

Saskatoon Skies

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

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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: \$96.00 /year

Youth: \$52.00 /year

Family: \$90.50 + \$41/additional adult + \$21.10/additional youth

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>

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 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>
- use of the Centre library

SASKATOON CENTRE'S MAIN OFFICERS:

President – Daryl Janzen

Vice-President – Jim Goodridge

Secretary – Rina Rast

Treasurer – Norma Jensen

National Council Rep – Les Dickson

Canadian Tire money - Darrell Chatfield

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

NEWSLETTER INFO

Newsletter Editors – Colin Chatfield, Grant Ursaki

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 colcha@sasktel.net in MS Word 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!**

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 colcha@sasktel.net for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items free of charge.



Aurora photo by Colin Chatfield from the Northeast Swale near Saskatoon on October 24th. Taken with a Canon 7D MKII and Tokina 11-16mm lens at 11mm, f/2.8, ISO 1600, 20 sec.

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	7:00 – 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

U of S Observatory website -

<https://artsandscience.usask.ca/physics/facilities/observatory.php>



Saskatchewan Light Abatement Committee -

<http://myotherlife.net/slpac/>

RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 11	Transit of Mercury	<i>Info Online</i>
November 18	RASC General Meeting - 8:00pm	Daryl Janzen
November 23	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott

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

November RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests

Join us on November 18, 2019 at 8:00PM

Room 175

Physics Building at the University of Saskatchewan

Note: There will be an executive meeting at 7:00pm.

Find us on social media -

[@RASCYXE](#) on Instagram



[RASC Saskatoon Centre](#) on Facebook



Minutes of the October Meeting

— *Rina Rast*

Minutes of the Executive Meeting, October 21, 2019

Attendees: Daryl Janzen, Les Dickson, Ellen Dickson, Jim Goodridge, Norma Jensen, Rick Huziak, Ike Thiessen, Darrell Chatfield, Patricia Gakis

Meeting called to order by Daryl Janzen at 7:02 PM

Approval of minutes published in October issue (June and September minutes).

Reports:

Treasurer's report:

Financial statement for the year in November meeting.

Mailbox in Arts building is being closed, found a new post office box at another location. Anyone with comments on the closure of the Post Office can contact sk_center@rasc.ca.

MVA Dark Skies at the Creek:

Daryl will follow up to email Emma Kramer-Rodger from CBC

Newsletter General Information Updates:

Correct Observatory hours for Jan-Feb are 7:00-9:30 pm.

Membership rates must be updated to reflect this summer's increase.

Les Dickson notes that he does not run the bottle drive and Canadian Tire money; should update to say the Darrell is in charge of Canadian Tire money collection

Join Us link should be updated to rasc.ca/join

Charging \$15/year for Saskatoon Skies hard copy: remove option to receive the copy by mail.

Membership fees: Jim and Norma are consulted on the possibility of removing the mailing surcharge to lower rates on all membership fees. They will report at the next executive meeting.

Discussion of new positions:

Brennan Rodgers is a candidate for the role of librarian/archivist.

Discussion about security of archive on Google Drive, and about looking into costs for a lock box for the center: postponed to the next meeting.

Library: Jim proposes a book drive.

Rina Rast: candidate for secretary.

Colin Chatfield and Grant Ursaki are stepping up as Newsletter Editors.

Discussion regarding editing possible positions and their names.

Decision to defer Photographer position and Board of Directors election to next month.

2020 RASC calendars:

Number of people who want the calendars will be determined at General Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Minutes of the General Meeting, October 21, 2019

Meeting called to order by Daryl Janzen at 8:09 PM.

Motion to adopt meeting minutes published in October issue; motion carried.

Daryl gives an update on executive meeting.

Discussion regarding the Library Thing and implementing it in the library.

Requests for 2020 calendars taken by Jim.

Following people are willing to be nominated for the upcoming election:

Secretary:	Rina Rast
Librarian/archivist:	Brennan Rodgers
Newsletter Editors:	Colin Chatfield, Grant Ursaki
Photographer:	Deferred to next meeting
Board of Directors:	Deferred to next meeting

All other positions remain the same as last year.

Motion to close nominations made by Les Dickson, seconded by Ellen Dickson. Motion carried.

All nominees are declared elected by acclamation.

Patty makes Activities Coordinator report:

Outreach at The Planets by the SSO was a success.

