

# Saskatoon Skies

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

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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](mailto: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
Upcoming Events	5
Books and Equipment For Sale	6-7
Minutes of April Meetings	7-10
May Night Sky Events & Info / Reimbursement for Centre Expenses	10-12
Clear Sky Chart / Weather Info / Light Abatement Info	13
Observing Certificates & Clubs	14-15

## 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
- 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
- Journal of the RASC (electronic format)

### SASKATOON CENTRE'S MAIN OFFICERS:

**President** - Brent Burlingham

**Vice-President** - John Takala

**Secretary** - Lorie Tedford

**Treasurer** - Les Dickson

**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 & U OF S OBSERVATORY INFO

**Newsletter Editor** - Colin Chatfield

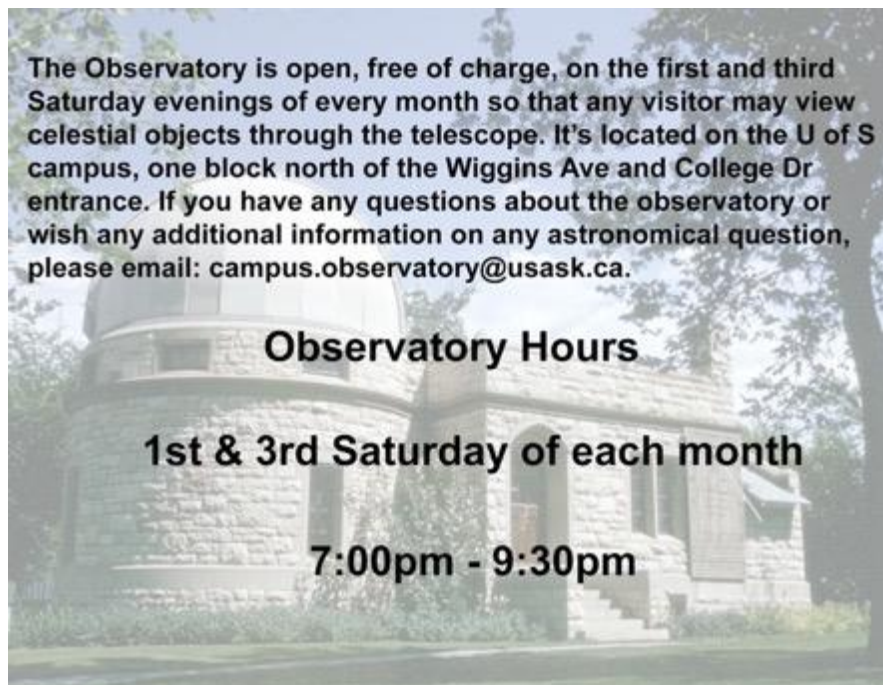
**Copy & Collate** - Les & Ellen Dickson

**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.



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

<b>May 12</b>	<b>RASC Saskatoon Centre General Meeting</b>	Brent Burlingham
<b>May 24</b>	<b>Observer's Group - Sleaford Observatory</b>	Nick Larsen

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

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

### May RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests

**Join us on May 12th, 2025, 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

***“Solar Maximum and Aurora”*** - Ron Waldron will present a talk on solar Solar maximum and related aurora expectations.



*Full Moon photo taken by Joelle Sheard-Patrick*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

RASC Saskatoon has signed up for the 2025 Science rendezvous at the U of S. We will be joining grad student Osebi Daudu and other University of Saskatchewan Astronomy students at the Observatory. This event is free to all ages. It takes place May 10th, 2025 from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

The Observatory will be running tours hourly and this is a great way for our club to connect with the public. It would be great if we could set up a table, talk with the public, and bring our scopes for solar viewing. The University will be providing free lunch to us volunteers!

More info here - [https://www.sciencerendezvous.ca/event\\_sites/university-of-saskatchewan/](https://www.sciencerendezvous.ca/event_sites/university-of-saskatchewan/).



