

# Saskatoon Skies

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

Volume 53, Number 05

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To view *Saskatoon Skies* digitally, see our website:  
<https://saskatoon.rasc.ca/newsletters.html>

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## MEMBERSHIP? JOIN TODAY!

**Regular: \$96.00 /year**

**Youth: \$52.00 /year**

**Family: \$90.50 + \$41/additional adult + \$21.10/additional youth**

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>.

### 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)
- borrow the Centre's projector to give astronomy outreach presentations – contact Les Dickson at [astrochem@sasktel.net](mailto:astrochem@sasktel.net)
- rent the Centre's Telescopes <https://saskatoon.rasc.ca/telescopes.html>
- use of the Centre library
- SkyNews Magazine (bimonthly)

### SASKATOON CENTRE'S MAIN OFFICERS:

**President – \*vacant\***

**Vice-President – \*vacant\***

**Secretary – Rick Huziak**

**Treasurer – Donna-Lee May**

**National Council Rep – Les Dickson**

Canadian Tire money - Darrell Chatfield

If you cannot attend a meeting but would like to donate your Canadian Tire money please email Darrell at [novachat@sasktel.net](mailto:novachat@sasktel.net).

## NEWSLETTER INFO

**Newsletter Editor** – Colin Chatfield

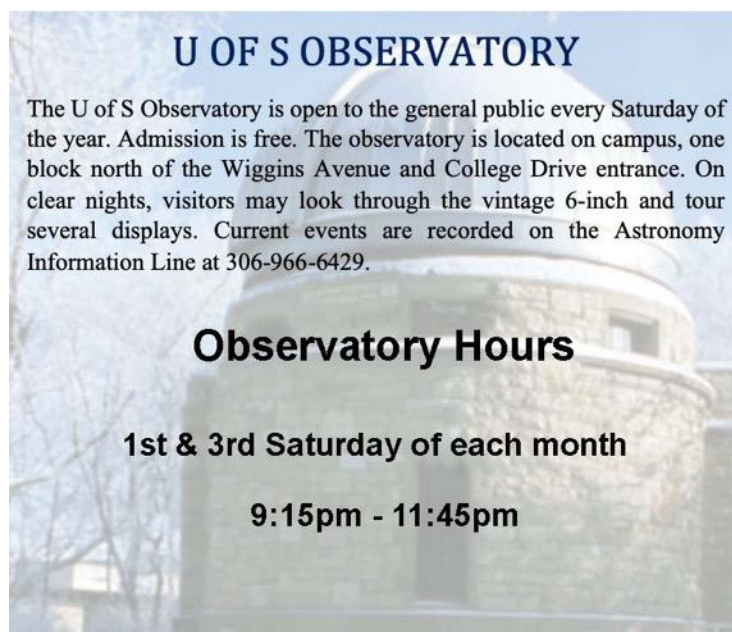
**Copy & Collate** – Les & Ellen Dickson

**Labels & Temps** – Mark de Jong

**Web Posting/Content Editor** – Gord Sarty/Tenho Tuomi

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 [colcha@gmail.com](mailto:colcha@gmail.com) in MS Word or text format. Images (new or old): any format, less than 30MB, sent by e-mail as attached files. Send any articles of interest to the night sky or astronomy. **Deadline for submission of all articles for an upcoming issue is the first Friday of each month!**

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 [colcha@gmail.com](mailto:colcha@gmail.com) for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items for free.



**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**

**1st & 3rd Saturday of each month**

**9:15pm - 11:45pm**

Website - <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/physics/facilities/observatory.php>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/usaskobservatory/>

# RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS & MEETING INFO

<b>May 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lunar Eclipse</b>	Tim Yaworski
<b>May 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>RASC General Meeting - 8:00pm (info below)</b>	
<b>May 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Observer's Group - Sleaford Observatory</b>	Larry Scott

Observer's group viewing starts at dusk at the Sleaford Observatory dark site. Get there early and set up for a great night of observing! Members and their guests only.

For a complete list of club events, please visit: <https://saskatoon.rasc.ca/activities.html>

## May RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests

**Join us on May 16th, 2022 at 8:00PM (Executive meeting at 7:00pm)**

Webinar (info below)

7:00pm - **RASC Executive Meeting** (Members may attend the executive meeting as observers if they wish)

A Zoom registration link and phone-in numbers will be emailed to Members.

After that, the procedure to register and join the meeting is the same as for the webinar (explained below).

8:00pm - **NOTE:** links to register to attend the webinar will be emailed out as well so we know who is planning to attend. After registering, an email invitation will be sent with a link to join via computer or a number to phone in. When joining via computer, participants will have to first download and install the Zoom app, if they have not done so already.

