that their membership is expiring, and if payment is not received before the next mailing, then that member is dropped from the active list.

To renew membership in the Saskatoon Centre, follow the instructions on the renewal card and send payment to the National Centre, which now supports credit card payments if you prefer. If you do not want to send the renewal directly to National, then send your renewal card and payment to Bob Christie, who will handle sending your renewal in. (This is a change, since renewals used to be handled by the Treasurers, Jim and Barb). You can also bring your card and payment to the next General Meeting and handle renewal there. Please make cheques payable to “RASC” (only) *and not* “RASC Saskatoon”, since the cheques will normally be forwarded to directly to the National Office for processing. Any membership cheques forwarded to the Centre mailbox will be directed to Bob.

This should be fairly straight forward, but if you are not sure what to do, you can call Bob Christie at 931-2115 or email him at nebulachristie@home.com

This is all new, so we expect there may be a few hiccups, but Bob and Bonnie have been in contact several times and seem to have things in hand. Please also remember (as voted at the September meeting as well), that regular membership is now \$52.00. We found it necessary to pass-on the \$4.00 increase that the National Council had voted to accept at the General Assembly. Youth membership is unaffected and remains at \$26.00.

Youth Group First Meeting of New Season

The first meeting of the new year for the Youth Astronomy Group will be held at Nutana Collegiate at 7:30 p.m. on October 12th. Tyrone Klassen will be taking the group over from Andrew Krochko. To participate, you will have to be a paid Youth member of the RASC.

For registration, call Tyrone at 652-4599. Note: Please call Tyrone to confirm details before attending.

General Meeting and Elections for Open Positions on the Executive

The Annual General Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre, and Elections of the Executive, is to be held October 15, at 7:30 pm, in room 8313 at Saskatoon City Hospital. Please try to attend this meeting and cast your vote for the new Executive. All positions, including the President and Vice-President whose terms come up this year, are open. An Executive position is open to any member in good standing. Positions are chosen by democratic vote by the membership in attendance at the General Meeting. Anyone can nominate anyone else for a position. Voting is done by a show of hands. In the event that you cannot attend the meeting in person, nomination by proxy will be gladly accepted. Contact a current member of the Executive. The following Executive positions are available and those who have been nominated to date are listed:

Position	Current (2000 – 2001)	Nominated (2001 – 2002)
President	Les Dickson	Les Dickson
Vice-President	Darrell Chatfield	Darrell Chatfield
Honorary President	vacant	Vacant (appointed)
Past President	Rick Huziak	Rick Huziak (appointed)
Secretary	Al Hartridge	Al Hartridge
Treasurer	Jim and Barb Young	Barb Young
Centre Rep	Sandy Ferguson	Sandy Ferguson
Newsletter Editor	Rick Huziak	Rick Huziak
Librarians	Sandy Ferguson & Ellen Dickson	Sandy Ferguson & Ellen Dickson
Councilors	Merlyn Melby, Scott Alexander, Ken Noesgaard	open
Youth Coordinator	Andrew Krochko	Tyrone Klassen
Observing Coordinator	Rick Huziak & Darrell Chatfield	open
Activities Coordinator	Mike Stephens	open
Membership Coordinator	Bob Christie	Bob Christie
Fundraising Coordinator	Richard Huziak	open
Sleaford Site Coordinator	Darrell Chatfield	Bill Hydomako (note this position now combined with Building Coordinator)
Publications/Sales Co-ordinator	Debbie Anderson	open
General Meeting Coordinator	new position	Rick Huziak & Dale Jeffrey

Note that the two positions for the Sleaford site have now been combined into one position, the SSSP Chair is deleted from the Executive as an official position (though all committees report to the Executive) and new position of General Meeting Coordinator has been added to off-load the President for getting the meeting and speakers together. Positions may be added or deleted as required by the Executive. Please attend this meeting and exercise your right to vote!

The Newsletter's New Clothes

By Rick Huziak, Editor

It looks like this is the end of a publishing era! Within the next few months *Saskatoon Skies* will undergo a transformation. Les Dickson has donated a Pentium-class computer to the Centre and the Centre has bought a full copy of Adobe Acrobat, so we will soon be publishing a newsletter in .pdf format. This wysiwyg file format will allow us to do a far better job without the limitations of Microsoft Word formatting and html outputs that are beyond hard to manage. Once we are up and running, the page size will become 8-1/2" x 11" again and *Saskatoon Skies* will be probably 10 or 12 pages thick.

