

Saskatoon Skies

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

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September 2017



A fantastic shot of the eclipse from about 10 miles north of Casper, Wyoming. Shot by Tenho Tuomi through a Canon T5i and 80mm Sky-Watcher telescope. See more pictures from Tenho's trip on page 7!



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: krisohn@gmail.com

To view *Saskatoon Skies* digitally,
see our website:

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

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MEMBERSHIP? JOIN TODAY!

Regular: \$85.00 /year

Youth: \$45.00 /year

Family: \$80/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. 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)
- borrow the Centre's Data Projector to give astronomy outreach presentations – contact Les Dickson at astrochem@sasktel.net
- rent the Centre's Telescopes <https://www.usask.ca/rasc/telescopes.html>
- discounts to Sky & Telescope Magazine*
- use of the Centre library

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

Note: The hours above are out of date and pending newsletter update.

For current hours please visit:

<http://artsandscience.usask.ca/physics/observatory/hours.php>

SASKATOON CENTRE'S MAIN OFFICERS:

President – Tim May
Vice-President – Alan Duffy
Secretary – Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle
Treasurer – Norma Jensen
National Council Rep – Rob Shepard

Bottle Drive &
Canadian Tire \$
By Les Dickson

If you cannot attend a meeting but would like to donate your Canadian Tire money please email me at astrochem@sasktel.net

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

Newsletter Editor – Kris Ohnander
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 krisohn@gmail.com in msword or text format. Images: any format, less than 30MB, 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 email the editor at krisohn@gmail.com for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items free of charge.

RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 18	RASC General Meeting	Tim May
September 23	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
September 25	Youth Astronomy Club Meeting	Ron Waldron
October 16	RASC General Meeting	Tim May
October 21	Sleaford Open House	Larry Scott
October 28	Dark Skies at the Creek [Beaver Creek]	Tim May
October 30	Youth Astronomy Club Meeting	Ron Waldron

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

September RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests, Room 175 Physics Bldg
University of Saskatchewan, on

Monday, September 18th, 2017 at 8:00PM

Solar Eclipse Show & Tell!

Open floor for anyone to talk about their solar eclipse experiences

Please bring images on USB drives.

Presented by Ron Waldron:

Solar Eclipse in Wyoming!

Presented by Rick Huziak:

Rob & Rick's Eclipse Sojourn

Note: There will be an Executive Meeting at 7:00PM

Minutes of the June Meetings - Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle



Minutes of the Executive Meeting, June 19, 2017

Meeting called to order by Tim May at 7:05 PM

Approval of May 15 Executive Meeting Minutes: Moved by Les, seconded by Ron, approved.

Reports:

Treasurer: No changes, asking for update about electrical work

Membership: No update

National: The National Strategic Plan was presented.

Observers Group: Next Observers Group Meetings are on June 24, July 22nd

Sleaford: No update

Open House: Date is September 23rd.

Larry wants to contact Subaru to clarify if they are interested in a cooperation for the Open House.

SSSP: All speakers determined except one night clinic.

Currently 111 registrations.

Volunteer Coordinator is still required.

Youth Club: Plan is to use the Open House in order to have the opportunity to view through different telescopes.

Newsletter: No update

Telescope Coord.: No update

Old Business:

Open Positions: Event Coordinator

Coffee Supply Coordinator, coffee won't be supplied any more after summer break.

National Star Party: Event is on July 29, 10AM to 3PM on London Drugs Parking Lot, 8th Street.

All questions with regards to property use have been clarified, no paperwork is required.

Posters are printed and distributed.

Outside: Solar Viewing; Inside: Presentation about Astrophotography, Information about RASC and Youth Astronomy Club.

Photos for Astrophotography Contest can be submitted by July 15.

A handout with further information was provided.

Yahoo Forum: The Yahoo Service will be shut down soon.

Advertising: no update (business cards and banners)
Memorabilia: no update

New Business:

Events/Public Outreach: To be checked with Jim Gorkoff, if a background check is needed for club members who are involved in activities with kids.