8:30pm - **Main Program - "My 19 Comets of 2021" - Tenho Tuomi**  
Talk and photos of the comets photographed so far this year.

**"What's up this month" - Colin Chatfield & Tara Magee**

# URGENT CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - MAY EVENTS

Tim Yaworski

After 2+ years of Covid isolation we are slowly starting to have outreach opportunities. We need your help with a few upcoming events. Please contact Tim Yaworski at [info@timkip.com](mailto:info@timkip.com) to let him know where you can help.

## Canadian Wildlife Service youth program

May 14, 9-11 pm at Bergheim Lutheran Church 15 mins NE of the city. A tour of the night sky (naked eye and telescope) along with information about the lunar eclipse the following night. We are expecting about 12 youth and their leaders. A few members with telescopes and a better understanding of the spring sky features than Tim has (which is most of the club I'm sure). An honourarium for the club is offered.

## Lunar Eclipse

May 15th (details on the Meewasin Valley Authority site here:

<https://meewasin.com/2022/05/03/darkskies/> ). This night starts at 8pm, including a short astrophotography workshop led by Tim, and followed by the eclipse. Members are needed to help people enjoy and understand the eclipse as well as to provide telescopes to give closeup views. The MVA is charging admission for the guests to cover their costs as well as the \$100 honorarium for our club)

**Perseid Meteor Shower** for Sask Parks at Pike Lake and several other parks across the province if we know of anyone that can help out. An honorarium for the club is offered.

***Tim Yaworski - timkip imaging***

***[www.timkip.com](http://www.timkip.com) 306-880-0720***

***Instagram/Twitter/YouTube/Facebook: LivingSkyGuy***



*March 30 was the night of an aurora display that was visible across the country. This six second exposure was captured by Tim Yaworski just east of Saskatoon.*



# ALWAYS NEED MEETING SPEAKERS

Rick Huziak

Hi everyone. The title of this article is *Always Need Meeting Speakers*. I titled the article that way because I always need meeting speakers. Right now, we need speakers for 10-minute slots for months May and June. Please volunteer to talk about your favourite topic. I already have main program speakers for these months.

Online meeting attendance is also pretty low for a club that has over 80 members. Online meetings are being held because of COVID, but our attendance is actually less than in-person meeting attendance before COVID. Online meetings attract between 12 and 18 people even though attending is technically easier, avoiding travel and parking. Current online meetings also fulfill an initiative we had previously discussed: transmitting in-person meetings to be on-line for members that are simply too far away to attend.

So, back to speakers. I am now looking for speakers for the fall, starting with the September meeting. If you do something “astronomical” over the summer, such as visit an observatory, do some astrophotography, participate in outreach, clean your mirror or read a good astronomy book, please make your experience into a talk for your club!

[rickhuziak@shaw.ca](mailto:rickhuziak@shaw.ca)

# MINUTES OF APRIL MEETINGS

Rick Huziak

## **Minutes of the Monthly Executive Meeting RASC Saskatoon Centre Monday, April 18, 2022- 7:00 pm - Online (ZOOM)**

**Attending:** Mike Dolan, Ron Waldron, Rick Huziak, Donna-Lee May, Darrell Chatfield, Les Dickson, Grant Ursaki, Tenho Tuomi, Yannis Pahatouroglou, Colin Chatfield.

- 1. Call to order** 7:00 PM. – Mike Dolan
- 2. Approval of the March Executive Minutes** as published in the April newsletter. **Moved:** Les Dickson. **Seconded:** Ron Waldron. **CARRIED.**
- 3. Call for additional announcements/items** to add to agenda – Mike Dolan.  
No additions.

#### 4. Old business

- Insurance claim update – Darrell Chatfield – no update. Insurance people are still looking at the claim.

#### 5. New business

- **16-inch Telescope Advisory Committee presentation** – Ron Waldron & Darrell Chatfield. Presentation on proposed potential building: Option 1 – roll-off observatory – cost ~\$20K. Option 2 – Roll-away (small) shed – cost ~\$8K. Option 3 – In U of S Roll-off on robotic mount - \$17K. Option 4: Sell scope: ~\$6.5K - \$7.5K cash. Note these costs are all for external labour. Committee request decision on build or sell by June meeting.
- **2020- 2021 Financial Report** – Donna-Lee May – Revenue/Expense and Balance sheet presented. **Motion to approve Treasurer's Report** for Sask Corporations Branch as presented by the Donna-Lee - Ron Waldron, **Seconded:** Les Dickson. **CARRIED.** Report will be presented to General Meeting for approval by members. Report is already sent to National Office.
- **SSSP Update** – deferred due to available time.
- Discussion (time allowing) on **Criminal Records Checks (CRC)** for members, first aid, legal waivers etc. Discussion deferred due to available time.