## 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 or 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	B & W \$22.00
<b>“Amateur Astronomers Catalog of 500 Deep Sky Objects”</b>	Vol 1	1980	B & W
R. Morales			\$15.00
<b>“Observing the Constellations”</b>	1989	J. Sanford	Color charts \$10.00

Please email me if you want to see any items - [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

- 1 1.25” eyepiece extender - 3” long \$20.00
- 1 1.25” Celestron off axis guider c/w 12.5mm ep. Can be illuminated. New. \$45.00
- 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

- Original orange tube Celestron finder. 10 x 40mm. 304mm (12") long. Comes with bracket meant for a C8" telescope but would fit other scopes. Not a mark on these items. \$65.00

- 6" primary mirror in a 3- point adjustable mirror cell. Some mirror spots. Nice condition. \$85.00 (came from the following tube).

- 7" diameter x 48" long aluminum Newtonian style tube. Ivory exterior with blackened interior. Also has a focuser. Finder bracket supplied as is. There may be some packing tape on the outside that needs to be removed. \$75.00

## MINUTES OF APRIL MEETINGS

Lorie Tedford

### **Minutes of the Monthly Executive Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre Monday, Apr 14, 2025 - 7:00 pm Hybrid: Online & In-person: U of S Observatory**

**Attending:** Brent Burlingham, Lorie Tedford, Les Dickson, Joelle Sheard-Patrick, Colin Chatfield, Darrell Chatfield, George Charpentier, John Takala, Yannis Pahatouroglou, Jeff Swick, Nick Larsen, Tenho Tuomi, Lisa Caldwell.

- 1. Call to order** 7:02 pm – Brent Burlingham (President and Chair)
- 2. Approval of the Executive meeting minutes for March 2025** as printed in the April newsletter. Moved by Joelle Sheard-Patrick, seconded by Les Dickson; carried.
- 3. Call for additional announcements/items to add to the agenda.**
  - Addition of an SSSP update.
- 4. Announcements from the Chair** – None to present.
- 5. Old Business - Reports from the Executive Council**
  - 5.1 President's Report – Brent Burlingham**
    - Thanks to Nick Larsen for arranging the sale of excess equipment and to Darrell and Jeff for documenting and organizing the assets in the library.
    - Thanks to Joelle for creating the April Dark Sky Month poster.
  - 5.2 Acting Treasurer – Les Dickson**
    - The financial report has been completed and it was reviewed.
    - Motion made by Les Dickson for the Executive of the Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, having reviewed the Financial Statement for the fiscal year 2023-2024 prepared by the Treasurer,
      1. Approve the Financial Statement,
      2. Make appropriate preparations to submit the Financial Statement to the membership for approval according to the relevant regulations governing Non-Profit Corporations in Saskatchewan,
      3. Submit the Financial Statement to the Saskatchewan Corporate Registry along with any other information required to renew our status as Active.

**Motion seconded by John Takala, carried.**

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

- GA Assembly is coming up on April 26-27 through Zoom.
- The NOVA program is ready to go.
- Star finders with now have a QR code for instructions on how to use them.
- The changes to the website have been delayed.

### **5.4 Activities Coordinator – Joelle Sheard-Patrick**

- Tim's Meewasin Lyrid Meteor Shower event at Beaver Creek on Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- RASC YXE Public Observing Night to celebrate International Dark Sky Week and International Astronomy Month is on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. at the Amphitheatre at River Landing.
- Discussed setting up telescopes outside of the Broadway Theatre on April 25<sup>th</sup> for the presentation of "Holst's The Planets Reimagined". Club decided to pass on this event as there were many events that week.

### **5.5 Sleaford Update – Darrell Chatfield**

- Yannis Pahatouroglou received approval to go inside the roll off to clean inside the gate, going to take a look at the inside of the telescope to ensure there is no issues.
- Yannis Pahatouroglou will take pictures of the inside of the roll off.

### **5.6 Fundraising Update – Verity Moore-Wright**

- None to present

### **5.7 Sleaford Site Joint Agreement Update – Yannis Pahatouroglou**

- The University was not aware of the Agreement but a contact has been made and we have permission to enter the roll off to inspect for damage.

### **5.8 SSSP 2025 Update – Les Dickson**

- Camping is now open to book through Rick Huziak.
- Registration opens up on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. Old Business**

### **6.1 Ike Thiessen – Memorial**

- Leah Thiessen was sent a picture of the memorial plaque for Ike, and she thanked the club for its recognition of Ike's efforts.

