

# Saskatoon Skies

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

Vol. 44, No. 11

November 2013



*The newly completed large shed at Sleaford as it appeared at dusk at the Sleaford Open House. The side of the shed was used as a projection screen for a 15 minute presentation given by Ron Waldron at the open house. Look for more on the open house on page 5 in this issue.*



Saskatoon Centre  
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
P.O. Box 317, RPO University  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4J8  
WEBSITE:

<http://www.rasc.ca/saskatoon>

E -MAIL: [skstars@shaw.ca](mailto:skstars@shaw.ca)

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

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

## In This Issue:

Membership Information / Bottle Drive / Officers of the Centre	2
U of S Observatory Hours / Light Pollution Abatement Website	2
Calendar of Events / Notice of Meeting	3
Minutes of October Executive Meeting	4
Minutes of October General Meeting	4,5
Sleaford Open House – Barb Wright	5
Tenho Tuomi's Comet Photography	6
Sky Buys and Mirror Cells	7
Sleaford Shed and Renovations Photos – George Charpentier	7
Observer's Group Notes – Larry Scott	8
The Five Visible Planets This Month	9
Observing Clubs and Certificates	10

# 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](mailto: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** – Tenho Tuomi, 306-858-2453  
**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](http://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](mailto: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. **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. **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

November	Comet C/2012 S1 (ISON) visible all month	see Sky News
Nov. 2	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
Nov. 18	Executive and General Meeting – 175 Physics – U of S – 7:00 and 8:00 PM respectively	Jim Gorkoff
Nov.29	Comet ISON reaches perihelion	see Sky News
Nov. 30	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
Dec. 16	Christmas Potluck Social – 6:30 PM – No Executive Meeting	Barb Wright
Dec. 28	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
Jan. 25	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott

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

## General Meeting for all members

November 18th at 8:00 PM

**Note:** *there will be an Executive meeting at 7:00 PM*

1. Building a Sextant – Garry Stone

2. Observing the Planets With a Telescope  
(*Our Night Sky; Lecture*)



## Minutes of Executive Meeting – *James Gorkoff*

Acting Secretary: Jim Gorkoff

Executive and Committee Leaders Present: Jim Gorkoff, Jim Goodridge, Barb W., Rick H. and Tenho T. (and 8 other members/family).

Call to Order

Barb Wright moved the minutes of the September Executive Meeting be passed, Jim Gorkoff seconded the motion, approved with no dissent.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer - absent - no report;

Membership -absent - no report;

Fundraising - \$42.00 from deposit on cans; approximately \$30.00 from open house;

Observing Report -absent -no report;

Newsletter Report -presented by Jim Gorkoff. on behalf of Ron W.

- deadline for submissions for next month's newsletter 1 November;

Sleaford Report - Rick H

- building package report to be given at general meeting

- issues with mice in warm up shelter and roll off resolved; the roll off was cleaned and the hot

boxes removed;

- fall work and work on the improvements to the warm up shelter continue

- Cam donated \$120.00 for shelving in the new building;

Events Co-ordinator Report:

- approximately 20 cars at open house - low numbers attributable to inclement weather - slide show successfully presented on wall of new shed

- announced the Christmas Pot Luck for 16

December at 6:30 with potential astro-photography competition to be arranged by Barb W and Jim Goodridge;

SSSP report - profit/loss for SSSP 2013 to be presented at next meeting;

National Advisory Committee report - put over to general meeting;

Light Pollution Abatement Committee Report: - Casino Lights are off;

Election: - general discussion as to procedure for elections at General Meeting;

Adjourned

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting – *Tenho Tuomi*

Chairman Jim Gorkoff opened the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Moved by Jim Young and seconded by Jim Goodridge that the minutes of the September 16 meeting be approved. Carried.

Event's Coordinator, Barb Wright reported that the December 16 General meeting will be a potluck supper at 6:30 PM. Jim Goodridge suggested that for this meeting our members be

asked to bring their astrophotos or sketches for display.

Elections followed.

Executive:

President – JimGorkoff, second year of his term  
Vice-President – Jim Goodridge , second year of his term

Past President – Jeff Swick



National Advisory Committee Representative,  
elected April 15

Treasurer – Norma Jensen

Membership Coordinator – Mark de Jong

Newsletter – Ron Waldron

Events Coordinator – **vacant**

Secretary – **vacant**

Fundraising Coordinator – Jim Goodridge

Observing Coordinator – Larry Scott

Sleaford Site Coordinator – Darrell Chatfield

Councillor at Large – Les Dickson

After no further nominations, this slate of  
candidates was approved by the members.