#### 6. **Motion to adjourn** - 8:00 PM **Moved:** Donna-Lee May. **Seconded:** Darrell Chatfield. **CARRIED.**

### **Minutes of RASC Monthly General Meeting RASC Saskatoon Centre Monday, April 18, 2022- 8:00 pm - Online (ZOOM)**

#### **18 members on-line at the beginning of the meeting.**

1. **Sharing / Networking Time** – all members.
2. **Call to order** 8:09 PM – Mike Dolan
3. **Call out to new members/guests** – Dianne & Terry Lesko acknowledged.
4. **Adoption of March General Meeting minutes** as published in the April newsletter. **Moved:** Grant Ursaki. **Seconded:** Les Dickson. **CARRIED.**
5. **Executive meeting summary** – Mike Dolan (see Executive minutes.)

## 6. Committee Reports

Outreach Events scheduled – Mike Dolan on behalf of Tim Yaworski:

- **May 14** – Canadian Wildlife Service Youth Program talk at Bergheim Lutheran church.
- **May 15** – Total eclipse of the Moon at the NE Swale with Meewasin Valley Authority & London Drugs.
- **Sask Parks** – Request for Perseid star nights on Aug. 13 at Pike Lake, Greenwater & others.

**National Report** – Les Dickson stated he has placed some information in the March newsletter and the RASC has some liability & insurance requirements. Criminal Record Checks might also be necessary. Conflict of Interest policy also suggested, but Board of Directors will look at first. The Executive should review these issues in a future meeting and provide guidance.

**SSSP** – Rick Huziak. Terms of Reference & Budget were presented to the Executive for review and acceptance. (Executive has not yet reviewed.) Registration and Camping will open April 23.

7. **U of S Observatory has reopened**, but funding only allows for twice a month programming (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday nights). RASC member assistance would be welcomed on one or both nights each month – Ron Waldron.

8. **Financial Report** – Donna-Lee May Revenue/Expense and Balance sheet presented to the General membership. **Motion to approve Treasurer's Report** for Sask Corporations Branch as presented by the Donna-Lee – Les Dickson. **Seconded:** Grant Ursaki. **CARRIED.** Ron & Les will sign on behalf of the Board of Directors.

9. **New Business** – none

10. **Programs:** *The Upcoming Sky* – Colin Chatfield  
*Sketching the Planets* – Rick Huziak

11. **Motion to adjourn 9:33 PM Moved:** Les Dickson. **CARRIED.**



## MAY 2022 LIGHT POLLUTION - UPGRADE & DOWNGRADE

Rick Huziak - Sask Light Pollution Abatement Committee

In the April issue of *Saskatoon Skies*, I presented the first photo (below) taken on January 23 at 8:51 pm, which showed the unshielded acorn lights still in place on the light poles on 20<sup>th</sup> Street and complained that string lights had been added at the request of the Riversdale Business Improvement District to “beautify” the street. Of course, the string lights provide enormous light pollution on the street and up into the sky as “skyglow” since they are not shielded. I also noted that all the businesses were closed and no one was on the street, so there was really no useful purpose to the string lights.



I revisited the street on April 29 at 11:38 pm after all the pole street lighting had been upgraded to light pollution compliant fixtures meeting IDA standards. The image is shown in the second photo. In the photo, it is now difficult to see the dual lamp lighting halfway up pole because the dominant light is now the light-polluting string lights. The upgraded lights at the top of the poles can be seen on the nearby poles and as these lights go off in the distance the lights are still visible but are free of glare. But as you look at the buildings, you can see that the string lights light up the second stories of the buildings, many of which are actual apartments. Imagine what the residents must endure in the name of bad lighting design! The string lights remain on until dawn. This is a great example of a “downgrade” in the quality of lighting! It really wouldn’t matter if the pole lights were turned off completely - there would have been no difference in the illumination level of the street since the string lights glare everywhere. Note also that all the businesses are still closed, and no one is on the streets, so the lights serve no useful purpose at all. Did I say that again?



But there is a “bright side”. Where the acorn lights have been replaced on streets by the IDA-compliant lighting, all the glare and light pollution has been removed, such as in the third photo – the entrance corridor to Hampton Village. Hampton Village neighbourhood was Saskatoon’s first dark-sky demonstration neighbourhood. Just after the dark-sky policy was introduced in Council in 2006, Hampton Village was chosen to have flat lens full cut-off street lighting installed to see what the effect would be. However, the City Planner decided they wanted a flashy entrance corridor and ignored the dark-sky policy and installed a solid row of unshielded acorn lights, spoiling the dark-sky theme. These are the lights that are now nicely replaced in the photo. (Imaging the acorns previously on these poles).

