

Saskatoon Skies

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

Vol. 49, No. 10

October 2018



*Incredible! From Tenho Tuomi, comet 21P passes M37 on September 10.
Taken with a 300mm telephoto lens, picture cropped. More next month!*



Saskatoon Centre

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
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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

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 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 |
| December 10 | RASC General Meeting Christmas Social | Alan Duffy |

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

October RASC General Meeting

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

Monday, October 15th, 2018 at 8:00PM

Daryl Janzen will speak about astronomy programming and facilities at the University of Saskatchewan.

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

Elections Notice!

Elections will be happening at the November General Meeting.

Nominations are required for the positions of **Vice President**, and **Newsletter Editor**.

Please contact anyone on the Executive if you would like to volunteer!

ASTRONOMY NIGHT



OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, October 13, 2018

7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Sleaford Observatory and Research Facility

Car Convoy from Field House at 7:00 p.m.

This event is weather dependent.
Please check our Facebook page.

Sponsored by
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and the U.
of S. Department of Physics and Engineering Physics

Visitors may join a car convoy that will depart from the east
side of the Field House main parking lot at 7:00 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public.
There are warm-up facilities but viewing happens outside.

Dress Warmly!

Presented by the
Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Saskatoon Centre

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

www.usask.ca/rasc

www.facebook.com/usaskobservatory

Instagram: [@usaskobservatory](https://www.instagram.com/usaskobservatory)

Minutes of the September Meetings

— *Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle*

Minutes of the Executive Meeting, September 17, 2018

Attendees: Alan Duffy, Les Dickson, Ellen Dickson, Ron Waldron, Errol Frazer-Harrison, Norma Jensen, Jim Goodridge, James Gorkoff, Rick Huziak, Tenho Toumi, Chris Martin, Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle

Meeting called to order by Alan Duffy at 7:15 PM



Approval of June 18 Executive Meeting Minutes: Minutes of June 2017 meeting were shown in the newsletter, approval of June 2018 minutes postponed to Oct meeting.

Reports:

- Treasurer:** Discussion about transferring money to the investment account.
Motion by Ron, seconded by Les to move 5,000 \$ to GIC account;
Approved with all in favour.
- Expenses to be sent to Norma by end of September.
- Membership:** Numbers are slightly lower than usual due to "renewal season".
- National:** National will have to report a significant deficit for 2018.
- National Representative position is still to be filled.
- Observers Group:** Open House planned for Oct 13.
- Discussion about draft poster design; Larry to get design amended:
Poster to show link to Facebook site, USASK-Website will show Facebook Link as well. Alan is willing to take over the maintenance of the Facebook site.
QR code with link to Facebook site should be shown on the poster; Rick to send QR code to Larry.
- Astronomy Hotline to be removed from the poster.
- Alan is willing to run the 16" telescope during the event.
Refreshments will be provided by the SSSP committee.
Larry to bring donuts.
- Potluck at 5:00PM for members and their guests, plenty of plates are available.
- All attending club members to bring a jug of water.
- Larry to talk with Darrel Chatfield about lawn mowing.

After the Open House Larry won't submit a monthly article about the Observer's Group for the newsletter any longer. He is willing to continue as the Observer's Group Coordinator.

SSSP: Event was very successful and had 3 very clear nights.

Youth Club: 8 students are starting in September.

Ron is only able to run the Youth Club until March.

Path forward to be decided in Oct.

Rick is willing to support in Oct, Darrel in Nov.

Telescope Rentals: Errol does not continue to do the telescope rental coordination.

Events: Announcement on Beaver Creek Website about Dark Sky Event;
Beaver Creek did not approach the Club before they made the announcement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05PM

Minutes of the General Meeting, September 17, 2018

Meeting called to order by Alan Duffy at 8:17 PM.

Update by Alan about the topics which were discussed in the Executive meeting.

Alan showed the results of the member survey.

Daryl Janzen brought up that it might be an option to use telescopes of the University for Club purposes.

The RASC projector needs to be upgraded. To be discussed further in upcoming meetings.

