

Saskatoon Skies

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

Vol. 43, No. 11

November 2012

Sleaford Open House at Night



This stunning photographic silhouette of September's Open House at Sleaford was taken by member George Charpentier. Attached to this photo was his comment "No matter how good the camera, they still don't take very good pictures in the dark". We respectfully disagree.



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To view *Saskatoon Skies* in colour, see our Website:

<http://homepage.usask.ca/~ges125/rasc/newsletters.html>

MEMBERSHIP? JOIN TODAY!

Regular: \$80.00 /year

Youth: \$41.00 /year

Associate: \$33 /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. If you do not want to join at this time, ask to get onto our FREE 3-month Temporary Membership list. You will receive regular mailings of our Saskatoon Skies newsletter and will be invited to participate in Centre activities. Members are encouraged to renew early to avoid disruption in publications. Renew through the National Office at <national@RASC.ca>!

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)
- use of the Centre library
- rent the Centre's Telescopes
<http://homepage.usask.ca/ges125/rasc/telescopes.html>
- discounts to Sky & Telescope Magazine*
- free, no-cost, no-obligation, 3-month temporary membership if you don't want to join right now!

*New subscription or renewal of Sky & Telescope? Send new info or renewal notice, plus credit card # to Norma Jensen, 128 – 4th Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7H 1H8, or email her at norj@sasktel.net.

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

SASKATOON CENTRE'S MAIN OFFICERS:

President – James Gorkoff, 644-1343

Secretary – Ron Waldron, 382-9428

Vice-President – Jim Goodridge, 370-8530

Treasurer – Norma Jensen, 244-7360

**Bottle Drive &
Canadian Tire \$**
By Colin Chatfield

If you cannot make it to a meeting but would like to contribute your Canadian Tire money please call me at 934-7046.

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

Newsletter Editor – Ron Waldron
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. **Articles can be sent by mail in any format to the Centre's mailbox.** Submitted materials can be returned upon request. Submissions may also be sent by e-mail to the editor at rmwaldron@shaw.ca as a .doc, no indents, no tabs, one line between paragraphs. Images: .jpg please, no larger than 1 – 1.5 MB, sent by e-mail as attached files.

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. **DEADLINE for submissions** for each month's issue is the 1st of the month. Saskatoon Skies accepts commercial advertising. Please call the editor 306-665-3392 for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items free of charge.

RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 13	Observers Group – Dusk, Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	
Oct. 15	RASC Executive Meeting – 6:30 PM, 175 Physics, U of S	Jeff Swick	373-3902
Oct. 15	Annual General Meeting – 7:30 PM, 175 Physics, U of S	Jeff Swick	373-3902
Nov. 17	Observers Group – Dusk, Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801
Nov. 16/17	Leonid Meteor Shower		
Nov. 19	General Meeting – 7:30 PM, 175 Physics, U of S		
Nov. 28	Penumbral Lunar Eclipse		
Dec. 13/14	Geminid Meteor Shower		
Dec. 17	December General Meeting / Pot Luck Supper	Guest Speaker	R. Hydorako

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



RASC SASKATOON CENTRE GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, November 19th, 7:30 PM

Room 175, Physics Bldg., U of S

Program

Mike Simmons

Founder and President of
Astronomers without Borders

live via Skype
followed by a Q&A Session

NOTE: There will be an executive meeting at 6:30 PM

Editor's Note:

The Astronomers Without Borders Website can be found at:

<http://www.astronomerswithoutborders.org>

Mike Simmons Bio can be found by following this link:

<http://www.astronomerswithoutborders.org/index.php/about-astronomers-without-borders/about-awb-people/37?task=view>

New Saskatoon Centre Executive 2012 - 2013



Editor's Note: The following slate of officers was presented and approved at the Annual October General Meeting

Executive

- **President** Jim Gorkoff
- **Vice-President** Jim Goodridge
- **Past President** Jeff Swick
- **Newsletter Editor** Ron Waldron
- **Secretary** Tenho Tuomi
- **Treasurer** Norma Jensen
- **National Council Representative** Rick Huziak

