

Saskatoon Skies

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

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Congratulations to our own Rick Huziak who graced the cover of the Spring Issue of the U of S Alumni magazine the Green & White. Rick is billed as an amateur astronomer and activist who wants to “give the world the stars.” The article is well written by Ashleigh Mattern and is a fitting tribute to Rick’s relentless efforts in preserving dark skies for us all.



Saskatoon Centre

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
P.O. Box 317, RPO University
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4J8

WEBSITE:

<http://www.usask.ca/rasc/>

E -MAIL: rmwaldron@shaw.ca

To view *Saskatoon Skies* in colour,
see our Website:

<http://www.usask.ca/rasc/newsletters.html>

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MEMBERSHIP? JOIN TODAY!

Regular: \$82.00 /year

Youth: \$43.00 /year

Family: \$77/year

The Saskatoon Centre operates on a one-year revolving membership. You will be a member for the next 12 months no matter when in the year you join. If you do not want to join at this time, ask to get onto our FREE 3-month Temporary Membership list. You will receive regular mailings of our Saskatoon Skies newsletter and will be invited to participate in Centre activities. Members are encouraged to renew early to avoid disruption in publications. Renew through the National Office at <http://www.rasc.ca/join-us>

Benefits of Membership in the Saskatoon Centre

- knowledgeable & friendly amateur astronomers
- use of the Sleaford Observatory
- use of the U of S Observatory (after training)
- Saskatoon Skies Newsletter
- Observer's Handbook
- Journal of the RASC (electronic format)
- SkyNews Magazine (bimonthly)
- use of the Centre library
- borrow the Centre's Data Projector to give astronomy outreach presentations – contact Les Dickson at astrochem@sasktel.net
- rent the Centre's Telescopes <http://homepage.usask.ca/ges125/rasc/telescopes.html>
- discounts to Sky & Telescope Magazine*
- free, no-cost, no-obligation, 3-month temporary membership if you don't want to join right now!

*New subscription or renewal of Sky & Telescope? Send new info or renewal notice, plus credit card # to Norma Jensen, 128 – 4th Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7H 1H8, or email her at norj@sasktel.net.

U OF S OBSERVATORY

The U of S Observatory is open to the general public every Saturday of the year. Admission is free. The observatory is located on campus, one block north of the Wiggins Avenue and College Drive entrance. On clear nights, visitors may look through the vintage 6-inch and tour several displays. Current events are recorded on the Astronomy Information Line at 966-6429.

Observatory Hours:

January-February	7:30-9:30 pm
March	8:30-10:30 pm
April	9:30-11:30 pm
May-July	10:00-11:30 pm
August	9:30-11:30 pm
September	8:30-10:30 pm
October-December	7:30-9:30 pm

SASKATOON CENTRE'S MAIN OFFICERS:

President – Jim Goodridge, 306-370-8530

Vice-President – to be filled

Secretary – Tenho Tuomi, 306-858-2453

Treasurer – Norma Jensen, 306-244-7360

Bottle Drive &
Canadian Tire \$
By Jim Goodridge

If you cannot make it to a meeting but would like to contribute your Canadian Tire money please call me at 306-370-8530

LIGHT POLLUTION
ABATEMENT
WEBSITE AT:
www.ras.sk.ca/lpc/lpc.htm

Newsletter Editor – Ron Waldron
Copy & Collate – Les & Ellen Dickson
Labels & Temps – Mark de Jong
Web Posting – Gord Sarty

Saskatoon Skies is published monthly by the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC. Distribution is approximately 100 copies per issue. Saskatoon Skies welcomes unsolicited articles, sketches, photographs, cartoons, and other astronomy or space science material. Submissions should be sent by e-mail to the editor at rmwaldron@shaw.ca in msword or text format. Images: .jpg please, no larger than 1 – 1.5 MB, sent by e-mail as attached files. **Deadline for submission of all articles for an upcoming issue is the first Friday of the month!**

A separate by-mail subscription to Saskatoon Skies is available for \$15.00 per year. Saskatoon Skies is also posted on our Saskatoon Centre homepage as a .pdf file and can be downloaded free-of-charge. Members may choose to receive the newsletter by regular mail or via the Internet. Articles may be reprinted from Saskatoon Skies without expressed permission (unless otherwise indicated), provided that proper source credit is given. Saskatoon Skies accepts commercial advertising. Please call the editor 306-382-9428 for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items free of charge.

RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 9	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
May 11	Monthly Executive and General Meeting	J. Goodridge
May 15-18	Grasslands National Park DSP Star Party	Rick Huziak
June 13	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
June 15	Monthly Executive and General Meeting	J. Goodridge
July 1-5	RASC General Assembly – Halifax, N.S.	
July 14	NASA's New Horizon Spacecraft encounters Pluto	
July 18	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
July 25	Grasslands National Park DSP Star Party	Rick Huziak
Aug 8	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
Sept 12	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott

For a complete list of club events, please check out: <http://www.usask.ca/rasc/activities.html>



June RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests
 Room 127 Physics Bldg
 University of Saskatchewan
 on

Monday, June 15th, 2015

featuring

Kenton Lysack
Senior Interpreter
Meewasin Valley Authority

Kenton will be giving us the background regarding the sites they will be measuring light pollution at, (i.e. North Swale, Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, etc) and then talk about the potential to volunteer for data collection using Sky Quality Meters

Note: There will be an EXECUTIVE MEETING beginning at 7:00 PM

Minutes of the May Executive and General Meetings – *Tenho Tuomi*

Executive Meeting opened at 7:05 pm.

Moved by Les Dickson and Ellen Dickson that the minutes of the April 20 meeting be adopted as circulated. Carried.

Committee Reports:

President's Report by Jim Goodridge – Most of the report in Events.

Newsletter Report – next deadline is June 5.

Sleaford Report by Rick Huziak – This summer's project is to take down the old dome. No formal plans have been made but Rick and Darrell Chatfield talk regularly.

Events Report by Jim Goodridge – Astronomy days at Lakewood Civic Centre on April 24 had about 12 people show up, mostly cloudy but Jupiter was available. The next day at the Farmer's Market we were snowed out but were given booth space inside and spent the day talking to people about astronomy. Over \$40 in donations were collected. The observing at Beaver Creek on April 25th was cancelled due to snow and rescheduled to May 1st. On May 1st we had a great presentation by Ron Waldron at Beaver Creek followed by viewing on site. Two guests attended but we got a potential new member.

SSSP Report by Les Dickson

- T Shirt design is finalized
- Pin Design is finalized
- Website is updated
- 5 people are registered

Light Pollution Abatement Report by Rick Huziak

- Still working on the Swale

Other Business:

- Randy Atwood visit - Randy Atwood the Executive Director of RASC will be attending our October meeting and giving a presentation. A decision was made to move our elections to the November meeting.
- Wild About Saskatoon - Since we were rained/snowed out of our solar observing at the Farmer's Market a decision was made to participate in the Wild About Saskatoon opening event on May 23 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Enough members indicated that they would volunteer.
- Beaver Creek - We have been invited to participate with Beaver Creek on the Dark Sky Initiative on September 13th. A suggestion was made to move the date to September 19th as the 13th coincides with the Northern Alberta Star Party.
- Club Shirts - A discussion around getting club shirts took place. Graham Hartridge and Les Dickson will look into this further.

8:00 pm -- Moved by Les Dickson that the Executive Meeting adjourn.

The General Meeting opened at 8:20 pm.

- Jim Goodridge gave a short presentation on Star Atlases
- Dale Boan gave a great presentation on “How to Make Astro Movies Using a Digital Camera”.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.



The September 2015 issue of Saskatoon Skies will be my last publication as your editor. If you would like the opportunity to take on this important role in the life of our club, please contact me ASAP. I am willing to offer you training on the September issue. It really isn't complicated (we've deliberately kept it that way) – as long as you own a computer and have a reasonable knowledge of MS Word, being the editor will be an easy task for you as it was for me.

I can be reached by e-mail at strman@shaw.ca.

Astronomy Day Activities

To celebrate Astronomy Day this year, the Centre provided a Starnight at Beaver Creek – originally scheduled as a weekend event at the end on Saturday, April, 25th, it had to be postponed because of a blizzard that hit Saskatoon that day and night. The new date chosen was Friday, May 1st. Unfortunately the sky was less than ideal and only members and Beaver Creek staff were in attendance. Ron Waldron gave a slide illustrated talk on Purchasing Your First Telescope. Shortly after that a few “sucker holes” appeared allowing members to view very briefly. George Charpentier provided the photos that follow.



