

Saskatoon Skies

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

Vol. 46, No. 05

May 2015



Future speakers at our monthly meetings will need to work even harder to top what member Darrell Chatfield did at the April Meeting. Entering the room in full costume, he presented a first person biography of the famous astronomer William Herschel. Photos by Ron Waldron and Tenho Tuomi



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

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

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MEMBERSHIP? JOIN TODAY!

Regular: \$82.00 /year

Youth: \$43.00 /year

Family: \$77/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 <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)
- use of the Centre library
- borrow the Centre's Data Projector to give astronomy outreach presentations – contact Les Dickson at astrochem@sasktel.net
- 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 – Jim Goodridge, 306-370-8530

Vice-President – **to be filled**

Secretary – Tenho Tuomi, 306-858-2453

Treasurer – Norma Jensen, 306-244-7360

**Bottle Drive &
Canadian Tire \$**
By Jim Goodridge

If you cannot make it to a meeting but would like to contribute your Canadian Tire money please call me at 306-370-8530

**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. Submissions should be sent by e-mail to the editor at rmwaldron@shaw.ca in msword or text format. 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. Saskatoon Skies accepts commercial advertising. Please call the editor 306-382-9428 for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items free of charge.

RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 9	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
May 11	Monthly Executive and General Meeting	J. Goodridge
May 15-18	Grasslands National Park DSP Star Party	Rick Huziak
June 13	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
June 15	Monthly Executive and General Meeting	J. Goodridge
July 1-5	RASC General Assembly – Halifax, N.S.	
July 18	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
July 25	Grasslands National Park DSP Star Party	Rick Huziak

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

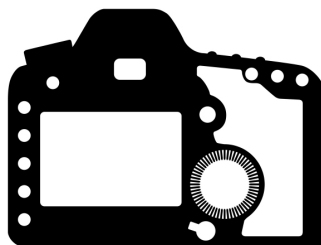


May RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests
Room 127 Physics Bldg
University of Saskatchewan
on

Monday, May 11th, 2015

*How to Make Astro-movies using a Digital
Camera*



Dale Boan (Saskatoon Centre)

Note: There will be an EXECUTIVE MEETING beginning at 7:00 PM

Minutes of the April Executive and General Meetings – *Tenho Tuomi*

Executive Meeting opened at 7:05 pm.

Moved by Darrel Chatfield and Norma Jensen that the minutes of the March 16 meeting be adopted as circulated. Carried.

Committee Reports:

President's Report by Jim Goodridge – Earth Hour at Circle Centre Mall on March 28 went well. Thank you to the volunteers who helped out.

-- The May 11 meeting will be held in room 127 instead of 175.

Newsletter Report by Ron Waldron – next deadline is May 1.

-- New editor needed, see notice in the April Newsletter.

Sleaford Report by Darrell Chatfield – This summer's project is to take down the old dome by mid June.

Events Report by Jim Goodridge – Astronomy Days; Lakewood Civic Centre on April 24, and Farmer's Market and Beaver Creek on April 25. Poster is available on Yahoo site. Where are the tables?

SSSP Report by Les Dickson

– Thursday night speaker confirmed.

-- Registration will be up soon.

-- Conflict with long weekend next year to be worked out.

-- One evening clinic speaker yet needed.

Light Pollution Abatement Report by Rick Huziak

-- Giving help to Medicine Hat and Swift Current with their light problems.

-- Still working on light pollution bylaws for the city and the NE Swale buffer zones.

-- Grasslands Star Party May 15-18.

Other Business:

- Rental Dob needs repairs – Rick Huziak volunteered to look at it.
- Facebook presence needed for our Centre, need someone to look after it.
- Where is Barb's Binder? Les Dickson may have it and will look for it.
- Potential Meeting Changes -- Some discussion but no changes planned yet.
- Ron Waldron mentioned a request by CTV Morning Live for an interview. The request was declined as they were looking for early morning hands-on activities.

8:00 pm -- Moved by Ellen Dickson that the Executive Meeting adjourn.

The General Meeting opened at 8:20 pm.

Rick Huziak gave a PowerPoint presentation on Sketching Planets, how to observe and sketch features on Jupiter and Mars.

Darrell Chatfield, in full period costume, acted out the part of William Herschel (1738-1822) who with his sister Caroline catalogued over 2500 objects using speculum telescopes that he made.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.