Nominations: Nominating Committee: Alan Duffy, Les Dickson, Ellen Dickson

The following people are willing to be nominated for the upcoming elections:

President: Alan Duffy

National: Chris Martin

Event Coordinator: Jim Goodridge

Treasurer: Norma Jensen

Observers Group Coord.: Larry Scott

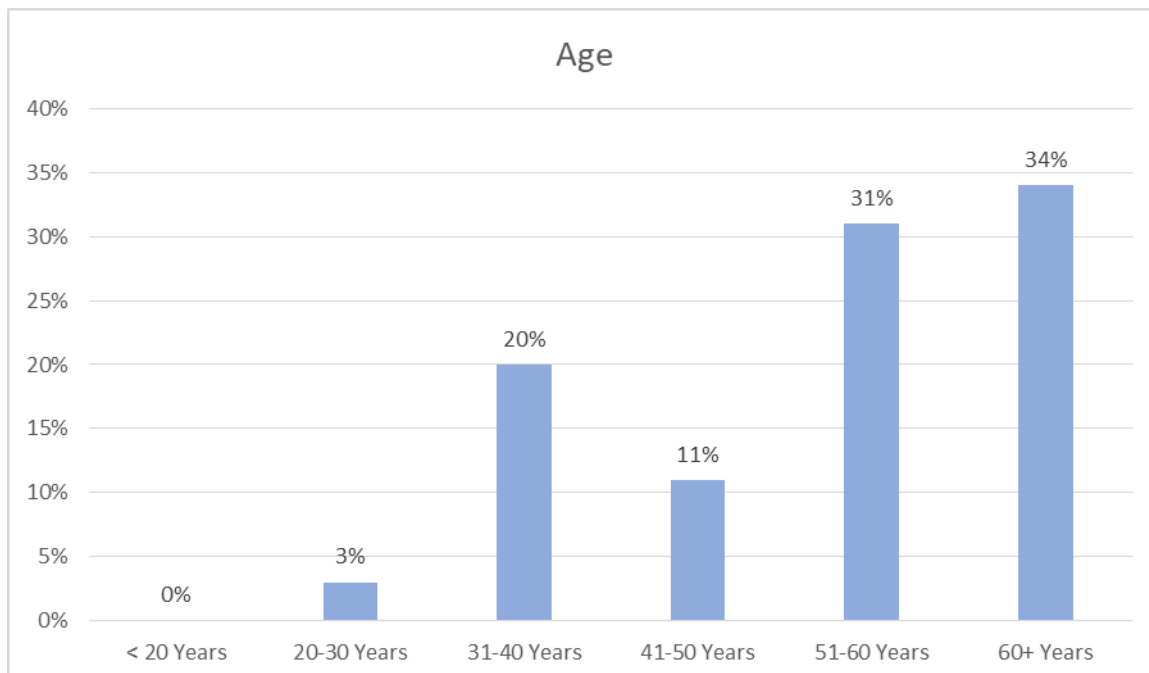
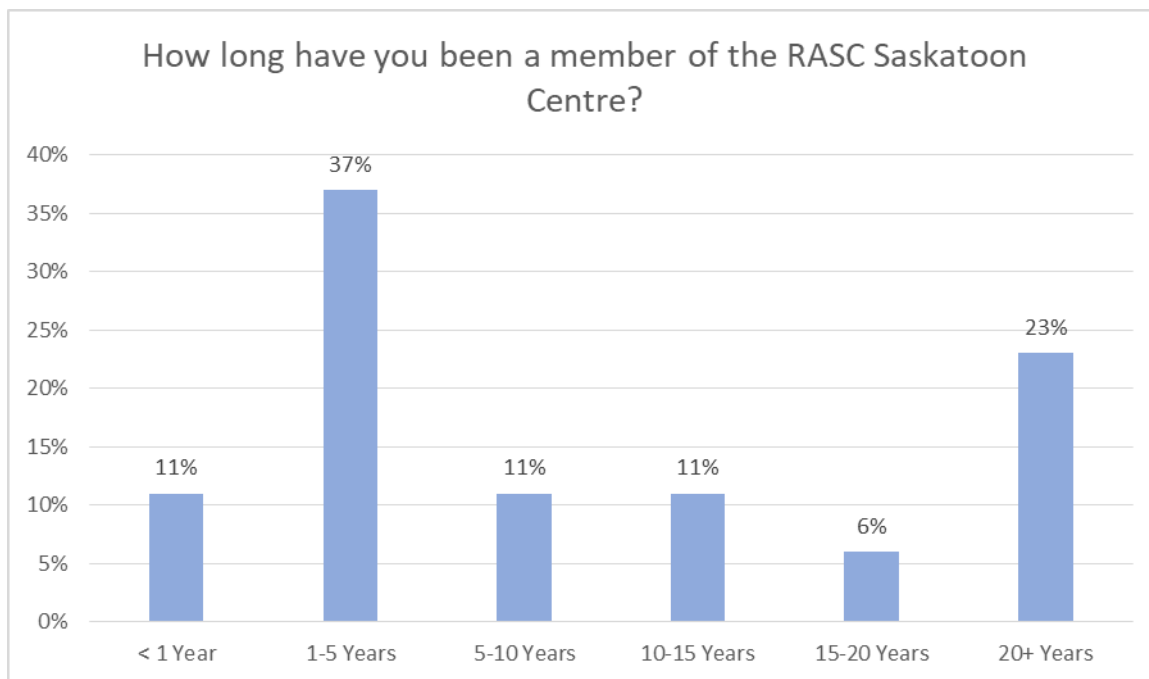
Secretary: Marcel Mueller-Goldkuhle

