

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA



SASKATOON CENTRE

PRESIDENT: *Halyna Kornuta*

EDITORS: *Dave Pristupa & Greg Towstego*

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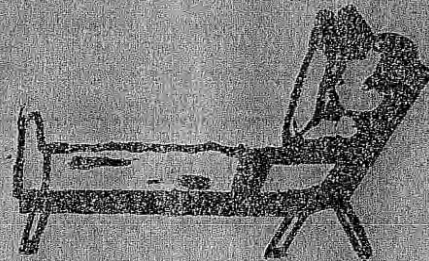
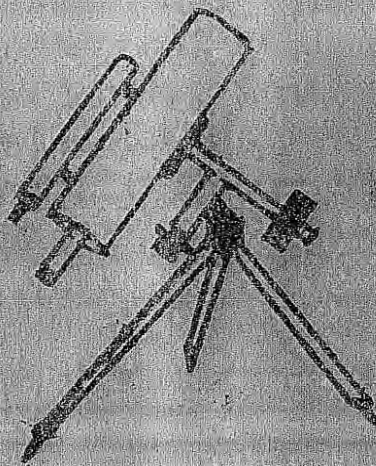
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JULY, 1975

# NEWSLETTER



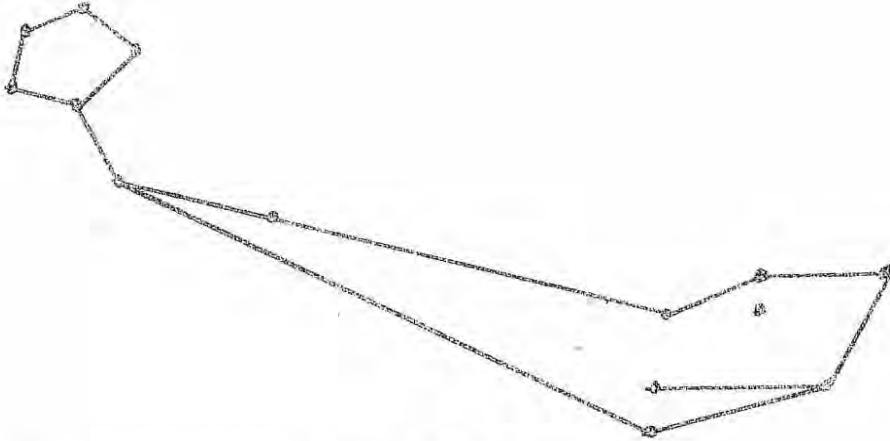
It is quite evident that for the observation of variable stars, nebulae, planets, meteor showers, aurora, etc., a prime requirement would be a good working knowledge of the constellations. Various methods for learning these star patterns are suggested: having a more experienced person point them out, finding them on a star chart, and locating them relative to some known group. All of these methods have advantages and disadvantages, however it is possible to combine the best points of each method into a system of constellation recognition which has been of great help to this writer.

First, we must obtain a book which will give us an overall idea of what we are looking for, where to find it, and when to see it, along with a description of any unusual feature which might make the subject more easily recognizable. An example of such a book, and the one which I used is "THE STARS: A NEW WAY TO SEE THEM" by H.A. Rey, published by Houghton-Mifflin, and readily available at the Saskatoon Public Library. (At this point, it should be mentioned that this particular book develops an entirely new technique for recognizing groups of stars. It has long been standard procedure, in such popular publications, to draw lines from star to star in a given constellation, in an attempt to produce a picture of the object or character for which that particular constellation is named. In his book, Rey employs the same basic techniques, however he attempts to join the stars with lines in such a way that the constellation actually looks like the objects represented. )

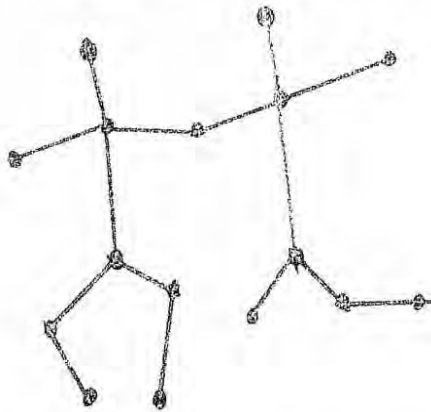
As an example, the constellation CETUS, the whale, was formerly shown as follows:



By simply adding lines at the appropriate places, Reys whale looks like this:



while GEMINI, the twins, looks like twins:



Now, returning to our proposed system, with such a book in your possession, the observer should read it over once and attempt to gain an overall picture of the heavens. At this point, do not spend too much time on detail. Give more attention to the manner in which the stars appear to move, which stars are circumpolar, and the general location of a constellation or two. Now, lay the book aside and step into your back yard, and if the skies are clear, and after the eyes have been accustomed to the darkness, you will see ~~XXXX~~ the same star patterns in the sky as shown in your book, except that they will now be on a magnificently large scale.