The September 2015 issue of Saskatoon Skies will be my last publication as your editor. If you would like the opportunity to take on this important role in the life of our club, please contact me ASAP. I am willing to offer you training on the June and September issues. It really isn't complicated (we've deliberately kept it that way) – as long as you own a computer and have a reasonable knowledge of MS Word, being the editor will be an easy task for you as it was for me.

I can be reached by e-mail at strman@shaw.ca.

Centre Activities Photos – *Tenho Tuomi*



On Sunday night Larry Scott and Norma Jensen brought their telescopes to our place for observing, and bed and breakfast. Larry tried to help me find my missing Deep-Sky Gems but we failed to find them.

On Tuesday evening Garry Stone and I had Astronomy Night at the Lucky Lake Library. The sky was clear and we had almost 30 people, about our best crowd in the five years that Garry and I have had these Spring Astronomy Nights at the library. Due to the late sunset the only things we showed were the Moon, Venus and Jupiter. I gave a talk based on the "Bathroom-Tissue Universe" article on page 33 of the new SkyNews magazine.

My talk using the toilet-paper roll.



My telescope at the library



Garry Stone and his telescope



On Friday night I took another picture of comet C/2014 Q2 (Lovejoy). It has not faded much in the last month, still visible in the finderscope

The Bucket List for Backyard Stargazers – Ron Waldron

As I too quickly approach the young age of 64 next month, my thoughts inevitably turn to my “bucket list”. This occasional pre-occupation with the possibility of my demise attracted me to the following book which was recommended for me to read on my Amazon Kindle E-book. *The Bucket List for Backyard Stargazers* by Brian Ventrudo shows you how, where, and when to see 11 of the most extraordinary astronomical sights and events that every stargazer– every person– should see at least once in their lives before packing up their telescope for the last time.

Here is the list ... in case you are old enough that you want to check how you are doing or young enough that you want to plan ahead:

- #11. Sunrise on Copernicus Crater
- #10. A Meteor Storm
- #9. A great Comet
- #8. A Total Solar Eclipse
- #7. The Planet Saturn
- #6. The Southern Sky
- #5. The Green Flash
- #4. Transit of Mercury
- #3. The Methuselah Star
- #2. Orion Nebula
- #1. A bright supernova



I scored alright (I think) having achieved all but four on the list. Will continue to plug away at it but I'm uncertain whether I will be fortunate enough to get the last one (Betelgeuse – please do your thing and soon!)



Observing Down South

From the log book of Norma Jensen

At last, a return to Tenho and Velma's place for an observing weekend, April 17-19th. The Messier Marathon was planned for April 18th at Sleaford so I began with plans for Friday only. I came back to Saskatoon to washed out Saturday night skies and returned south for Sunday night. Both nights turned out to be good for observing, however, under very different conditions.

Friday was wind or windier. Set up late in strong winds, without the shroud. That, along with the additional extra weights to counterbalance a new finder scope, made for a steady scope that night.

The temperature was pleasant, from +10 C. to +4 C by closing time. We paid particular notice to the rising and dropping in wind as it moved from south-east to south-west over the course of the evening.

Winds were at 20 km./hr. gusting to 37 km./hr. The wind was a challenge but fun to work in, as books were from time to time, flung to the ground and eyepieces were tucked away behind wind-shielding barriers. The skies were good. I spent time hunting galaxies and those ever-elusive planetary nebulae. Observing stopped at 2:30, wind-blown and happy after 5 hours of observing.



Sunday was clouded at supertime but by 19:30 the sky was clearing and we set up. First observation, the crescent moon at 31.6 hours old and companion Venus – beautiful - skies were reasonably good and as the evening progressed the transparency improved. Temperatures gradually fell from +7 C. to -2.7 by the end. Loose reference maps lay settled on the table with little wind: 13-15 km/hr to 7 km/hr.

Animal and bird sounds filled the night - owl, waterfowl murmuring in sloughs and coyotes calling. I continued the galaxy hunt. Early Lyrids shot by from time to time. To top off the evening before shutting down at 2:30, some final views of two favorites, M3 and M5 - wonderful.

Thank you again Velma and Tenho for sharing skies, cameraderie and home.



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*

Ron Waldron	New	108
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	12
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FINEST NGC CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

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

Larry Scott	110
Scott Alexander	97
Norma Jensen	New 78
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	55
Jim Goodridge	35
Sharon Dice	31

Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Certificate

Certified at 140 Objects:

T. Tuomi

Norma Jensen	139
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	400
Tenho Tuomi	New 398
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: 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>