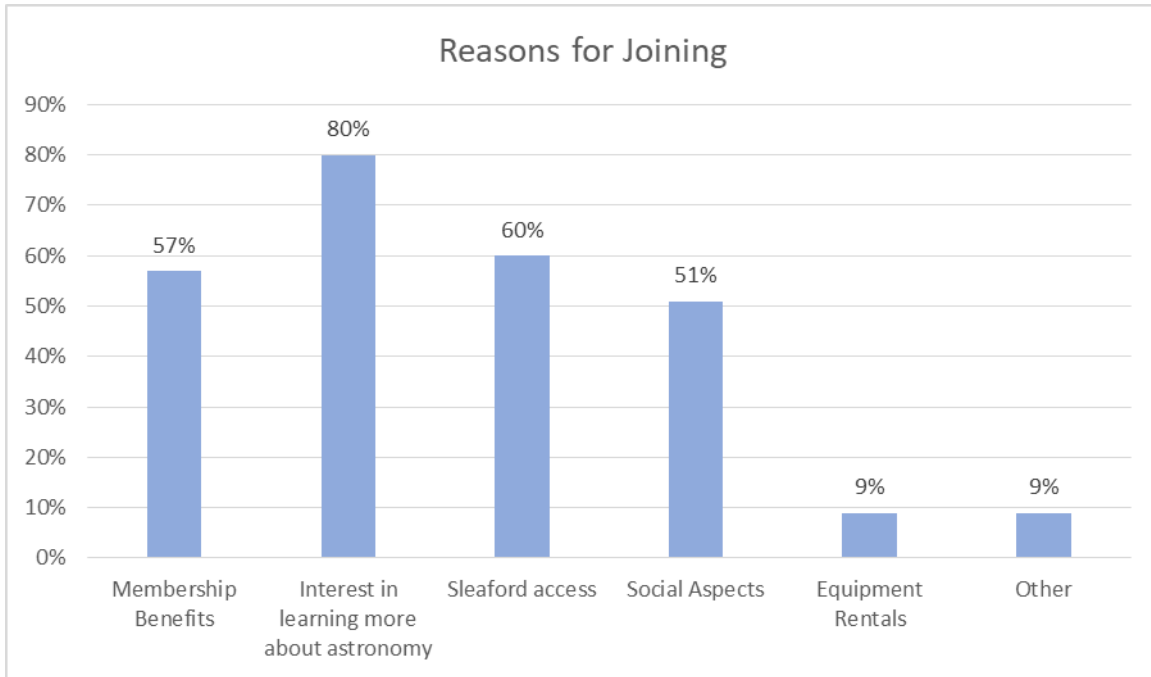
50th Anniversary: Colin Chatfield suggests to check if Prairies North is willing to issue an article about the Club and its 50th anniversary. The idea is supported by the Club.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