The Stonebridge neighbourhood was also supposed to receive dark-sky lighting, but the developer chickened out and cylindrical lighting with very poor shielding was installed in the name of fancy decorating. (It is still there today.) After one year of data collection the Stonebridge lighting had generated over 100 complaints of glare and light trespass, and the Hampton Village dark-sky street lighting received exactly one complaint. The complaint came from the city night light replacement crew who couldn’t tell if the streetlights were on or off (burned out) until they were directly under the lamp pole. The dark-sky lighting produced good light on the ground, without glare and convinced Saskatoon Light & Power to continue with dark-sky street lighting for all new neighbourhoods. Now, with the entrance acorns replaced, we can start concentrating on BIDs and business lighting.



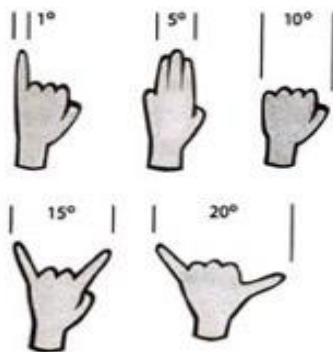
*Aurora taken by Tara Magee on March 30, 2022*

## MAY NIGHT SKY EVENTS AND INFO

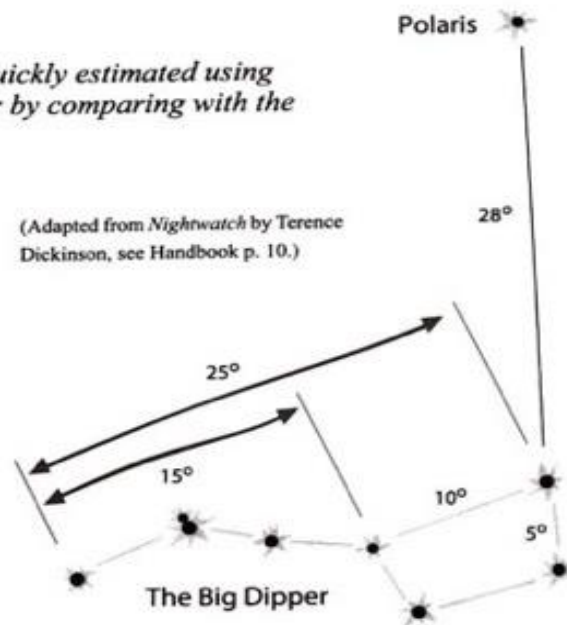
Images on the next few pages taken with permission from the 2021 Observer's Handbook. It can be obtained by joining the RASC here <http://rasc.ca/join> or ordered from <https://secure.rasc.ca/Portal/Shop/RASC/Store/StoreMain.aspx?Category=CURRPUB>

### HANDY SKY MEASURES



















*Angular measure in the sky can be quickly estimated using the fingers of an outstretched arm, or by comparing with the star separations in the Big Dipper.*