Observer's Group – *Larry Scott*

Our scheduled events for this spring on April 18th and May 9th were both clouded out. Shortly after this our regularly scheduled club meeting on May 11th afforded us an evening of fine, transparent skies for observing. So far, my informal survey of sky conditions on RASC meeting nights indicates good skies on those nights. I will continue my survey this fall and get back to you with results. There were some great nights in May and I was able to travel to Sleaford for three of them. Several members accompanied me and got in some great nights. Among the highlights were Jupiter, M5, some aurora, Comet C/2014 Q2(Lovejoy), Saturn, a waxing crescent moon, NGC 4762 and the wildlife. Spring at Sleaford isn't just a great time for observing, the country is alive with birds, mammals and insects making their presence known. And all before those pesky mosquitoes appeared. Hopefully we can get some more observing in this summer before they get too thick.

Our Observer's Groups for the summer are scheduled for June 13th, July 18th and August 8th. When we return in the fall we'll try and get out on September 12th. Have a good summer everyone.



For the October 23rd, 2014 partial solar eclipse my daughter and I drove nearly to North Battleford to get out from underneath a bank of clouds. By the time we were clear of them we had missed the start of the eclipse but were able to observe the eclipse maximum as well as a large group of sunspots before sunset.

NO SUMMER ISSUE

Saskatoon Skies will not be published in the months of July and August – please keep observing over the summer and send me any of your photos / adventures / logs for the September Issue. Deadline for publication in that issue is **Friday, September 4th**!

Observing Clubs and Certificates

Join the Club! Observe all 110 Messier, 110 Finest NGC, 400 Herschel I or II, 140 Lunar, 154 Sky Gems or 35 Binocular objects, or Explore the Universe and earn great OBSERVING CERTIFICATES!

MESSIER CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

*R. Huziak, G. Sarty, S. Alexander,
S. Ferguson, D. Jeffrey, D.
Chatfield, B. Christie, K.
Noesgaard,
M. Stephens, B. Hydromako, T.
Tuomi, L. Scott, G. Charpentier,
B. Johnson, M. Clancy, L.
Dickson, B. Burlingham, K.
Houston, Norma Jensen*

Ron Waldron	New	108
Wade Selvig		75
Garry Stone		57
Bernice Friesen		45
Wayne Schlapkohl		43
Barb Wright		40
Ellen Dickson		34
Jeff Swick		24
Graham Hartridge		9

Chatfield BINOCULAR CERTIFICATE

Certified at 35 to 40 Objects:

*M. Stephens, T. Tuomi, M.
Clancy,
R. Huziak, K. Maher*

Jim Goodridge	12
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FINEST NGC CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

*R. Huziak, D. Jeffrey, G. Sarty,
D. Chatfield, T. Tuomi*

Larry Scott	110
Scott Alexander	97
Norma Jensen	New 83
Sandy Ferguson	23
Kathleen Houston	23
George Charpentier	13
Mike Clancy	7

EXPLORE the UNIVERSE

Certified at 55 to 110 Objects:

*M. Clancy, T. Tuomi, K. Maher,
B. Gratias*

Wayne Schlapkohl	55
Jim Goodridge	35
Sharon Dice	31

Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Certificate

Certified at 140 Objects:

T. Tuomi

Norma Jensen	
New	140
Jeff Swick	29

HERSCHEL 400 CLUB

Certified at 400 Objects:

*D. Jeffrey, R. Huziak, D.
Chatfield, T. Tuomi*

Gordon Sarty	251
Scott Alexander	117
Sandy Ferguson	18
Larry Scott	20

HERSCHEL 400-II CLUB

Darrell Chatfield	400
Tenho Tuomi	New 398
Rick Huziak	246

LEVY DEEP-SKY GEMS

Certified at 154 Objects:

Tenho Tuomi	150
Darrell Chatfield	70



The Messier, Finest NGC and David Levy's Deep-Sky Gems lists can be found in the *Observer's Handbook*.

The Explore the Universe list is available on the National website.

On-line Messier and Finest NGC lists, charts and logbooks: <http://www.rasc.ca/observing>

On-line Herschel 400 List: <http://www.astroloague.org/al/obsclubs/herschel/hers400.html>

Binocular List is at: http://homepage.usask.ca/~7Eges125/rasc/Chatfield_Binocular_List.pdf

"Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program Guide:

<http://www.rasc.ca/observing/williamson-lunar-observing-certificate>

Program details can be found at: <http://www.rasc.ca/williamson/index.shtm>