We will also give you the chance to subscribe to the newsletter electronically. You will be able to download and print your full-colour copy of the Newsletter if you prefer. Those without internet access and those who still want a printed (B&W) copy mailed to them will still be in luck. We will continue to mail out the newsletter, but we will also see the benefit of not having to mail out so many, thus saving substantial monthly cost in copying and postage.

Stay tuned!

Jergen Wolfe's Talk Postponed

The presentation by Jergen Wolfe of the European Space Agency, Chief Scientist on the Sofia Flying Observatory project has been postponed due to concerns over air travel. Jergen's visit to Saskatoon will be rescheduled for the spring of 2002.

Welcome Newest Really Old Members!

Some real old-timers have just rejoined our club. Don Friesen and Ron Waldron have rejoined, after a combined absence of somewhere around 25 years! Welcome back, folks! Don was our President 6 terms ago. Ron Waldron has been very active in the Saskatoon School Board Space Program – Mars Camp and many other educational ventures! Welcome back guys, even though your old eyes may no longer be able to see the sky! Now if we can just convince Joan Badger and Les Herrem to rejoin, the old group would be back together! (Joan is still living on Wiggins!).

Comet Petriew P/2001 Q2 Ephemeris

Date	RA	Decl.	Mag.
2001 11 12	10 12.36	-04 39.5	12.9
2001 11 17	10 19.39	-06 00.1	13.0
2001 11 22	10 25.56	-07 15.7	13.2
2001 11 27	10 30.86	-08 26.3	13.3
2001 12 02	10 35.28	-09 31.6	13.4
2001 12 07	10 38.79	-10 31.5	13.6

Articles Wanted

The Editor's in-bunk is really lame. It's time to write about your favourite things and let everyone else know what you are doing!

The November 10th Sleaford Community Starnight
You are invited to an

OPEN HOUSE
at
Sleaford Observatory

Located at the site of the former Sleaford School

SATURDAY

NOV. 10, 2001

8 PM to 10 PM

Come meet us regardless of weather

- Tour the new University of Saskatchewan observatory
- Look at the RASC's observing facilities
- Try a bit of stargazing through our telescopes, if clear

Sponsored by:

University of Saskatchewan
Department of Physics & Engineering Physics
Contact: Stan Shadick
966-6434

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Saskatoon Centre
Contact: Rick Huziak
665-3392

Minutes of the Executive Meeting – Sept. 11, 2001
Held at Sandy Ferguson's

Recorded by al Hartridge, Secretary

1. Membership: Les Dickson read a letter from Peter Jedicke from the National office. Les feels that the membership will need time to think about the questions of opting in and the revolving membership before deciding which way to vote. At the November meeting he will present the pros and cons and hold a vote. We must be sure that the problems arising are not at our end. It is suggested that the membership coordinator keep the list up to date and that the treasurer handle the money flow. Rick will also talk to people at the Alberta star party and will present arguments at the Sept. meeting.
2. President: Les does not want to run for President again unless he can get someone else to organize the speaker program. He has too much demand on his time at present.
3. Sleaford Open House: Stan Shadick would like to establish a date for this. Possible dates suggested are Oct.27, Nov.3 and Nov.10.
4. Talks:
 - o Wolfe will speak now after our meeting in October. This will be arranged by Yannis of the Physics department at the U. of S.
 - o The National present of the RASC wants to do a circle in the fall, which would include a visit to Saskatoon.
5. Membership Fees: with our surcharge the fees will go up to \$52.00 with the National increase.
6. Meeting adjourned at 9:53pm.

Minutes of the General Meeting – Sept. 17, 2001**Held in Room 8313, City Hospital****Recorded by al Hartridge, Secretary**