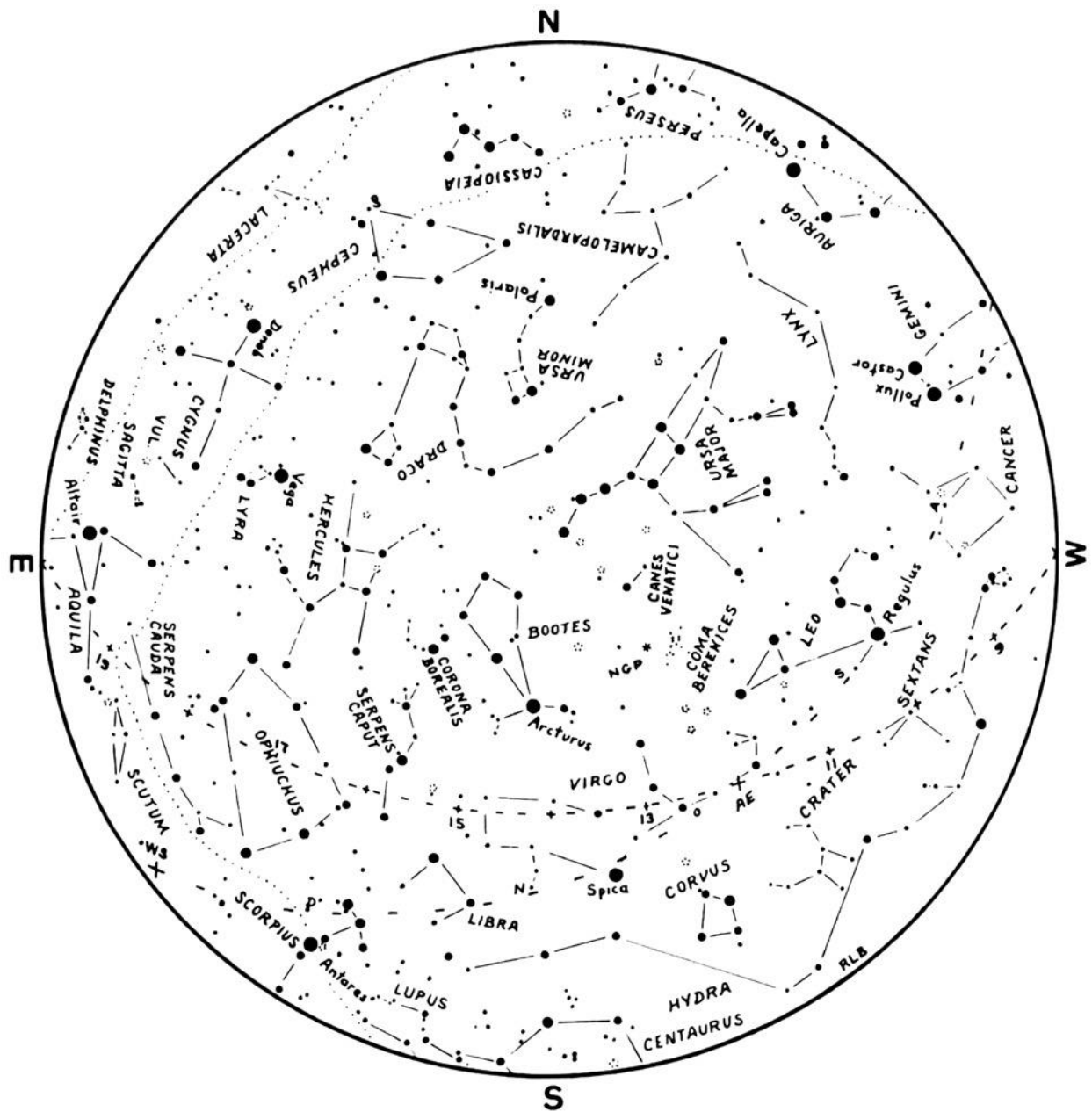


(Adapted from *Nightwatch* by Terence Dickinson, see Handbook p. 10.)





Time (UT)			MAY EVENTS		Jupiter's Satellites	
d	h	m			West	East
Sun.	1				2.0	
Mon.	2	14	<b>Mercury 1.8° N of Moon</b>			
Tue.	3	10 58	Algol at minimum		3.0	
Wed.	4	14	<b>Ceres 0.01° N of Moon, occultation<sup>†</sup></b>		Ganymede	Callisto
Thu.	5	7	Uranus in conjunction with the Sun		4.0	
		13	Moon at apogee (405 285 km)			
Fri.	6	7 47	Algol at minimum		5.0	
		8	$\eta$ -Aquariid meteors peak			
Sat.	7				6.0	
Sun.	8				7.0	
Mon.	9	0 21	<b>first quarter</b>			
		4 36	Algol at minimum		8.0	
Tue.	10	23	Mercury stationary			
Wed.	11				9.0	
Thu.	12	1 25	Algol at minimum		10.0	
Fri.	13				11.0	
Sat.	14	22 14	Algol at minimum		12.0	
Sun.	15		Venus at aphelion		13.0	
Mon.	16	4 14	<b>full Moon</b>			
			<b>Total Lunar Eclipse (p. 127)</b>		14.0	
Tue.	17		Mercury at descending node		15.0	
		15	Moon at perigee (360 298 km)			
		19 03	Algol at minimum		16.0	
		23	<b>Mars 0.6° S of Neptune</b>			
Wed.	18				17.0	
Thu.	19				18.0	
Fri.	20	15 52	Algol at minimum			
Sat.	21	19	Mercury in inferior conjunction		19.0	
Sun.	22	5	Saturn 4° N of Moon			
		18 43	<b>last quarter</b>		20.0	
Mon.	23	12 41	Algol at minimum			
Tue.	24	19	Mars 3° N of Moon		21.0	
Wed.	25	0	Jupiter 3° N of Moon			
Thu.	26		Mars at greatest heliocentric lat. S		22.0	
		9 30	Algol at minimum			
Fri.	27		Mercury at aphelion		23.0	
		3	<b>Venus 0.2° N of Moon, occultation<sup>‡</sup></b>			
Sat.	28	14	<b>Uranus 0.3° N of Moon, occultation<sup>††</sup></b>		24.0	
Sun.	29	0	<b>Mars 0.6° S of Jupiter</b>			
		6 19	Algol at minimum		25.0	
Mon.	30	11 30	<b>new Moon (lunation 1230)</b>			
Tue.	31				26.0	
					27.0	
					28.0	
					29.0	
					30.0	
					31.0	



## PRESIDENT RESIGNATION NOTICE

Due to continuing health concerns and a feeling that I have lost the support and confidence of the executive members of the Saskatoon Center I feel I can no longer be an effective President. With that in mind I am resigning as President effective immediately. I will no longer preside over nor will I be attending any further meetings.

