

Saskatoon Skies

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

Volume 54, Number 10

November 2023



Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Saskatoon Centre Incorporated
Box 31086, RPO Broadway
Saskatoon, SK S7H 5S8

WEBSITE: <https://saskatoon.rasc.ca/>
E-MAIL: sk_centre@rasc.ca
FACEBOOK: [RASC Saskatoon Centre](#)
INSTAGRAM: [@RASCYXE](#)

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

In This Issue:	
Membership Information / Officers of the Centre	2
Newsletter Info / U of S Observatory Info	3
Calendar of Events & Meeting Info	4
Student Satellites to Space / Notice - AGM & Election of Officers	5
Books and Equipment For Sale	6
November Night Sky Events & Info	6-8
Reimbursement for Centre Expenses	8
Notes From the President	9-10
Clear Sky Chart / Weather Info / Light Abatement Info	10
Election of Officers	12-15
Minutes of October Meetings & National Meeting	15-19
Observing Certificates & Clubs	19-20

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
- 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.

NEWSLETTER INFO

Newsletter Editor – Colin Chatfield

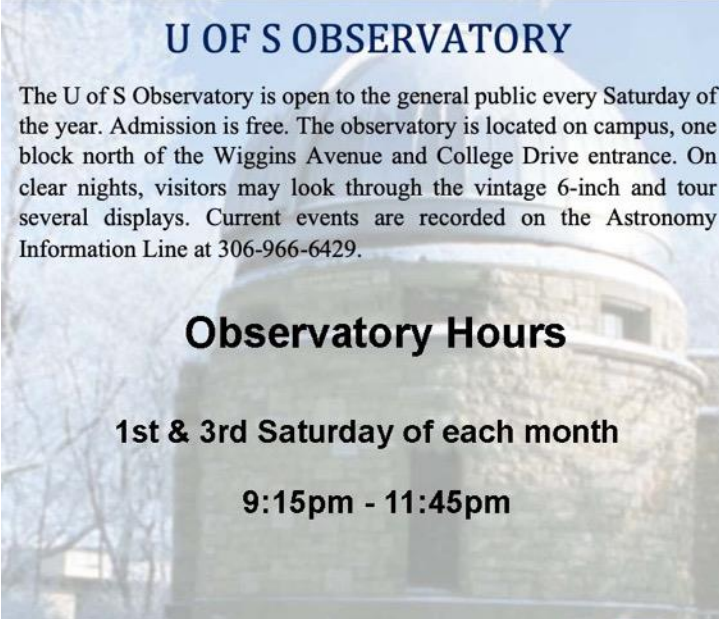
Copy & Collate – Les & Ellen Dickson

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 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 for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items for free.

A graphic with a background image of the U of S Observatory building. The text is centered and reads: "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".

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

Nov 11	Observer's Group - Sleaford Observatory	Brent Gratias
Nov 20	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>

November RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests

Join us on November 20th, 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

"Student Satellites to Space" (Info below)

STUDENT SATELLITES TO SPACE

Presenters:

- Dustin Preece: RADSAT-SK Technical Project Manager
- Kierstin Anderson: RADSAT-SK2 Outreach & HR Team Lead
- Layne Ransom: RADSAT-SK and RADSAT-SK2 HR & Communications Project Manager

Description:

Our presentation will be a high-level overview of the two student satellite projects we are currently working on, RADSAT-SK (RAD1) and RADSAT-SK2 (RAD2). RAD1 is supported through a CSA-funded initiative called the Canadian CubeSat Project (CCP), which recently launched to the International Space Station in June and is now in orbit. RAD2 began in Spring 2023 and is funded through the CSA's CUBICS program, currently in the mission concept phase, approaching the preliminary design phase. The overview will include both satellite's mission objectives, subsystem highlights, student successes and more.

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 or text/call 306-222-0515 if you want a particular book to make arrangements. All books being sold by Darrell Chatfield.