1. Presentations: The GA, Jim Young. Comet Petriew, SSSP 2001, Tripod Photography, Rick Huziak.
2. Approval of minutes of June 18,2001. Moved for approval by Scott Alexander and seconded by Darrell Chatfield and carried.
3. Membership: Les explained the situation to the membership. Also discussion was heard from Jim, Bob and Rick. Letter was read to the members from Peter Jedicke. Following the discussion Les made a motion that we remain opted in for another year and review the situation again next year. This motion was seconded by Darrell Chatfield and was carried. The new membership fee will be \$52.00, which includes an \$8.00 surcharge. A motion was made by Bob Christie and seconded by Jim Young and carried that we send a letter to National regarding the increase in the fee rate (which we feel is to subsidize Sky News).
4. Notice of Election and opening of Nominations for the Executive to be held at the Annual General Meeting, October 15, 2001. Every position is open.
5. Acrobat 4.0: A motion was made by Les Dickson and seconded by Jim Young and carried that we purchase a copy of Acrobat 4.0 for \$90.00 from WBM Office Systems to aid in electronic publication of our newsletter.
6. Sleaford Open House: will be held on November 10th. Volunteers are needed to come out and help. We will also try and have a barbeque for those wishing to participate before the open house starts.
7. Star Party at Beaver Creek : for a community association. Sandy needs people to come out with telescopes to help.
8. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

The Planets This Month - October 2001

by Murray D. Paulson, Edmonton Centre

Well, we didn't need the gumboots for the **Alberta Star Party**; in fact it was beautiful weather. The skies were rewarding as well. Mars was close to the horizon, despite this, we did get to see some details on it. On the Saturday afternoon, we got a good look at Mercury, which showed some vague details as well. It is amazing to see details on a 5.6" "quarter" phase planet! Rick Huziak made a nice drawing of it. The sun has been a riot of sunspots. All in all, this has been a good month for solar system watching.

On October 13th we saw **Mercury** pass between the Earth and the sun, inferior conjunction, and now it speeds away from the Earth and around the sun. Later in the month, the morning sky will be a spectacle with **Venus and Mercury in conjunction**, where the pair will be closer together than 1 degree for a 12 day period, starting on October 27th. Their closest approach will occur on the morning of October 29th where the pair will sit 35 arc minutes apart. Mercury is moving away from the sun and rises to meet Venus. From there they will move apart, until Mercury reaches greatest western elongation on November 1st. Then Mercury starts to fall on the ecliptic toward the sun, the distance between them will shrink again until they are 38 arc minutes apart on November 3rd. The pair should be quite delightful in the eyepiece of a telescope, Mercury a waxing crescent to gibbous phase during this dance, and **Venus** a brilliant white gibbous globe. It is interesting to note that both planets are on the far side of the sun. Mercury's disk shrinks from October 27th at 7.3" and magnitude -.3 to 5.6" and magnitude -.8 on November 7th. Venus is more constant, sitting at Magnitude -3.9 showing a 10.6" gibbous disk for the period. The pair will make their way down to their separate conjunctions later in the year.

Mars starts out the month in eastern Sagittarius at magnitude -0.3 showing a 10" disk and moves into the midst of Capricorn by the middle of next month. It will shrink to 8.5" and will shine at magnitude 0.2 by then. On it's way there, it will receive a visit from the moon on the evening of October 23 when it will lie just under 3 degrees west of the moon. On the evening of November 5th, you can see **the conjunction of Mars and Neptune**. Neptune will show a 2.2" disk at magnitude 7.9, only 2.1 degrees from Mars.

By early October **Saturn** rises nestled in the horns of the bull at 9 pm followed by **Jupiter** at 11 pm sitting in the foot of Gemini. There are a couple of conjunctions over this next month to mark on your calendar. On October 9, the moon passes 2 degrees away from Jupiter, and one lunar month later, on November 5th, you can watch a retake when it passes 45 arc minutes above Jupiter at 11 pm. Some of the stats for Jupiter this month are that it will shine at magnitude -2.3 in October and shows a 39.5" disk in the eyepiece. By early November, it will swell to 43.33" and will shine at magnitude -2.5. The interplay of Jupiter's moons and shadows, transits is again upon us. Check your *Handbook* for shadow transit times and Jovian moon events.

Over the same time period, Saturn will start out at magnitude -.2 and shows a 19.5" disk and it will expand to 20.3" and brighten to magnitude -.3 in early November. Saturn rises with a waning gibbous moon 1 and 3/4 degrees behind it on November 3rd at 7:30 pm. Saturn's moons are interesting to watch as well. It is useful to print out a finder chart from Dan Bruton's software (available on RASC Edmonton's website) or use one of the planetarium programs that simulates the eyepiece view to see how many of Saturn's moons you can find. Larry Wood has used an occulting bar to good effect for the innermost moons. Try this on an eyepiece that you can access the focal plane. Simply place a narrow

piece of foil tape at the focal plane in the eyepiece and adjust it to obscure the planet but leave the area where the moon should be unobstructed. The reduction in glare makes the task of finding the diminutive point of light significantly easier.

