

Saskatoon Skies

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

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An awesome image from Tim Yaworski of the January 31st lunar eclipse. Taken near Borden, west of Saskatoon, the image was captured using a Fujifilm X-E2, at 17mm f/4. This photo was featured as SkyNews' 'Photo of the Week' at <http://www.skynews.ca/photo-of-the-week-lunar-eclipse-and-borden-bridge-by-tim-yaworski/>



Saskatoon Centre

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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 306-966-6429.

Observatory Hours:

January – February	7:30 – 9:30 pm
March	8:00 – 10:30 pm
April – August	9:15 – 11:45 pm
September	8:30 – 11:00 pm
October – December	7:00 – 9:30 pm

SASKATOON CENTRE'S MAIN OFFICERS:

President – Alan Duffy
Vice-President – To be Filled
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

February 10	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
February 12	RASC General Meeting	Alan Duffy
March 10	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
March 19	RASC General Meeting	Alan Duffy
April 7	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
April 16	RASC General Meeting	Alan Duffy

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

February RASC General Meeting

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

Monday, February 12th, 2018 at 8:00PM

Presented by Tim Yaworski:

The Best Camera is the One You Have with You

This talk will cover consumer grade cameras from smartphones to medium format digital cameras and highlight their strengths and weaknesses in the field of single-exposure astrophotography.

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

Minutes of the January Meetings – *Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle*

Minutes of the Executive Meeting, January 15, 2018

Attendees: Alan Duffy, Les Dickson, Ellen Dickson, Rick Huziak, Errol Frazer-Harrison, Ron Waldron, Norma Jensen, Mark De Jong, Larry Scott, Marcel Mueller-Goldkuhle

Meeting called to order by Alan Duffy at 7:10 PM

Approval of Nov 22 Executive Meeting Minutes: Moved by Norma, seconded by Mark, approved.

Reports:

Treasurer: Money is available for events or projects.

Sleaford: Rick contacted a beekeeper that volunteers to remove the bees from the schoolhouse.

SSSP: Next meeting on Thu Jan 25, 7:30-9:30PM.
Speakers are planned to be assigned by end of Feb.
SSSP Date is August 8-13.

Comment by Alan, that George Sofko is willing to give talks in the monthly meeting.

Youth Club: First year will be finished with 8 members.
Ron/Errol need Casual Backup in case one of them is absent.
Topic of the next meeting is to prepare for the Lunar Eclipse.

Newsletter: Les plans to write an article about the SSSP.

Events: Rick gives talk about Light Pollution in Saskatoon at the Janes Walk, Jan 19 7:30PM, the walk starts at the Broadway Roastery.

Messier Marathon on March 17.

International Astronomy Day on April 21, Solar Observing planned at the Farmer's Market.

Dark Skies at Beaver Creek, Date TBD.

Parker Solar Probe dives into the sun, videos can be found on YouTube.

Telescope Coord.: Currently 2 telescopes are rented out, more interest expected in spring.
New 10" Telescope: Pricing needs to be determined, hasn't been put on the website yet, short talk about the scope and the accessories planned for the Feb Meeting. The dome (height 10 ft, diam. 8 ft 6") has to be taken down by the Club, this is not required to be done before spring.

Membership: The club has currently 85 members.

National: no update

Old Business:

Activities Coordinator: Position still open, responsible person to be assigned for each event individually.

Meeting Coordinator: Position is still open.

Social Media: There are Club representations on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. Originator(s) of these sites to be determined, all kinds of representation of the Club in public need to be approved by the Executive Committee.

Yahoo Forum: No update.

Memorabilia: No update.

Background Checks: No update.

New Business:

Annual Report: Draft was discussed, Marcel to put additional information in and to distribute revised version.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM

Minutes of the General Meeting, Jan 15, 2018

Meeting called to order by Alan Duffy at 8:12 PM.

Alan gave an update about the topics of the Executive Meeting:

Presentations:

Ron Waldron: Norwegian Astronomy above the Arctic Circle

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

Observers Group – *Larry Scott*

We began the year by keeping our record on track. The Observer's Group on January 13th was cancelled due to cold, wind, and clouds. Rumor has it one optimistic member did show up but eventually went home in despair.

Three days later, on January 16th, four members went to Sleaford for a glorious night of observing. Clear with a temperature of -10C, wind was light out of the south, seeing was a little unsteady but transparency was good. We had a look at comet C/2017 T1 (Heinze) moving through Lacerta. Its high rate of motion against the background stars could be seen at the eyepiece after a few minutes. On January 31st I hope everyone was able to catch at least some of the lunar eclipse in a fine pre-dawn sky. I was fortunate to look out my west window at 06:50 and see the moon just at the start of totality between two large spruce trees. At 07:30 I saw the fully eclipsed moon as I waited for the bus. At 08:00 I observed the moon near the end of totality before I started work. This is a good way to start the day!

Our next scheduled Observer's Group is on March 10th with moonless evenings from March 4th to 20th. Also in March will be our annual Messier Marathon held on the 17th. Contact me if you have any questions about the Messier Marathon, Observer's Group or Sleaford.

Saskatchewan Summer Star Party 2018

— *Les Dickson*

It's that time again, to put on another great star party, our 22nd, at the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. SSSP is put on each year by members of the Saskatoon and Regina Centres of the RASC, with over 50 volunteers from all over western Canada. This year, I get to chair the organizing committee which includes Darrell Chatfield, Ellen Dickson, Greg Fusick, Brent Harrold, Rick Huziak and Andrew Kostiuk and Vance Petriew.

SSSP is four days and five nights of observing under some of the darkest skies in Canada coupled with a day-time program of which we are very proud. As an added bonus, the Perseid meteor show peaks the night of Sunday August 12 into the morning of August 13.

The day time events include the Thursday evening BBQ followed by a public presentation by our own Ron Waldron. Friday evening will feature short talks which we hope will include some presentations on the 150th Anniversary of the RASC and the 50th Anniversary of the Saskatoon Centre (hint, hint.). On Saturday we feature two major speakers, presentation of door prizes, recognition of 10-year and 20-year attendees, and a banquet. On Sunday we will have a pot-luck dinner at the Observatory and Yurt. On Friday and Saturday evenings, in the Meadows Campground observing site, we will have observing clinics, one of which we hope will feature observing of the Perseid meteor shower.

We are currently looking to fill our roster of speakers and clinic presenters and firm up our plans to have the registration and campsite reservation system up and running by early April when Sask Parks open their reservation website for the season. More information on this will be available on our website as we get closer to opening. For those of you who wish to stay in the Resort in Cypress Hills park, we have a room block set aside for us that includes cabins, townhouses and hotel rooms. The room block extends from the Wednesday night to Sunday morning.

We hope to see more of our members come out to SSSP this year. This is the biggest event we put on each year. We hope you will get involved. See you in August!

For more information:

- SSSP website: <https://sssp.saskatoon.rasc.ca/>
- E-mail: sssp.sk@sasktel.net
- Les Dickson: astrochem@sasktel.net or 306-270-9184 (cell)
- Rick Huziak: 306-665-3392
- Resort in Cypress Hills Park: resortatcypresshills.ca
- Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park: <http://www.cypresshills.com/>

Les Dickson, Chair, SSSP 2018 Organizing Committee

February, 2018

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
Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle	Up! 59
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>