

# Saskatoon Skies

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

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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: \$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** – Brent Burlingham

**Vice-President** – John Takala

**Secretary** – Lorie Tedford

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

**National Council Rep** – Joelle Sheard-Patrick

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

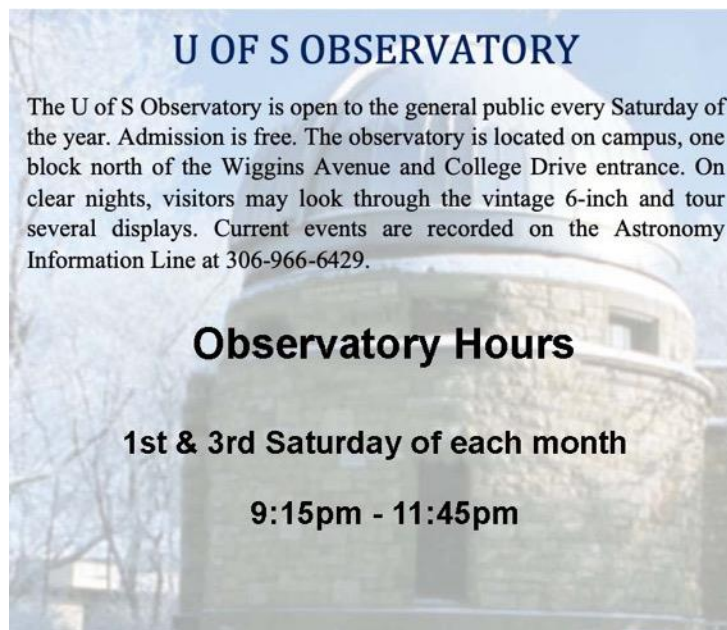
**Copy & Collate** – Les & Ellen Dickson

**Labels & Temps** – Mark de Jong

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

Saskatoon Skies is published monthly by the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC. Distribution is approximately 80 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

**Sept 16**

**RASC Saskatoon Centre General Meeting**

**Brent Burlingham**

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>

## September RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests

**Join us on September 16th, 2024 at 8:00PM (Executive meeting at 7:00pm)**

Webinar (info below)

**\*Please note:** the meeting will be at the U of S Observatory at 108 Wiggins Ave (on the U of S Campus)\*

**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).

**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

***“Imaging Group update”*** - Jeff Swick

## 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.

<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
<b>“Observing the Constellations”</b>	1989	J. Sanford	Color charts \$10.00

**\*NOTE: “I will be advertising the astronomy equipment and accessories from the Melby Estate in the next few newsletters. I will also bring a selection of eyepieces, etc. to the next few meetings for your perusal. Some items were never used. All monies go to the Estate. Thank you.”\* Darrell Chatfield**

### FOR SALE FROM THE MELBY ESTATE - A PARTIAL LISTING

Please email me if you want to see any other set - [novachat@sasktel.net](mailto:novachat@sasktel.net). Darrell Chatfield

- **2 - 1.25” rack and pinion focusers** for refractor type telescopes. Brand new. Never used. Inset diameter is 57mm. Heavy duty type with metal knurled knobs. All have boxes. \$20.00 each.

- **Original Celestron orange tube C5” scope** with tangent arm. Fork arms. SCOPE ONLY. No tripod or wedge. 5 x 30 finder, 1.25” visual back, diagonal, eyepiece, lens cap, metal case. Was used as a spotter scope. Not a mark on the tube. Clean looking. \$250.00

- **Original orange tube C14” scope**. Comes with fork arms, base, wedge, lens cap, 2” visual back, huge 2” diagonal, 5 x 70 finder, swing through locking tripod; 40, 25, 12, and 6mm Kellner eyepieces, 2” – 32mm. Konig eyepiece, 2x barlow, tele extender, hand toggle controller box for slow motion controls, counterweights and 2 rails, power cord, fitted carrying case. All in like new condition. Great looking scope. Hardly used! \$3000.00

2	T mount adapters for Miranda cameras	\$5.00 each
3	1.25” diagonals 2 new in boxes	\$15.00 each
1	2” – 32mm Erfle eyepiece new in box	\$85.00