Saturn is a planet that always seems to take high power very well. I constantly use powers from 250 to 500 X on it. If the seeing is willing, the vision is good. Jupiter on the other hand seems to wash out with too much power. I am lucky to be able to use 250 X on it and only occasionally 330X. When you have the chance to examine it at these high powers, examine it's moons and see if you can distinguish them by their size and colors. At 300 plus power, they all are obvious as disks. Ganymede is the largest followed by a bluish gray Callisto. Europa is slightly bigger than Io, and slightly whiter. I like to look at them and guess which is which, then refer to my *Handbook* or software to determine how many I got right!

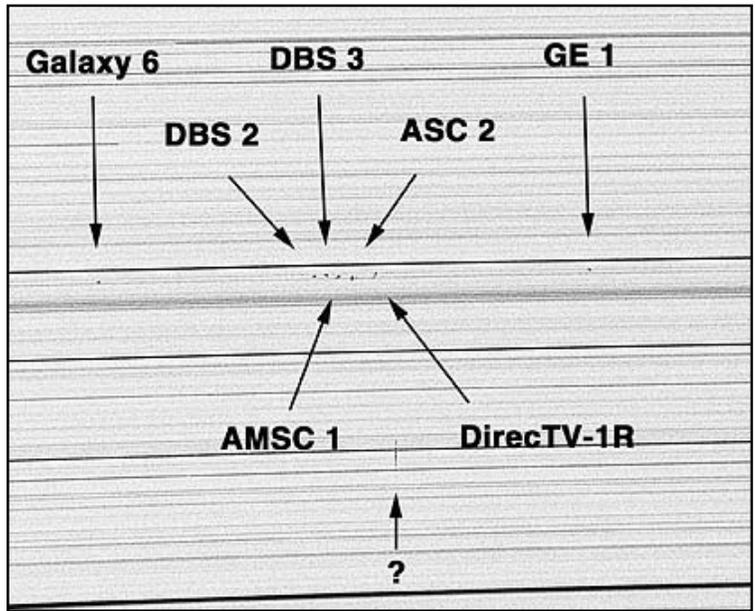
This is Geosynchronous Satellite Flare Month

By RickHuziak

October (and presumably April) are months in which Geos to flare for us Canadians, probably due to the solar depression angle during these months creating a perfect reflection off of the solar panels - the sun is at that perfect anti-spot in the sky for enough time that we'll notice these geo flares. This next new moon period (later this week and for the next 2 weeks) will allow us to see naked eye satellites in a dark sky, or binocular ones at least).

Last year at this time, I saw the entire group of 5 Direct Broadcast satellites, all within about 1 degree of arc, in binoculars. I was alerted to them by 'discovering' a new 'nova' in Cetus at about 3.5 mag. (You can find these satellites in Saskatoon's sky at about 7 degrees east of the meridian and 7 degrees 40 minutes south of the celestial equator). After a quick restart of my heart, I plotted the 'nova' on my star atlas only to find that it was exactly at minus 7 deg 40 min - our (Saskatoon's) depression angle for Geos!

You can watch satellites in a row take turns flaring as the earth turns, or the sun moves, or however you want to picture this! It also makes the satellites much easier to photograph! (Flares last a fairly long time - maybe 1/2 an hour or so - unlike Iridiums). You also do not have to track these satellites to photograph them since the entire earth forms a very precise equatorial platform already!



LEONID METEORS LIKELY TO STORM THIS NOVEMBER

By Roger W. Sinnott, Senior Editor, Sky & Telescope, rsinnott@skypub.com

If predictions by the world's top meteor experts hold up, early on the morning of November 18th skywatchers in North America can expect to see their most dramatic meteor shower in 35 years. These meteors, called Leonids because they appear to radiate from the constellation Leo (the Lion), will signal the collision of Earth with streams of fast-moving dust particles shed by Comet Tempel-Tuttle. In the November 2001 *SKY & TELESCOPE* -- the magazine's 60th-anniversary issue -- meteorologist Joe Rao assesses the predictions provided by three teams of specialists. Rao concludes that two dramatic displays called "meteor storms" appear likely.

A burst lasting perhaps two hours is expected in the predawn hours of November 18th for observers throughout most of North and Central America. The maximum rates should occur at 5:00 a.m. EST (corresponding to 4:00 a.m. CST, 3:00 a.m. MST, 2:00 a.m. PST). With no moonlight spoiling the view, the storm may briefly generate anywhere from several hundred to 1,000 or 2,000 meteors per hour for observers with clear, dark skies.

