

Saskatoon Skies

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

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Group picture from the 2018 SSSP, taken by George Charpentier



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

September 17	RASC General Meeting	Alan Duffy
October 13	Annual Sleaford Open House	Larry Scott
October 15	RASC General Meeting	Alan Duffy
November 3	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
November 19	RASC General Meeting	Alan Duffy
December 1	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott

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 17th, 2018 at 8:00PM

Presentations TBA!

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

- In Memoriam – Jim Young -

We mourn the loss of Jim Young, with his sudden passing on Sunday, August 19, 2018. Jim lost his battle with cancer. He is one of the longest standing club members, joining in the early 1970's. With that legacy, he knew a lot about the workings of the club, especially the club and RASC constitutions. Jim may have had strong opinions about certain subjects, but he was always willing to impart his knowledge to those around him. He will be sadly missed.

From Darrel Chatfield

One Small Act — *Rena Woss*

While we love and marvel at a pristine night sky, most of us do little to advocate for its protection. So having Rick Huziak receive the President's Award at the RASC 2018 General Assembly for his tireless work on light pollution was truly inspiring.

Thanks to people like Rick and a handful of other dedicated



President's Award 2018 presented to Rick Huziak for his work on Light Pollution. Left to right, Chris Gainer (incoming Pres.), Richard Huziak, Colin Haig (out-going Pres.)

conservationists, we have dark sky preserves - places where we can see planets, nebulas and star clusters that take our breath away; where birds are protected along their migratory paths. Work by Rick and the others mean that politicians, lighting designers and city planners now have greater awareness of the ecological and health benefits of darkness and the importance of good lighting practice.

What stays with me from his acceptance speech was his words asking us to "do something" ... to initiate an action whether it be an article written for a local newspaper or neighborhood newsletter; an email or personal visit to a local city planner - *do something* rather than nothing. He encouraged us to not wait for our club to ask us; rather take it upon ourselves and then inform them afterwards. Is this not a great idea?

My hope is that we who appreciate the night sky and who understand the health benefits of darkness and the protection of nature will commit to one small act for this important cause. Collectively we can make a world of difference.

For more information:

<https://www.rasc.ca/lpa>

<http://darksky.org/>

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

Photos from SSSP 2018
– All Taken by George Charpentier



[Above] Anniversary Cake

[Below] Under The Living Skies
Lecture; Astronomy Outreach on Land
and Sea; Ron Waldron





[Left] Solar Observing at Loch Leven

[Right] Alan Dyer – Sighting STEVE



[Left] Colin Taylor – Environmental Assessment of Ajax Mine

[Right] Rick Huziak – Variable Stars





[Left] Meadows
Campground – Getting
ready to observe



[Right] Meadows
Campground – Swap
Meet



[Left] Fr. Lucian Kemble
Lecture; Dr. Michael Earl –
Astronomy – An Exciting
Introduction to Science

[Right] Alister Ling –
Taking Time: Streams in
the Sky



SSSP 2018 Report – *Les Dickson, Committee Chair*

We had over 300 people attend SSSP at the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park August 8th to 13th. As far as I can tell, they all had a good time. This year, we had clear skies for most of the event, albeit with some smoke from BC. It was the hottest SSSP that I can recall, with temperatures for the first few days in the mid-30's.

We wish to thank our invited guests for their efforts and great presentations: Dr. Michael Earl, post-doctoral fellow in the Physics and Engineering Physics Department of the University of Saskatchewan; Ron "Starman" Waldron of the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC; Alister Ling of the Edmonton Centre of the RASC; and Jim Goodridge of the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC.

I wish to single out Dr. Earl for his engaging and very personal presentation on "Astronomy – An Exciting Introduction to Science" in which he used his own journey from a teenage amateur astronomer to a post-doctoral fellow in astronomy and space science to illustrate "...how astronomy can be used to enthusiastically introduce the young to the basic scientific concepts that defined our modern technological age and how our society can benefit from a new generation of dedicated and enthusiastic young scientists who use facts and evidence to understand their natural world." Even some Resort staff told me that they were fascinated by his presentation.