- 1 2" – 60mm Kelner eyepiece new in box \$85.00
- 1 1.25" Celestron volcano top eyepiece in box \$15.00
- 1 1.25" Celestron volcano top eyepiece in box \$15.00
- 1 1.25" eyepiece extender - 3" long \$20.00
- 1 5x24mm Celestron orange tube finder new in box \$20.00
- 1 1.25" Celestron off axis guider c/w 12.5mm ep. Can be illuminated. New. \$45.00
- 1 Celestron 4x 1.25" eyepiece turret new in box \$65.00
- 1 Celestron 1.25" reticle. Can be illuminated \$20.00
- 1 3.5" long 1.25" tele-extender \$20.00
- 3 1.25" visual backs new \$10.00 each
- 1 1.25" to 0.965" visual back \$10.00
- 1 Camera to visual back adapter Lightly used \$10.00
- 1 Threaded visual back to 16mm male threads camera adapter \$10.00

## SLEAFORD UPDATE

Darrell Chatfield - Sleaford Site Coordinator

On Aug 18, Colin and I went out to Sleaford to cut and trim all of the site grass that was needed. We didn't have time to do the sloping grass to the north of the warm-up shelter however. All went well.

Before grass cutting:



During:



After:



We have some great news as of today, Thursday September 5th. Brent Burlingham and I went out to our site today. So here is what we got done. I rekeyed the locks to our buildings! So now if a person, who is a paid -up member of our club and wants a key, they will have to come to me. **\*NOTE\*** After talking with Larry Scott, who was the previous Sleaford key provider, I have decided to make slight changes to the program to keep in accordance with the historical agreement made by Larry and Rick Huziak.

So here are the new arrangements for Sleaford Keys:

- Any club member with an old Sleaford key can exchange it for a new key, with no fee attached (club members who have turned in old keys and paid the \$25.00 will

get their money refunded).

- A \$25.00, non-refundable fee will be charged to any NEW club member who desires a Sleaford key
- The “work assistance program” applies only to a NEW keyholder
- The fee is used to help pay for future rekeying of the site and costs incurred in doing that. Thank you for your understanding and patience with this matter.

I was also able to do the following:

- Secured the weather seal around the main door to our warm-up shelter.
- Cut down and disposed the very large weeds coming out of the U. of S. Roll-off chain link fencing.
- Sanitized the drop- down shelves in our warm-up. They were needing it badly.

Brent Burlingham also graciously helped me and did the following:

- Washed the fly remnants off from around all 3 warm-up shelter door jambs
- Washed the inside of the left shelter door
- Swept out the shed, warm-up shelter, and bathroom
- Put out new bags in the main shelter area and bathroom garbage cans
- Cut all the grass on the sloping area to the north of our warm-up shelter

So I would say we had a very productive day out at our site. Many thanks to Brent for the help on short notice.

Please keep in mind that anyone using the site must PULL the gate/gates open when accessing the area. I have set up the supporting wheels to be effective in that manner. PUSHING on the gates to open will put too much stress on the new supporting bolts and hardware that took a lot of work to install (usually, the longer LEFT gate is all you would need to gain entry).

Thanks to everyone for your support and understanding in helping to keep our site clean and usable.

Many thanks to Brent for the help on short notice.



# AGM & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Brent Burlingham

## **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 October 21st, 2024, starting at 8:15 pm at the University of Saskatchewan Observatory (108 Wiggins Rd. U. of S. 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 Brent Burlingham or the Nominating Committee (that will be formed at the September General Meeting). More information on open positions and job descriptions will be published in the October newsletter.

## SASKATCHEWAN SUMMER STAR PARTY 2024

Les Dickson (photos by George Charpentier)



The 2024 edition of SSSP was held at the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park and Dark-Sky Preserve from August 7 to 11. Everyone had a great time!

The nights were clear or mostly clear and were nearly free of wildfire smoke. Vance Petriew mentioned that one night the seeing was better than 2 arcseconds; he was able to separate the double-double in Lyra.