Best Regards,

Michael Dolan

# OBSERVERS GROUP COORDINATOR(S) NEEDED

Larry Scott

The Saskatoon Centre of the RASC is seeking one or more volunteers to take over the Observers Group Coordinator/Yard Monkey position currently held by me (Larry Scott). This position has many perks - fresh air and exercise in beautiful surroundings; works in close proximity to many bird species, butterflies, racoons, deer and gophers; the appreciation of your fellow club members; free parking; and more! Below is a list of opportunities for energetic club members that need to be passed on or not as the club sees fit.

If possible I would continue doing this for years but I'm planning a move in a few years and simply won't be here. My hope is to give the club time to consider its options and that I can pass on some tips to whomever(?) comes next.

## **Observers Group Coordinator**

- Set schedule for Observers Group based on dark skies(new moon) and not on a long weekend.

(Also Messier Marathon)

- Interpret weather reports to base a go/no go decision the day of Observers Group and notify club members.

## **Yard maintenance**

- Mow grass or blow snow as required so yard is useful and combustibles near buildings are kept to a minimum.

- Care and feeding of snow blower and lawn mowers. \*\*\*Important\*\*\*

## **Key Master**

- Give tours of Sleaford to club members and hand out keys to the kingdom.

## **Sleaford Open House**

- Set a date

- Nag George for posters.

- Distribute posters

- Nag everyone to show up.

Starting in 2006 I began hosting Observer's Group meetings and as the years went on I accumulated some other responsibilities as listed above. Not sure if everything will be picked up by the members but I am hoping someone will step up to host the Observers Group and assist with these other responsibilities. Cheers for now, hope to see some of you out at Sleaford before I'm gone.

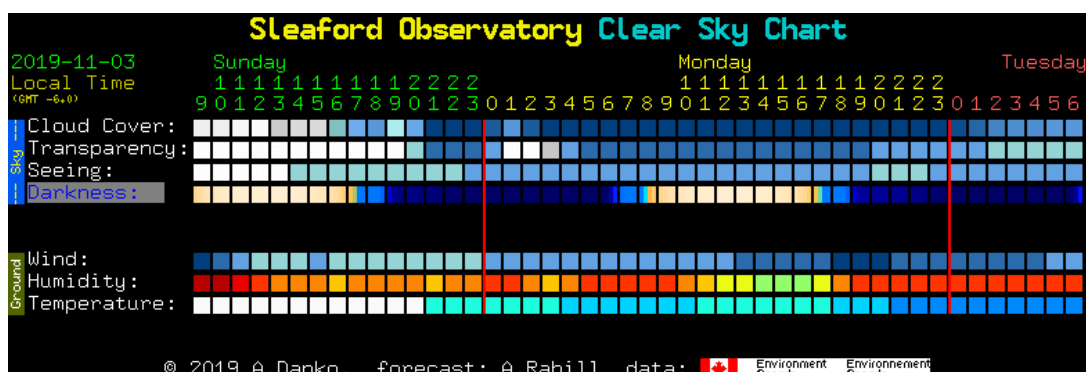


# CLEAR SKY AND WEATHER INFO

To find clear skies, visit the Clear Dark Sky website -

<https://www.cleardarksky.com/csk/>

Once there, one can enter your location to find clear skies. The chart will appear as follows:



Environment Canada provides weather information for astronomy -

[www.weather.gc.ca/astro](http://www.weather.gc.ca/astro)



Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee -

<http://myotherlife.net/slpac/>



[www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)

# RASC SASKATOON CENTRE SERVICE AWARDS

Rick Huziak

**The Saskatoon Centre is very pleased to announce that the following members have been awarded the RASC National Service Medal for their contributions to the Centre and the RASC.** Because the actual medals have not yet arrived, we will try to put photos of the medal presentations into the next newsletter. The following are the citations that were sent to the National Office requesting acceptance of these members as Service awardees. We are very proud of the achievements of our members.