### **6.2 Club Assets Update**

- The inventory list has been compiled and posted for sale.
- Several items have been sold already, there are a few items left to sell.
- Discussed using the money from the sales to upgrade the telescopes for the rental program. Nick Larsen was going to have a proposal on the types of scopes, prices etc. for the next meeting.



### **6.3 Beginner Workshops**

- An email was sent out to determine the interest in hosting beginner workshops on Saturday's at the U. of S Observatory. There was 5 people interested in the imaging workshop and 4 people interested in the telescope workshop.
- Nick Larsen was interested in hosting the imaging workshop. Ron Waldron was interested in hosting the telescope workshop.

### **6.4 Charity status for the club – not discussed due to time constraints.**

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1 Invitation to City of Saskatoon Open Doors Event on June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

- Not discussed due to time constraints.

### **7.2 Time arrangement of Executive and General meetings to increase progress of agenda items.**

- Not discussed due to time constraints.

## **8. Motion to adjourn by Nick Larsen, seconded by Yannis Pahatouroglou; carried. 8:02 PM.**

## **Minutes of the Monthly General Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre Monday, Apr 14, 2025 - 8:15 pm Hybrid: Online & In-person: U of S Observatory**

Minutes taken and prepared by Lorie Tedford.

- 1. Sharing/Networking Time - 8:00-8:15 pm – all members.**
- 2. Call to Order – 8:17 pm – Brent Burlingham (President and Chair)**
- 3. Call for additional announcements/items to add to the agenda.**
- 4. Call out to new members/guests: Larry Hill**
- 5. Adoption of the March General meeting minutes** as printed in the April newsletter.  
Moved by Les Dickson, seconded by Nick Larsen, carried.
- 6. Executive Meeting Summary – Brent Burlingham**
  - There are a few upcoming events;
    - o Tim's April 21<sup>st</sup> for the Lyrid shower at Beaver Creek.
    - o Dark sky event held by the RASC for the public on April 25<sup>th</sup> at River Landing.

- Discussed the interest of hosting more Saturday workshops at the U. of S. Observatory for beginner imaging and telescope users. Nick Larsen and Ron Waldron interesting in hosting.
- Discussed the process of organizing the telescopes and equipment being stored in the library. Most items have been sold. Discussed the potential use of the money from the sales to upgrade the rental telescopes. Nick Larsen to present a motion next meeting.
- The financial report has been completed and reviewed.
- A contact was made with the U. of S. to get permission to enter the roll off to clean up the gate and inspect the inside of the roll off to ensure there is no damage.
- SSSP camping is now open and registration is opening on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. Program

7.1. “The Upcoming Sky” presented by Colin Chatfield.

7.2. “Beginner Planetary Imaging on a Budget” presented by Nick Larsen.

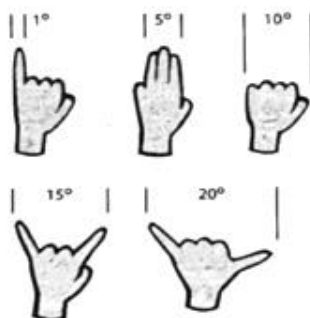
8. **Call to adjourn** - Moved by Les Dickson, **seconded** by Yannis Pahatouroglou; **carried**.

# MAY NIGHT SKY EVENTS AND INFO

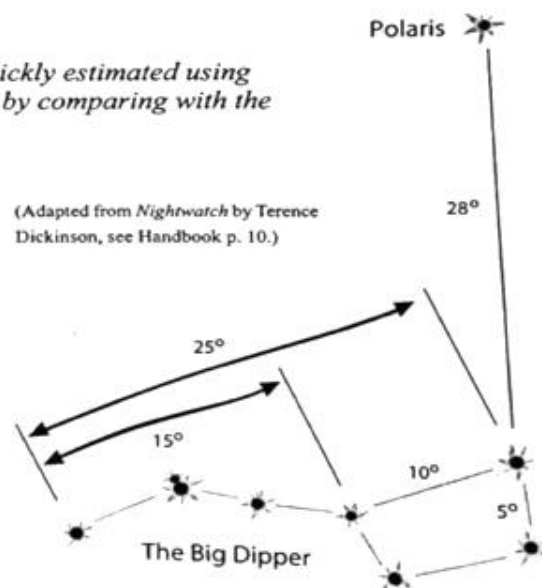
Images on the next few pages used, with permission, from the 2024/25 Observer's Handbook. It can be obtained by joining the RASC here <http://rasc.ca/join> or ordered from <https://secure.rasc.ca/store>.