Next event is the Members Observer's Group at the Observatory, following this meeting.

Sleaford Open House Oct 26. Convoy leaves Fas Gas, weather permitting.

MVA Dark Skies at Beaver Creek Oct 26, noon-11pm, regardless of clear weather.

Transit of Mercury Monday Nov 11, 9:00am-12:00pm: Observatory and River Landing. Moment of silence to be observed at 11:00pm.

Book report given by Jim: don't buy the Explore the Universe Guide.

Presentation by Les Dickson on the 2019 RASC General Assembly.

Next Newsletter submission deadline: Friday, November 1.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.

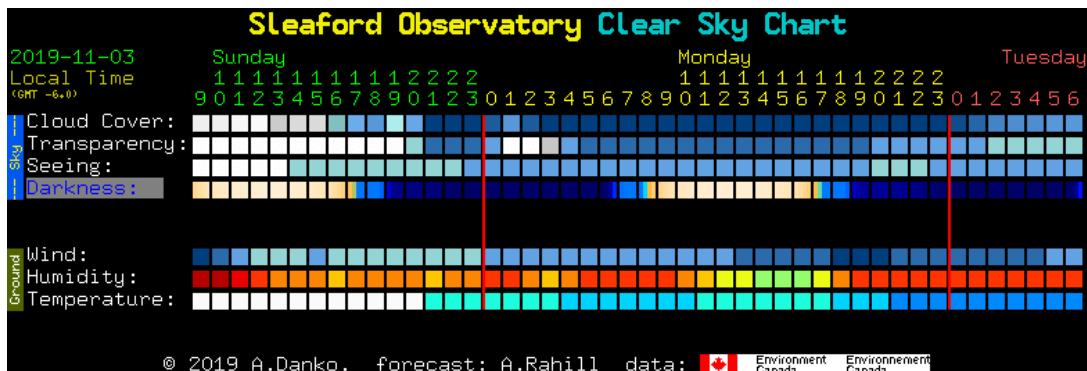
Next General Meeting: November 18, 2019.

CLEAR SKY INFO

To find clear skies, visit the Clear Dark Sky website -

<https://www.cleardarksky.com/csk/>

Once there, one can enter your location to find clear skies. The chart will appear as follows:



News and Updates from National Office

- *Les Dickson, Representative to National Council*

The article below is reprinted with permission from the August 2019 issue of the RASC Bulletin. It complements the talk that I am giving at the Saskatoon Centre meeting in November.

RASC Fundraising Forum

by **Lisa Di Veto**, RASC Fundraising Associate

Questions at the General Assembly about RASC finances, budgets and what's considered charitable activity reflected incorrect interpretations of Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) rules and regulations. Last fall, an outline of RASC charitable practices was circulated by President Chris Gainor and Treasurer Catherine Carr to help clarify internal misunderstandings. It appears timely to share this information again, as well as an update on new developments. It's vital to our ability to financially sustain and strengthen operations that members support RASC's charitable initiatives.

Revenue Reporting

Membership, publication and charitable revenue are tracked separately in order to allocate fees to Centres and calculate income for reports. Having three revenue streams led to the belief that expenditure must be drawn from a related revenue source. That's not correct; there's no CRA or legal requirement to do so. It was also suggested that CRA changes in 2004 mandated a separation in membership, publication and donation revenue and expenditure. They did not. In fact, RASC minutes of a meeting with lawyer Susan Manwaring (engaged to ensure CRA compliance) made the opposite point. She advised there's no differentiating between "non-charitable money and charitable money – it doesn't matter where the money comes from." There are no CRA stipulations on how income is spent, other than revenue is allocated as per the charitable mandate.

Expense Reporting

Pro-rating operating costs to programs is an established charitable practice. RASC has not previously identified charitable programs in its financial statements. Instead, wages, occupancy costs, insurance etc. have been listed as lump sums. This can create the unfavourable impression of high administrative costs rather than worthy charitable program expenditure. In future, RASC will be assigning a portion of expenses to member services, Centre support-public outreach, national operations

and programs such as the robotic telescope, youth outreach, education etc. These are paper allocations of the estimated value of staff time, office expense and operating costs to program areas. Amounts will be assigned to activities in proportion to the resources expended in each area.

