

# SASKATOON SKIES

Volume 21, Number 11

November, 1991

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## Saskatoon Skies Information

Next month's deadline is Friday, November 22, 1991. Please have any submissions in to me by then in order to be included in the next issue. Saskatoon Skies is a monthly publication of the Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Submissions may be sent to one of the following:

Mike Wesolowski  
1813 Easthill  
Saskatoon, Sask.  
S7J 3C2  
373-0137 (home)  
931-3425 (work)

OR

Saskatoon Centre RASC  
Box 317, Sub P.O. #6  
Saskatoon, Sask.  
S7N 0W0

Submissions mailed to the Centre's address may not be retrieved in time for inclusion unless you tell me it's there.

**Minutes of the Executive Meeting  
University of Saskatchewan Observatory  
October 21, 1991**

**Attendees:** Mike Wesolowski, Darryl Rybotycki, Carol Blenkin, Ed Kennedy, Jim Wood, Don Friesen

Item	Detail	Action
1.	Meeting called to order 7:09 P.M.	D. Rybotycki
2.	Mike Wesolowski stated that the treasurer, Mike Williams, had asked him to move that the insurance for the Rystrum Observatory be renewed for the coming year at a rate of \$262 (\$2 more than last year).	M. Wesolowski
3.	J. Wood suggested that Mike Williams be asked to investigate the feasibility of changing the anniversary date of the insurance policy to later in the calendar year in order that the policy could be reviewed and renewed after the start of the Centre's fiscal year without risking the expiry of the policy. M. Wesolowski will discuss with Mike Williams.	M. Wesolowski
4.	The Observer's Group meeting for November was tentatively set to Friday, November 8 or Saturday, November 9, to be decided during the General Meeting. The Observer's Group meeting was set to Saturday, December 14, to coincide with the peak of the Geminid meteor shower.	
5.	M. Wesolowski reported that he has conducted four astronomy presentations in the elementary school system to date, including one at Beaver Creek which was unfortunately snowed out. There are several pending for both him and Richard Huziak	M. Wesolowski
6.	A proposed slate for the executive council in the coming year was discussed. The positions available and the nominees for those positions are: President – Don Friesen Vice President – Jeff Phillips or Carol Blenkin Secretary – Bill Hydromako Treasurer – Mike Williams Librarian – Jim Wood Editor – Mike Wesolowski Centre Rep – Ed Kennedy Programming – no nominees Councillors – Richard Huziak, Jeff Phillips, others?	
	Some discussion about the programming position resulted in the conclusion that it was inappropriate to have a single person fill the position. It was felt that a program could be decided upon by the executive, and a single person nominated to fill the program.	
7.	Ed Kennedy noted that a star atlas dating from 1874 has been discovered in one of the libraries on campus. It has been added to the B. W. Currie collection.	E. Kennedy
8.	Ed Kennedy has received a letter from the U. S. Naval Observatory library, which is requesting a copy of the Journal of the RASC, including the National Newsletter attachment. The issue required	

is Volume 82, Number 5 (October , 1988). Any member who has this issue and is willing to part with it should contact Ed Kennedy.

E. Kennedy

9. Meeting adjourned 7:50 P.M.

D. Rybotycki

Minutes of the General Meeting  
Room B-111, Health Sciences Building  
University of Saskatchewan

Item	Detail	Action
10.	Meeting called to order 8:10 P.M.	D. Rybotycki
11.	It was moved, seconded and approved, that the insurance for the Rystrum Observatory be renewed for another year for \$262.	J. Young D. Friesen (second)
12.	The dates for the Observer's Group meetings in November and December were set to November 9 and December 14, respectively, with the meetings to start at 7 P.M. both nights. Don Friesen indicated that he would open up the Rystrum Observatory both nights.	
13.	The annual fees are \$35 for adults, \$20 for youth, with an additional \$5 fee for those members holding keys to the Rystrum Observatory. M. Wesolowski announced that he would collect the fees on behalf of the treasurer, who was unable to attend.	
14.	M. wesolowski reported briefly on the school presentations that had been made to date.	
15.	D. Rybotycki stated that he had been informed (via <i>Sky and Telescope</i> magazine) that the space shuttle was to have passed over Saskatoon during a night-time re-entry on October 17. Several members and the media were informed, but the event was not only completely clouded out, but the shuttle landed in California and not Florida as expected, so it didn't pass overhead anyway.	
16.	E. Kennedy reported on the find of an old star atlas in one of the campus libraries. He also passed on the U.S. Naval Observatory library's request for a copy of the Journal of the RASC (see item 8).	E. Kennedy
17.	M. Wesolowski made a brief slide presentation showing the summer activities.	M. Wesolowski
18.	The new executive council was elected. The new executive is: Past President – Darryl Rybotycki President – Don Friesen Vice President – Jeff Phillips Secretary – Bill Hydomako Treasurer – Mike Williams Librarian – Jim Wood Editor – Mike Wesolowski Centre Rep – Ed Kennedy Programming – no nominees	