## **Merlyn Melby**

Merlyn is a life member of the RASC being with the Saskatoon Centre since the 1970s. Merlyn has held various positions within the Centre including newsletter editor, General Assembly organizer, builder and councillor. During Merlyn's stint of editor, he raised the quality of the newsletter creating better content, a more professional look, and higher quality printing with the intent of putting the newsletter onto local bookstore shelves. Merlyn assisted in organizing the 1982 Saskatoon General Assembly and participated in many public outreach events. Merlyn, however, is best honoured as a major builder of the facilities of the Saskatoon Centre. He was one of the drivers and constructors of our three club observatories, the first being our snow-block Igloo Observatory used to photograph a star atlas that was awarded at the 1978 Edmonton GA, the permanent Rystrom Observatory (1977 – 1997) and the Sleaford Observatory (1997 to present). Merlyn's meticulous work created the high-quality observatories we continue to use to this day.

## **Barb Wright**

Barb had been a member of the RASC for over twenty-five years and has recently retired to Victoria and has become an active member of the Victoria Centre. During Barb's time with the Saskatoon Centre, she held several positions including President, Vice-president, and Event Coordinator. Barb was also an organizer of the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party for over 20 years and has attended the star party as Chair or a volunteer for all 24 years of the star party's existence. Barb also represented the Saskatoon Centre at over a dozen General Assemblies and was also an organizer of and the Chair for the 2009 General Assembly at Cypress Hills/SSSP. Barb organized and participated in over 100 public outreach events in Saskatoon and area. She also organized many of our Centre's social events, club and guest speaker suppers and our Christmas meeting socials. We are honoured to nominate Barb for the RASC Service Award. Barb will have her medal presented by the Victoria Centre.

## Tenho Tuomi

Tenho has been a member of the Saskatoon Centre for over 20 years. He has held the Newsletter Editor and Councillor positions and is on our Board of Directors. Tenho (with his wife, Velma) also drive from his farm at Lucky Lake (200 kilometres each direction) to attend monthly meetings and events. Tenho is an excellent observer, completing the Messier, Finest NGC, Herschel 400, Chatfield Binocular, Isabel Williamson Lunar and Explore the Universe observing certificates, and has photographed hundreds of deep-sky objects and virtually every observable comet over the last 20 years. Tenho is the author of the *Digital Astrophotography* section in the *Observer's Handbook* and was part of the committee that developed the Astro-imaging Certificate program. He is a frequent contributor to the RASClist discussion group, promoting interesting discussions mentoring others, is a variable star observer for the AAVSO and maintains science stations for professional and institutional weather and aurora observing. Tenho has attended about a half dozen RASC General Assemblies. He has also attended and volunteered at fourteen Saskatchewan Summer Star Parties and participates in as many Centre outreach events as he can. He also represents the RASC around his locality by conducting outreach events in Lucky Lake, Dinsmore, Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park, Grassland Dark-sky Preserve and many other locations.

## SASKATOON CENTRE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For any members who are wanting to request financial statements regarding the Centre, please email Donna-Lee May [d1m3star@telus.net](mailto:d1m3star@telus.net).

## CENTRE PRESIDENT RESIGNATION & MEETING

We regret to inform our membership that Mike Dolan has decided to resign as President of our Centre effective immediately. We would like to thank Mike for his time and leadership as President! Since the Centre does not have a Vice-president who could assume the interim presidency, the Centre is in the position of not having proper governance or someone who would carry through with the affairs of the Centre, including chairing of the monthly meetings. To resolve this issue, a joint meeting of the remaining Executive members and the Board of Directors was held on May 8 to determine what needs to be done until the annual elections are held in October. Decisions from this meeting are published elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Executive and Board feel that we can operate without the President and VP positions in place, but **we also would like our membership to consider if they would like to volunteer for the interim President or Vice-president positions immediately** with the hope of being formally elected in the fall, since we certainly will need to fill those positions then! Until that time, incoming communications to the Centre can be forwarded to the Secretary, Rick Huziak, at [rickhuziak@shaw.ca](mailto:rickhuziak@shaw.ca) or 306-280-1899. Rick will forward the messages, as required, to the Executive.

## **Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Executive & Board of Directors of the Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada**

**Date and Time: 8 May 2022 at 7:30 pm; via ZOOM**

**Attending:** Les Dickson (Director and Representative to RASC National Council), Ron Waldron (Director & Past-president), Tenho Tuomi (Director), Rick Huziak (Secretary), Donna-Lee May (Treasurer). **Not attending:** Norma Jensen (Director)

**This meeting was held to address short term issues resulting from the resignation of President Mike Dolan and the impact of the organization not having a Vice-president that could step up to assume the interim presidency until new elections are held in October.**

**1. Call to order:** Les Dickson 7:32 pm.

**2. Mike Dolan has resigned as President.** Do we have to elect a new president, can we appoint an interim President as a caretaker in the position until we hold elections in the Fall, or are there other options? **Decision:**

>> The three remaining Executive members will rotate the chair until the fall. Agreed that Les Dickson chairs May, Donna-Lee May chairs June, TBD chairs Sept, Rick Huziak chairs Oct. (elections) meeting.

