

# Saskatoon Skies

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

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November 2016



*A widefield shot of the Double Cluster taken on the tracking mount at Sleaford by Kris Ohnander in fall 2015.*



## Saskatoon Centre

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

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To view *Saskatoon Skies* digitally,  
see our website:

<http://www.usask.ca/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 the October Meetings	4-5
Saskatoon Centre Executive Elections, Round 2 – <i>Les Dickson</i>	6
Saving Us from Ourselves – <i>Ron Waldron</i>	7-8
Observer's Group – <i>Larry Scott</i>	8
Observing Clubs and Certificates	9

# 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!**

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# RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 21	RASC General Meeting	Les Dickson
November 26	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
December 12	December Potluck	Les Dickson
January 16	RASC General Meeting	Les Dickson
January 21	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, Room 175 Physics Bldg  
University of Saskatchewan, on

***Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 8:00PM***

***Elections for Centre Executive***

***Presentation TBD***

***Note: There will be an Executive Meeting at 7:00PM***

# Minutes of the September Meetings – *Tenho Tuomi*

## Minutes of the Executive Meeting, October 17, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Les Dickson at 7:05 PM.

Moved by Norma Jensen and Darrel Chatfield that the minutes of the September 19 Executive meeting be approved with the following corrections.

- Sleaford Open House scheduled for September 24, not October 24.
- Correction to Rob Sheppard's name.

Carried.

### Reports:

- Darrel Chatfield reported on the work done at Sleaford; old observatory taken away though some concrete still to be removed, and two weekends spent by Darrel and Rick Huziak on various jobs. Two snow blowers are in the shed, one to be fixed and sold. Electrical work in the shed has been postponed to next spring.

### New Business:

- Future meeting days; December Potluck supper changed to the 12th, and the February meeting changed to the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Meewasin Valley Authority looking for RASC participation for their Nature Walk from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Curtis Tuplin, Rick Huziak and Norma Jensen volunteered.
- Beaver Creek looking for RASC Participation for their Dark sky Night on October 29. Les Dickson volunteered.
- Prince Albert National Park looking for RASC participation for their February Winter Festival. We felt we could not help but will suggest that they contact Ron Waldron for help.
- Suggestion was made that the Centre email address SK\_Centre@rasc.ca be put in the newsletter.
- The donation of a celestial globe by a Saskatoon family was discussed.
- Allan School looking for RASC participation on October 26 from 7 – 8:30 PM.

The elections were discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

## **Minutes of the General Meeting, October 17, 2016**

Meeting called to order by President Les Dickson at 8:15 PM.

Les Dickson gave a summary of the Executive Meeting, and upcoming events. Darrel Chatfield gave a summary of the work done at Sleaford.

Donation of a celestial globe by a Saskatoon family. Suggestions were made to donate it to the University for their Astronomy Outreach, or to the Saskatoon Public Schools for Brightwater Centre.

### **Elections:**

- President – open
- Vice President – open
- Secretary – Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle
- Treasurer – Norma Jensen
- National advisory Council Representative – Rob Sheppard

### **Other Officers:**

- Newsletter – Kris Ohnander
- Events Coordinator – open
- Sleaford Site Coordinator – Darrell Chatfield
- Observing Coordinator – Larry Scott
- Membership Coordinator – Mark De Yong
- Meeting Room Coordinator – Ellen Dickson
- Photographer and Archivist – George Charpentier
- Councillor at Large and Telescope Rental Program – Errol Frazer-Harrison
- Councillor at Large – Curtis Tuplin

### **Directors:**

- Richard Huziak
- Norma Jensen
- Tenho Tuomi
- Ron Waldron
- Les Dickson

Moved by Jim Gorkoff and Les Dickson that nominations be closed, and the nominations for open positions be tabled to the November meeting. Carried.

Moved by Rick Huziak and Errol Frazer-Harrison that the minutes of the September 19 General meeting be accepted as circulated. Carried.

Les Dickson announced that he will carry on as interim president until the November meeting. After a short coffee break the meeting resumed at 9 PM with the following presentations.

Les Dickson, “What’s in a Name: Stargazers vs. Amateur Astronomers”.

Rick Huziak, “Life after Messier, as presented by Mike Simonsen”.

# Saskatoon Centre Executive Elections, Round 2

## – *Les Dickson, Interim President*

At our October meeting, we had our elections for the new Executive to serve from November 2016 to October of 2017.