Directors:

Ron Waldron

Rick Huziak

Tenho Tuomi

Jim Gorkoff

Moved by Jim Young and Barb Wright that  
these be elected for our Centre Board of  
Directors. Carried.

Cam McLelland was thanked for his \$120  
donation for shelves for the new shed.

Rob Jensen was welcomed as a new member of  
the SSSP committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 followed by a slide  
presentation by Rick Huziak on the renovations  
at Sleaford. This was followed at 8:36 by the  
documentary, “The City Dark” by Ian Cheney.

## Sleaford Open House – *Barb Wright*

Our annual Open House at Sleaford Observatory was held October 5. This is a joint activity with the U of S Physics Dept. In spite of a good deal of advertising, TV time (thanks, Ron Waldron, great job) and posters, we did not have our usual big crowd turn out. This was likely due largely to the weather, which was not at all conducive to showing the night sky. In spite of that, we had a lovely gathering of members, new and not-so-new, for the BBQ potluck before the open house. There was a marvelous selection of desserts for us all to enjoy!

Stan Shadick led a convoy of cars from the Field House, as he does every year, and led a tour through the roll off observatory. Then, Ron Waldron gathered the crowd for a slide show presentation projected against the outside wall of the newly constructed shed. This worked remarkably well as a site for the presentation.



The sky allowed us a bit of observing to give the visitors a little taste of looking at the sky. They did clear beautifully for a brief period, (after the public left) so the scopes did get some good viewing.

Thank you to all the people who helped with this event - advertising, cleaning up the observatories, organizing handouts, coffee, parking, setting up your telescopes. The open house is an event that requires many hands, thanks everyone for lending yours.

# Tenho Tuomi's Comet Photography

Editor's Note: Details and more photos can be found on Tenho's website now,  
<http://www.lex.sk.ca/astro/350d/2013.htm>



Comet C/2012 S1 (ISON)



Comet C/2012 X1 (LINEAR)



Comet 2P/Encke



Comet Lovejoy

The first three pictures were taken the morning of Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> in moonlight from 5:20 to 6:22 AM, thanks to Velma for waking me up when she saw that the sky was clear. I had been up earlier, before the moon was up, but the sky had been overcast. The last one (Lovejoy) was taken the morning of November 1<sup>st</sup>.

There are five comets in the sky now (actually seven for the Spring comets PANSTARRS and Lemon might still be photographed). Brewington is an evening comet. ISON, Encke and LINEAR are morning comets. The newest comet, C/2013 R1 (Lovejoy) rises before midnight.

The magic date for **Comet C/2012 S1 (ISON)** is November 28 when it rounds the sun. It might be a bright naked eye comet after that. It will remain a low morning comet. **Comet 2P/Encke** will pass the sun on November 21 but will go too low for us to see. The optimum dates for observing this short period comet will be from November 9 to 15 in the mornings. **Comet C/2012 X1 (LINEAR)** would normally be too dim for us to see but it had an outburst similar to comet Holmes. It might remain visible to next spring. The dim periodic **Comet 154P/Brewington** is about as bright as it will be. I was able to photograph it but was not able to see it through my 12" scope. **Comet C/2013 X1 (Lovejoy)** will be at its brightest when it passes earth from November 11 to 13. It will pass the sun on December 12. It will remain in our skies until next autumn, but fading.

## Sky Buys and Mirror Cells

### Televue PowerMate 2.5x 1.25" - \$150 obo

- Hardly used. New \$200, asking
- Contact Les Dickson, [astrochem@sasktel.net](mailto:astrochem@sasktel.net)



### Telescope for Sale - \$550

- Skywatcher 13065-EQ-2 Newtonian Reflector with Finder Scope and Equatorial Mount (D=130mm, F=650 mm)
- Motor Drive on Right Ascension Celestron T-Ring Mount for Nikon Camera
- Two Eyepieces
  - Televue Plossl 25mm
  - Televue Plossl 10mm
- 2X Barlow Lens
- Telescope Bag
- Leather case for parts storage