>> President has both incoming & outgoing emails. President's email will be direct to Rick Huziak (Secretary) in the interim.

>> *Saskatoon Skies* newsletter will announce the resignation and begin a search for Pres & VP. Rick will write the newsletter article.

**3. Vice-President position.** We have been without a VP since the Fall. Why can we not attract people to this position, and can we get someone in place? **Discussion:**

>> Volunteer burnout may be a factor, especially for those who often volunteer. Current issue might be partly Covid-related. We feel we can operate without a VP until the elections.

4. **Summer Outreach** (starting May 14) What are the requirements and expectations to relay to Events Coordinator? **Discussion:**

>> A clear direction of requirements is needed to be communicated by the Executive due to insurance coverage, contracts, and event approval. We had not provided clear terms in the past. Rick will write a simple procedure for outreach based on our insurance requirements.

5. **Executive Actions to consider for a future meeting** (coming out of meeting discussions).

>> Past-president might be part of the Executive or ex-officio to provide continuity, but this is also for future executive committees to decide on how they want to operate.

>> the *Executive Handbook* needs to be expanded to include policies and more complete information.

>> Centre Bylaws need to be updated and may be currently reflecting an outdated National governance model. Tenho Tuomi will review the state of bylaws and inform the *Bylaw Committee*.

>> Conflicts of Interest need to be identified and a policy written to provide guidance.

6. **Executive meetings.** Do we have time in a one-hour meeting to work on issues? Should we extend the meeting times or move to another day? **Discussion:**

>> One hour preceding the General Meeting is adequate. If larger issues arise, the Executive should consider an additional “special meeting” at a different time. However, it is up to future executives to determine their own rules of operation.

7. **Does anything need to be retrieved** from the outgoing President that affects operations? **Discussion:**

>> Mike Dolan is one of three signees for Centre financial transactions, but only two signatures are required. (Ron W. & Donna-Lee M.), so there is no issue. Meeting notifications (via email) can be coordinated and sent out with the aid of membership coordinator, Mark DeJong. Mike remains a member otherwise.

8. **Motion to Adjourn - 9:29 PM.** Les Dickson – **CARRIED.**

## BOOKS FOR SALE

All books are in either new, or like new condition. Retail price in brackets. Please email at [novachat@sasktel.net](mailto:novachat@sasktel.net) or text/call 306-222-0515 if you want a particular book to make arrangements. All books being sold by Darrell Chatfield.

<b>“Deep-Sky Observers Handbook”</b>	Volume 1-5	Enslow-Lutterworth	\$40.00
<b>“International Encyclopedia of Astronomy”</b>	1987	Patrick Moore	Color \$10.00
<b>“Backyard Astronomers Guide”</b>	T. Dickinson & Alan Dyer	2008	Color \$25.00
<b>“Atlas of Deep Sky Splendors”</b>	1978	H. Verhenberg	(50.00) B & W \$22.00
<b>“Amateur Astronomers Catalog of 500 Deep Sky Objects”</b>	Vol 1	1980	B & W \$15.00
R. Morales			
<b>“Observing the Constellations”</b>	1989	J. Sanford	Color charts \$10.00

## OBSERVING CERTIFICATES AND CLUBS

### RASC OBSERVING PROGRAMS AND CERTIFICATES

The RASC offers four observing certificates for **members** who observe all objects in each of the following observing lists in this chapter:

THE MESSIER CATALOGUE (p. 314)

THE FINEST NGC OBJECTS (p. 318),

THE DEEP-SKY CHALLENGE OBJECTS (p. 322),

DEEP-SKY GEMS (p. 324).

See [www.rasc.ca/certificate-programs](http://www.rasc.ca/certificate-programs) for details and contact the RASC Observing Committee Chair at [rasc.ca/contact/observing](http://rasc.ca/contact/observing) for further information.



The RASC also offers the **Explore the Universe Certificate** for novice observers (who do not have to be RASC members), the **Explore the Moon Certificate** for beginning members, and the **Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Certificate** for intermediate to advanced members. In addition, **Astroimaging certificates** are available for those members with a photographic bent. See [www.rasc.ca/astro-imaging-certificate](http://www.rasc.ca/astro-imaging-certificate)

RASC OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK 2020



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,  
Donna-Lee May*

Ron Waldron	108
Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle	94
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 Schlapkohl	55
Jim Goodridge	35

#### ISABEL WILLIAMSON LUNAR OBSERVING CERTIFICATE

##### Certified at 140 Objects:

*T. Tuomi, N. Jensen*

#### EXPLORE THE MOON CERTIFICATE

*T. Yaworski*

#### 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 here <http://www.rasc.ca/explore-universe>

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: [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>