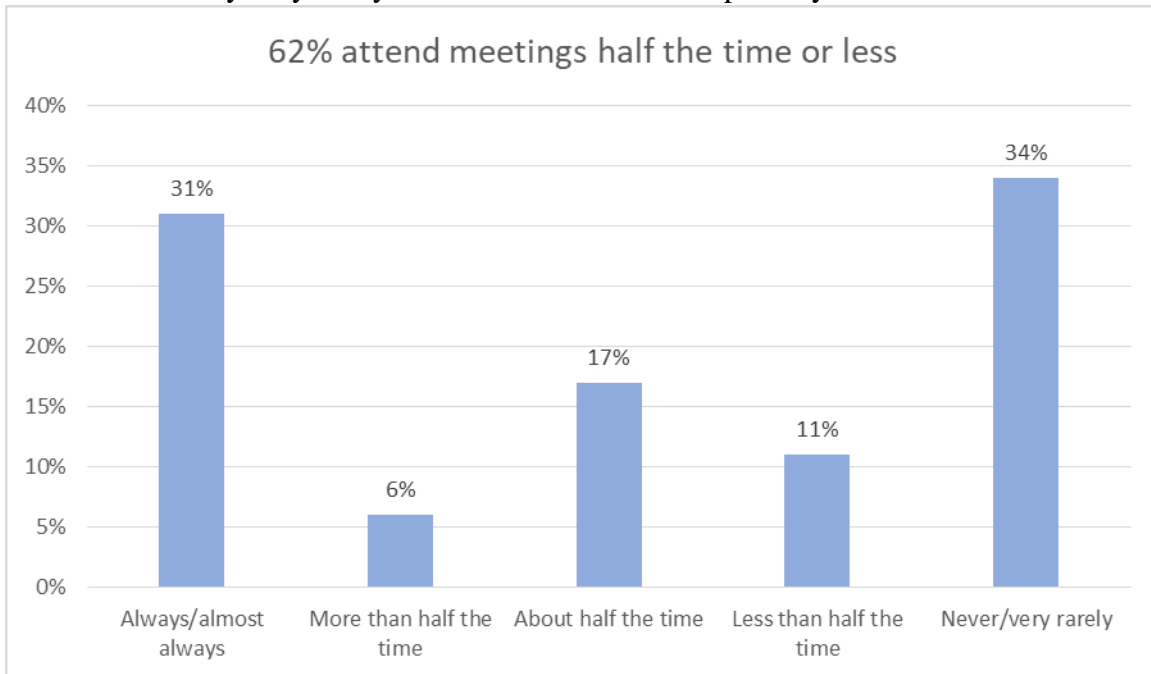
RASC Members Survey Results – Alan Duffy

Completed by 35 individuals.

