

# Saskatoon Skies

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

Volume 54, Number 09

October 2023



Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
Saskatoon Centre Incorporated  
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INSTAGRAM: [@RASCYXE](#)

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

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## MEMBERSHIP? JOIN TODAY!

**Regular: \$111.00 /year**

**Youth: \$61.10 /year**

**Family: \$105.50 + \$42.90/additional adult + \$22.20/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** – Les Dickson

**Vice-President** – Brent Burlingham

**Secretary** – Tenho Tuomi

**Treasurer** – \*vacant\* (Les Dickson interim)

**National Council Rep** – Les Dickson

Canadian Tire money - Darrell Chatfield

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

## NEWSLETTER INFO

**Newsletter Editor** – Colin Chatfield

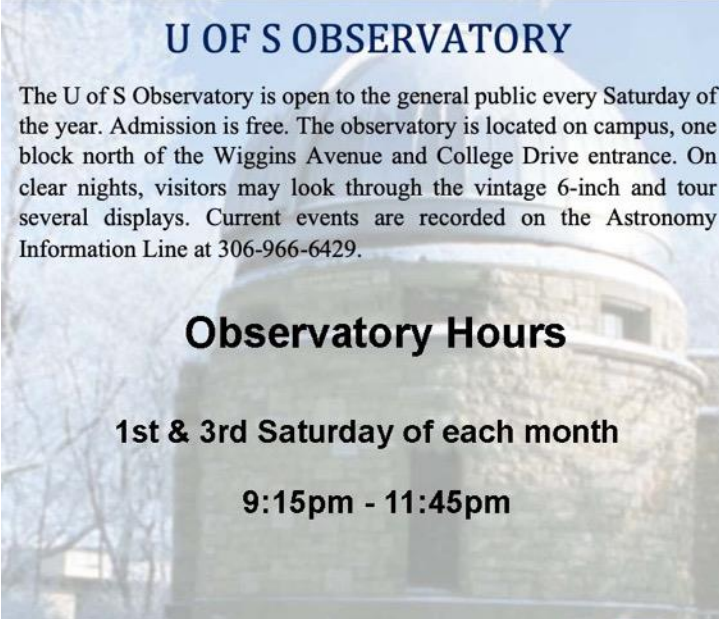
**Copy & Collate** – Les & Ellen Dickson

**Labels & Temps** – Mark de Jong

**Web Posting/Content Editor** – Tenho Tuomi/Andrew Kostiuk

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**

Hours subject to change, so check below for more info -

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

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

# RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS & MEETING INFO

Oct 14	Sleaford Observatory Open House	Brent Gratias
Oct 16	RASC Saskatoon Centre General Meeting	Les Dickson

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>

## October RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests

**Join us on October 16th, 2023 at 8:00PM (Executive meeting at 7:00pm)**

Webinar (info below) or in person in room 175, U of S Physics building

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 who prefer meeting online.

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

**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.

8:15pm - **Main Program -**

*“What’s Up This Month?”* – Colin Chatfield

**“What’s up with Astronomy at USask”** - Daryl Janzen (description below)

## WHAT'S UP WITH ASTRONOMY AT THE U OF S?

Daryl Janzen

The popularity of astronomy courses at USask has increased significantly, with a more than 300% increase to enrolments in the past decade, so that astronomy classes now account for more than a third of enrolments in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics (as opposed to 2-3% of departmental enrolments twenty years ago). Over the past five years, astronomy has been the most popular specialisation within our honours physics programme, and this year our recently-created Astronomy Certificate will reach its first dozen graduates. Throughout this period, we've engaged in several major projects ranging from education and public outreach, to facilities enhancements, to research at all levels, from 100-level course-based projects to record-breaking research with the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes, building successful collaborations across campus and the globe. In this talk, I will give an overview of the past, current and planned future projects that contribute to the continued success of our astronomy programme.

## NOTICE - AGM & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Les Dickson

Official Notice to the Members of the Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC)

Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers

To be held on November 20, 2023 starting at 8:15 pm in Room 175 Physics (University of Saskatchewan Campus) and by ZOOM video teleconference.

Anyone in good standing with the Saskatoon Centre can be nominated for and run for a position as an Officer on the Executive Council. For more information, contact President Leslie Dickson or the Nominating Committee (that will be formed at the October General Meeting). More information on open positions and job descriptions will be published in the October and November newsletters.