This was a special year for the park and our star party. It was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of the park as a Dark-sky Preserve in 2004. This milestone was celebrated by

the park with a special presentation by the park's manager Royce Pettyjohn and cake for all at the Thursday evening BBQ. Royce has graciously granted his permission to reproduce the text of his speech in our newsletter. This year was also the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the very first star party in the park, organized by the Regina Centre of the RASC, in 1989. SSSP started in 1997, and with a year off for COVID-19, this was our 27<sup>th</sup>!

Our special guests included our *Under Living Skies* presenter Pierre Schierle, *Fr. Lucian Kemble Memorial Lecture* speaker Roland Dechesne, Saturday speaker Jeanine Holowatuik, Kid's workshop coordinators Jennifer Petriew and Joelle Sheard-Patrick, and clinicians Denis Pilon, Pierre Schierle, Gerry Smerchanski and Tim Yaworski. I wish to thank Vance Petriew for being our Master-of-Ceremonies again this year.

George Charpentier, in addition to being our official photographer, organized the Astrophotography, Sketching and Star Party Art Contest. The following is a list of winners in the contest:

- Astrophotography – Tripod: 1<sup>st</sup> Tim Yaworski, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lukas Gornisiewicz
- Astrophotography – Wide Field: 1<sup>st</sup> Kimberly Sibbald, 2<sup>nd</sup> Glen McFaddin
- Astrophotography – Solar System: 1<sup>st</sup> Rob Baron, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lukas Gornisiewicz
- Astrophotography – Deep Sky: 1<sup>st</sup> Rob Baron, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nick Larsen
- Novice: 1<sup>st</sup> Nick Larsen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Joan Hodgins
- Mobile Phone Handheld: 1<sup>st</sup> Ellen Dickson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Dutka
- Sketching: 1<sup>st</sup> Victor Dutka, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bohdan Dutka
- Star Party Art: 1<sup>st</sup> Silvia Graca, Caley McFaddin
- People's Choice - Astrophotography: Kimberly Sibbald
- People's Choice – Sketching: Bohdan Dutka
- People Choice – Art: Caley McFaddin
- Youth Entry Certificates: Bohdan Dutka, Victor Dutka, Aisling Fusick, Caley McFaddin

Our vendors *All-Star Telescope* and *Fervent Astronomy* returned for another year. We thank them for their participation and donations to our door prizes.

We thank the staff of the park, especially Royce Pettyjohn and Miriam Martin, for their continued support of our star party. Also, we thank the staff of the Resort at Cypress Hills Park, including Wes Eng, Melanie Morris and Olivia Brownlee, who provided the delicious Saturday banquet and helped make our indoor day-time activities a success.

Rick Huziak led a dedicated team of planners and on-site volunteers that worked together to ensure that our 307 attendees had another enjoyable weekend under the dark skies of the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park and Dark-Sky Preserve. Planning committee members included Rick Huziak, Les and Ellen Dickson, Joelle Sheard-Patrick, George Charpentier, Brent Harrold, Greg Fusick, Vance Petriew and Pierre Schierle. Pierre wishes to particularly thank the volunteers who were invaluable in quickly and efficiently setting up

and later taking down the Registration Tent. I wish to thank Brent Burlingham and Kevin Davis for their assistance with technical and audio-visual jobs in the Community Centre and the Wapiti Room. We thank our website manager Andrew Kostiuk, who worked behind the scenes to keep our content updated and maintained the on-line registration and

ordering functions for us. Of course, we could not function without the many on-site participant volunteers who were invaluable in making it all work. Thank you all for help!

See you again next year, August 20 to 24, 2025!

