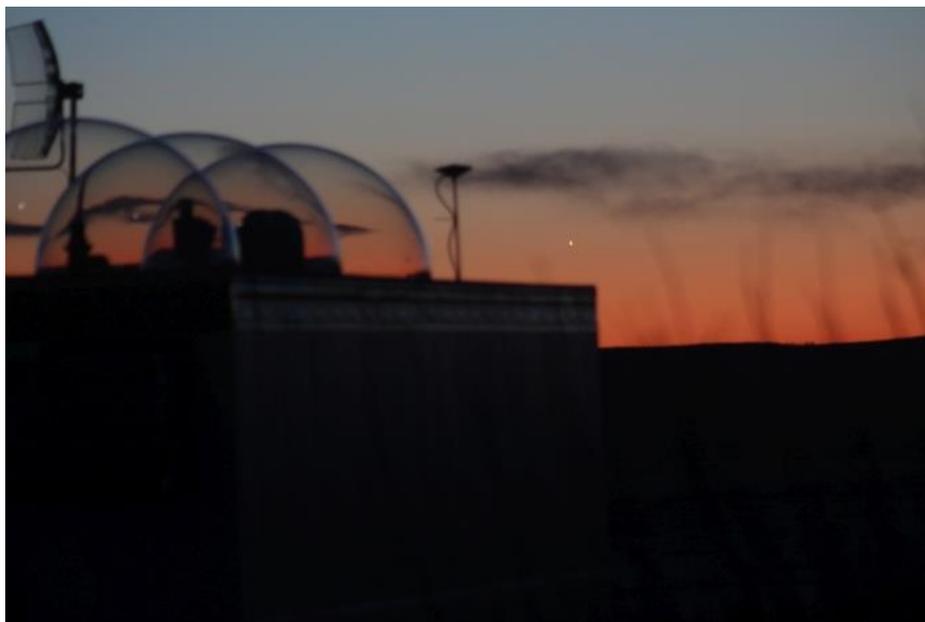


# Saskatoon Skies

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

Vol. 49, No. 4

April 2018



*Our evening star is back! Picture of Venus by Tenho Tuomi beside the three domes and cameras of the University of Calgary research trailer which is beside their house.*



Saskatoon Centre

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

WEBSITE:

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

E -MAIL: krisohn@gmail.com

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

[http://www.usask.ca/rasc/newslette  
rs.html](http://www.usask.ca/rasc/newslette<br/>rs.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. 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)
- 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\*
- use of the Centre library

## 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 306-966-6429.

### Observatory Hours:

January – February	7:30 – 9:30 pm
March	8:00 – 10:30 pm
April – August	9:15 – 11:45 pm
September	8:30 – 11:00 pm
October – December	7:00 – 9:30 pm

## SASKATOON CENTRE'S MAIN OFFICERS:

**President** – Alan Duffy  
**Vice-President** – To be Filled  
**Secretary** – Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle  
**Treasurer** – Norma Jensen  
**National Council Rep** – Rob Shepard

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

April 16	RASC General Meeting	Alan Duffy
May 5	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
May 14	RASC General Meeting	Alan Duffy
June 16	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
June 18	RASC General Meeting	Alan Duffy
July 14	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott

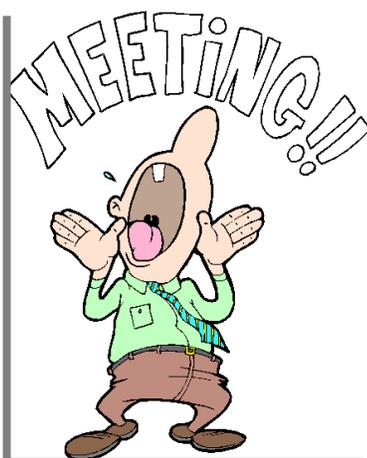
For a complete list of club events, please visit: <http://www.usask.ca/rasc/activities.html>

## April RASC General Meeting

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

***Monday, April 16<sup>h</sup>, 2018 at 8:00PM***

***Presentations to be announced!***



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

# For Sale



I recently purchased a new telescope so have my Dob for sale. Details below:

- 10" Skywatcher Collapsible Dobsonian Reflector SynScan (GoTo computer) with GPS
- Finder scope and red dot finder mounted on Y attachment
- 9mm 1.25" Televue Nagler eyepiece (125x)
- 24 mm 1.25" Televue Panoptic eyepiece (54x)
- 2x Antares Barlow
- 3 container tubes for all three eyepieces
- Laser Collimator
- Scope cover
- Antares polarizing filter
- 1.25" OIII filter
- Padded (home made) Rubbermaid container for the optical tube



If you were to buy new today, current price for everything would be over \$4000. This is an excellent set up for intermediate observers and easy enough to use for beginners. The Televue eyepieces are generally regarded as the best available. With the Barlow, these eyepieces on this scope produce magnifications of 54x, 104x, 125x and 250x and both the Naglers and Panoptics provide a very wide field of view.

Price is \$2000 for everything and I would like to sell as a package if possible but might consider selling the scope and eyepieces separately.

I am happy to email pictures.

You can reach me at [k.fenwick@sasktel.net](mailto:k.fenwick@sasktel.net) or 306-335-2780.

Thanks and clear skies to all.

Kevin

SASKATOON SKIES

APRIL 2018

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# Minutes of the March Meetings – *Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle*



## Minutes of the Executive Meeting, March 19, 2018

**Attendees:** Alan Duffy, Les Dickson, Rick Huziak, Errol Frazer-Harrison, Norma Jensen, Tenho Tuomi, Grant Ursaki, Rob Sheppard, Marcel Mueller-Goldkuhle

Meeting called to order by Alan Duffy at 7:07 PM

Approval of Feb 12 Executive Meeting Minutes: Moved by Les, seconded by Norma, approved with all in favour.

### Reports:

Treasurer: Nothing to report.

Membership: No update.

National: GA is hosted by Calgary this year, information on National Website, registration until May 5th, rooms are available.

Questions discussed during the meeting:

Expenses for Office Renovation/rationale for additional office space/  
sale of building resulting in a higher lease,

Fundraising: \$50,000 expenses/terms of employment/performance  
requirements,

Remote Telescope Project.

Further questions to be submitted to Rob.

Motion to register National Representative for the GA and and to cover  
reasonable expenses which are not covered by National. Moved by Norma,  
seconded by Marcel, approved with all in favour.

Observer Group: Observers Group Meeting was cancelled, 3 people at Sleaford on Mon Feb 12.

SSSP: Next meeting on Thu March 22nd, 7:30-9:30PM.

Intention to send proposal to CASCA for presentation at public star night and  
for Father Luke Speaker.

Two people were approached to do the Evening Clinic.

Registration planned to be open mid April.

Youth Club: Next meeting on Monday March 26.

Mark de Jong is joining the meeting as Ron Waldron is not able to come.

Telescope Coord.: Interest by Youth Club members to buy 2 retired telescopes.

Sleaford: Tim Yaworski asks if he can bring a group of about 20 people to Sleaford during  
long weekend of May, this is ok for the Club.

Newsletter: No update.

Events: International Astronomy Day on April 21, Solar Observing planned at the  
Farmer's Market.

Dark Skies at Beaver Creek, Date TBD.

50th Anniversary: Ideas to be generated, first ideas are to have a poster wall at SSSP, plan a team  
event, collect photos and stories.

**New Business:**

Motion to buy 101 copies of Sky News for public outreach, motion by Les, seconded by Marcel, approved with all in favour. Alan to place the order, to be shipped to Rob's address.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM

**Minutes of the General Meeting, March 19, 2018**

Meeting called to order by Alan Duffy at 8:20 PM.

Alan gave an update about the topics of the Executive Meeting:

50th Anniversary	Members to send in stories, photos, pictures etc.
Astronomy Day:	Events planned for Farmers Market & Beaver Creek. Who is willing to share photos can send them to Tim Yaworski to print them for the events, costs would be covered.