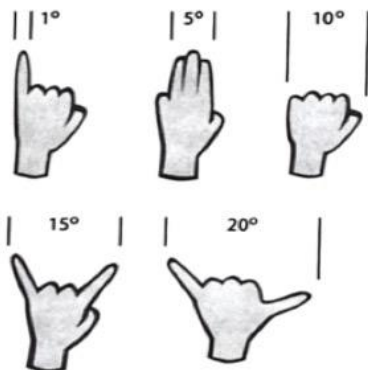
“Deep-Sky Observers Handbook” Volume 1-5	Enslow-Lutterworth	\$40.00
“International Encyclopedia of Astronomy” 1987	Patrick Moore Color	\$10.00
“Backyard Astronomers Guide” T. Dickinson & Alan Dyer 2008	Color	\$25.00
“Atlas of Deep Sky Splendors” 1978	H. Verhenberg (50.00) B & W	\$22.00
“Amateur Astronomers 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

NOVEMBER NIGHT SKY EVENTS AND INFO

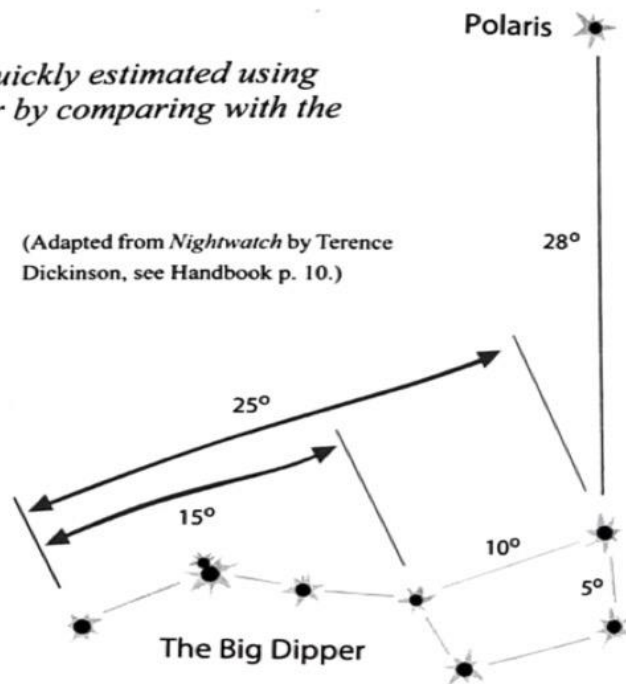
Images on the next few pages taken, with permission, from the 2023 Observer’s Handbook. It can be obtained by joining the RASC here <http://rasc.ca/join> or ordered from <https://secure.rasc.ca/Portal/Shop/RASC/Store/StoreMain.aspx?Category=CURRPUB>


















HANDY SKY MEASURES

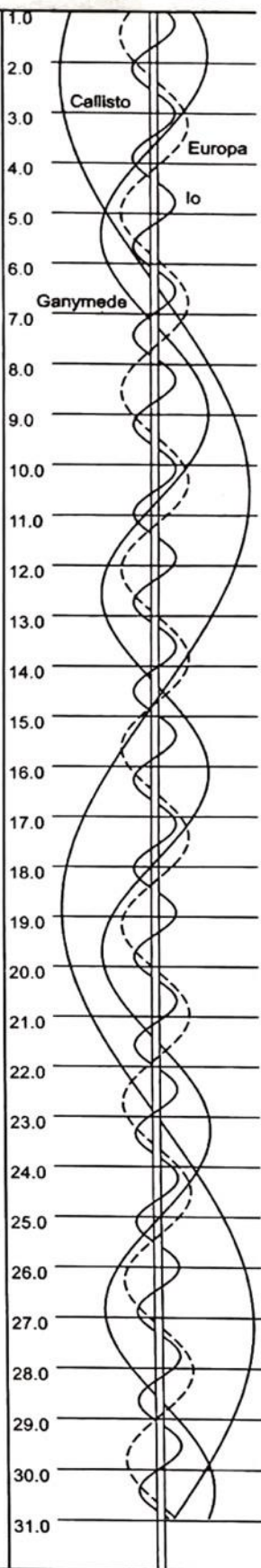
Angular measure in the sky can be quickly estimated using the fingers of an outstretched arm, or by comparing with the star separations in the Big Dipper.