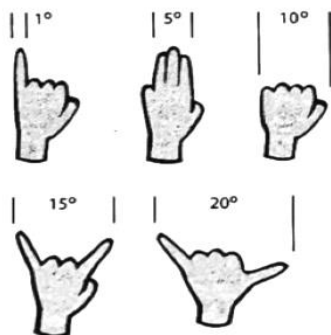


## SEPTEMBER NIGHT SKY EVENTS AND INFO

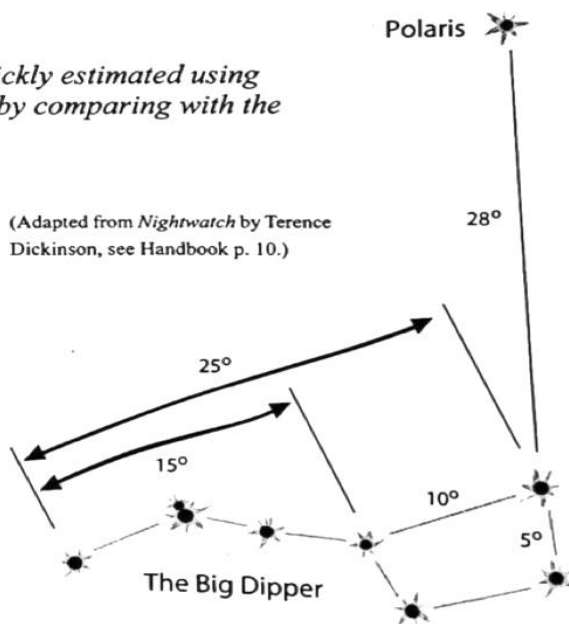
Images on the next few pages taken, with permission, from the 2024 Observer's Handbook. It can be obtained by joining the RASC here <http://rasc.ca/join> or ordered from <https://secure.rasc.ca/store/product/observer-s-handbook-2024>

### 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.*





















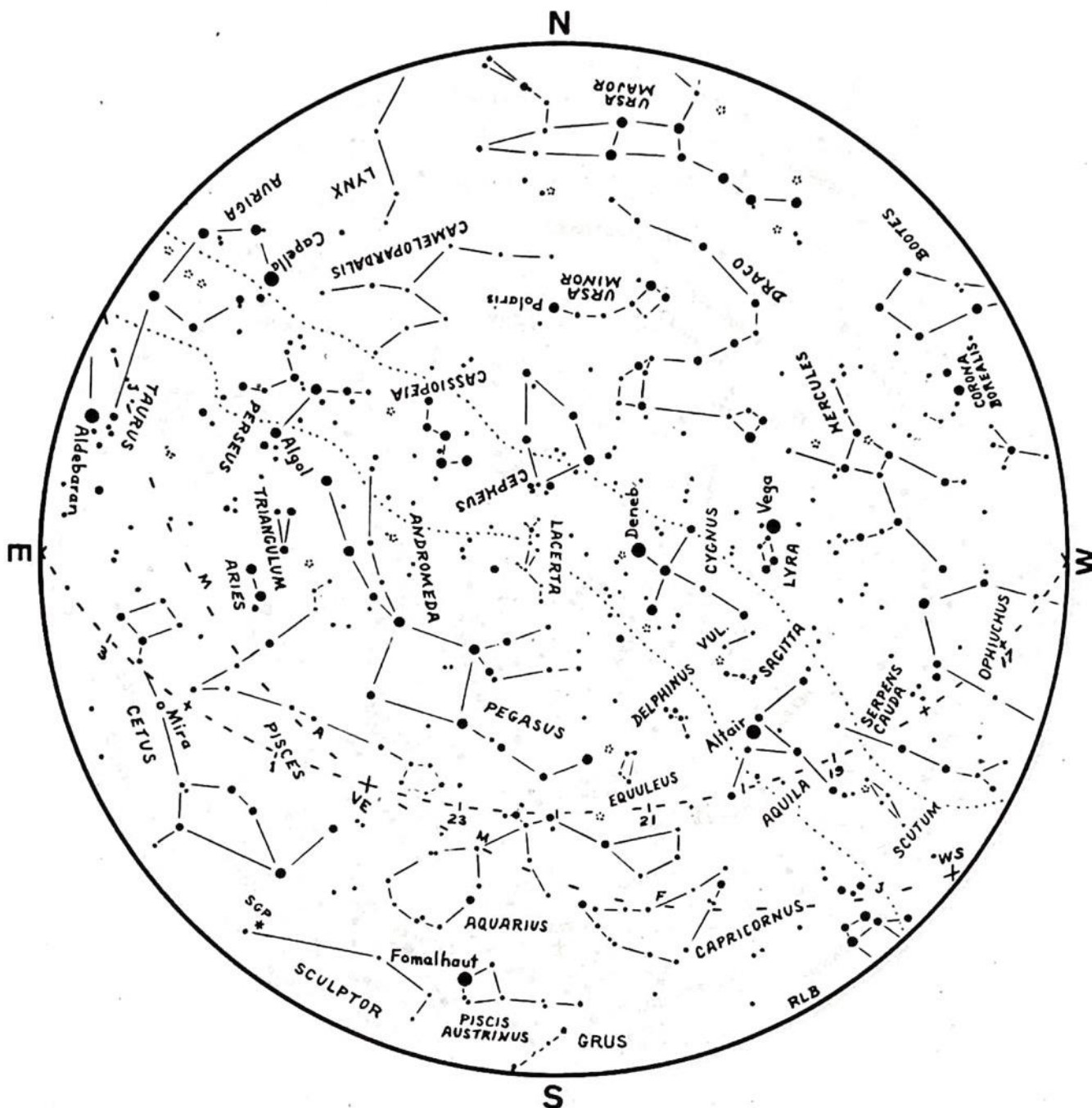
(Adapted from *Nightwatch* by Terence Dickinson, see Handbook p. 10.)