19. It was moved, seconded and approved that the programming activity be handled by the executive as a whole.
20. It was decided that the councillor positions would be filled at the next meeting.
21. Jim Young noted that, according to a program he has at home, there will be a partial eclipse visible from Saskatoon on January 4, 1992. The sun should set while 67% eclipsed.
22. Stan Shadick of the Physics Department is presenting seminars on astronomy. Information will be printed in the newsletter.
23. Meeting adjourned 9:15 P.M.

J. Young  
E. Kennedy (second)

## NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting of the Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada takes place on November 18, 1991, 8 P.M., in Room B-111 of the Health Sciences Building on the University of Saskatchewan Campus. Topic is TBD.

## NOTICE OF OBSERVER'S GROUP MEETING

The Observer's Group meeting for November has been set to be November 9, 1991, starting at 7 P.M. at the Rystrum Observatory. There is a warmup shelter there, but don't forget to dress warmly. New members who want information about these events should contact a member of the executive, listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Observer's Group meeting for December has been set to December 14, 1991, also at 7 P.M. The date was selected to coincide with the maximum of the Geminid meteor shower. This shower is apparently as good as the Perseids in August; unfortunately, it peaks at a cold time of year so is not as popular.

## UNIVERSITY OBSERVATORY HOURS

The University Observatory will be open to the public from 7:30-9:30 P.M. Saturday evenings from now until the end of February.

## ASTRONOMY CLASSES

The University of Saskatchewan is offering short evening courses in astronomy, conducted by Stan Shadick of the Physics Department (who is also a member of the Centre). The advertisement for this is included in this newsletter. Unfortunately, by the time you receive this newsletter, one course will be complete and another half finished. However, you will still have the option of attending one of the two remaining courses being offered. Check it out!

## DEADLINES

Because of an anticipated heavy workload (OK, so customer meetings are not work, but they still take time!) during the first week of December, I would like to have newsletter articles submitted by Friday, November 22, for the December issue.

## EDITOR'S NOTES

(1) Welcome to the new year. The new executive has been railr...uh, elected, and the list appears elsewhere in this issue, along with their phone numbers.

(2) If you've read this far, you will have no doubt noticed that the format of the newsletter is somewhat different from what you've seen previously. As a former newsletter editor here, I am familiar with the problems associated with using a typewriter and corrector ribbon to generate the newsletter. Mostly for my own convenience, I am using the workstation resident on my desk at work and a document publishing software package called Interleaf to generate *Saskatoon Skies*. Aside from the obvious text editing capabilities one would expect (the most important being painless removal of mistakes), it lets me create templates for sections that will be used over and over (for example, the bottom part of page 1 with my name and address is a single component – I only need to change the date each time). It also prints to a laser printer which gives nice copies and eliminates the need to have fresh printer ribbons on hand (as long as the local system administrator keeps recharging the toner for the printer!). The built in spell checker will also be useful, although I (and others) have found out that the spell checker will not flag a correctly spelled word in the incorrect context (it's not a grammar checker!).

Because I am using a computer, I have some options which were probably not available previously. You can now submit your articles on floppy disks (either 3.5" 1.44 Megabyte, or the 5.25" size). The files should be straight ASCII with NO control characters. If you do give me a floppy, I would also like to have a hardcopy as well, so I can type the article if necessary. All floppies will be returned. Illustrations will have to be handled using the traditional cut and paste (I think I can import Postscript images into the Interleaf files, but I'm not sure).

(3) Not surprisingly, as the new editor, I am appealing for articles. I don't have a tremendous amount of time to write my own for the newsletter, as has been done by almost every other newsletter editor. If there are not enough articles to fill out the newsletter to 8 pages, I'll print a shortened newsletter.

One thing I will consider is if members write to the newsletter with questions. We could start an advice column ("Dear Mikey" instead of "Dear Abbey") for new members. The advantage of such a column is that I (or whoever answers the question) doesn't have to look for a topic.

(4) It was decided during the General Meeting in October to leave the Councillor positions open until the November meeting. This will give the members who didn't attend the meeting a chance to express their interest in one of these positions. I don't believe there is any limit of the number of councillors, nor are there any qualifications (of the type "must have been a member for x years) required. It does provide you with an opportunity to take part in the decisions that affect what the Centre does and how it is run. If you are interested, but don't think you can attend the November meeting, contact one of the executive members and let them know.