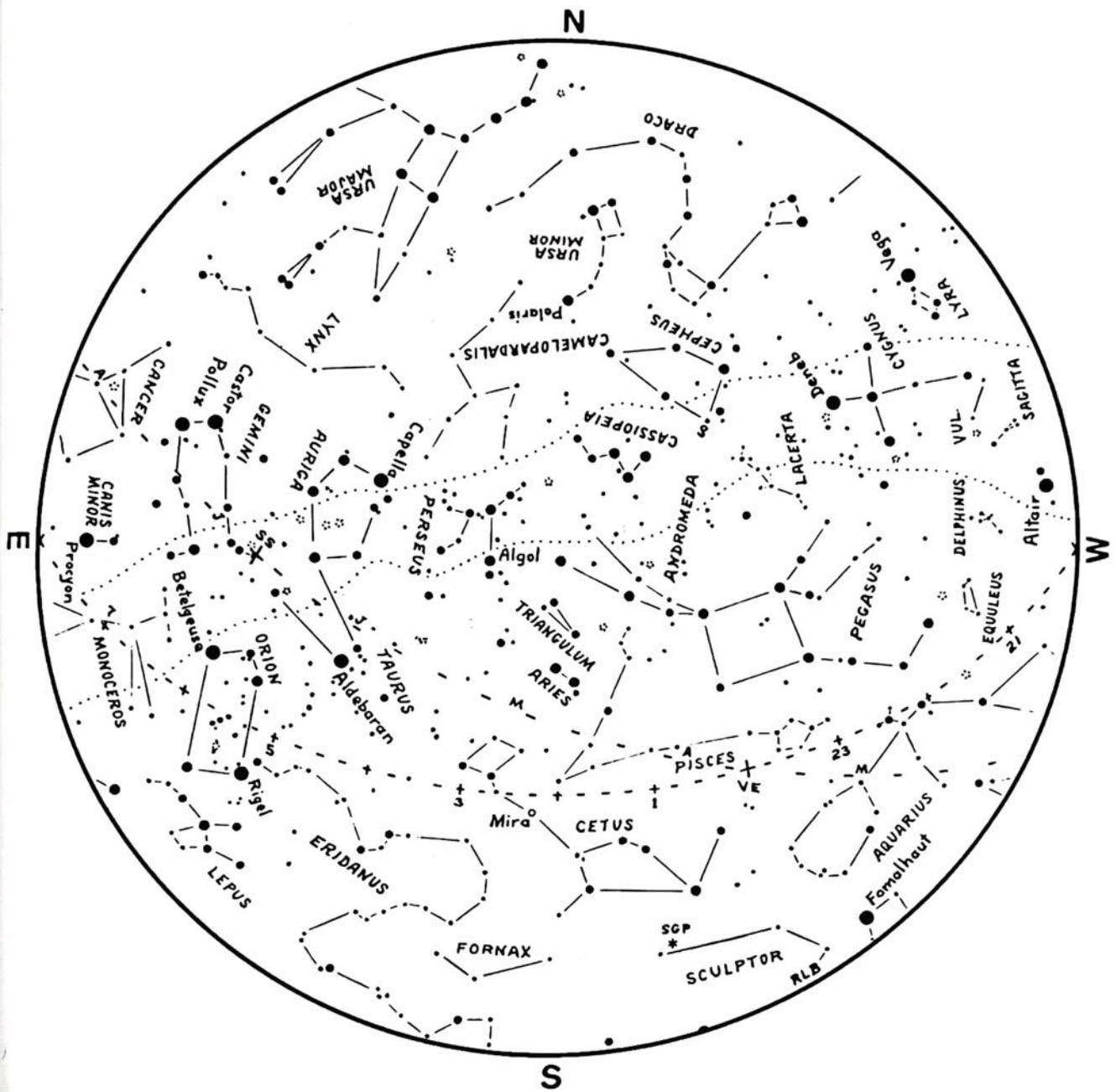
(Adapted from *Nightwatch* by Terence Dickinson, see Handbook p. 10.)