Note that this meeting was originally scheduled for October 16, 2023, but has been rescheduled to allow for more time to solicit volunteers for the many positions that have come open due to recent resignations, including some of those on the Board of Directors.

## BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT 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.

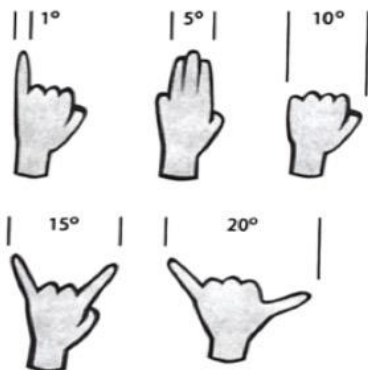
“Deep-Sky Observers Handbook” Volume 1-5	Enslow-Lutterworth	\$40.00
“International Encyclopedia of Astronomy” 1987	Patrick Moore Color	\$10.00
“Backyard Astronomers Guide” T. Dickinson & Alan Dyer 2008	Color	\$25.00
“Atlas of Deep Sky Splendors” 1978	H. Verhenberg (50.00) B & W	\$22.00
“Amateur Astronomers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

## OCTOBER NIGHT SKY EVENTS AND INFO

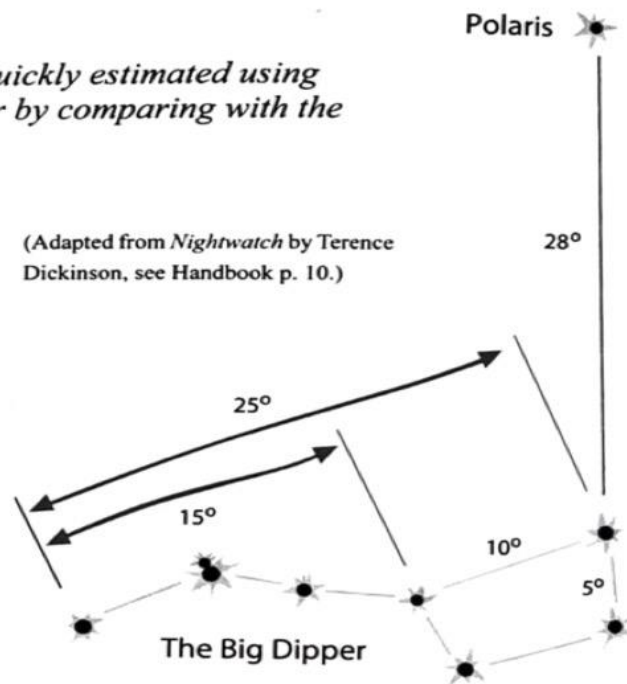
Images on the next few pages taken, with permission, from the 2023 Observer’s Handbook. It can be obtained by joining the RASC here <http://rasc.ca/join> or ordered from <https://secure.rasc.ca/Portal/Shop/RASC/Store/StoreMain.aspx?Category=CURRPUB>