## HANDY SKY MEASURES
















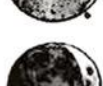
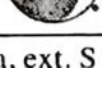

*Angular measure in the sky can be quickly estimated using the fingers of an outstretched arm, or by comparing with the star separations in the Big Dipper.*



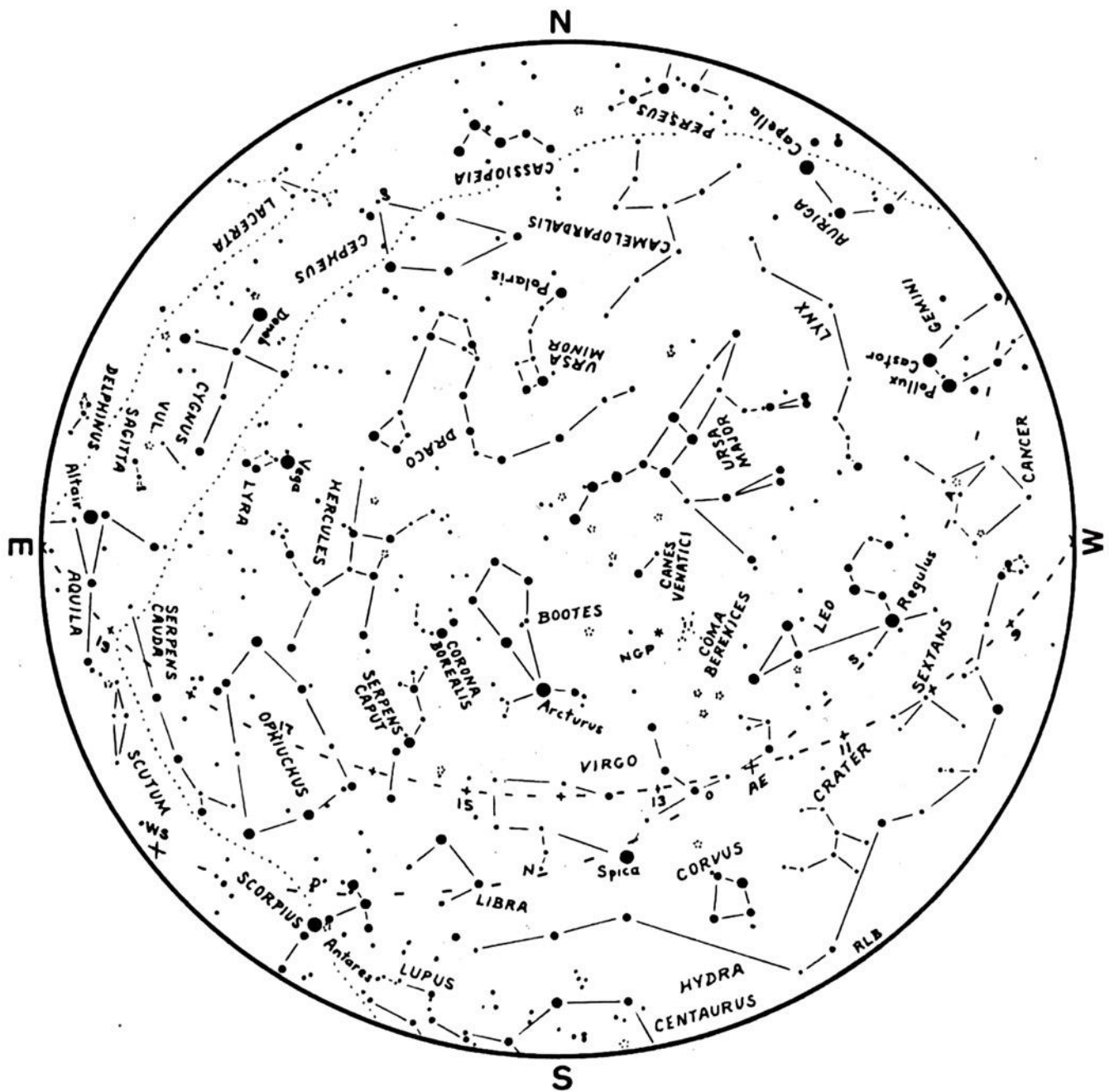
(Adapted from *Nightwatch* by Terence Dickinson, see Handbook p. 10.)