Next, locate only one or two constellations in the sky, then return to the guidebook for verification of shape and position, and then, having refreshed the memory, step outside once more and look at the constellation again.

Having done this, you will have gained a knowledge of the position of the constellation in the sky, the relative brightness of its component stars, and a good idea of its boundaries. However, only one or two constellations should be attempted each evening. If you try to increase the number of new constellations recognized at one time, you will quickly discover next day that you remember none of them.

This system works, and in conclusion I will offer a few hints which may be helpful.

- (1) Never try to locate more than one or two new constellations at one time.
- (2) Tape red cellophane over the lens of a flashlight and take your guidebook outside with you. This will save running in and out of the house and having to wait for the eyes to become accustomed to darkness each time.
- (3) Whenever the weather is unfavourable, spend a few minutes each day glancing through the star charts in your book. Familiarity breeds efficiency.
- (4) Do not attempt to use more than one text as a reference.
- (5) Do not use a telescope or binoculars.
- (6) Take your time. With this method it will take one year to learn all of the constellations, but you will know all of them in detail.
- (7) Do not have another person point out the constellations to you. You will deprive yourself of the enjoyment of learning.
- (8) Constellations seen in the sky almost invariably appear much larger than you have anticipated. Be prepared for this effect.

(9) Make a list of the constellations as you learn them. Writing them down will help you remember them.

(10) Don't give up. The results are worth the effort.

It should also be noted that "A Field Guide to the Stars and Planets" by Donald H. Menzel in the Peterson Field Guide Series uses Reys system of constellation recognition. As experience is gained, the observer will be able to graduate to this comprehensive volume without having to re-learn the constellations.

#### AN INVITATION TO OUR THIRD ANNUAL WEINER ROAST PICNIC AND STAR OUTING

This is an invitation to all members of the Saskatoon Centre to attend our third annual Weiner Roast Picnic and Star Outing which will take the place of our General Meeting this month.

A baseball game will be followed by the weiner roast and as the sky darkens telescopes, etc., will be set up so that we can complete the night observing.

The public is welcome to the observing session so why not bring some friends and your parents.

All those planning on coming are asked to bring:

- a) their own hot dogs, soft drinks, marshmallows, and any other food
- b) their telescopes, binoculars, and cameras
- c) hats, balls and gloves
- d) Their friends and parents
- e) a can of mosquito spray and a lawn chair.

REMEMBER --- DATE -- Friday 11 July or if cloudy or rain Saturday 12 July

TIME -- 7:30 pm

PLACE -- DIEFENBAKER PARK (just west of Exhibition Grounds along the riverbank)

A good time was had by all last year, so lets make this one even better.

SEE YOU THERE!

Minutes of the Executive Meeting  
 R.A.S.C. Saskatoon Centre  
 Monday May 5, 1975 7:00 p.m.  
 Held in the Observatory

Present:	Halyna Kornuta	President	Dr. Holden	Programming
	Melodie Andrews	Secretary	Greg Towstego	Editor
	Alan Blackwell	Treasurer	Hugh Hunter	Librarian
	Jim Young	VP/PR	Merlyn Melby	Sub-Councillor
	Wendel Frenzel	Activities	Doug Beck	Sub-Councillor
			Dave Pristupa	Ast. Editor

Item	Detail	Action
96.	The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m.	
97.	A agenda from the Halifax General Assembly in June was read, with discussion whether to prepare a display.	
98.	The observatory summer hours are:	
	Wednesday - 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.	
	Sunday - 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.	
	8:30 - 11:30 p.m.	
99.	Star chart and mobile will be purchases again for resale to the public. Motion that money will be spent for star charts, mobiles and possibly post cards.	Jim Young Doug Beck Carried (Halyna Kornuta)
100.	Meeting adjourned.	Doug Beck Jim Young Carried

Minutes of the General Meeting  
 R.A.S.C. Saskatoon Centre  
 Tuesday, May 20th, 1975 8:00 p.m.  
 Held in the Health Science Bldg.