Time (UT)		NOVEMBER EVENTS	Jupiter's Satellites	
d	h m		West	East
Wed.	1			
Thu.	2	2 07	Algol at minimum	
Fri.	3	4	Vesta stationary	
		5	Jupiter at opposition	
		19	Pollux 1.4° N of Moon	
Sat.	4	17	Saturn stationary	
		22 56	Algol at minimum	
Sun.	5		DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	
		8 37	last quarter	
Mon.	6		Mercury at aphelion	
			Mars at descending node	
		1	S. Taurid meteors peak	
		22	Moon at apogee (404 569 km)	
Tue.	7	19 45	Algol at minimum	
Wed.	8			
Thu.	9	9	Venus 1.0° S of Moon, occultation†	
Fri.	10	16 34	Algol at minimum	
Sat.	11	8 49	Moon at descending node	
Sun.	12	0	N. Taurid meteors peak	
Mon.	13	9 27	new Moon (lunation 1248)	
		13 23	Algol at minimum	
		17	Uranus at opposition	
Tue.	14	15	Mercury 1.7° N of Moon	
		20	Antares 0.9° S of Moon, occultation‡	
Wed.	15			
Thu.	16	10 12	Algol at minimum	
Fri.	17			
Sat.	18	6	Mars in conjunction with the Sun	
		6	Leonid meteors peak	
Sun.	19	7 01	Algol at minimum	
Mon.	20	10 50	first quarter	
		14	Saturn 3° N of Moon	
		16	Ceres in conjunction with the Sun	
Tue.	21	21	Moon at perigee (369 818 km)	
Wed.	22	3 50	Algol at minimum	
		8	Neptune 1.5° N of Moon	
Thu.	23			
Fri.	24	11 02	Moon at ascending node	
Sat.	25	0 39	Algol at minimum	
		11	Jupiter 3° S of Moon	
Sun.	26		Mercury at greatest heliocentric lat. S	
		9	Uranus 3° S of Moon	
Mon.	27	1	Moon 1.1° S of Pleiades (M45)	
		9 16	full Moon	
		21 28	Algol at minimum	
Tue.	28		Venus at perihelion	
Wed.	29			
Thu.	30	18 17	Algol at minimum	



†Extreme N Canada, most of Greenland, Iceland, Svalbard, W Russia, Europe (except Iberian)



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.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Les Dickson

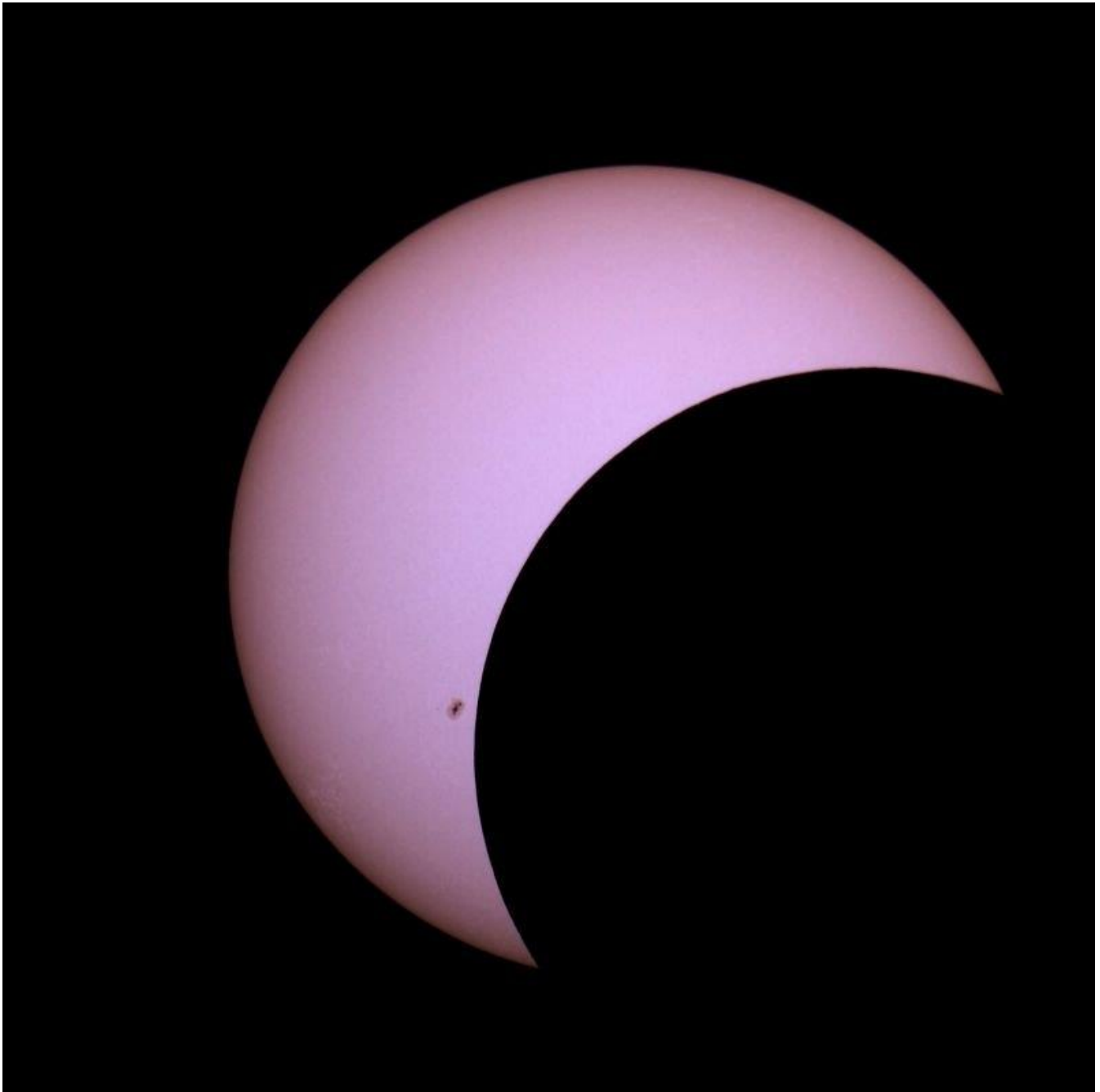
As our Annual General Meeting is to be held this month and we hold elections for a new Executive, this is my time to step down as President. I will also be formally stepping away from my positions as Representative to the National Council and acting Treasurer. I appreciate the support I have received from many people who have pitched in to help keep this Centre afloat. I especially wish to thank Brent Burlingham, without whose help I could not have managed to hold things together in this difficult time. I will continue to support the Centre as Past-President and as a mentor to those who are taking over new positions. I will also be working with James Gorkoff to produce a new set of By-laws for the Centre that will be in accordance with the National RASC requirements and the province's new regulations.