RASC OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK 2024 – STANDARD EDITION



Time (UT)			SEPTEMBER EVENTS	Jupiter's Satellites	
	d	h m		West	East
Sun.	1		<b>Zodiacal light vis. in N lat. in E before morning twilight for next two weeks</b>		1.0
		0 37	Algol at minimum		2.0
		9	Mercury 5° S of Moon		3.0
		16	Uranus stationary		4.0
Mon.	2				5.0
Tue.	3	1 56	<b>new Moon (lunation 1258)</b>		6.0
		21 25	Algol at minimum		7.0
Wed.	4		Mercury at ascending node		8.0
Thu.	5	3	<b>Mercury greatest elongation W (18°)</b>		9.0
		5 43	Moon at descending node		10.0
		10	<b>Venus 1.2° N of Moon, occultation†</b>		11.0
		15	Moon at apogee (406 211 km)		12.0
Fri.	6		Mars at ascending node		13.0
		17	<b>Spica 0.5° S of Moon, occultation‡</b>		14.0
		18 14	Algol at minimum		15.0
Sat.	7				16.0
Sun.	8	5	<b>Saturn at opposition</b>		17.0
		19	<b>Mars 0.9° S of M35</b>		18.0
Mon.	9		Mercury at perihelion		19.0
		7	<b>Mercury 0.5° N of Regulus</b>		20.0
		15 03	Algol at minimum		21.0
Tue.	10	13	<b>Antares 0.1° N of Moon, occultation*</b>		22.0
Wed.	11	6 06	<b>first quarter</b>		23.0
Thu.	12	11 51	Algol at minimum		24.0
Fri.	13				25.0
Sat.	14				26.0
Sun.	15	8 40	Algol at minimum		27.0
Mon.	16				28.0
Tue.	17	10	<b>Saturn 0.3° S of Moon, occultation§</b>		29.0
		13	Venus 3° N of Spica		30.0
Wed.	18	2 34	<b>full Moon</b>		31.0
			<b>Partial Lunar Eclipse (p. 137)</b>		
		5 28	Algol at minimum		
		8	Neptune 0.7° S of Moon, occultation††		
		13	Moon at perigee (357 286 km) <b>Large tides</b>		
		19 51	Moon at ascending node		
Thu.	19		Mercury at greatest heliocentric lat. N		
Fri.	20				
Sat.	21	0	<b>Neptune at opposition</b>		
		2 17	Algol at minimum		
Sun.	22	11	<b>Moon 0.2° N of Pleiades (M45)</b>		
		12 44	<b>Equinox</b>		
Mon.	23	23 06	Algol at minimum		
		23	Jupiter 6° S of Moon		
Tue.	24	18 50	<b>last quarter</b>		
Wed.	25		Venus at descending node		
		12	Mars 5° S of Moon		
Thu.	26	11	<b>Pollux 1.7° N of Moon</b>		
		19 54	Algol at minimum		
Fri.	27				
Sat.	28				
Sun.	29	16 43	Algol at minimum		
Mon.	30	21	Mercury in superior conjunction		