There are a number of significant positions not yet filled, but I do want to acknowledge those who have agreed to serve for 2016-2017, with special thanks to Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle for stepping up to fill the Secretary position vacated by Tenho Tuomi:

- Secretary: Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle
- Treasurer: Norma Jensen
- National Advisory Council Representative – Rob Shepherd
- Newsletter Editor – Kris Ohnander
- Sleaford Site Coordinator – Darrell Chatfield
- Observing Coordinator – Larry Scott
- Telescope Rental Program Coordinator – Error Frazer Harrison
- Meeting Room Coordinator – Ellen Dickson
- Councillor(s) at Large – Curtis Tuplin
- Photographer and Archivist – George Charpentier

Note that three important positions are not yet filled: President, Vice-President, and Events Coordinator. The duties of these positions are as follows:

- President: Overall responsibility for the Centre; conducts meetings; public outreach and public relations when required
- Vice-President: Covers duties of President, especially conducting meetings, when President is not available; arranges speakers for meetings; other duties as required
- Activities Coordinator: Coordinates and arranges public events and volunteers for outreach activities

Our main job at the November meeting is to fill the open positions, especially that of President. It is important for us to have the positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer and National Advisory Council Representative filled as they are required for us to maintain our obligations as a Centre of the RASC. If we are no longer viable, as the RASC refers to it, the Centre can be closed down and all of its assets (bank account and investments, equipment and buildings we own) can become the property of the national RASC. While I consider this quite unlikely, it is something to consider as we move forward. I appreciate that we are not the only volunteer organization that is having problems finding people to occupy positions of governance and responsibility, but I think we have to consider carefully the consequences of continuing with the current status quo.

## Saving Us from Ourselves – *Ron Waldron*

The timing for this article may be too late or just at the right moment, only time will tell. Those of us who have been members of the club “forever” are more than experienced with the everyday running of our club. We have seen executive members come and go and many of us have served in executive capacities many times over. It is clear to me, at least, that we are growing older and some of us perhaps growing tired of the constant recycling that tends to occur with our most stalwart members.

Our club’s challenges are in no way unique, every other club I have ever belonged to has gone through the same set of difficulties; some of them unfortunately did not survive. A quick look around the room at our monthly meetings is helpful in identifying our most pressing problem – we’re aging. The average age of our membership is around 50. Hence, the format and content of our meetings tend to be geared to that age group.



But astronomy is beneficial and fun for all age groups. I spend a great deal of my time in retirement speaking to young people about the wonders of the night sky and the joy of amateur astronomy. Yet when it comes right down to it, there is no place for me to steer those who may be captivated by astronomy to further their budding passion. Well, not any more.

*First view of a truly awe-inspiring night sky*

At the November meeting, myself along with Errol Frazer-Harrison as retired educators intend to propose the formation of a youth group for young budding astronomers. Known as YAC (Youth Astronomy Club), it will run for at least three years as a sub-group of the Saskatoon Centre. The targeted age will be grades 7,8, and 9. We intend to charge youth membership fees to assure that each participant gets a copy of the junior Observer’s Handbook and monthly copies of Sky News. Finally, we want to limit the number of participants to twenty young persons in hopes that we may be able to meet monthly in the University Observatory classroom.

A course outline of topics and activities has been developed for the first two years of the club and we are looking at providing and encouraging leadership in the group for members who may stick with it for all three years.

We hope to form this group in January of 2017 and have monthly meetings on the last Monday evenings of every month (excluding June, July, and August) Initial contact with both the Saskatoon Public School System and the Greater Catholic School system has demonstrated some interest in helping us promote the setting up of such a club for that age group.

What is the purpose of the group? We see its purpose as twofold:

1. To provide an outlet for young people to pursue an interest in all things astronomical and encourage future leadership
2. To give our aging membership the opportunity to reach out and connect with younger members to provide better succession within the club itself.



*Solar Gazing at Cypress Hills*

How might this impact the present activities and members of our club – well for one, we will be asking for some help, especially from those members who tend to specialize in specific areas of astronomy such as constellation identification, astrophotography, variable star observing, light pollution, etc. Sharing your specific passion with younger people can be very rewarding and may eventually lead to even greater things. We will of course be inviting our young people to any activities planned by the club and who knows – it is possible that this group of young people may eventually plan some private and/or public activities on their own.

This article is only meant to be a primer to get you thinking about this prior to our proposal at the November meeting. There will likely be questions arise as we present the specifics of our plan and I'm sure that members will come up with things we have not and perhaps should be considering. Please let us know.

## Observer's Group – *Larry Scott*

The Observer's Group for October 29th was cancelled due to weather conditions. Those cloudy skies lasted for weeks but finally cleared up in time for some observing on November 4th and 5th. Friday, the 4th, saw seven members show up for an excellent evening of stargazing. There was some heavy dew but skies were clear and temperatures were above freezing, a notable bonus for observing in November. Clear skies and drier conditions continued on Saturday, the 5th, for two members and two guests. This was a peach of a night for us once the moon set at 22:08. As I had guests we did a tour of the usual showpiece objects. Also got to see several spectacular fireballs with attendant oohs and ahhs!

Just a reminder for Sleaford users, white lights are not cool and bright red LED's are not far behind. Please use dim, red lights only and point them down. Thanks for your attention on this matter.

Our next Observer's Group is scheduled for November 26th with Moonless evenings from November 19th till December 3rd. Hope to see some more of you out at Sleaford, cheers for now.

# 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 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	55
Schlapkohl	
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: [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>