### HANDY SKY MEASURES

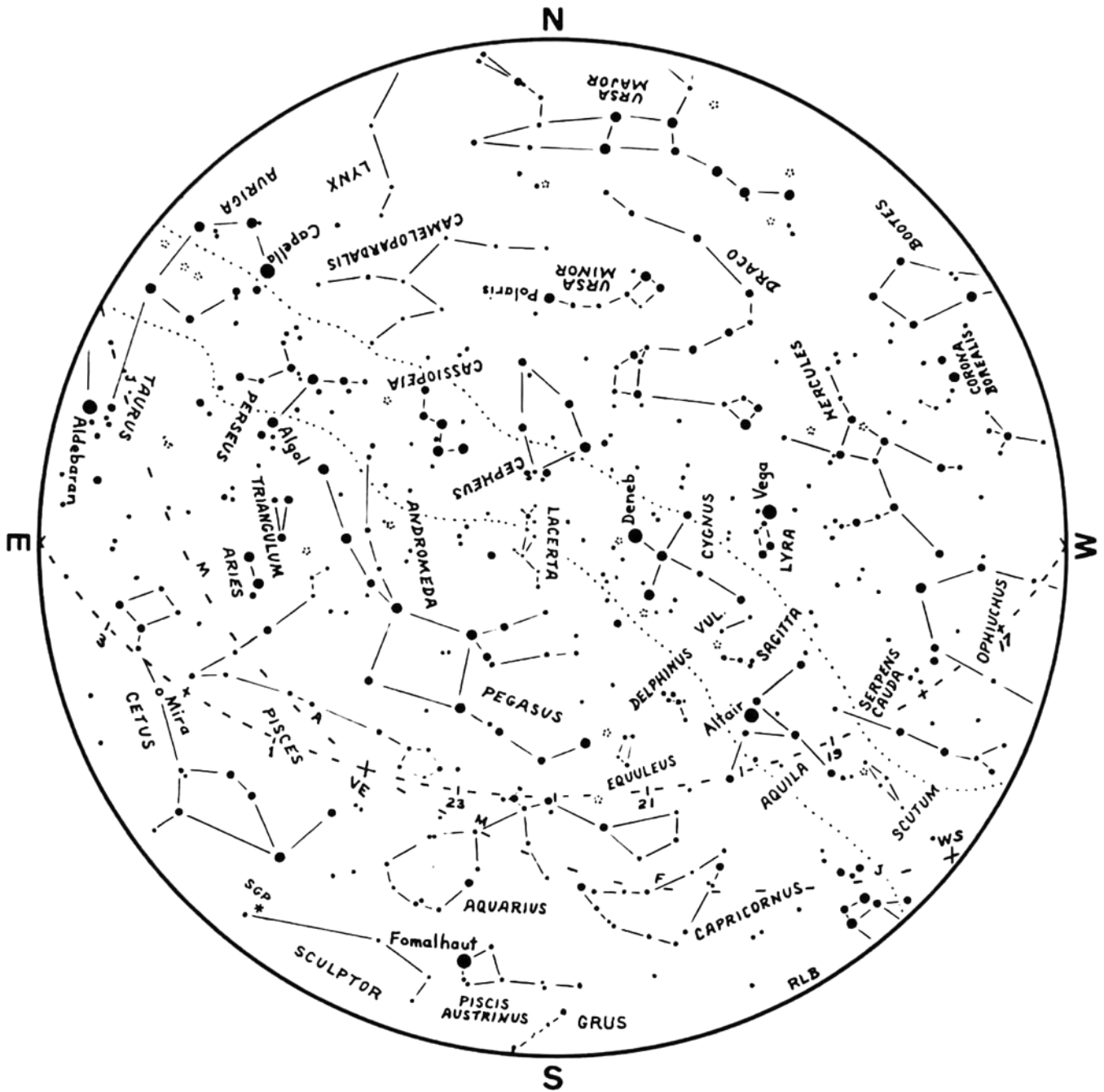
*Angular measure in the sky can be quickly estimated using the fingers of an outstretched arm, or by comparing with the star separations in the Big Dipper.*