Councillors

- ◆ **Events Coordinator** Barb Wright
- ◆ **Fundraising Coordinator** Jim Goodridge
- ◆ **Membership Coordinator** Mark de Jong
- ◆ **Observing Coordinator** Larry Scott
- ◆ **Sleaford Site Coordinator** Darrell Chatfield
- ◆ **Councillor at-large** Les Dickson

Non-executive Coordinators

- **Librarian** Darrell Chatfield
- **Centre Photographer/Archivist** George Charpentier
- **Meeting Room Coordinator** Graham Hartridge
- **SSSP Chair** Barb Wright
- **New and Distant Members Coordinator** Jeff Swick
- **Publications Sales Coordinator** James Gorkoff
- **Webmaster** Gordon Sarty

Minutes of the Executive Meeting

Monday, October 15th, 2012

The meeting began at 6:29 PM

Approval of Minutes of Sept. Executive Meeting – Moved by Barb Wright, seconded by Les Dickson. Passed

Treasurer – nil report

Fundraising – nil report

Centre Rep

National's goal for next year is to align all the centres' constitutions with National. We will continue to work from the old and existing bylaws until this is done.

Events Coordinator

There will be observing at Jim Goodridge's Acreage on Monday, October 22nd from 7:00 – 10:00 PM. An announcement will be made via e-mail to the membership.

Barb reported that the Galileo project is going ahead on November 28th at 3rd Avenue United Church. She suggested that we should have a presence there in the form of sidewalk astronomy and/or a display table. Saturday evening volunteering at the U of S observatory has three permanent volunteers from our membership.

Muskaday First Nation has asked for a Star Night for December 13th and 14th of December to coincide with the Geminid meteor shower. Contact Gord Sarty if you are interested.

Children's Discovery Museum is moving to the Mendel Art Gallery. It would be nice if we could offer support for their program once they have moved.

SSSP

Profit from this year's event is still being calculated but should be between 3 and 4 thousand dollars. Les Dickson asked for suggestions for speakers for next year.

Membership

Jeff Swick reported that we are up three paid members

Light Abatement

Rick has been asked to do a report for the north-east "swail". This is a real opportunity to make a good presence with the city planning department and perhaps create a real light pollution bylaw.

Site Coordinator

Garry Stone has constructed two new fold-down counters for the Sleaford warm-up shelter. The western wall of the warm-up shelter still needs to be done. Darrell and Rick will try to complete this before winter if the weather continues to be warm. If not, it will be done in the spring.

Larry Scott is still requesting that we build a shelter or shed for the snow blower and lawnmowers for storage in the winter. Darrell gave a price on a 10' X 20' storage container that is for sale for \$5000.00 and would be delivered to our site for that price.

He also reminded us that a 24' X 30' garage package complete with shingles and siding all inclusive (delivery and construction) would be \$22,740. After considerable discussion, it was decided that a motion will be made in March to build the structure and spend the money (actual amount may be different). The entire membership will be notified in advance of the intent to spend this amount of money and will be given the date of the vote. In addition, Rick and Les will meet with the U of S to notify them of our intent to build.

Barb mentioned that the mice droppings in the roll-off shelter needs to be dealt with before anyone uses this facility. She has proper gloves and masks for the procedure. This should be completed before winter so that the roll-off can be used. Darrell and Rick have been discussing a plan to mouse-proof the roll-off building.

Other

Jim Gorkoff reports that profit margins for the purchase and selling of books in our club is quite low. However, it is worth continuing for the benefit of our membership and for events like SSSP.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Monday, October 15th, 2012

Meeting began at 7:45 PM

Approval of Minutes of Sept. General Meeting – Moved by Ellen Dickson, seconded by Mike Clancy. Passed.

Committee Reports (see minutes of the Executive meeting)

Newsletter Deadline

The November Deadline is Friday, November 2nd

New Business

A notice of motion will be given to the newsletter editor to publish in the November issue. The notice will make clear our intent to have a garage structure delivered and built on site at Sleaford in the spring.