I wish to thank everyone involved for helping to put on one of the best and most-smoothly functioning SSSP we have had yet. We could not function without the efforts and dedication of our many volunteers. Our core organizing committee included: George Charpentier, Darrell Chatfield, Les and Ellen Dickson, Greg Fusick, Jim Goodridge, Brent Harrold, Rick Huziak, Andrew Kostiuk and Vance Petriew. Vance Petriew was again our Master of Ceremonies. Jennifer Petriew and Kim Kulak ran the Saturday Children's Program. Rick Huziak and Andrew Kostiuk were responsible for registration and the on-line payment system. Jim Goodridge ran the BBQ and was responsible for the Meadows, as Meadows Coordinator. Ellen and Les Dickson produced the pin design for this year while Vance Petriew produced this year's shirt logo design. Greg Fusick and Brent Harrold organized the volunteers. Darrell Chatfield did his usual bang-up job obtaining the door prizes. George Charpentier was back as official photographer. Trent Morgan and Laura Eglar ran a very successful Art Show and Astrophoto Contest. Members of the Regina Centre ran the three public observing events on the Friday and Saturday. We must also thank all of those attendees who answered Greg Fusick's call to volunteer for shifts covering functions such as Meadow's gate security, tent set-up and take-down, BBQ, art show and astro-photo contest, technical support in the Wapiti room for the presentations, refreshment service in the Wapiti room, Redlight Café, and many others.

We appreciate the support and encouragement of the Executives of the Regina and Saskatoon Centres of the RASC. I want to thank the Saskatoon Centre for providing cakes to celebrate both the RASC's 150th anniversary and our Centre's 50th. Thanks to George Charpentier to ensuring the cakes got made in Maple Creek and arrived safely at the star party in time for the Thursday BBQ.

We wish to thank the staff, past and present, of the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park and the Resort at Cypress Hills for their valuable help and professionalism.

We look forward to doing this again next year. See you August 28th to September 2nd, 2019.

Observer's Group – *Larry Scott*

– July 14th, 2018 - Submitted by Ron Waldron on behalf of Larry Scott (Thank you Ron). It was a clear but windy night, but I was ready to do some observing at Sleaford with my Celestron C8 telescope on my recently repaired AVX mount. Larry Scott had asked me to host the July Observer's group and I had willingly accepted as an opportunity to test out the telescope and mount. There was a strong wind, just enough to keep the mosquitoes at bay but that would eventually die out as the evening progressed. Arriving at 20:30 I began setting up and was soon joined Brock Roe with his 8-inch Meade and then by Marcel with his 22-inch Obsession and finally by Tim with his tracking tripod and cameras. The wind began to die about the time it finally got dark at 22:30. We were greeted with a clearing sky, minor noctilucent clouds in the north alongside some brief aurora as well. Throughout the night we observed several faint meteors coming out of the north-east, likely part of an ongoing meteor shower. Five planets were on parade tonight, so we spent the time prior to astronomical twilight, observing Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and finally Mars. We missed Mercury as it was still too close to the sun to effectively observe but enjoyed the slim two-day old moon in the same vicinity. All-in-all it was a great night. We are very fortunate to have Sleaford as an observing location so all members with scopes should continue to take advantage of this excellent dark sky site.

- August 13th, 2018

Two members attended the annual Cypress Hills DSP Star Party on a stellar night once they got their car unlocked. Stay after SSSP next year and do some observing from the DSP!

- September 8th, 2018

A completely cloudy day yielded to clear evening skies for the seven members and guests who made it out to Sleaford. Conditions were average with a light west wind but the enthusiasm level was high. We observed happily till about 01:00 when the light breeze became more enthusiastic as well and blew us home.



The next scheduled event at Sleaford will be our annual Open House on October 13th. We'll be looking for volunteers to set up their telescopes for the hundreds of guests we are anticipating. Don't forget the Pot Luck supper prior to the Open House!

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	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>