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



Time (UT)		OCTOBER EVENTS	Jupiter's Satellites	
d	h m		West	East
Sun.	1	13 09	Algol at minimum	
		16	Pallas in conjunction with the Sun	
Mon.	2	3	<b>Jupiter 3° S of Moon</b>	
		17	Uranus 3° S of Moon	
Tue.	3	5	Mercury at greatest heliocentric lat. N	
		5	<b>Moon 1.1° S of Pleiades (M45)</b>	
Wed.	4	9 57	Algol at minimum	
Thu.	5			
Fri.	6	13 48	<b>last quarter</b>	
Sat.	7	6 46	Algol at minimum	
		11	<b>Pollux 1.4° N of Moon</b>	
Sun.	8			
Mon.	9			
Tue.	10	3 25	Algol at minimum	
		4	Moon at apogee (405 425 km)	
		5	<b>Venus 2° S of Regulus</b>	
		10	Venus 6° S of Moon	
Wed.	11			
Thu.	12		<b>Zodiacal light vis. in N lat. in E before morning twilight for next two weeks</b>	
Fri.	13	0 24	Algol at minimum	
Sat.	14	17 55	<b>new Moon (lunation 1247)</b>	
			<b>Annular Solar Eclipse (p. 131)</b>	
Sun.	15	1 11	Moon at descending node	
		16	<b>Mars 1.0° N of Moon</b>	
		21 13	Algol at minimum	
Mon.	16			
Tue.	17			
Wed.	18	14	<b>Antares 0.8° S of Moon, occultation†</b>	
		18 02	Algol at minimum	
Thu.	19			
Fri.	20	5 57	<b>Double Shadows on Jupiter</b>	
		6	Mercury in superior conjunction	
Sat.	21	14 51	Algol at minimum	
Sun.	22	0	Orionid meteors peak	
		3 29	<b>first quarter</b>	
Mon.	23	23	<b>Venus greatest elongation W (46°)</b>	
Tue.	24	8	Saturn 3° N of Moon	
		11 30	Algol at minimum	
Wed.	25		Venus at ascending node	
Thu.	26	1	Neptune 1.5° N of Moon	
		3	Moon at perigee (364 872 km)	
Fri.	27		Mercury at descending node	
		8 29	Algol at minimum	
Sat.	28	3 14	Moon at ascending node	
		20 24	<b>full Moon</b>	
			<b>Partial Lunar Eclipse (p. 137)</b>	
Sun.	29	8	<b>Jupiter 3° S of Moon</b>	
Mon.	30	2	Uranus 3° S of Moon	
		5 18	Algol at minimum	
		15	<b>Moon 1.1° S of Pleiades (M45)</b>	
Tue.	31			



## REIMBURSEMENT FOR CENTRE EXPENSES

The Centre has a reimbursement procedure on submission of expense claims. A writeable pdf claim form can be found on the Centre webpage under the Executive tab. The expense form **must** be submitted *along with original receipts* to the Treasurer within 30 days of the transaction. All expenditures must be preapproved by the Executive or be within allocated budgets.

Please contact the Treasurer with any inquiries.



# ASTRONOMY NIGHT OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday, October 14, 2023  
7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.**

**Sleaford Observatory and Research Facility**

This event is weather dependent.  
Please check our Facebook page for updates.

This event is free and open to the public.

There are warm-up facilities but viewing happens outside.

**Travel Advisory: Highway 5 is under construction.**

Use Patience Lake road (grid road #394), or Highway 16 to  
Lawrence Road, then North until the 4<sup>th</sup> grid road. Then turn right.

## DRESS WARMLY!

Sponsored by:  
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Saskatoon Centre  
and  
The U. of S. Department of Physics and Engineering Physics



For further details:  
[www.facebook.com/rascyxe](https://www.facebook.com/rascyxe)  
[www.facebook.com/usaskobservatory](https://www.facebook.com/usaskobservatory)



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
College of  
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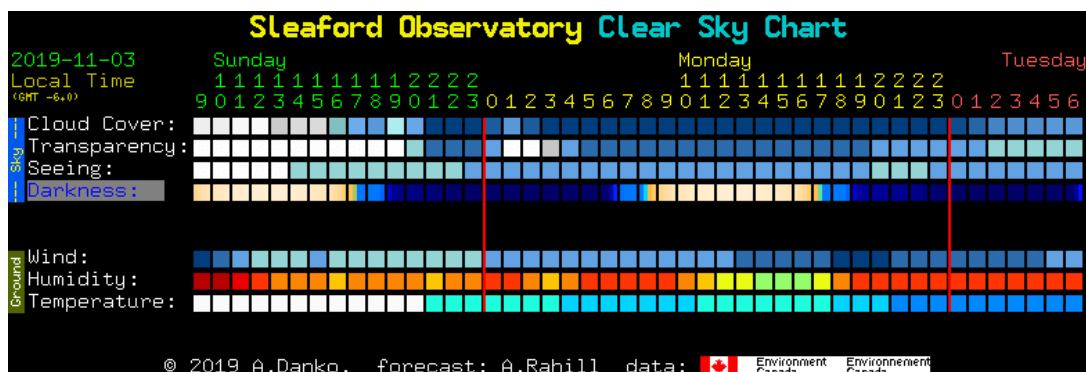
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND  
ENGINEERING PHYSICS  
[ARTSANDSCIENCE.USASK.CA](https://artsandscience.usask.ca)

# 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)

# ELECTION OF OFFICERS - RASC SASKATOON

## Election of Officers of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Saskatoon Centre Incorporated

Anyone in good standing with the Saskatoon Centre can be nominated for and run for a position as an Officer on the Executive Council. For more information, contact President Leslie Dickson or the Nominating Committee (that will be formed at the October General Meeting).