## 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.

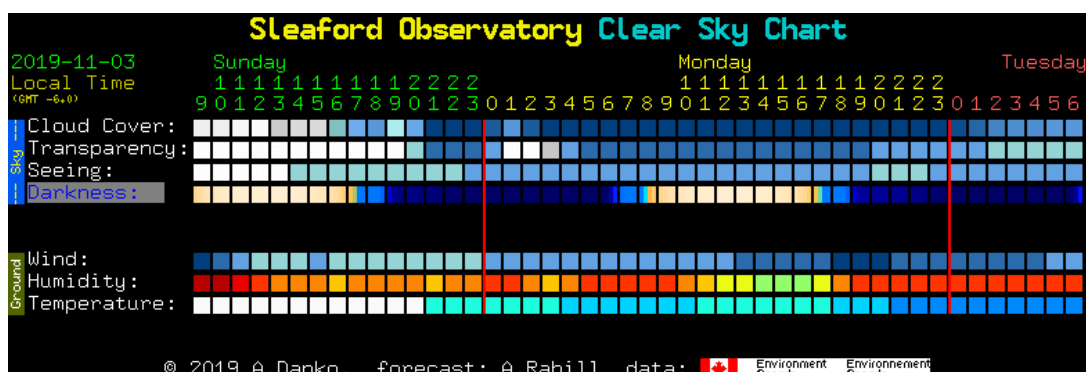


# CLEAR SKY AND WEATHER INFO

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)

# SSSP 2024 PARK MANAGER ADDRESS

Royce Pettyjohn

## **Saskatchewan Summer Star Party 2024** **Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park Saskatchewan** Park Manager Royce Pettyjohn's Address

I am pleased to welcome you to Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park Saskatchewan and to the 2024 Saskatchewan Summer Star Party!

This annual event is a fixture of the CHIPP Sask. summer events calendar, and something that we look forward to hosting each year.

I would like to acknowledge all the work that the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) volunteers put into organizing and executing this event each year. Your careful attention to detail and professionalism makes working with your group a pleasure.

This year marks two major milestones in the history of both the Star Party and the park itself.

This is the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the very first star party that was held here in the Cypress Hills by members of RASC, way back in 1989.

It is also the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the official designation of the Cypress Hills as a Dark Sky Preserve, back in 2004!

Given these impressive milestones, it was felt that it was worth reflecting on this journey that RASC and the park have been on together over the years.

I'd like to thank Mimi Martin, Rick Huziak and others for preparing this brief overview of CHIPP Sask.'s history as a designated Dark Sky Preserve.

### **History of the SSSP**

Thirty-five years ago, in late July of 1989, a few RASC - Regina Centre members held their first star party here in the Cypress Hills. They called it the "Cypress Hills Weekend Star Party."

In 1996, the Regina Club invited some Saskatoon RASC members down. The members had a such a great time together that the following year, the Saskatoon club spearheaded the first official "Saskatchewan Summer Star Party" in 1997.

From the beginning, the Star Party participants camped at Meadows Campground, which in the early years was an undeveloped area designated for overflow camping. It was a wide-open area with clear views of the sky, and no lights. Perfect for camping with telescopes.

Public outreach by RASC Regina members began with the first star party in 1989, and has continued every year. Members set up their scopes at Lookout Point and invited the public to come and observe. In 2002, the public observing nights shifted to the tennis courts where there was better parking, a fence for crowd control, and a hard surface for ease of walking and steadier telescopes. When the observatory opened in 2012, the outreach programming moved there. The public events have included guest presentations in the yurt, a constellation ‘walk’ followed by the public looking through a variety of telescopes manned by the RASC Regina members, park interpreters, and more recently, University of Regina EYES students.

### **Dark Sky Preserve Designation:**

One of the inspirations for the Dark Sky Preserve designation here in the Cypress Hills was the discovery of Comet Petriew, by Vance Petriew at the 2001 star party. The sky over Cypress Hills was the best that many of the early star party participants had ever seen, and it proved itself with the discovery of Vance’s comet. This discovery precipitated the idea of making the park a Dark Sky Preserve.

Rick Huziak was the one who got things going on the designation since he and Gord Sarty were actively working with Saskatoon around adopting a dark-sky policy.

In the spring of 2003, Rick and Vance met with one of my predecessors, the then park superintendent, Brad Mason, to pitch the idea of creating a Dark Sky Preserve in Cypress Hills.