Resolution re: Directors. *"Be it resolved that the number of directors of the corporation remain at 5 and that the election of the 5 existing directors be approved, they being Richard Huziak, Norma Jensen, Tenho Tuomi, Ron Waldron and Barb Wright."* Moved by James Gorkoff, seconded by Mike Clancy. Carried

Resolution re: No Audit. *"Pursuant to subsections 150(1) and (1.4) of the Act, the members of the corporation resolve not to appoint an auditor nor a person to review the financial statements of the corporation."* Moved by Ron Waldon, seconded by Mike Clancy. Carried

The new slate of officers for the 2012/2013 year was presented and passed. All positions were filled. The slate is published elsewhere in this newsletter and can be viewed online at our Centre's website -

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

Presentation

Mike Clancy gave a presentation entitled *"Stories and Stars – What I did with my Summer Holidays"*

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM

Congratulations!

To **Kathleen Houston** who not only scored the back page of the 2013 Observers Handbook but she also has a 3 page essay in the handbook called Astronomical *Sketching: Adventure at your fingertips* as well.

Tenho Tuomi who has a three page essay called *Digital Astrophotography: A Primer*

Sky Buys & Mirror Cells

Member Dale Parker has the following three items to give away. Contact him at dale.parker@sasktel.net if interested.

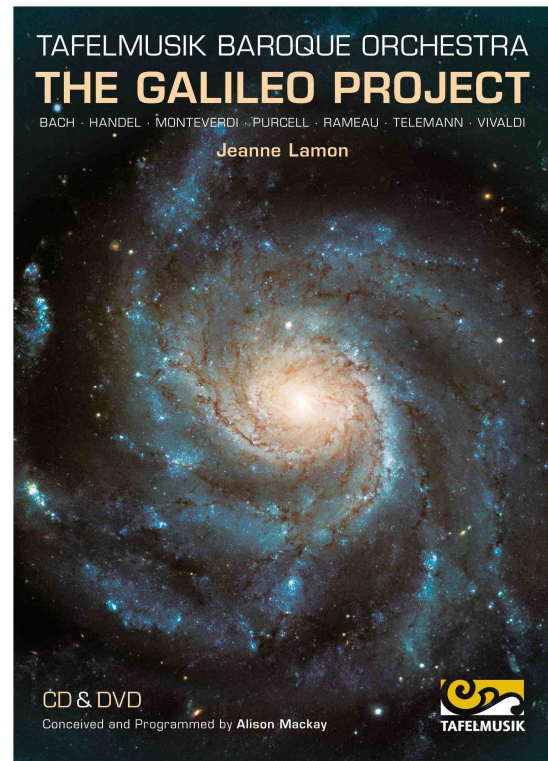
- *Philip Harrington: Star Watch*
- *Storm Dunlop: Atlas of the Night Sky*
- *Robert Burnham's Celestial Handbook 3 volume set.*

Galileo Project Comes to Saskatoon

Wed., November 28th at 8:00 pm
Third Ave Centre

Galileo Project – Music of the Spheres was written to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Galileo's development and use of the astronomical telescope and was designed by Saskatoon born Alison McKay. The Galileo Project literally takes the audience flying through the cosmos. The orchestra is **joined by Galileo** himself (Shaun Smyth) who helps you journey through the life of Galileo – astronomer, scientist, and music lover. Above the stage a large disc – an **eye through Galileo's telescope**. While listening to the music of Handel, Bach, Vivaldi, and more, the audience sees what Galileo saw, watches him discover and explore. Images from the **Hubble Space Telescope** are bold and capture the **music of our universe**. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity – the Saskatoon performance is the **second last performance ever** of the Galileo Project.

To attend, simply call in to Persephone Theatre Box Office at 384-7727. It is assigned seating, and prices vary from \$57-\$25 (cheaper seats have a compromised view of the projection screen).



Organizers are expecting a sell out. This concert experience has the ability to impact your love of music and the stars. It is definitely a night that you will never forget.