Contact **Barbara Nelson** - 374-2055 or e-mail: [hobbit.hole@shaw.ca](mailto:hobbit.hole@shaw.ca)

## Sleaford Renovations Photos– George Charpentier

### Editor's Note:

*On Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, members Rick Huziak, Darrel Chatfield, and George Charpentier spent the day at Sleaford working on renovations. (Photos by George Charpentier) It's looking both spiffy and spacious inside!*





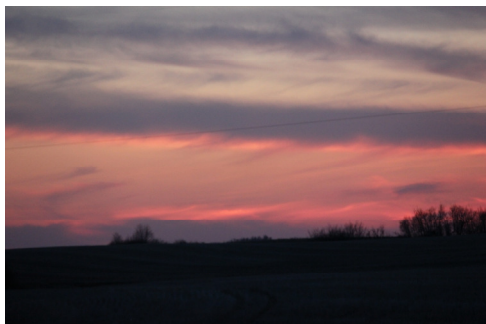
## Observer's Group Notes – Larry Scott

The evening of Friday, October 4th was pleasant and clear so five club members dashed out to Sleaford for some star-gazing. Our efforts felt especially rewarding the following night, as the Sleaford Open House was unfortunately clouded out. Despite the overcast it was good to see some faces which I don't normally run into at Sleaford. And for the record, I am bringing some kind of vegetable next year to the BBQ.



*Photo by Ron Waldron*

Our regularly scheduled Observer's Group for October 26th was clouded out as well. Two days later three members were back to Sleaford braving some heavy skies to catch a few more photons.



*Photo by Ron Waldron*

The next dark sky period begins around November 23rd and ends with the Moon's return about December 7th. The next scheduled Observers Group will be on November 30th but stay tuned for other observing opportunities. After November 29th comet Nevski-Novichonok(ISON) should become visible to the naked eye during the pre dawn hours for a week or so. Maybe.





# The Five Visible Planets This Month

*adapted from Earthsky.org*

*Editor's Note: In November 2013, one of the five visible planets – Venus – will be easily visible after sunset. Jupiter rises into the sky at mid-to-late evening and Mars comes up after midnight. In early November, Mercury and Saturn are lost in the sun's glare.*

**Mercury.** Mercury presents a fine morning apparition for the Northern Hemisphere for a few weeks, centered around mid-November 2013. Southern Hemisphere observers, especially at temperate latitudes, might glimpse Mercury, too, given exceptionally clear skies all the way to the horizon before sunrise. From anywhere worldwide, it helps to have an unobstructed horizon in the direction of sunrise, and possibly binoculars, to catch the innermost planet of the solar system

**Venus.** Venus beams mightily in the west at dusk, as seen from across the Earth. You can't miss it. It sets roughly two-and-one-half-hours after sunset at mid-northern latitudes in early November, and close to three hours after the sun by the month's end. Venus! It's the beautiful "evening star."

**Mars.** Mars shines in front of the Constellation Leo the Lion, rising in the east about two hours after midnight in early November, and rising about one hour after the midnight hour by late November.

**Jupiter.** Jupiter can be seen in the evening sky – if you stay up late enough or wake up before sunrise. The giant planet rises by mid-to-late evening in early November, and rises by early-to-mid evening at the month's end. Once Jupiter rises, it's put for rest of the night. When December comes rolling around, Jupiter will rise in the east at about the time that Venus sets in the west. It shines in front of the constellation Gemini, rather close to the constellation's two brightest stars, Castor and Pollux.

**Saturn.** Saturn passes into the morning sky toward the the end of the first week of November. As seen from our Northern Hemisphere latitudes in November 2013, Saturn may become visible in the eastern sky before sunrise to acute observers, starting around mid-November.



# 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. Hydomako, T. Tuomi, L.  
Scott, G. Charpentier, B. Johnson, M.  
Clancy, L. Dickson, B. Burlingham, K.  
Houston*

Norma Jensen	110
<b>complete</b>	
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
---------------	-----	----

## 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		66
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	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.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/herschel/hers400.html>

Binocular List is at: [http://homepage.usask.ca/~7Eges125/rasc/Chatfield\\_Binocular\\_List.pdf](http://homepage.usask.ca/~7Eges125/rasc/Chatfield_Binocular_List.pdf)

"Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program Guide:

<http://www.rasc.ca/observing/williamson-lunar-observing-certificate>

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