About 10 minutes into the meeting, Brad was already making notes of all the things needed to make it happen. He apparently commented to Rick and Vance, “After all my years of running this place, I can’t believe you just came in here and taught me something new about my park.”

It is important to note that on July 18, 2003, the Calgary RASC group had also set in motion the idea of a Dark Sky Preserve with the Alberta side of Cypress Hills when they met with park staff at CHIPP Alberta.

Then in January 2004, a larger meeting was held involving Saskatchewan RASC members, SaskPower, and CHIPP Sask. park staff. Although SaskPower initially indicated that were unable to participate, RASC member Darcy Kozoriz, who was also a SaskPower employee, kept working on SaskPower from the inside until the corporation committed to supporting the Dark Sky Preserve in 2012 by installing full-cutoff streetlights here in the park.

After the January 2004 meeting, things moved very quickly at the Interprovincial Park level. Despite needing to secure buy-in from three different government park agencies (Saskatchewan Parks, Alberta Parks, and Parks Canada at Fort Walsh National Historic

Site), RASC and Cypress Saskatchewan staff successfully worked together to sell the idea to Alberta and Parks Canada, and the "sell" was apparently easy - as everyone agreed!

Before the end of 2004, representatives from all three governments and all three park agencies met and signed the Cypress Hills Dark Sky Preserve agreement.

Part of the agreement included the parks undertaking public educational programming about dark sky conservation. The first park led astronomy programs began at Lookout Point in July 2006 with a 10-inch Dobsonian telescope and a pair of 20X50 binoculars. Park visitors showed their enthusiasm for the program with long line-ups at the equipment.

The Friends of Cypress Hills Park Inc. saw this public interest, and the potential for more. Fund-raising and hard physical work by the Friends resulted in the construction and opening of the CHIPP Sask. Observatory. The first programs at the Observatory took place in May of 2012.

On average, around 3,500 people attend the astronomy programs at the Observatory each year.

Our partnership with the RASC has been essential from the beginning. Alden Foraie and Norm Leier trained the interpreters each spring for about 4 years, Vance, Rick, Ron, Pierre and a few others have been a wealth of information and an aid for the Park Interpreters and Park Management.

And for the last three years, the University of Regina has been our newest partner with the addition of the EYES Astronomy Instructor program. EYES students have assisted enormously in achieving the Dark Sky Preserve's mandate of public outreach and education. They lead afternoon programming at the Visitor Centre as well as evening activities at the Observatory. Without them, the observatory would not function at its current full capacity.

I would now just like to share a few final thoughts. As well look back on all that has transpired over the course of the last 35 years, we can ask ourselves; what has been the legacy of the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party and the Cypress Hills Dark Sky Preserve designation?

Well, shortly after the signing of the Dark Sky Preserve designation here in 2004, RASC members from Saskatoon & Edmonton met at Rick's Saskatoon house during their 2004 Transit of Venus expedition. Discussions about the Cypress Hills Dark Sky Preserve designation during the event apparently got the Edmonton astronomers so enthused, that by 2005 they had done the same with Elk Island National Park and area, creating the Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve.

This was followed in 2006 with the designation of Grasslands National Park here in Saskatchewan as a Dark Sky Preserve, and initiated spearheaded by Rick Huziak and the then Park Superintendent, Cheryl Penny.

Vance and Rick also went to an astronomy conference in San Francisco in 2004, where they were sought out by the US National Park Service to share their experiences in creating the Cypress Hills Dark Sky Preserve. Soon, the U.S. National Parks Service had started declaring their own National Park Dark Sky Preserves.

The work and momentum of RASC members undertaking light pollution talks around Saskatchewan and in Alberta around this time was truly impressive, with Bob King, Roland Deschesne, and others working on the City of Calgary's dark sky policy. Roland of course is a keynote speaker here for the 2024 Star Party.