An even bigger storm arrives 8 hours later for viewers rimming the far-western Pacific Ocean. Because these locations are on the other side of the International Date Line, this peak occurs before dawn on November 19th. Several thousand meteors may streak across the sky for an hour or so starting at 3:30 or 4:30 a.m. in eastern Australia (depending on location); 2:30 a.m. in Japan; and 1:30 a.m. in western Australia, the Philippines, and eastern China.

Meteors create momentary "shooting stars" when flecks of interplanetary dust strike Earth's atmosphere at high speed. The Leonids, which are one of a dozen or so annual meteor showers caused by cometary dust, arrive at a blistering 44 miles (71 kilometers) per second -- the fastest known. Typically showers produce one meteor every few minutes, though often there are bursts and lulls. Two years ago the Leonids briefly peppered the skies over Europe and the Middle East with up to 2,500 meteors per hour. In 1966 lucky observers in the southwestern United States gaped in awe for 20 minutes as Leonid meteors fell at the rate of 40 per second!

More about the prospects for a Leonid storm appears in the November issue of *SKY & TELESCOPE*. This issue marks the diamond anniversary of the monthly magazine for amateur astronomers launched by Charles and Helen Federer in November 1941. The Federers took on the challenge of merging *THE SKY* (which had been published by New York's Hayden Planetarium) and *THE TELESCOPE* (then published by Harvard College Observatory). Today the magazine is enjoyed by some 250,000 skywatchers worldwide. *SKY & TELESCOPE* will issue another press release closer to the date of the Leonid meteor shower containing background information about meteors and how to observe them. More information is already available on the magazine's Web site at: <http://www.skypub.com/sights/meteors/meteors.html>

[Saskatoon Centre members are reminded that they are eligible to receive a discount when subscribing to Sky & Telescope magazine and will receive further discounts from the Sky Publishing Corporation (SkyPubs) if they mention they are Saskatoon Centre members in good standing when ordering merchandise -- Ed.]

you know you are a deep sky person when ...

submitted by Ron Waldron <rmwaldron@home.com>

1. ... you consider the moon a major annoyance.
2. ... you consider Jupiter 'light pollution'.
3. ... you spend most of your time looking at or for objects you can barely see.
4. ... your favorite objects are objects you can barely see.
5. ... you enjoy looking at faint fuzzies with the smallest possible aperture.
6. ... you enjoy looking at faint fuzzies with the largest possible aperture.
7. ... you like to choose objects that are easier to imagine than to see.
8. ... your observing schedule demands that you search for objects in twilight.
9. ... you keep thinking that if only the stars would go away, it might really get dark.
10. ... you wonder how your favorite objects missed getting included in the New General Catalog or the Index Catalog.
11. ... you're not sure that anything in this solar system counts as astronomy any more.
12. ... you're amazed that anyone needs artificial light to read charts.
13. ... you could do a Messier Marathon from memory, if you still bothered with Messier objects.
14. ... you can read all the NGC abbreviated visual descriptions without using the key, but you have to be careful not to cheat by just remembering what things look like.
15. ... you view a major earthquake as an opportunity for a close-in dark-sky star party.
16. ... you welcome (and have even considered instigating) power cuts, but only if they occur on clear moonless nights.
17. People at work comment about how tired you always look.
18. You know more about the human eye than your optometrist.
19. You got Lasik eye surgery just for the astigmatism correction.
20. Aurora Borealis and Australis is just light pollution.
21. People mistake your telescope for a water heater.
22. Your spouse complains about his/her love life.
23. You keep eyepiece catalogs in the bathroom.
24. You attempt to negotiate deals with your neighbors about their yard lights.
25. All of the kids in your neighborhood know who you are.
26. You believe that poundage is a good general measure of a telescope's usefulness.
27. Your retirement plans include moving to Wimea, Hawaii.
28. Your favorite eyepiece cost more than your refrigerator.
29. If you have ever contemplated a bank loan or second mortgage to buy a telescope.
30. Your telescope has a faster f-ratio than the average camera.
31. You have a highly-customized second "travel" telescope.
32. Your exotic vacations are scheduled around the new moons.
33. Whenever considering moving, getting a regional overcast index is on your checklist.
34. Anything costing less than \$5,000 isn't a telescope.