This is an important opportunity for our members to show their support by purchasing tickets and attending the concert. There may also be a chance to offer Sidewalk Astronomy either before or after the event. To find out more about our plans and to offer your services, contact Events Coordinator, **Barb Wright**.

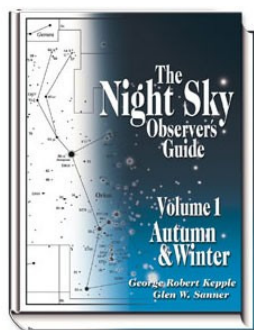
NOTICE OF IMPORTANT UPCOMING EXPENDITURE

Editor's Note: At the October Executive Meeting, it was requested that the following announcement be included in each upcoming Centre newsletter

It is the intent of the executive to have built on the Sleaford Site, a 24' X 30' garage package complete with shingles and siding. The amount spent (delivery and construction) would be approximately \$22,740. (actual amount may be different). A vote on this building project will be taken by the membership at the March, 2013 General Meeting.

The Perfect Observing Companion *by Jeff Swick*

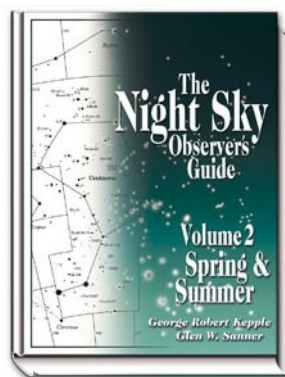
One of the best investments a novice astronomer can make is the same investment intermediate and advanced astronomer makes and that is a quality-observing guide. Widely acknowledged as one of the best is The Night Sky Observers Guide by Kepple and Sanner published by [Willman-Bell](#). Vol 1 is the autumn and winter version and unlike Vol 2, contains a forward and introduction to the set that is in my opinion worth the \$35.00 alone. A reference every bit as valuable as the observers handbook but with more room and more detailed explanations as to Star Cluster and Galaxy classifications etc.



The meat and potatoes of course is the guide itself. It is broken down by constellation, beginning with an overview of the constellation and detailing showpiece items, binocular objects, interesting

stars etc. It also contains tables of selected variable stars, selected double stars and the deep sky objects one by one.

One really nice feature to the novice is that NCG752 in Andromeda for example has description of what I should expect to see in an 8" 'scope and also what I should expect in a 14" 'scope. This is also valuable so you don't go hunting with a 6" 'scope for an object that is barely bright enough for a larger scope. Saves time and frustration.



Items are also rated on a star-rating going from a 1 star fairly uninteresting to a 5 star showcase, which makes it easy to plan your target list for the evening.

Finally each constellation has many detailed charts making your star hop so much easier.

I've recommended this set before to many people who have purchased and continue to utilize it as part of their regimen. It's made a huge difference in my success rate. One comment I got the last time I recommended it was that it contains too much information and indeed I can see where that might seem the case. In my case this is a reference set that I doubt I'll ever outgrow. To me it is a sound investment priced at only \$35.00. My copies came with my scope so they are starting to show their age but the good thing is that it is because they are being used. They have almost as many pencil written notes as my observing log so it has become a great cross reference tool. This set and a [planisphere](#) and you can not only observe the night away but also spend a pleasant afternoon star hopping with the maps in the guides.

I think that possibly the people who will get the most out of this set are people who due to distance or travel limitations can't make it out to observe with other astronomers. This set is the perfect observing companion.

RASC National Council Meeting #124 by Richard Huziak

November 3, 2012, 8:09 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST

Thirty-eight council members & guests attended the meeting by teleconference or in person in Toronto.

