

# Saskatoon Skies

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

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September 2016



*The SSSP 2016 group! Taken by George Charpentier.*



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<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. 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](mailto:astrochem@sasktel.net)
- rent the Centre's Telescopes <https://www.usask.ca/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!

## 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:

**Interim President** – Les Dickson

**Vice-President** – to be filled

**Secretary** – Tenho Tuomi, 306-858-2453

**Treasurer** – Norma Jensen, 306-244-7360

**National Council Rep** – to be filled

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](mailto:astrochem@sasktel.net)

**LIGHT POLLUTION  
ABATEMENT  
WEBSITE AT:  
[www.ras.sk.ca/lpc/lpc.htm](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:krisohn@gmail.com) for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items free of charge.



# RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|              |                                 |             |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| September 19 | RASC General Meeting            | Les Dickson |
| September 24 | Sleaford Observatory Open House | Larry Scott |
| October 1    | Observers Group at Sleaford     | Larry Scott |
| October 17   | RASC General Meeting            | Les Dickson |
| October 29   | Observers Group at Sleaford     | Larry Scott |
| November 21  | RASC General Meeting            | Les Dickson |
| November 26  | Observers Group at Sleaford     | Larry Scott |

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

## September RASC General Meeting

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

***Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 8:00PM***

***Presented by Ashley Stock:***

***General Relativistic Radiative Transfer in Curved Space Time:  
Application to Black Hole Emissions***

***Short Presentation by Les Dickson:***

***SSSP 2016***

***Slideshow by George Charpentier***



Come and see the Wonders  
of the Universe through our  
telescopes!

# Astronomy Night 2016

**Saturday, September 24**

**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.**

**The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and the U. of S.  
Department of Physics and Engineering Physics invite you to an  
Open House at the Sleaford Observatory and Research Facility**

**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 call the Observatory Information line at  
306-966-6429**

**or**

**Find us on Facebook: RASC Saskatoon Centre**



# Minutes of the June Meetings – *Tenho Tuomi*

## Minutes of the June 20 Executive Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Les Dickson at 7:04 pm.

Moved by Norma Jensen and Darrell Chatfield that the minutes of the May 16 executive meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried.

### Reports:

- President's report by Les Dickson – spoke at the Regina Centre meeting two weeks ago, 20 people were present.
- Treasurer's report by Norma Jensen – asked about quotes from electricians for work at Sleaford. First electrician could not continue, looking for quotes from second electrician.
- Newsletter report – next issue will come out in September.
- Sleaford Site Co-ordinator's report by Darrell Chatfield – have a quote of \$1200.00 for demolition of old observatory. After discussion it was decided to table a decision to the September meeting. We should get a quote from the Municipality for disposing of the rubble and do it ourselves. More talk about mouse proofing the roll-off.
- Activities report by Rick Huziak – about 30 people attended the Grasslands East Star Party on May 27/28. About 160 people attended the Old Man on his Back Nocturnal Preserve signing on June 18 with people from the Eastend Astro Club, our two Centres, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Our Centres contributed to the donation of an 8" Dobsonian. A plow wind flattened the meeting tent.
- Librarian's report by Darrell Chatfield - need a key?
- Scope Rental Coordinator's report by Errol Frazer-Harrison – Mike Duffy has one telescope for repairs.
- SSSP committee report by Les Dickson and Rick Huziak – still need two more volunteers. The two red lights have been installed. All supplies have been checked.

### New Business:

- Candice Dustine needs someone for star nights at North Battleford. Rick Huziak volunteered.
- There was a discussion about dropping our \$10 Centre surcharge and instead charging \$25.00 for the 15-16 who want a printed newsletter, in the hope of attracting more members.
- There was discussion about moving our meeting place to the campus observatory. Some problems were seen as limited parking space, and question about whether enough room can be made there by knocking out a wall. It was suggested that we set up an exploratory meeting with Gordon Sarty and the University's Science Outreach Program to see if we can work more together.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

## Minutes of the April 18 General Meeting

Meeting opened at 8:16 pm after a coffee break.

Moved by Ellen Dickson and Errol Frazer-Harrison that the minutes of the June 20 General meeting be approved as circulated. Carried.

Les Dickson and Rick Huziak gave a summary of the reports and announcements from the Executive Meeting.

Presentations:

- Presentation by Les Dickson on “The RASC Observing Certificate Program”.
- Presentation by Rob Shephard on “The 2016 RASC General Assembly in London, Ontario”.
- Presentation by Kenton Lysak on “How Dark Skies Support Nocturnal Wildlife”.

Meeting adjourned at 10 pm.

## SSSP 2016 Report – *Les Dickson, SSSP 2016 Chair*

Another summer has come and gone, and with it, another successful Saskatchewan Summer Star Party. Our attendance was over 300 over the three main days of the event. For a change, the weather mostly cooperated with us. There was a violent thunderstorm on the Tuesday evening into the morning, but after that, the weather cleared and we had decent viewing for Thursday and Friday evenings. The clouds and occasional light rains returned Saturday evening but they did not spoil our special weekend.