Membership Fees

RASC membership fees are not directly linked to the actual cost of member benefits, the face value of benefits provided or internal allocations of expenses such as staff and computer costs incurred serving members. Consequently, fee increases are simply the result of higher operating costs – everything from the price of paper, to rent increases and new program activities. 2018 membership fees represented 27.8% of total operating expenditure. The 2019 budgeted amount equals 28.3% of the total budget, a difference of less than half of one per cent. Initiatives to increase revenue from all sources are being diligently explored to help strengthen financial sustainability; 2018 publication revenue of 30% is projected at 33% of the total budget in 2019; donation and grant revenue increases from 24.7% to 33% of 2019 expenditure.

2019 Budget

At the GA, two significant donations were announced. One was a bequest pledge of \$1.5 million from Mr. Rudolph Dorner to establish the Dorner Telescope Museum. As this generous gift will be realized in the future, Mr. Dorner made an immediate donation of \$25,000. Carswell Family Foundation President Allan Carswell announced a first year contribution of \$100,000 for a 3 year funding commitment. \$75,000 in year two Trottier Family Foundation funding was also confirmed. Consequently, 2019 budget projections were revised to \$862,425 revenue, \$876,203 expenses, \$13,778 deficit. Regarding deficits, members referred to a difference in net results depending on cost allocations. Net proceeds are not affected by the program an expense is allocated to - the bottom line is the same regardless of assigning an expense to one area or another.

CRA T3010s

As a result of not previously recognizing charitable expenditure in its statements, RASC's annual T3010 financial report to CRA significantly understated charitable program expense at 11%. The advice of the auditor was to increase the amount in increments. Therefore, 2017 charitable programming was reported at 58% and 2018 was 69%. This assessment is moving towards a more typical allocation of between 70% and 85% in charitable programming expenditure.

Charitable Operations Summary

Revenue: There are stringent CRA rules for issuing charitable tax receipts and RASC complies with all requirements. Membership fees, publication and merchandise sales are earned revenue and because no tax receipt is issued for these revenues, income can be expended without restriction as per the charitable mandate.

Expenses: A charity's expenses must support its mandate and RASC expenditures fully comply. There are no CRA or legal requirements that restrict allocation of expenses as the charity wishes, other than that expenses comply with the mandate. Allocating pro-rated expenses to charitable program areas is a standard industry practice providing a donor friendly presentation of program costs. This paper allocation helps prevent a perception of high administrative expenses. RASC will be assigning a portion of operating costs to programs in future.

Net Proceeds: The difference between total revenue and expenses is not impacted by the allocation of expenses to one program or another. The bottom line would be the same.

In conclusion, I hope this update is helpful. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 519-754-1803 or ldiveto@rasc.ca with questions or comments. The continued success of RASC is dependent on member understanding of, and support for, RASC's vital charitable operations and mandate. Thank you for your valued consideration.



*Photo taken by Tim Yaworski at
Grasslands National Park West Block*

Books for Sale

All Books being sold by Darrell Chatfield

Contact Darrell at novachat@sasktel.net or 306-222-0515

All books are in either new, or like new condition. Retail price in brackets. Please email or text me if you want a particular book and I will bring It to the next meeting or arrange to meet you. Thank you. Darrell

“The New Solar System” 2009 Patricia Daniels. Color (40.00) \$18.00

“Deep Sky Observers Handbook”. 5 vol. 1979. Ken Glyn Jones. \$30.00

“ORBIT - Nasa Astronauts Photograph the Earth. 1996. Color. \$2.00

“International Encyclopedia of Astronomy” 1987. Patrick Moore. Color.

\$10.00

“Backyard Astronomers Guide” T. Dickinson & Al Dyer. 2008. Color (49.95)

\$25.00

“Atlas of Deep Sky Splendors” 1978. H. Verhenberg. (50.00) B & W. \$22.00

“Turn Left at Orion” 2000. Dan Davis. B & W. (29.99) \$15.00

“Amateur Astronomers Catalog of 500 Deep Sky Objects” Vol 1. 1980. B & W
R. Morales \$15.00

“Observing the Constellations” 1989. J. Sanford. Color charts. \$10.00

“Nightwatch” 1984. T. Dickinson. Color. \$10.00

“Sky Atlas 2000” W. Tirion. 1981. 3 Color atlas. \$30.00

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
Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle	94
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>