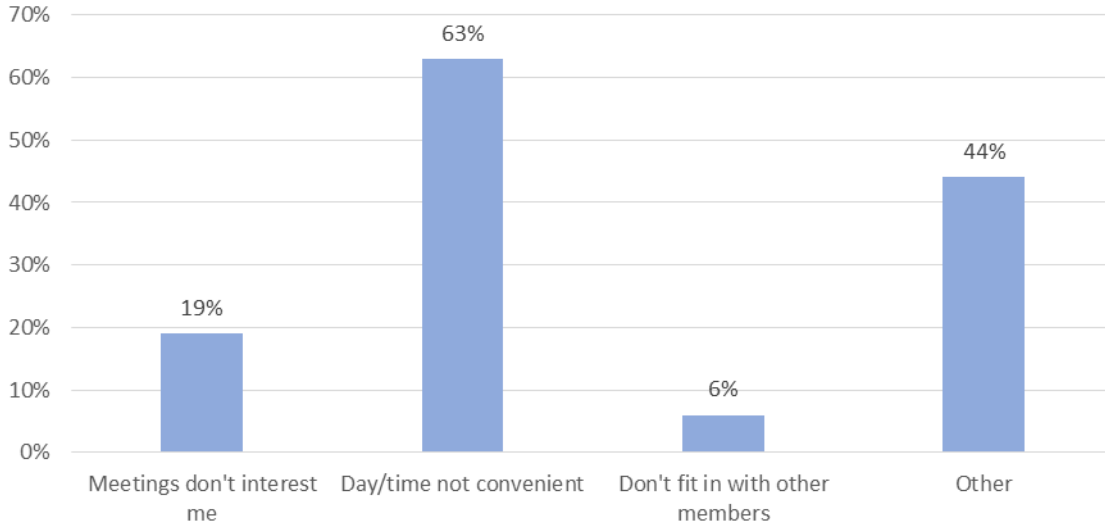




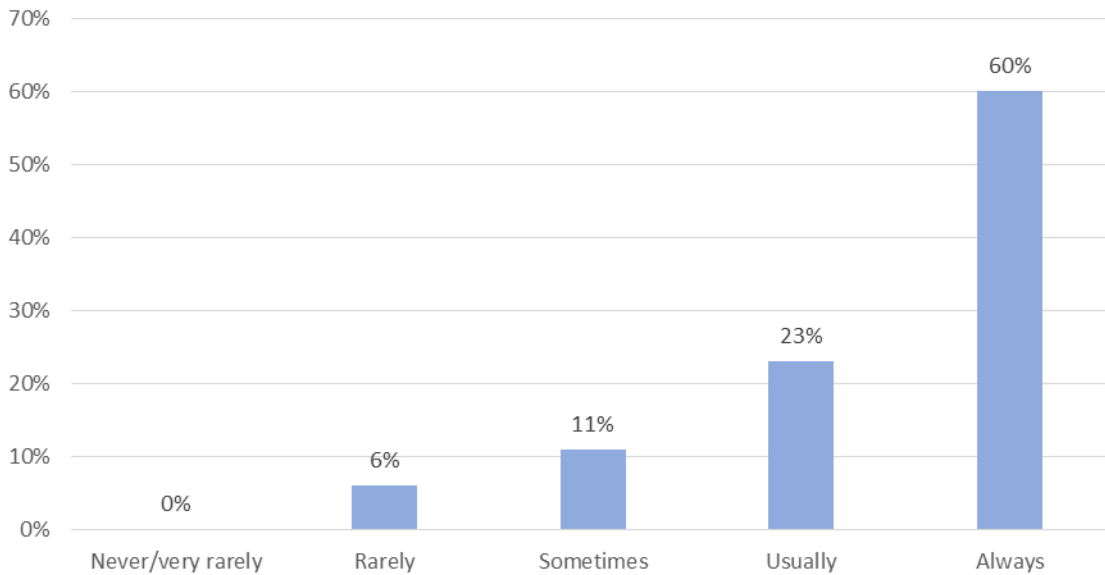
94% were likely/very likely to renew their membership next year.