I wish to thank those on the Executive who are continuing in their present roles or are taking up new positions, especially Brent Burlingham who is moving up to President. My thanks to Joelle Sheard-Patrick who has expressed interest in joining the Executive as Activities Coordinator and Representative to the National Council, and to Lorie Tedford who has expressed interest in taking on the position of Secretary. We have yet to find someone to become our Treasurer and we need at least two people to step in to succeed James Wood, Tenho Tuomi and myself, who are stepping down as Directors at the end of the year.

We still have many challenges ahead of us. Two important related areas to address are governance and engagement. Our Centre has struggled over the last 10 years or so in attracting members to take positions on our Executive. Like many other volunteer organizations, an "inner group" of 10% to 20% of the members do 80% to 90% of the work year after year. Tension between this group and the majority of the members who rarely participate in the Centre's governance and activities has led to some general and personal discord that has adversely affected our ability to function and have prompted some members to leave the Centre and the RASC. We need to reconnect with and engage our members to reverse this situation. We hope to have contacted many of you to ask for your opinions and ideas on how we can move forward together and solicit interest in participating as an Executive member.

I looked back at my first "Notes from the President" that were published in the April newsletter shortly after I took over as President and felt that my concluding paragraph bears repeating:

“Many years ago, when Ron Waldron was President, he said something profound that stayed with me ever since. Paraphrasing from my faulty memory, he said: “When dealing with challenges, do not say ‘We should...’, say ‘I will...’”. As we face new challenges, I hope our members will come with constructive, positive ideas and say “I will”. It is time we moved past these difficulties and started to enjoy and promote the hobby of astronomy again as we were meant to do.”