RASC OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK 2024 – STANDARD EDITION

Time (UT)			MAY EVENTS		Jupiter's Satellites	
d	h	m			West	East
Thu.	1				1.0	Europa Io
Fri.	2	6	Vesta at opposition		2.0	
		18 10	Algol at minimum		3.0	
Sat.	3	21	Pallas stationary		4.0	Ganymede
		23	<b>Mars 2° S of Moon</b>		5.0	Callisto
Sun.	4	3	<b>Venus 2° N of Neptune</b>		6.0	
		13 52	<b>first quarter</b>		7.0	
Mon.	5	0	<b>Mars 0.4° N of Beehive (M44)</b>		8.0	
		14 59	<b>Saturn's ring plane passes N of Sun</b>		9.0	
		19	<b>Regulus 2.0° S of Moon</b>		10.0	
Tue.	6	3	$\eta$ -Aquariid meteors peak		11.0	
Wed.	7	23 44	Moon at descending node		12.0	
Thu.	8		Mercury at greatest heliocentric lat. S		13.0	
		11 48	Venus at descending node		14.0	
			Algol at minimum		15.0	
Fri.	9				16.0	
Sat.	10	8	Spica 0.4° N of Moon, occultation <sup>1</sup>		17.0	
Sun.	11	1	Moon at apogee (406 243 km)		18.0	
		8 36	Algol at minimum		19.0	
Mon.	12	16 56	<b>full Moon</b>		20.0	
Tue.	13				21.0	
Wed.	14	5	Antares 0.3° N of Moon, occultation <sup>2</sup>		22.0	
		5 25	Algol at minimum		23.0	
		18	Juno at opposition		24.0	
Thu.	15	16 47	<b>Double Shadows on Jupiter</b>		25.0	
Fri.	16				26.0	
Sat.	17	2 14	Algol at minimum		27.0	
		23	Uranus in conjunction with the Sun		28.0	
Sun.	18	12	Pluto 0.4° N of Moon, occultation <sup>3</sup>		29.0	
Mon.	19	23 03	Algol at minimum		30.0	
Tue.	20	11 59	<b>last quarter</b>		31.0	
Wed.	21					
Thu.	22	8 05	Moon at ascending node			
		18	<b>Saturn 3° S of Moon</b>			
		19 52	Algol at minimum			
		21	<b>Neptune 2° S of Moon</b>			
Fri.	23					
Sat.	24	0	<b>Venus 4° S of Moon</b>			
Sun.	25	16 41	Algol at minimum			
Mon.	26		Mercury at ascending node			
		2	Moon at perigee (359 022 km)			
Tue.	27	3 02	<b>new Moon (lunation 1267)</b>			
Wed.	28	13	Jupiter 5° S of Moon			
		13 30	Algol at minimum			
Thu.	29					
Fri.	30	4	Mercury in superior conjunction			
Sat.	31	10 19	Algol at minimum			

<sup>1</sup>Micronesia, Malaisia, SW Polynesia, tip of Antarctic Peninsula, ext. S tip of S. America.