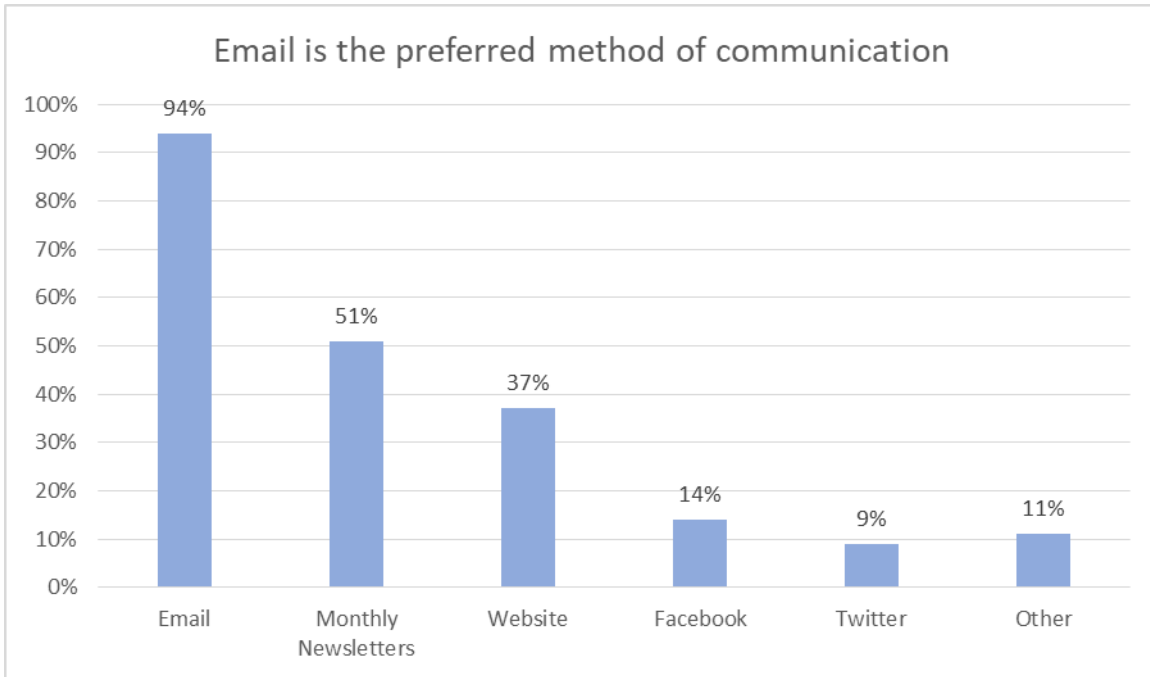


Inconvenient day/time is the most common reason for not attending meetings



83% usually or always read the newsletter





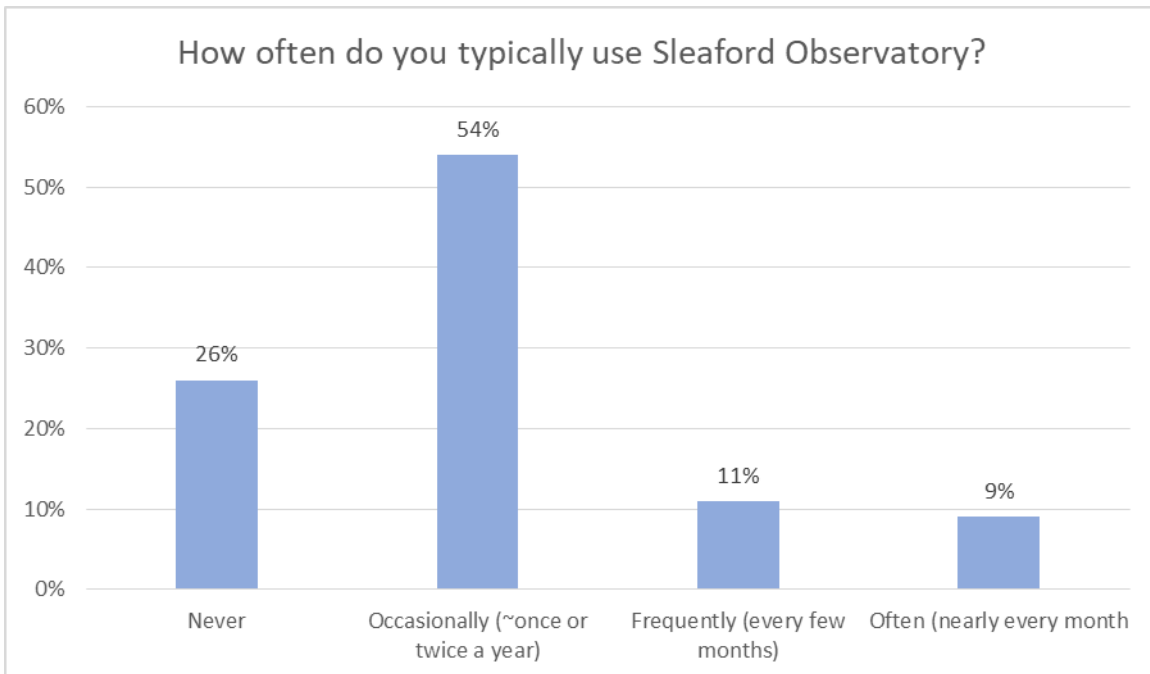
Comments for other included:

Text.