### List of RASC Saskatoon Centre Executive Positions

Position	Incumbent	Status
President	Les Dickson	Open
Vice-President	Brent Burlingham	?
Secretary	Tenho Tuomi	Open
Treasurer	Les Dickson (acting)	Open
National Council Rep	Les Dickson	Open
Activities Coord.	None	Open
Librarian/Archivist	Darrell Chatfield	Continuing
Meeting Room Coord.	Les Dickson	Open
Membership Coord.	Mark de Jong	?
Newsletter Editor	Colin Chatfield	Continuing
Newsletter Printer/Mailer	Les Dickson	Continuing
Observing Cert. Coord.	Darrell Chatfield	Continuing
Observing Group Coord.	Brent Gratias	Open
Past President	None	Les Dickson
Photographer	Colin Chatfield	Continuing
Photographer	George Charpentier	?
Sleaford Maintenance Coord.	Darrell Chatfield	Continuing
Sleaford Joint Mgmt. Comm.	Darrell Chatfield	Continuing
Sleaford Joint Mgmt. Comm.	Yannis P.	Continuing
Social Media Coord.	Colin Chatfield	Continuing
Speaker Coord.	Les Dickson	Open
SSSP Comm. Chair	Les Dickson	?
Telescope Rental Coord.	Ike Thiessen	?
Website Content Editor	Tenho Tuomi	Continuing
Webmaster	Gord Sarty	Open?
Website Owner/Manager	Andrew Kostiuk	?

### List of RASC Saskatoon Centre Board of Directors

Director	Les Dickson	Open (leaving Dec. 31)
Director	Tenho Tuomi	Open
Director	Jim Wood	Open (leaving Dec. 31)
Director	Norma Jensen	Continuing

## **Brief job descriptions for the Executive and Support positions on the Executive Council and for the Board of Directors.**

Source: Article by Rick Huziak, September 2022 newsletter, with edits and additions by Les Dickson

### **National Executive Positions**

**President** – Runs the Centre meetings and coordinates and directs the general affairs of the Centre guided by our Constitution and National norms. The President is generally the contact and spokesperson for the Centre, unless delegated.

**Vice-President** – Assistant to the President and assumes those duties in the absence of the President. This is expected to be a “grooming” or “learning” position and a step up to President in two years.

**Secretary** – Records the Minutes of the Executive and General meetings of the Centre, maintains the centre records, manages the Centre mailbox, maintains the document archive and writes the National Year-end Report.

**Treasurer** – Manages the financial affairs of the Centre, keeps the financial books, issues and receives payments, interfaces with the bank maintaining accounts and investments, interfaces with the Provincial Government for not-for-profit status registration, creates balance sheets, income statements and the year-end statement for the Centre and the Provincial Government. Maintains all records for insurance purposes such as premium payments, processing of all insurance claims, obtaining event certificates and all other documents pertaining to insurance. Maintains all records of the SSSP, all payments, invoices, and other documentation pertaining to the SSSP.

**National Council Rep** – Represents the Centre at the National Council meetings quarterly, either in person or virtually. Is expected to express Centre concerns to National and to relay National news to the Centre. In-person travel to the meetings and General Assembly (not fully required) is reimbursed.

Note that RASC National requires us to have a President, Secretary, Treasurer and National Council Rep to be in good standing with National.

### **Support Positions**

**Activities Coordinator** – Plans, books and manages outreach activities of the Centre and reports those plans to the Executive for approval. Solicits help in conducting outreach activities and assures proper permitting and insurance is in place, as applicable.

Librarian/Archivist – Maintains the library of the RASC (located in the basement of the University Observatory.)

Meeting Room Coordinator – Assures the in-person meeting room (175 Physics) is booked for the monthly meetings. Sets up refreshments (coffee and snacks) and ensures supplies for such are maintained.

Membership Coordinator – Interfaces with National RASC to maintain the accurate listing of Centre Members and their status.