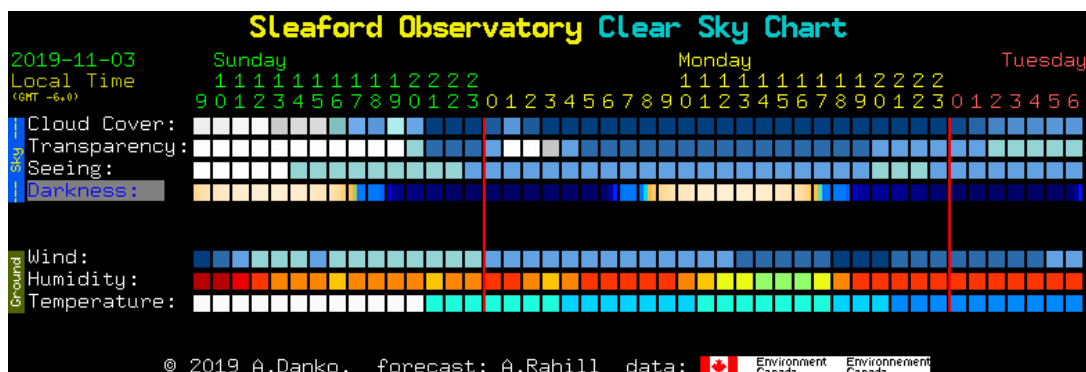
60% partial solar eclipse taken October 14 at 10:43am through an 8" Dobsonian with a Baader filter. There were two sunspots but the Moon is covering the other one. Photo taken by Tenho Tuomi

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



Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee -

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



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/Candidate
President	Les Dickson	Brent Burlingham (cand.)
Vice-President	Brent Burlingham	?
Secretary	Tenho Tuomi	Lorie Tedford (cand.)
Treasurer	Les Dickson (acting)	Open
National Council Rep	Les Dickson	Joelle Sheard-Patrick (cand.)
Activities Coord.	None	Joelle Sheard-Patrick (cand.)
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 OCTOBER MEETINGS

Les Dickson

**Minutes of the Monthly Executive Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre
Monday, Oct. 16th, 2023 – 7:00 pm Hybrid: In-person Room Phys 175 & Online**

Minutes prepared by: Tenho Tuomi and Les Dickson

Attending: In person - Les Dickson, Brent Burlingham, James Wood, Mark de Jong, Tenho Tuomi, Colin Chatfield, Darrell Chatfield; **Observing:** Daryl Janzen, Joelle Sheard-Patrick

Recording: Tenho Tuomi, Ellen Dickson

1. **Call to order:** 7:02 pm - Les Dickson (President and Chair)
2. **Call for additional announcements/items to add to agenda** - none
3. **Approval of the September Executive meeting minutes** as circulated in the March newsletter. Moved: Brent Burlingham. Seconded: Les Dickson. CARRIED.
4. **Announcements from the Chair** - Les Dickson
5. **President's Report** - Les Dickson
 - Resigning in November
 - As past president will help Treasurer and others
 - Sleaford open house successful with 70-80 or more visitors. Thanks to volunteers.
6. **Moved** by Les Dickson and seconded by Darrell Chatfield, that the Term Deposit invested with Affinity Credit Union be rolled-over for another year. CARRIED.
7. **Reports from the Executive Council**
 - 7.1 **Acting Treasurer** - Les Dickson
 - Presented an overview of current financial situation. In total \$30,117 (General and SSSP accounts), and a term deposit of \$2,260 (which will be rolled-over).
 - Printed copies of the Assets and Liabilities, and Operating Statements for the Fiscal Year of October 2021 to September 2022 are available at this meeting and LD will send scanned versions of the reports by email to members upon request.
 - 7.2 **(Alternate) National Council Rep:** Brent Burlingham
 - September meeting with 12 centres represented, next meeting December
 - Good progress in reducing costs
 - Office staff reduced
 - New Membership Director: Renee Drummond
 - NOVA (New Observers to Visual Astronomy) Program introduced
 - His report is attached to these minutes
 - 7.3 **SSSP Chair** - Les Dickson
 - Still working on the books
 - Waiting for final receipts and for cheques to clear account
 - \$3000-\$4000 profit from last SSSP
 - 7.4 **Sleaford Site Coordinator** - Darrell Chatfield
 - Security of new gate increased with another hinge
 - September 29 cut grass and fixed door
 - 7.5 **Telescope Rental Coordinator** - Ike Thiessen
 - No report