(5) At the time I write this, the Galileo space probe has already had its close flyby of the asteroid Gaspra (for those that didn't know, this occurred at 4:37 P.M. CST on October 29, when Galileo was about 1600 km from the asteroid). I have not seen anything regarding the success of this manoeuvre, and don't really expect anything since all of the data (including the pictures) were recorded on-board and will be transmitted during Galileo's second flyby of the Earth in late 1992.

(6) You are probably not accustomed to such a large volume of minutes from one meeting. In Bill Hydromako's absence, I volunteered to take the minutes, and went overboard. I have punished myself by typing them up. It won't happen again.

7pm

(7) Unfortunately, this newsletter may not reach you in time for you to find out about the Observer's Group meeting on November 9. Then again, it may. If this newsletter is late, please take note of the December 14 date for the next OG meeting and mark it on your calendar.

(8) A final note. Many thanks to Jeff Phillips whom I feel did an excellent job on the newsletter during his tenure (in spite of what he thinks).

### INTRODUCING...

The following is the list of the Centre executive (sans councillors) for the coming year. If you have any questions about Centre activities, you should be able to contact any one of them for assistance.

<b>Past President</b>	<b>Darryl Rybotycki</b>		<b>249-2083</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Don Friesen</b>		<b>343-1136</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Jeff Phillips</b>	<i>Rick Huziak</i>	<b>664-6091</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Bill Hydromako</b>	<i>lost 373</i>	<b>384-4781</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Mike Williams</b>		<b>668-4365</b>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Mike Wesolowski</b>	<i>me.</i>	<b>373-0137</b>
<b>Librarian</b>	<b>Jim Wood</b>	<i>373-627</i>	<b>???-????</b>
<b>National Council Rep.</b>	<b>J. E. Kennedy</b>		<b>374-4614</b>

*Jim Young*

As stated elsewhere, there are an indeterminate number of "councillor" positions to be filled in November. If you are at all interested, please let someone on the above list know. No group can remain healthy if the same people are in charge all the time.

- Next OG (at RASC observatory) Jan 4, 7pm (solar eclipse at sunset)
- Mendel - Jack Goldstein Show - space art - 'till Jan.
- Partial Lunar Eclipse - Dec. 21.

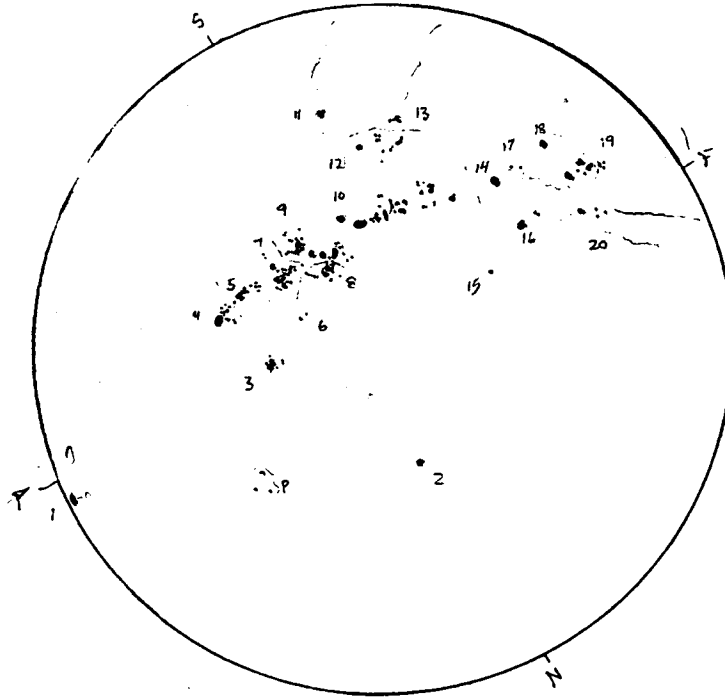
*Her. Pr: ...*

*... Sunday*

*... At ...*

*Good ...*

# SEEING THINGS!



The Amazing Sun

I took my 6 inch John Dobson Solar Telescope to the Alberta Star Party 91 at Waterton Lakes because it was an unusual instrument that I wanted to impress everyone with. However, the sun was not to be outdone! Even though the sun is past maximum activity, great sunspot displays still occur, such as this excellent group of August 18, 1991.

More than 200 spots are visible in 20 groups! I also noted that if I would have had more time for the observation, that I would have been able to "split" all single spots into two. This would have raised the total count to 250 or more. It is difficult to represent the sunspots well on a line drawing, as the fine details of the penumbra are lost. The areas shown by faint outline are faculae groups; the area marked "P" is a group of pores.

The sun is a worthwhile object to view (with appropriate caution of course!) It is interesting to watch the spots appear at the limb, rotate around, ever-changing and then disappearing on the far limb. New groups appear and old ones disappear.

Richard Huziak