Present:	Halyna Kornuta	President	Dr. Holden	Programming
	Melodie Andrews	Secretary	Greg Towstego	Editor
	Alan Blackwell	Treasurer	Hugh Hunter	Librarian
	Jim Young	VP/PR	Merlyn Melby	Sub-Councillor
	Wendel Frenzel	Activities	Doug Beck	Sub-Councillor
Absent:	Dave Pristupa	Ast. Editor		

Item	Detail	Action
101.	The meeting was opened at 8:00 p.m.	
102.	Adoption of April minutes	Blair Peterson Gordon Patterson Carried
103.	The observatory will be opened on Saturday May 24, 10:00 p.m. for the lunar eclipse.	
104.	If any one is interested in information of the Halifax General Assembly please contact the President.	
105.	A list of astronomical projects for exhibit has been sent to us by the Calgary Centre for the (1976 General Assembly). This is to get	

Centres interested in starting the exhibits now. Copies of the lists are in the library.

106. A bulletin board pertaining to the Saskatoon Centre is being made in the Observatory.  
 107. Guest speaker Dr. Michael Watson, spoke on "Meteors and Infrasound."  
 108. Meeting adjourned. Jim Young  
 Doug Beck Carried

Minutes of the Executive Meeting  
 R.A.S.C. Saskatoon Centre  
 Thursday June 5, 1975 7:30 p.m.  
 Held in the Observatory

Present:	Halyna Kornuta Melodie Andrews Merlyn Melby	President Secretary Sub-Councillor	Hugh Hunter Greg Towstego	Librarian Editor
Absent:	Wendie Frenzel Alan Blackwell Dr. Holden	Activities Treasurer Programming	Jim Young Dave Pristupa Doug Beck	VP/PR Ast. Editor Sub-Councillor

- | Item | Detail   | Action                               |
|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 109. | The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m.  |                                      |
| 110. | Our observing site south of the city can not be used during the summer and a summer site is being looked into.   |                                      |
| 111. | Our Centre representative Wendel Frenzel is unable to attend the General Assembly in Halifax in June. RProf. Kennedy is planning to attend and has been asked to represent our Centre. |                                      |
| 112. | R.A.S.C. crests will be available, (in Halifax) They cost \$5.00 and there is a choice of a light blue or dark blue background.  |                                      |
| 113. | RASC Journals from 1968 on are being asked for. If found these will be bound and placed in our library.  |                                      |
| 114. | July meeting - Wiener Roast Fri. July 11, or Sat. July 12. 7:30 p.m. Diefenbaker Park.<br>August Meeting - Meteor Shower - details being looked into.                                  |                                      |
| 115. | Meeting adjourned.   | Hugh Hunter<br>Greg Towstego Carried |

Minutes of the General Meeting  
 R.A.S.C. Saskatoon Centre  
 Tuesday June 17, 1975 8:00 p.m.  
 Held in the Health Science Bldg.

Present:	Jim Young Melodie Andrews Merlyn Melby	VP/PR Secretary Sub-Councillor	Hugh Hunter Greg Towstego Doug Beck	Librarian Editor Sub-Councillor
Absent:	Halyna Kornuta Alan Blackwell Dave Pristupa	President Treasurer Ast. Editor	Wendel Frenzel Dr. Holden	Activities Programming

- | Item | Detail                                       | Action |
|------|--|--------|
| 116. | The meeting was opened at 8:00 p.m.          |        |
| 117. | No minutes published in the June newsletter. |        |

118. Move the Prof. Kennedy represent our Centre at the General Assembly in Halifax in June. *proceed protocol* Gordon Patterson  
Greg Towstego Carried
119. Bound Sky and Telescope issues can not be taken out of the observatory. Single copies can be taken out if signed out.
120. The observing site south of the city can no longer be used during the summer, if anyone has a site in mind please let one of the Executive know.
121. 3rd Annual Wiener Roast July 11-12 if cloudy. 7:30 p.m. Diefenbaker Park. Baseball game at 7:30 followed by wiener roast, observing. Public is invited around 10:00 p.m. for observing.
122. August outing date not set.
123. Results of the Saskatoon Centre examinations published in Juen newsletter.
124. Films - "Fields of Space and Controversy over the Moon" were shown.
125. Motion for adjournment. Doug Beck Carried  
Blair Peterson

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- - - TELESCOPE PARTS FOR SALE - - -

- 6 inch mirror grinding kit
- 6 inch mirror mount
- 1/8 wave diagonal for 6" reflector telescope
- 60 inch long aluminum tube for 6" telescope
- eyepiece mount
- 7X finder scope
- various amateur telescope making books.

All of the items listed above are for sale.  
The price is \$ 75.00 for everything. If you are interested  
call Edwin Serack at 382 - 8024.

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OF CANADA - 1988  
SASKATOON CENTRE  
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S7N 0W2