Newsletter Editor – Solicits articles and speaker/meeting information for the newsletter, edits and publishes the Saskatoon Skies newsletter on-line monthly from September through June, and once or twice over the summer as requested. Arranges for upload of the newsletter to the Centre website.

Newsletter Printer/Mailer – Prints and mails those newsletters going to those members who request printed copies as well as copies to the Saskatoon Public Library System.

Observing Certificate Coordinator – Certifies that observers have completed the requirement of Observing Certificates and provides completion certificates for the observers, interfacing with National observing programs where required.

Observers Group Coordinator(s) – Can be one or two coordinators. – Arranges dates of Centre observing nights monthly and the fall Sleaford Open House. Generally, goes to the Sleaford Observatory to open and close up for observing nights and has traditionally arranged for snow removal and grass cutting as required, though these tasks can be delegated. Trains new Sleaford users and issues keys to Sleaford to qualified members.

Past President – Inherited position after being President. Is an advisor to the President.

Photographer(s) – Takes photos as requested to document Centre activities, including the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party

Sleaford Maintenance Coordinators – Coordinates maintenance of the Sleaford buildings, equipment, and grounds to assure the site does not deteriorate faster than it should. Conducts repairs and maintenance as required but can also solicit help as required or arrange for contractors on approval.

Sleaford Joint Site Management Committee – Two representatives from the Centre and two representatives from the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics jointly manage the Sleaford site to the benefit of both parties according to the Memorandum of Agreement (2002). This committee meets at least once a year, more often as required.

Social Media Coordinator – Create content and maintains the Centre’s Facebook & Instagram pages.

Speaker Coordinator – Solicits speakers for the Monthly General meetings for September through June. Speakers are announced in the Newsletter and Activities Page. Provides (external) speakers with compensation per the approved budget, as required.

SSSP Organizing Committee Chair – Coordinates the initiation, planning, execution & closing of the annual Saskatchewan Summer Star Party through the Organizing Committee that includes members of the Saskatoon and Regina Centres.

Telescope Rental Coordinators – Maintains the rental telescopes, loans the telescopes, and receives payment for the loaner telescope use.

Web Master – This position is in flux and requires discussion as many of the positions functions are covered by the Website Owner/Manager (below)

Website Owner/Manager – Maintains the Centre website and uploads content on demand.

Web Content Editor – Assures the content of the Centre website is current and accurate and uploads content changes or clarification on demand.

### **Board of Directors**

Assures the Centre is operating within their Constitution and that this is being conducted with good intention and good faith. Provides guidance where required if of questions of operation and governance arise. The Board in theory appoints the Officers of the Centre but in practice does so based on the will of the membership of the Centre as expressed in the annual elections.

## **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETINGS**

Les Dickson

### **Minutes of the Monthly Executive Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre Monday, Sept. 18, 2023 – 7:00 pm Hybrid: In-person Room Phys 175 & Online**

**Attending:** In person - Les Dickson, Brent Burlingham, Ike Thiessen; ZOOM – Colin Chatfield, Darrell Chatfield; Recording – Ellen Dickson

Minutes taken by Ellen Dickson and Les Dickson. Minutes prepared by Les Dickson.

1. **Call to order:** 7:02 pm – Les Dickson (President and Chair)
2. **Call for additional announcements/items to add to agenda**
3. **Approval of Executive meeting minutes for June 2023** as printed in the Summer newsletter: Moved by Les Dickson, seconded by Brent Burlingham; Carried.
4. **Announcements from the Chair** – Les Dickson  
The low attendance at the meeting was noted. It was the consensus of those present that we did not have a quorum so no substantive decisions could be made. However, as reported below, a motion was made on payment of an insurance premium.
5. **President’s Report** - Les Dickson  
Les reviewed his email outlining his resignation from various positions. Noted that Jim Gorkoff was willing to continue to work on the by-laws and policies and that Les would assist.
6. **Reports from the Executive Council**
  - 6.1 **Acting Treasurer** – Les Dickson  
Les reported that the General Account has a balance of approx. \$21,500, the SSSP Account has a balance of approx. \$15,300, the Term Deposit is approx. \$2,260. When members join or renew, National transfers \$33 minus a fee of \$0.99, giving the Centre \$32.01 per member. With 74 members, that results in an annual income from memberships of \$2,368.74. Add-ons and donations are additional income.  
Acting Treasurer’s motion: Moved by Les Dickson, seconded by Darrell Chatfield, that the invoice for the renewal of our Commercial Pak policy with SGI in the amount of \$1,573.04 be paid. Provisionally carried pending approval from other Executive members notified by email. If no substantial objections presented, the policy will be paid Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - 6.2 **Representative to National Council** - Les Dickson  
National has asked for Centres to place bulk orders for RASC 2024 calendars by the end of September. Les Dickson recommended that members order their own copies via National’s website. There is a meeting of National Council on Sunday September 24. Les is unable to attend as he will be travelling. Brent Burlingham as agreed to attend as alternate.
  - 6.3 **SSSP Chair** - Les Dickson  
Les Dickson will be giving a presentation on SSSP 2023 at the General meeting.
  - 6.4 **Sleaford Site Coordinator** - Darrell Chatfield  
New gate was installed. Some minor repairs were required on a pin and hinge on one gate. A second set of hinges will be purchased to better take the weight of the gates. The gates cost under the budget of \$1,200. Our cost is one-half