Saskatoon: Meet Regina – October 20th

By Rick Huziak

Since the SSSP, Vance Petriew and I have been talking about a joint meeting between the Regina and Saskatoon Centres. This is now in the works, and will take place on **Saturday, October 20th**. Vance tells me that 10 to 15 Regina RASC members are interested in visiting the Saskatoon Centre and our facilities. **The cost is \$3.00 per person**, which will go toward buying hamburgers, salads and drinks for the barbeque – just show up and eat! (I will collect out at Sleaford).

The tentative agenda is as follows:

2:30 pm	Special technology tour by Saskatoon Centre
4:00 pm	Head out to Sleaford Observatory
4:30 pm	Tour of the Sleaford Observatory while barbecues warm up
5:00 pm	Wiener/Burger roast put on by Saskatoon Centre
6:30 pm	Set up telescopes if clear.
7:30 pm	Dark

If clear skies - Presentation on **Recording Meteor Observations** by Rick Huziak, then observing the **Orionid Meteor Shower** (the peak is this weekend) or general observing.

If cloudy skies - Meet in schoolhouse for presentations by both Centres.

Technology Tour

The Saskatoon Centre will be organizing a tour of a technology organization within Saskatoon. The topic of the tour will be somehow related to astronomy, physics or electronics. The potential tour places may be the Canadian Light Source or SED Systems/Radarsat Tracking Station. These are still in the works and arrangements are to still to be made. I will give more details at the General Meeting of what we are doing and where we will meet. Other ideas are welcome. Call me before this tour if you aren't sure where to go.

Sleaford Observatory

The Saskatoon Centre has a wonderfully equipped dark site. There are numerous telescopes ranging in size from 6 inches to 14 inches. It is also equipped with a warm-up shelter, chemical toilet and an old school house.

Recording Meteor Observations

Rick Huziak has agreed to put on a tutorial on how to make meteor observations and submit them into the professional astronomer's community. Observing sheets and magnitude charts will be provided.

There are some logistical problems. We need a BBQ taken out to Sleaford, and we will also have to billet some the Regina people who will be staying overnight after late observing. Any volunteers for billets please contact me (Rick Huziak) as soon as possible if you will attend and can take anyone in for one night. I will also need a head count, so call at 665-3392 if you even think you are planning to attend, so that I will buy enough food.

Messier, FNGC, H-400 & Binoc Club

MESSIER CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects: R. Huziak, G. Sarty, S. Alexander, S. Ferguson, D. Jeffrey, D. Chatfield, R. Christie, K. Noesgaard

Mike Stephens	**APPLIED!!**	110
Wade Selvig		71
Bill Hydomako		68
Mike Oosterlaken		68
Andrew Krochko		42
Lorne Jensen		39
Brent Gratias		39
Stan Noble		28
Les & Ellen Dickson		20
Debbie Anderson		17
Brian Friesen		15

FINEST NGC CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects: R. Huziak, D. Jeffrey, G. Sarty, D. Chatfield

Scott Alexander		89
Ken Noesgaard		24
Sandy Ferguson		23
Mike Stephens		22
Mike Oosterlaken		15

HERSCHEL 400 CLUB

Certified at 400 Objects: Dale Jeffrey

Rick Huziak	**APPLIED**	400
Darrell Chatfield	**GETTING THERE**	373
Gordon Sarty		171
Scott Alexander		98
Ken Noesgaard		44
Mike Oosterlaken		44
Sandy Ferguson		18

Chatfield BINOCULAR CERTIFICATE

Mike Stephens	**COMPLETE!!**	40
Mike Oosterlaken		32

**Join the Messier,
Finest NGC, H-400 &
Binocular Club!**

Observe all 110 Messier, 100 FNGC or 400 H-400,
or 40 Binocular objects and earn your
CERTIFICATES!

The first 2 lists can be found in *the Observer's Handbook*. The Binocular List & Herschel 400 list will be available at each general meeting for 50 cents (covers photocopying) or can be mailed out on request to distant members. Each month I'll be posting updates.

Hey, Observers!

This month, I've received updates from Mike Stephens, Darrell Chatfield, Gord Sarty, Mike Oosterlaken (in all categories). With 21 clear nights in September, it is no wonder at least some of you were out observing!