The RASC bylaws and related documents are being revised to meet the new *Canada Not For*

Profit Act. The revised RASC Bylaw #1, Articles of Continuance, RASC Policy Manual and Board Policy Manual were discussed. The bylaws, policies and terms of reference documents are available for member review in the Member Area/National Council/Reports at <http://www.rasc.ca> Bylaw #1 will be adopted at the July 2013 General Assembly (GA) in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Paul McNeill of the *National Film Board of Canada* spoke to the group as an invited guest. Paul introduced the *NFB Space, School*, a new project in conjunction with the *Canadian Space Agency*, that involves in-classroom learning. See the discussion paper on the Member Area Reports site mentioned above. The NFB program was inspired by the *Miramichi Star Troopers*, an amazing school group we saw at the Fredericton GA. (See: <http://miramichirural.nbed.nb.ca/other/galileo-observatory>) The RASC was asked to partner with the NFB to help develop the program. The first project will feature Chris Hadfield's upcoming commander mission to the



International Space Station. The program will be started as a free demonstration, but will become a subscription (pay-for) service for schools. The NFB is looking for the RASC to be a resource for in-class groups and expert information. Some concerns were expressed over volunteer burnout and non-commitment of funding of local volunteer costs. However, the RASC accepted a motion to support the program in principle, pending a discussion on what the RASC can contribute and what benefit it is to them.

The 2014 GA will be held in Victoria, BC, Halifax has expressed their interest in hosting the GA in 2015 and the Regina Centre has expressed their interest to hold the GA in 2016.

The *Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre* (BOEC) near Wiarton, ON was voted as a new RASC Dark-sky Preserve. See the Blue-water homepage at <http://www.oec.bwdsb.on.ca/>

First Vice-president Colin Haig also expressed his delight with the quality of two new sections added to the *Observer's Handbook 2013*. These sections were written by Saskatoon Centre members: Kathleen Houston's *Astronomical Sketching: Adventure at Your Fingertips* (p.88) and Tenho Tuomi's *Digital Astrophotography: A Primer* (p. 91). Good job! Kathleen's sketch of M42 appears on the back cover. The OH has grown to an amazing 352 pages and includes nine new sections!

The Education Committee is considering developing a "comet brochure" for outreach since one or two bright comets may grace our skies within the next year or two.

The next National Council meeting will be held March 23, 2013, 10:00 a.m. EDT.

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. Jeffrey, D. Chatfield, B.
Christie, K. Noesgaard,
M. Stephens, B. Hydromako, T. Tuomi, L.
Scott, G. Charpentier, B. Johnson, M.
Clancy, L. Dickson, B. Burlingham, K.
Houston*

Norma Jensen	109
Ron Waldron	105
Wade Selvig	75
Garry Stone	57
Bernice Friesen	45
Wayne Schlapkohl	43
Barb Wright	40
Ellen Dickson	34
Jeff Swick	24
Graham Hartridge	9

Chatfield BINOCULAR CERTIFICATE

Certified at 35 to 40 Objects:

*M. Stephens, T. Tuomi, M. Clancy,
R. Huziak, K. Maher*

Jim Goodridge	Up!	12
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FINEST NGC CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

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

Larry Scott	Done!	110
Scott Alexander		97
Norma Jensen		58
Sandy Ferguson		23
Kathleen Houston		23
George Charpentier		13
Mike Clancy		7

EXPLORE the UNIVERSE

Certified at 55 to 110 Objects:

*M. Clancy, T. Tuomi, K. Maher,
B. Gratias*

Wayne Schlapkohl	Done	55
Sharon Dice		31
Jim Goodridge	Up!	35

Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Certificate

Certified at 140 Objects:

T. Tuomi

Norma Jensen	133
Jeff Swick	29

HERSCHEL 400 CLUB

Certified at 400 Objects:

*D. Jeffrey, R. Huziak, D. Chatfield, T.
Tuomi*

Gordon Sarty	251
Scott Alexander	117
Sandy Ferguson	18
Larry Scott	20

HERSCHEL 400-II CLUB

Darrell Chatfield	Done!	400
Rick Huziak		246

LEVY DEEP-SKY GEMS

Certified at 154 Objects:

Tenho Tuomi	149
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.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/herschel/hers400.html>

Binocular List is at: http://homepage.usask.ca/%7Eges125/rasc/Chatfield_Binocular_List.pdf

Copies of the Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program Guide can be purchased at meetings.

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