of that amount as the University pays the other half. Brent Gratiyas has been cutting the grass. The riding lawnmower does not work well in the ditches, so that was finished off with a push mower. Darrell Chatfield received some key deposit money and key blanks from Larry Scott. The money will be used for maintenance of locks, rekeying, and cutting new keys. Darrell Chatfield will not be rekeying until we better know what direction the Centre will take.

**6.5 Telescope Rental Coordinator - Ike Thiessen**

Three telescopes were rented out in August. One has been returned. Has on hand \$185 in rental fees. Chris Standing and Wyatt Brown of Dakota Dunes (have at times rented scopes) are members of the Centre and have expressed interest in attending meetings.

**7. Old Business**

**7.1 Request by Ron Waldron to change wording of the motion made in May 2023 Exec meeting.**

The request by Ron Waldron to change the wording of the motion made in May 2023 Executive meeting regarding his letter was deferred due to lack of quorum.

**8. New Business**

**8.1 Sleaford Open House in October – Daryl Janzen**

Daryl Janzen was to speak about the Sleaford Open House on October 14<sup>th</sup>, same day as the solar eclipse. Daryl did not attend the meeting. Any organization and coordination of the event with Centre members will have to be done by email and phone.

**8.2 Upcoming Annual General Meeting and Election of Executive, October 16th**  
Discussion of the upcoming Annual Meeting and Election of Executive: This meeting is currently scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup>. There was concern that with the poor attendance at this meeting, organizing for that meeting may be difficult. With the proposal that current Executive members contact members to ask about engagement with Centre activities and governance, especially in soliciting members to stand for positions on the Executive, we may not have enough time. It was suggested that we poll the existing Executive and Board of Directors to see if it would be advantageous to move the Annual General Meeting to November. Les formally opened nominations for the Executive.

Status of current Executive:

- President Les Dickson: resigning
- Vice-President Brent Burlingham: undecided
- Secretary Tenho Tuomi: resigning
- Acting Treasurer Les Dickson: resigning
- Representative to National Council Les Dickson: resigning
- Membership Coordinator Mark de Jong: unknown



- Observing Group Coordinator Brent Gratiias: resigning
- Sleaford Site Coordinator Darrell Chatfield: unknown but believed to be continuing
- Telescope Rental Program Coordinator Ike Thiessen: unknown but believed to be continuing
- Newsletter Editor Colin Chatfield: continuing
- Website Content Editor: open but Tenho Tuomi interested in taking that position
- Sleaford committee member Yannis Pahatouoglou: unknown

Status of Board of Directors:

- Les Dickson: resigning as of December 31
- James Wood: resigning as of December 31
- Tenho Tuomi: resigning as of Annual General Meeting
- Norma Jensen: unknown

Note that we need 3 directors to meet legal requirements

### 8.3 Engagement of our members in governance and activities

There was some discussion of points raised by Ron Waldron and Yannis Pahatouoglou regarding engagement of our members and having sufficient people to cover Executive positions so that those people are not overworked or covering multiple positions. Poor communications with our members was identified as a major concern. We need to develop a strategy to connect with our members. A phoning tree was suggested to contact members (see above) prior to the Annual General Meeting.