I have not seen any new members joins these clubs. Don't be shy! I'd love to see the entire membership get onto the list with at least a few objects. Several are even naked eye in a dark sky for Messiers – M6, M7, M8, M13, M21, M31, M33, M34, M42, M44, M45, and maybe a few others! I don't know of any Centre that has had a significant portion, let alone all, of their members reporting an observation on a Messier list!

Send observing numbers to
huziak@SEDSYSTEMS.ca

Notice of the General Meeting of
the Saskatoon Centre

Monday, Oct. 15, 2001

at 7:30 p.m.

Room 8313 City Hospital

Presenting

National President

Mr. Bob Garrison

(He will give the main address)

&

Annual Centre Elections

U of S Observatory Hours

The U of S Observatory is open to the general public every Saturday in October - February from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Admission is free. The observatory is located on campus, one block north of the Wiggins Avenue and College Drive entrance. On clear evenings visitors may look through the 6-inch refractor to the moon, star clusters and other exciting astronomical objects. For further information, phone the recorded Astronomy Information Line at 966-6429.

Interested in **Saskatoon RASC** **Membership?**

Regular - \$52.00** per year

Youth - \$26.00 per year

**National Council has voted a \$4/yr increase in these rates – up from \$48.00. Youth rates are unaffected

It's never too late to join!

The Saskatoon Centre operates on a one-year revolving membership. You will now be a member for the next 12 months no matter when in the year you join.

Benefits of Membership in the ***Saskatoon Centre***

- knowledgeable & friendly amateur astronomers
- use of the Sleaford Observatory
- use of the UofS Observatory (after training)
- Saskatoon Skies Newsletter
- Observer's Handbook
- The Journal of the RASC (bi-monthly)
- SkyNews Magazine (bi-monthly)
- use of the Centre library
- discounts to Sky & Telescope Magazine
- discounts of Sky Publishing merchandise
- discounts to Firefly Books
- free, no cost, no obligation, 3-month temporary membership if you don't want to join right now!

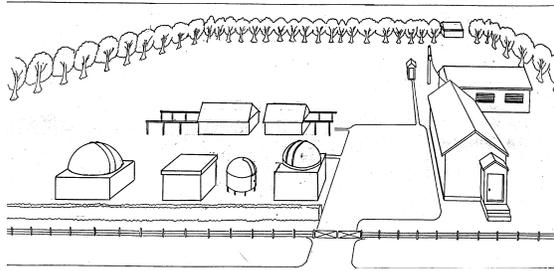
The Sleaford Observatory

Longitude: 105 deg 55' 13" +/- 13" W

Latitude: 52 deg 05' 04" +/- 08" N

Telephone: (306) 255-2045

by Rick Huziak



Telephone is <NO LONGER> Long Distance - The telephone in the Warm-up shelter will be changed back to a local line from the recent long distance change. Yannis Pahatouraglou wrote: *"I just received word from telephone services on campus that we can go back to our old system, called 40-40: within a forty mile radius, we can have 40 minutes per month of free calls. If we try calling other places though, like Edmonton, we would be charged full rates and not the rates the University is being charged (reduced). I think it works in our favour to maintain the 40-40. So, I gave them the go-ahead to change us back to the 40-40"*. We are uncertain when this new change will take effect, but it will happen soon. Therefore, feel free to call back to the city when you need to do so, but keep the conversations short, or ask whom you are phoning to call you back!

Work at the Site – We had a workday on September 30th and accomplished a few things. Bill Hydomako installed lifting bars in the Patterson Dome to make future maintenance far easier. Ken Noesgaard, Mike Stephens and I built a railing onto the west end of the Warm-up deck and a ramp on the east end. We also bought a hand-truck, which will now allow anyone to pick up Eetook and roll him down the deck to a convenient observing spot. In this way, the only required hernia will be the 1 foot lift to get Eetook onto its cradle. Bill and Darrell plan to do some work the weekend of October 6th to get the dome more functional. One more workday, which will be scheduled within a week or two will be required to finish the safety railing on the ramp and Patterson dome deck. After that, the Patterson dome will become functional.

Teacher's Workshop Oct. 17 – Rick Huziak will be conducting a Public School Teacher's Workshop at the observatory on October 17th, or if cloudy, on October 24th. Any help would be appreciated. The teachers will tour the facilities then be treated to a grand tour of the sky, learn constellations, and learn how to use telescopes. The teachers are signing up for this workshop, and are the group that will hire speakers for their school camps. Note that the dates have slipped by a week at the request of Louise Jones – the teacher coordinator.