8. Old Business

8.1 Upcoming Annual General Meeting and Election of Executive November 20th

- Formal notice of the Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers (moved to November) given by email and printed in the October newsletter
- Nominations for the Executive were formally opened last meeting
- Status of various positions and job descriptions were presented in this month's newsletter
- National requires Centres to have the positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer and National Council Representative filled
- Sask. regulations require Non-Profit Corporations to have a minimum of 3 directors
- The current requirement for President's term of 2 years may be reduced to 1 year in new by-laws
- Joelle Sheard-Patrick indicated interest in the Activities Coordinator position
- Need to form a Nominations Committee which should have as many of the current Executive members as possible to spread out the job of contacting members to solicit interest in standing for open positions. The committee: Les Dickson, Brent Burlingham, Darrell Chatfield, Joelle Sheard-Patrick, Ellen Dickson

8.2 Engagement of our members in governance and activities

- Consideration of concerns and suggestions raised by Ron Waldron and Yannis Pahatouroglou and others
- These concerns can be directly related to our problems with filling Executive positions

9. New Business

- None

10. Motion to adjourn by Mark de Jong, seconded by Les Dickson, at 8:01 pm.

RASC National Council Meeting Sept. 24th, 2023

Brent Burlingham attending for Les Dickson

- December meeting to be held Dec. 3rd.
- Instituted monthly board review of financial position.
- Treasurer position will no longer be required to be board member, due to unique requirements.
- Good progress in reducing costs (Net income, end of July budgeted deficit of \$227,136, actual deficit was \$135,399).
- Office staff reduced from 15 FT/PT to 4.
- Donations need to be increased.
- New Membership Director: Renee Drummond (ext. 102).

- NOVA (New Observers to Visual Astronomy) Program introduced. 12 Modules. \$50 for members, \$75 for non-members). National takes 20%
- Noticed our last Centre Report for Saskatoon was May 2021.
- Discussion of 2023 suggested changes to C11 (RASC Policy C11: National Council Terms of Reference). Call for Centre opinions.
- Contact Judy Black next month re: C11.
- Only 12 Centres represented at this meeting. National apathy?
- Discussion on clarifying NC representative's role.
- Discussion of problems enticing people into Board/Council administrative positions at Centres.
- Only suggestions were to have accurate position descriptions and to make involvement sound "fun".
- Accurate position descriptions also need to refer to when dealing with expulsion of difficult members.

**Minutes of the Monthly General Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre
Monday, Oct. 16th, 2023 – 8:00 pm Hybrid: In-person Room Phys 175 & Online**

Minutes prepared by: Tenho Tuomi and Les Dickson

Recording - Tenho Tuomi, Ellen Dickson

Attending: 7 In-person and 6 on-line

1. **Sharing / Networking Time** 8:00 - 8:15 pm - all members
2. **Call to order:** 8:19 pm - Les Dickson (President and Chair)
3. **Call for additional items** or changes to the agenda -- none
4. **Call out to new members/guests:** Lorie Tedford
5. **Adoption of the September General Meeting minutes as circulated in the October newsletter. Moved:** Ellen Dickson. **Seconded:** Brent Burlingham. **CARRIED.**
6. **Executive Meeting Summary** - Les Dickson
7. **Annual General Meeting and Elections for the Executive to be held November 20, 2023 in Phys 175 and ZOOM**
 - Discussion of status of various positions and job descriptions
 - Joelle Sheard-Patrick, in addition to having volunteered to stand for Outreach Coordinator, offered to take on the position of National Council Representative
 - Lorie Tedford volunteered to stand for the position of Secretary

- Brent Burlingham volunteered to stand for President
- Still need a Treasurer and a Vice-President in the core Executive
- Les Dickson will provide continuity and advice as Past-President
- A Nominations Committee was formed with members: Les Dickson, Ellen Dickson, Brent Burlingham, Darrell Chatfield and Joelle Sheard-Patrick; Centre members will be contacted by the committee regarding open Executive positions and engagement in Centre activities
- Discussion on engagement of members in governance and activities of the Centre
- There was some discussion on reducing the number of scheduled Executive meetings and holding our in-person meetings at the campus Observatory; to be discussed by the new Executive

8. Program:

- **What's Up This Month** – Colin Chatfield
- **WHAT'S UP WITH ASTRONOMY AT THE U OF S?** – Dr. Daryl Janzen, Departmental Instructional Assistant, Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, University of Saskatchewan.

9. **Call to adjourn** – 10:01 PM. **Moved:** Joelle Sheard-Patrick, **Seconded:** Mark De Jong.

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 for details and contact the RASC Observing Committee Chair at 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

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
---------------	----

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
---------------	----

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>