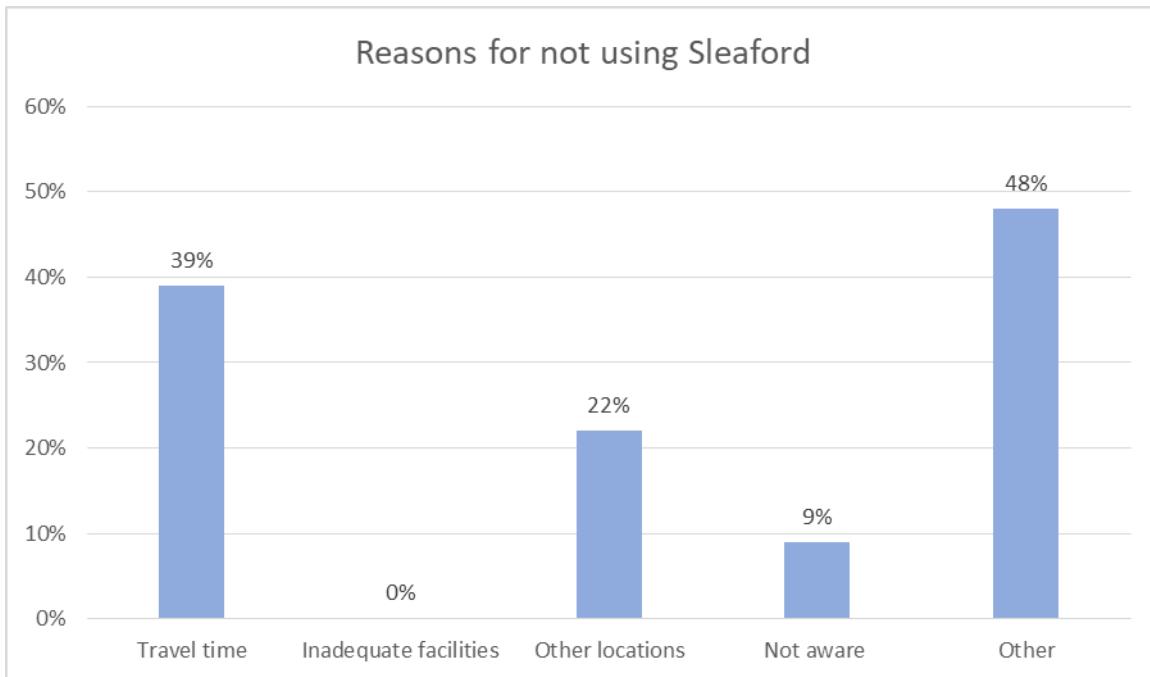
Phone call.

Need a better web/blog site. Social media needs moderators.

Method depends on what's being communicated. Important issues should be communicated to everyone in a consistent way.



75% reported being satisfied or very satisfied with Sleaford.

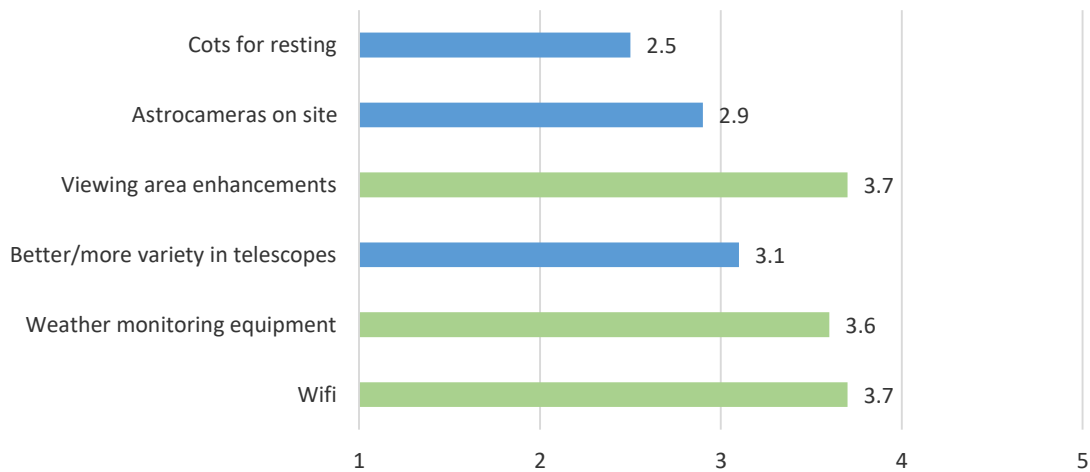


Comments for “Other”