- 8.4 Motion: Moved by Tenho Tuomi, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, that the 2021-2022 fiscal year financial reports be printed in the October newsletter. The motion proposed by Tenho Tuomi regarding printing the 2021-2022 fiscal reports in the newsletter was deferred due to lack of quorum. There was a brief discussion of alternatives to making that information available to members without printing in the newsletter. Les Dickson will make printed copies of the reports available at the next meeting and will send scanned versions of the reports by email to members on request.

9. **Motion to adjourn:** Moved by Les Dickson, seconded by Brent Burlingham. Carried. The meeting was adjourned 8:04 pm.

## **Minutes of the Monthly General Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre Monday, Sept. 18, 2023 – 8:00 pm Hybrid: In-person Room Phys 175 & Online**

Minutes taken by Ellen Dickson and Les Dickson. Minutes prepared by Les Dickson.

1. **Sharing / Networking Time** 8:00 – 8:15 pm – all members

2. **Call to order:** 8:18 pm – Les Dickson (President and Chair)
3. **Call for additional announcements/items to add to agenda**
4. **Call out to new members/guests:** Joelle Sheard-Patrick
5. **Adoption of the June General Meeting minutes as circulated in the Summer newsletter:** Moved by Les Dickson, Seconded by Ellen Dickson. CARRIED.
6. **Executive Meeting Summary** – Les Dickson
  - Noted that only 5 Executive members attended. Declared lack of quorum so no significant decisions could be made.
  - A motion was provisionally carried to pay the premium due on the Centre’s Commercial Pak insurance policy with SGI in the amount of \$1,573.04, pending approval by email to other Executive members.
  - Brent Burlingham would be attending the RASC National Council meeting this Sunday in place of Les Dickson
  - Darrell Chatfield gave a report on work at Sleaford. A new gate was installed.
  - Ike Thiessen reported that 3 telescopes were rented out
  - Daryl Janzen was to appear to discuss the upcoming Sleaford Open House but was not present. It will be organized by email and phone calls.
7. **New Business**
  - 7.1 **Announcement of Annual General Meeting and Elections for the Executive to be held October 16, 2023 in Phys 175 and ZOOM**
    - Most of the positions on the Executive and Board of Directors are open
    - Filling these positions will be a challenge
8. **Discussion on engagement of members in governance and activities of the Centre**
  - Since only one member in addition to those in the Executive Meeting attended, little discussion of consequence could be held. It was noted that a lack of good communication with-in the Centre was a major problem.
9. **Program:**
  - 9.1 **What’s Up This Month** – *Colin Chatfield*
  - 9.2 **SSSP 2023 in Pictures** – *Les Dickson, Chair SSSP 2023 Committee.*
10. **Call to adjourn:** Moved by Brent Burlingham, seconded by Ellen Dickson. Carried. The meeting was adjourned 9:15 pm.



*Aurora on September 22, 2:00am, by Tenho Tuomi*

## 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. 312)
- THE FINEST NGC OBJECTS (p. 316),
- THE DEEP-SKY CHALLENGE OBJECTS (p. 320),
- DEEP-SKY GEMS (p. 322).

See [rasc.ca/certificate-programs](http://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** and the **Double Stars Observing Certificate** for intermediate to advanced members. In addition, **Astroimaging certificates** are available for those members with a photographic bent. See [rasc.ca/astro-imaging-certificate](http://rasc.ca/astro-imaging-certificate)

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
Brent Gratias	104
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, B. Gratias*

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*

Brent Gratias	37
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#### 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

Messier, Finest NGC, and David Levy's Deep-Sky lists in the *Observer's Handbook*.

The Explore the Universe list is available here <http://www.rasc.ca/explore-universe>  
Messier and Finest NGC lists, charts and logbooks: <https://www.rasc.ca/certificate-programs>

Herschel 400 List: <http://www.astroloague.org/al/obsclubs/herschel/hers400.html>

Chatfield Binocular List is at: [https://saskatoon.rasc.ca/Chatfield\\_Binocular\\_List.pdf](https://saskatoon.rasc.ca/Chatfield_Binocular_List.pdf)

“Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program Guide” program details can be found at:

<https://www.rasc.ca/isabel-williamson-lunar-observing-program>