**Presentations:**

Alan Duffy: Standard vs. Drizzle vs. Bayer Drizzle - Image Integration for Astrophotos.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

## Saskatoon Centre Turns 50 This Year What Are We Going To Do About It?

By Les Dickson

It may be news to many of our members, but the Saskatoon Centre turns 50 years old this year. It would be a shame that we let this significant event in our history go unnoticed. The Regina Centre of the RASC, for their 100th anniversary in 2010 put together a book of over 700 pages! I am not expecting that we will have enough motivation or energy to do the same, but we can make an effort to put something together to remember the last 50 years.

I am encouraging people to send to me pictures with captions and any stories they want to share that could become part of a special issue of our newsletter. I suggest that this come out as a special summer issue that could be available at SSSP 2018. We have a little over 3 months to collect this material. Look around your boxes of photos or files on your hard drive and send me what you can. Let's see what we can do.

Send material to me at [astrochem@sasktel.net](mailto:astrochem@sasktel.net)

## Thoughts on Observing the Moon – *Norma Jensen*

It is always there, two weeks of every month, full of chances – an all seasons offering. Imagine, in your backyard – no thermos, just a tea pot under a cozy or your favourite press to keep you going. Observing however you wish, starting wherever you wish, be a tortoise or the hare. You are observing the moon throughout all its phases, spanning evenings after dark, and early mornings into dawn. Throughout the seasons you become familiar with landmarks which display themselves differently as the light plays across the surface.

The variety of features are many, among which you will find favourites. There are craters from the most simple to the most complex standing alone or in tandem. Single peaks, mountain chains, valleys, plateaus, and domes. Start with some kind of overview: large craters, mountain chains and mare. Try the crater Clavius, to take you deep into the southern highlands. The crater Pluto will introduce you to the very interesting Mare Frigoris region. Mountain chains surrounding Mare Imbrium and the free-standing beauty Montes Rhiphaeus will hold you. A beautiful area relatively isolated from other intrusions is the Aristarchus Plateau and Vallis Schroteri. This is one of my favourite places to camp and wander in. For the elusive, look to the domes of Cauchy on the eastern side of Mare Tranquillitatis or a ray crossing the crater Walter at sunrise. My favourite was a mountain in a crater. And on the top of that mountain was a crater! Ha! Ha! Try that, oh keen-eyed one!

The most satisfying observing of the moon, I find, is to stick to the area around the terminator. The views are the most distinctive. Be sure to look at Librations of the moon which occur every month. They allow you to peek around an edge at the dark side, look, the great crater Bailly, Mare Smythii - amazing.

Equipment is simple. A telescope with a high magnification eyepiece and a polarizing filter (otherwise you become moon struck!) A must is the Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program and Antonin Rukl's Atlas of the Moon is invaluable. Maps of various sizes are available from Sky and Tel. Web sites are numerous. My favourite is Inconstant Moon: Multimedia Tours of the Lunar Surface.

## Observers Group – *Larry Scott*

A couple of Observer's Groups as well as the Messier Marathon succumbed to cold, wind and cloud the last two months. On March 12th four of us did have an unusual night at Sleaford. Unusual in that we got to do some observing. Temperature was pleasant at -10C with a light south wind which was of no concern. Skies were transparent and extremely steady due to an air mass sitting on us and not moving. There was a smog alert issued for Saskatoon due to the trapped air and you could see the haze driving out to Sleaford that evening. Within a few kilometers of Sleaford the air cleared and you could see the edge of the haze towards Saskatoon. Other than fending off some dew the conditions were very good for us. Immediately after sunset we were able to observe a nice naked eye Venus-Mercury conjunction to the west. As darkness came to us there was a great sky unencumbered by aurora and we spent many hours tracking down deep sky objects. Yippee!

Next Observer's Group is scheduled for May 5th with moonless evenings from May 3rd to 17th. If the 5th is clouded out I will try the next weekend, May 12th as a backup. Following this we will be into summer viewing which involves mosquitoes and a lack of dark skies. I encourage you to try and get out observing this spring before there are no dark skies to be had till SSSP.

# 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
Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle	59
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 Schlapkohl	55
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: [https://www.usask.ca/rasc/Chatfield\\_Binocular\\_List.pdf](https://www.usask.ca/rasc/Chatfield_Binocular_List.pdf)

"Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program Guide:

<http://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/IWLOP2015.pdf>

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