- Would use if I could leave imaging equipment out there. With travel time it's more convenient to image at home in spite of light pollution.
- My interested seems to have drifted away.
- Too busy with other things.
- Used to use it very frequently; now have other astro things to do
- I like to go if others are out there and unless people send an email like Larry we don't know.
- Distance again
- Again, because I am fairly new to the hobby, I am a bit intimidated to go out, but will become more comfortable as time goes on.
- Hard to get out on a clear evening!
- Access to the facility
- Family obligations

41% have a key to the warm-up shelter.

Interest in Using at Sleaford
Average Results (1 = Would not use, 5 = Definitely use)



General comments about Sleaford:

- Club should get a massive scope. Big dob. Maybe through fund raising.
- Observing at Sleaford
- Astro-camera for LX200 at Sleaford
- Specific events at Sleaford (e.g., planet obs/spring galaxy obs) might attract people if communicated the right way.
- Maintenance of Sleaford site - warmup shelter and rolloff so we can continue to use this site for observing - to me this is key - no site with the year round luxury of a warm up serlter is available if we lose this one - keeping our U of S partners is fragile if they need to spend \$ so our diligence in Sleaford's care is the most important project - the rest is bells and whistles - think about its absence for a moment if you are a stand at your scope observer - this site provides all seasons possibilities - just check the clear sky clock for Sleaford and head out - pure beauty.
- Some sort of notice system to let others know when they're heading out to Sleaford (via email) so I can get a reminder and I know others would be out there too to talk to and socialize with.
- Greater variety in in-house centre events. Events need not sub for meetings and can be held on other evenings and at other locations (e.g. Observatory, Sleaford, private homes, etc.)
- I would like to see fewer meetings with better speakers, maybe quarterly, with a local star party, not SSSP. Something where we do an astronomy week, starting at Beaver Creek for the public, then an event at the Campus Observatory and finishing at Sleaford.

What would you like to see from RASC Saskatoon Leadership?

- A strategic plan - this is a must and should be a top priority of the Board
- Maintenance of Sleaford site - warmup shelter and rolloff so we can continue to use this site for observing - to me this is key - no site with the year round luxury of a warm up serlter is available

if we lose this one - keeping our U of S partners is fragile if they need to spend \$ so our diligence in Sleaford's care is the most important project - the rest is bells and whistles - think about its absence for a moment if you are a stand at your scope observer - this site provides all seasons possibilities - just check the clear sky clock for SkeFord and head out - pure beauty.

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- I would like to see fewer meetings with better speakers, maybe quarterly, with a local star party, not SSSP. Something where we do an astronomy week, starting at Beaver Creek for the public, then an event at the Campus Observatory and finishing at Sleaford.
- One night where there could be more of a fun atmosphere... star party. Maybe some music and star lore.
- What I would really like rental/lease site where I could permanently setup my scope
- 1-more regular updates for website Activity Page; 2- mentoring of new members; 3-keep up the good work!
- Interesting speakers, maybe at a venue more visible and inviting to the general public. The physics classroom we use is not very inspiring.
- Organized public events designed to attract members and interest in the club.
- As someone who only occasionally comes I would like to see us get in the habit of using name tags. Many of the members know each other but for new people it is a bit daunting if you know no one. I am a bit of an extrovert but I still felt uncomfortable and out of place the first few meeting. Making a point in the meeting to acknowledge and introduce visitors would help the 'wall flowers" better come out of their shell and fell less lost. Just a thought.
- Less of an "old boys club" mentality and openness to new ideas. Having meetings in the evening that can run quite late can be challenging for those who need to get to work early the next morning. It's also a barrier for school aged kids with an interest in astronomy who need to get to bed early for school the next day. A weekend afternoon would be more convenient and may attract a more diverse audience.
- I think you folks do a great job.

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! 81 |
| 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 |
|---------------|----|

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 | 55 |
| Schlapkohl | |
| 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>