## 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.

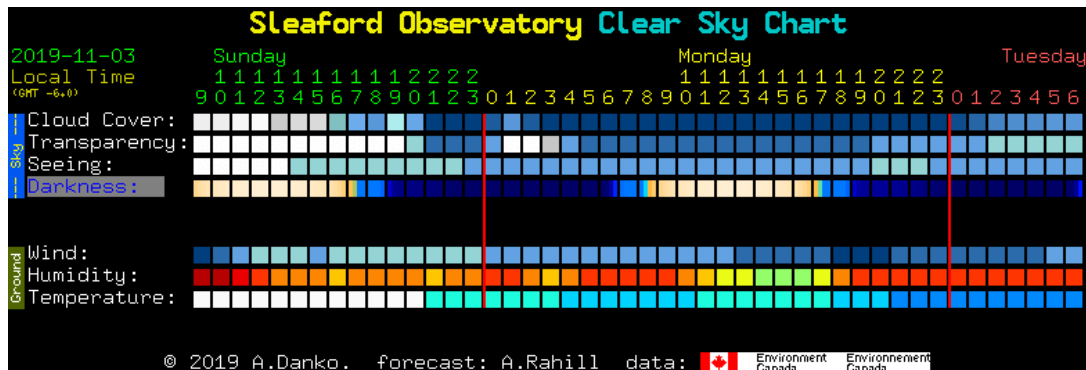


## CLEAR SKY AND WEATHER INFO

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)

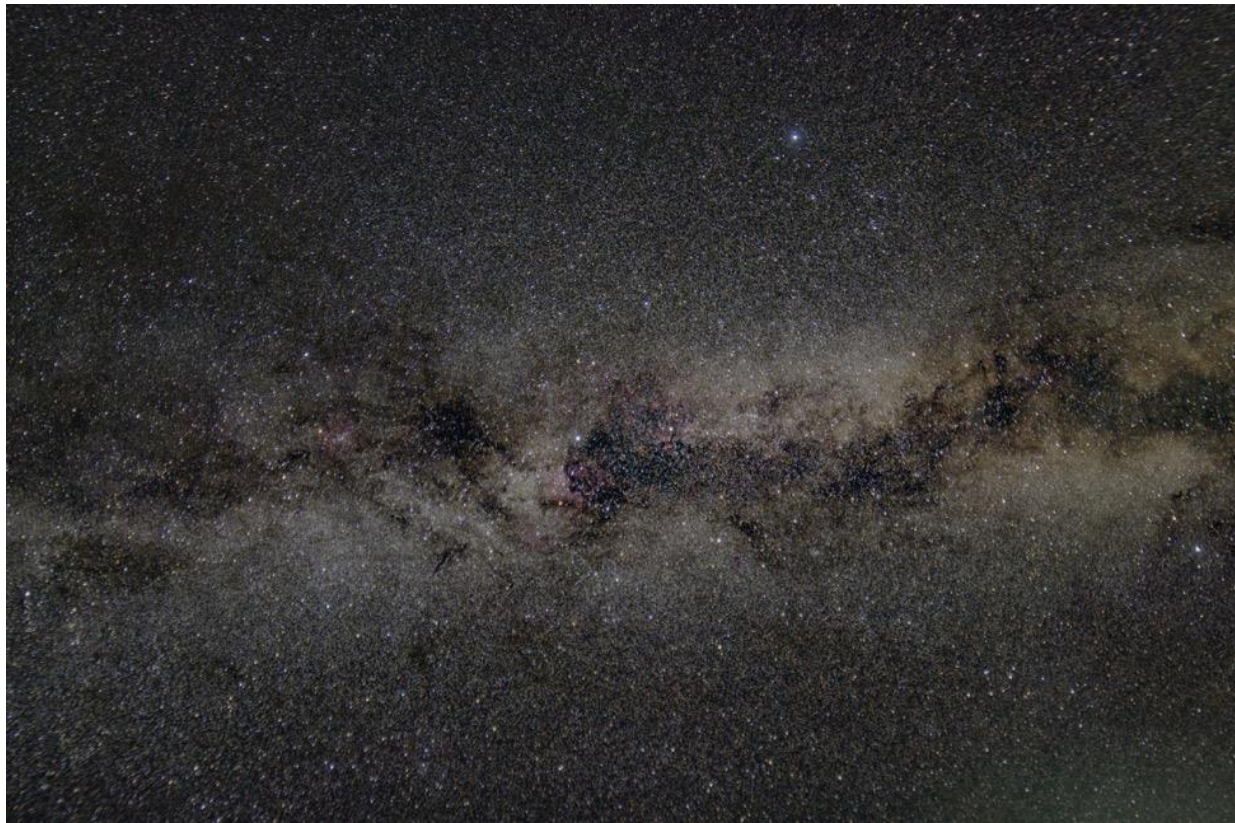


Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee -

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



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



*Cygnus Milky Way 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)



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>