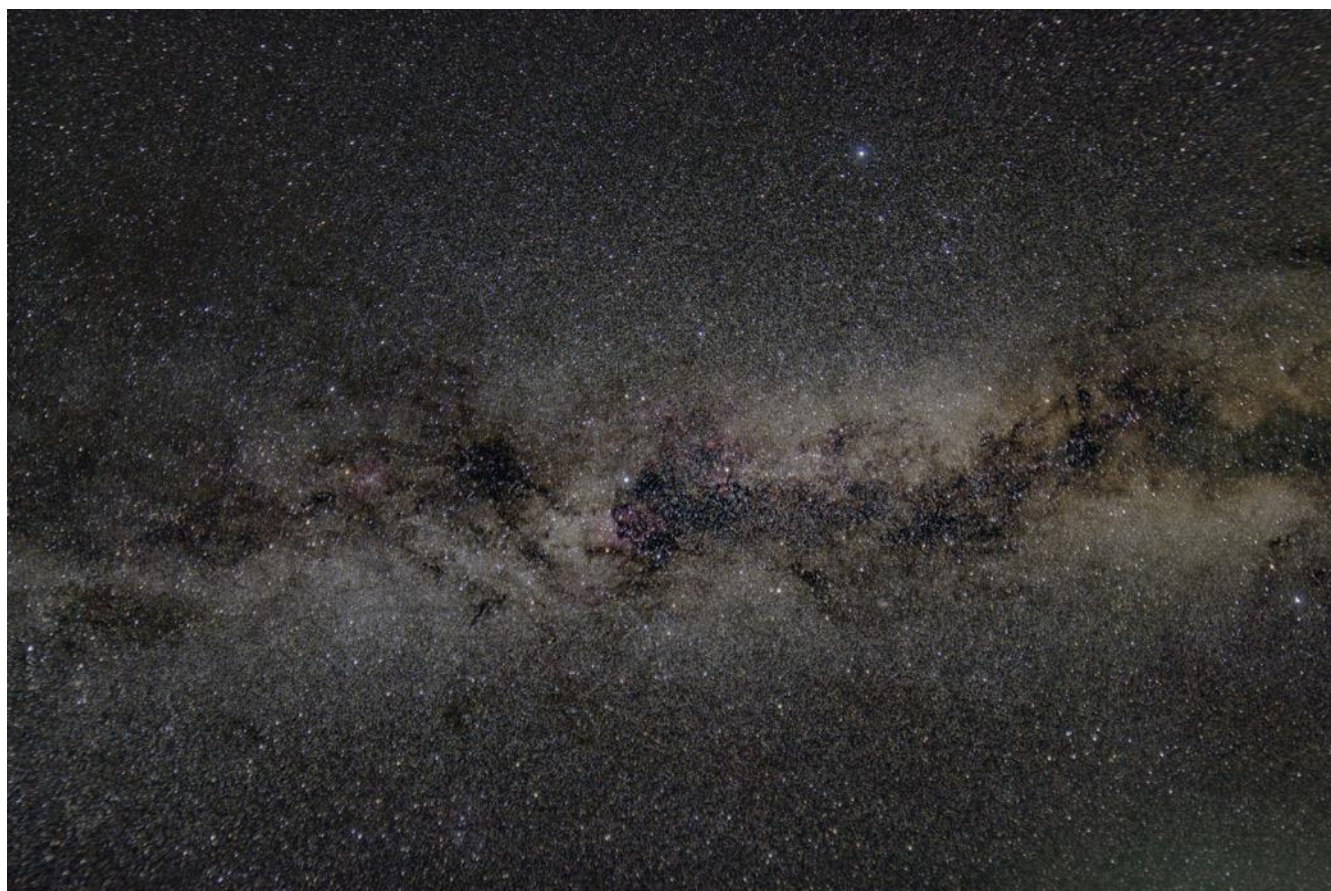
In closing, I would like to thank the RASC for their leadership in Dark Sky Preserve designations and other light pollution abatement efforts with municipalities, and for all of their work over so many years coordinating the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party here at CHIPP Sask. Not only have your efforts been deeply appreciated, it is clear that your work has made a meaningful, measurable, and lasting difference.

Congratulations and a big round of applause!

In celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the designation of the Cypress Hills as a Dark Sky Preserve, we have 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake! Please join us in marking this important anniversary by sharing in some of this delicious cake.







*Cygnus Milky Way photo by Justin Lukan*

## 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)

RASC OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK 2023 – STANDARD EDITION

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
Brent Burlingham	97

#### 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>