This was our 20<sup>th</sup> SSSP! We recognized this anniversary with the following:

- Awarded those people who have attended all 20 SSSPs with a special 20-year pin and certificate: Les Dickson, Ellen Dickson, Rick Huziak, Darcy Kozoriz, George Charpentier, and Barb Wright.
- Presented Certificates of Appreciation and 20-year pins to those CHIPP staff members, Resort staff members, and the past President of the Friends of Cypress Hills Park for their support and contributions that made SSSP the success it has been.
- Les Dickson gave a presentation Friday evening about the last 20 years highlighting the origins of the star party as successor to the star parties held by Regina Centre, special events, and notable guests.

Our invited guests for this year were:

- Candace Savage gave the “Under Living Skies Public Lecture” titled *These Hills Are Home to a Thousand Stories*

- Jay Anderson gave the “Fr. Lucien Kemble Memorial Lecture” titled *Chasing the dragon that ate the Sun – hints from four decades of eclipse chasing*
- Kenton Lysak gave a Saturday afternoon presentation titled *Is It Really Darkest Before the Dawn: A look at light pollution in the city of Saskatoon and its effects on local wildlife*
- Ron Waldron gave an Observing Clinic, a binocular star walk
- Larry McNish gave an Observing Clinic, a beginners guide to astrophotography
- Jennifer Petriew and Kim Kulak organized the Children’s program Saturday morning
- Alan Dyer gave an afternoon workshop on *Photoshop for Astronomy ... from Raw to Rave!*

Other speakers and guests included: Melody Nagel-Hisey (CHIPP Park Naturalist), Joan Hodgins, James Edgar (RASC Past-President), Alan Macklem and Clarence Briand

My thanks to the members of the organizing committee both in Saskatoon and Regina: Ellen Dickson, Rick Huziak, Darrell Chatfield, Andrew Kostiuk, Brent Harrold, Vance Petriew and Darcy Kozoriz.

Darcy designed the shirt logo that celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> year, while Ellen did the original design work for this year’s pin, the constellation Lyra. Les Dickson worked with Sharpe Designs (Rocky Mountain Imprinted Sportswear) of Saskatoon to produce the 20-year pin design.

Rick Huziak did his usual great job keeping our registrations in order, sorting out camping spots in the Meadows and being liaison with CHIPP staff as required.

Darrell Chatfield did a great job with our door prizes, including persuading Cmdr. Chris Hadfield to sign one of his books that was awarded as one of the prizes.

Special mention should be made of new committee members Andrew Kostiuk and Brent Harrold. Andrew produced our new mobile-friendly website, set up our PayPal account, and coordinated our Art Show and Astrophoto Contest with Becca Musso and Laura McDonald and contest judge Larry McNish. Brent Harrold stepped up to be our Meadows Coordinator and BBQ organizer.

George Charpentier was our official photographer and many of his photos appear in this issue of the newsletter.

My special thanks to Vance who served as Master of Ceremonies for the Wapiti Room events.

Thanks to our many volunteers from Saskatoon, Regina, and many other places who helped make this year’s star party so successful.

While we may make this look easy, SSSP does not run itself. We always need volunteers to get involved with the planning during the year and on-site to make it all work. We hope to see you next year.

# Photos from SSSP



[Left] Candace Savage during her Amphi theatre talk: "These Hills are Home to a Thousand Stories."

*Photo by George Charpentier.*

[Right] Alan Dyer presenting his Astrophotography Workshop.

*Photo by George Charpentier.*







[Left] Norma Jensen  
receiving the Isabel  
Williamson Lunar  
Observing Certificate.  
*Photo by George Charpentier.*



[Right] The 20 Year  
Veterans! Congratulations!  
*Photo by George Charpentier.*



[Left] Fantastic photo of  
the binocular star tour,  
given by Ron Waldron  
with assistance from Jack  
Milliken (Edmonton  
Centre).  
*Photo by Alan Dyer.*



Photo of the waxing crescent moon with a stunning Jupiter directly above it. *Photo by Ron Waldron.*

## Observer's Group – *Larry Scott*

Well there goes another summer. In brief; cut grass at Sleaford, Observer's Group cancelled on July 30th, three good observing nights at SSSP with some beautiful weather during the daytime, missed the Perseid's, moved August 27th Observer's Group due to weather and then ditched Marcel on the 26th due to mosquitoes (sorry Marcel), great night at Sleaford August 29th with some excellent skies and some unique aurora, many muggy, buggy nights. On to new business...

Sleford Open House on September 24th with pot-luck BBQ at 5 p.m. followed by 100's of guests to look through our telescopes at 7:30 p.m. Please consider volunteering and bringing your telescope. Contact me for more info or to volunteer. If the weather is good this can be one of our largest outreach programs of the year. Also, lots of fun!

Next Observer's Group is scheduled for October 1st with moonless skies from September 24th till October 8th.

# 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  |
| Wayne<br>Schlapkohl | 43  |
| Ellen Dickson       | 34  |
| Graham<br>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<br>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 (New!)*

## 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<br>Chatfield | 400 |
| Tenho Tuomi          | 378 |
| Rick Huziak          | 246 |

## LEVY DEEP-SKY GEMS

### Certified at 154 Objects:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Tenho Tuomi          | 150 |
| Darrell<br>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](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>