Solar Eclipse: Wanuskewin is looking for a speaker/presenter for the Solar Eclipse.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM

Minutes of the General Meeting, June 19, 2017

Meeting called to order by Tim May at 8:23 PM.
Tim gave an update about the topics, which were discussed in the Executive Meeting.

Presentations:

Alan Duffy: A brief introduction to PixInsight

Total Solar Eclipse Adventure 2017 – Ron Waldron

Let me begin by saying I am not an umbraphile – this eclipse is only my second experience with totality, the first being on February 26, 1979. That being said, I knew I had to see the upcoming Great American Eclipse first hand as it was on our continent.

Planning began in August of 2016 after hearing several presentations at SSSP. I was already too late to secure a hotel, so I had to plan a camping/RV experience. Only problem – I had a tent but not a trailer. Since I was already tiring of loading up my Ford Escape to the hilt every year to attend SSSP, I bought a small two-person trailer. It wasn't long before I realized that the Ford Escape could only barely pull it so in February of 2017 I purchased a truck. (Does that sound a little over the top to you – remember I am not an umbraphile.



Now to secure a location – I was fortunate to land a booking in a KOA (Kampgrounds of America) in a small town just east of Casper, Wyoming. Although not directly on the centre line, it was only 20 miles off.

My wife and I set out on August 18th for the three-day drive and got somewhat sidetracked on the way down. A wrong turn led us right past Devil’s Tower, Wyoming, the flat-topped volcanic structure made famous in the classic movie Close Encounters of the Third Kind.

Upon arrival in Douglas, there were 200 people gathered and the campground had a NASA speaker presenting the night before the eclipse. His name was Dr. Iadaveia and this was his 5th total solar eclipse. He had his whole family gathered at the KOA in a kind of special reunion. The weather forecast looked good and we got rid of any rain in the form of a small shower that night.

Eclipse day dawned perfectly clear. I set up my equipment, an 80 mm Antares achromat for photography and my vintage Celestron C90 for personal viewing. Five minutes prior to totality, the ground took on an eerie golden glow quite different from what we were used to. The temperature began to drop and the countdown began.

We removed our glasses just after the announcement of bailey’s beads and the diamond ring and were presented with a silvery gossamer hole in the sky where the sun used to be. It was in a word breathtaking but oh so short – only two minutes and twenty-two seconds in duration. It was, however, a great refresher to what I could just barely remember seeing in 1979.

I will treasure this memory and now that I have reached the tender age of 65 will officially check it off my “bucket” list.



Some Eclipse Images – *Tenho Tuomi*



[Left] Tenho and his son's setup for the eclipse, about 10 miles north of Casper, Wyoming

Venus during the eclipse, shot through a Nikon Coolpix, 1/8 sec.



Partial eclipse, 16 minutes before totality. Canon T5i, 1/1250sec, f/5 80mm telescope, with Baader filter.

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. Chatfield, T.
Tuomi, L. Scott, G. Charpentier,
B. Johnson, L. Dickson, B.
Burlingham, Norma Jensen*

Ron Waldron	108
Wade Selvig	75
Wayne Schlapkohl	43
Ellen Dickson	34
Graham Hartridge	9

Chatfield BINOCULAR CERTIFICATE

Certified at 35 to 40 Objects:

T. Tuomi, R. Huziak

Jim Goodridge	12
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FINEST NGC CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

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

Larry Scott	110
Scott Alexander	97
Norma Jensen	83
Sandy Ferguson	23
George Charpentier	13

EXPLORE the UNIVERSE

Certified at 55 to 110 Objects:

T. Tuomi,

Wayne Schlapkohl	55
Jim Goodridge	35

Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Certificate

Certified at 140 Objects:

T. Tuomi, N. Jensen

HERSCHEL 400 CLUB

Certified at 400 Objects:

R. Huziak, D. Chatfield, T. Tuomi

Gordon Sarty	251
Scott Alexander	117
Larry Scott	45
Sandy Ferguson	18

HERSCHEL 400-II CLUB

Darrell Chatfield	400
Tenho Tuomi	378
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: https://www.usask.ca/rasc/Chatfield_Binocular_List.pdf

"Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program Guide:

<http://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/IWLOP2015.pdf>

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