

SASKATOON SKIES

Volume 22, Number 4

April, 1992

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Saskatoon Skies Information

Next month's deadline is Friday, April 24, 1992. 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
March 16, 1992**

Attendees: D. Friesen, C. Blenkin, A. Hartridge, W. Hydomako, M. Wesolowski
J.E. Kennedy

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Action</u>
99.	Meeting called to order 7 P.M.	D. Friesen
100.	Ed Kennedy reported on his trip to the Kingston Centre as a guest speaker.	E. Kennedy
101.	The next Observer's Group meetings have been set for Saturday, March 28, and Saturday, April 25.	W. Hydomako
102.	Richard Huziak has volunteered for the position of Vice President. Carried by the executive.	W. Hydomako
103.	The Saskatoon Centre will have a booth at the "What on Earth?" display at the Western Development Museum on Sunday, April 5.	W. Hydomako
104.	The next meeting will be Monday, April 6 at 8 P.M. in the Biology Lecture Theatre. Dr. Richard Grieve is the guest lecturer. There will be no General Meeting as such.	W. Hydomako
105.	The mall show for Astronomy day is set for May 9, 1992.	W. Hydomako
106.	New eyepieces have been ordered for the Rystrom Observatory.	W. Hydomako
107.	Work on the 16" mirror is continuing. We have ordered new pitch and grit.	W. Hydomako
108.	Meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.	W. Hydomako

**Minutes of the General Meeting
Room B-111, Health Sciences Building
University of Saskatchewan
February 17, 1992**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Action</u>
109.	Meeting called to order 8:04 P.M.	D. Friesen
110.	A review of the material covered in the Executive Meeting was presented.	D. Friesen
111.	It was noted that Jupiter is now well located for night time observing.	D. Friesen
112.	Sandy Ferguson presented an illustrated talk about the history of the Ottawa Centre.	S. Ferguson
113.	Meeting adjourned at 9:50 P.M.	D. Friesen

NOTICE OF OBSERVER'S GROUP MEETING

The next Observer's Group meeting will take place on Saturday, April 25, at the Rystrom Observatory, starting at dusk. New members are especially encouraged to attend. Note that the new eye-pieces have arrived and will be available for test drives. They are located in the warmup shelter on the south shelf near the sign-in book. Richard Huziak says the 32mm Konig II will "blow your mind with both eyes open!" For information about how to find the observatory, you may contact the editor at 373-0137 or 931-3425.

NOTICE OF APRIL'S GENERAL MEETING

This notice is intended to inform you that *there will not be a meeting on the third Monday in April (April 20) as would normally be expected. The meeting date has been moved to Monday, April 6 in order to take advantage of the presence of a guest speaker. This is not a late April Fool's joke.*

The Centre and the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan have worked together to arrange for Dr. Richard Grieve to present a lecture entitled "Large Scale Meteorite Impact and its Consequences - Impact Craters, Death of the Dinosaurs, etc." The lecture will take place on Monday, April 6 at 8 P.M. in the Biology Lecture Theatre in the Biology-Geology Building on campus. His presence is part of the Logan Lecture Series of the Geological Survey of Canada.

Lest you think that Dr. Grieve is "just" a geologist, you should be aware that he has served on numerous lunar and planetary science committees, has an asteroid named after him, and has published articles in numerous popular science magazines. His lecture promises to be interesting.

Should you be unable to attend this meeting, Mr. Grieve will be presenting a similar lecture (but with a more general target audience) on April 5 at the Western Development Museum. You may see more than one advertisement for this so be aware of this fact and do not be confused as to the date of "our" meeting.

Please note that the Biology Lecture Theatre holds 150 people and we would like to fill it so please make an extra effort to bring everyone you know to the lecture. There will probably be coffee and doughnuts.

WHAT ON EARTH?

On Sunday, April 5, 1992, the Saskatoon Centre will be participating in the *What on Earth?* show at the Western Development Museum. The show runs from 12 to 4 P.M. We will have a 12 foot booth that will contain the poster display boards and a couple of large telescopes. Volunteers are needed to man (person? wo-man?) the display. Anyone willing to volunteer some time for this purpose should contact Richard Huziak at 665-3392 or 931-3425 (yes, this number is the same as for the editor!). The show is intended to be a family event and all are welcome. Dr. Richard Grieve will be helping us man the booth for a short period prior to his lecture that afternoon at the WDM. Even if you are unable to participate, drop by and say hello. See you there!

EDITOR'S NOTES

1) It's production time for *Saskatoon Skies* again and I feel obliged to note that I do not have a plethora of material to insert. Those of you who continue to submit material – you have my thanks. It would be nice to see others making submissions as well though. *Saskatoon Skies* belongs to all of you. I have a suggestion for the newer members (a repeat of what I suggested in the November , 1991 issue) – why not write to me with some questions you have? The answers I (or my designated author) would generate new articles and fill the empty space! I wish to reiterate a point made in my first issue as the new editor, namely that you may submit your articles to me in electronic form. I will accept disks (either 5.25 or 3.5 inch) with a hardcopy of the article. Files should be flat ASCII with no control characters. Also, in light of recent publicity surrounding viruses, I would also expect “healthy” disks to be used. Since I am using company equipment to produce this newsletter, I'm very sensitive to the possibility of compromising the integrity of the data we maintain on our computers here.

2) Followers of the American space program may be interested to note that the newest space shuttle, Endeavour (or is that Endeavor?), has been moved to a launch pad where it will undergo a test firing of its main engines in preparation for a May launch. I hope it works.

3) The spacecraft Ulysses has looped past Jupiter and is now headed back in our direction (more or less) en route to a flyby of the Sun. The trajectory of this spacecraft is unusual in that it is approaching the Sun from “underneath” and will pass under its south pole before looping over the Sun's north pole. This will take place starting in June, 1994.

4) A perhaps little known fact is that the Saskatoon Centre is permitted to write receipts for donations which can be used for income tax purposes (at least I haven't been audited yet!). If you wish to make a donation, to either the Centre in general, or to the telescope fund in particular, contact the treasurer, Mike Williams, at 668-4365.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REMINDER

The next General Assembly of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will be in Calgary, Alberta, from July 1-5, 1992. For information, refer to the January issue of *Saskatoon Skies*, or contact RASC- Calgary Centre, c/o Ms. Dennis Goodman, 28 Southland Crescent S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2W 0K3. Phone (403) 252-7095. Information is also available from the editor.

If you are at all interested in going, don't delay and don't make plans in isolation. It is likely that other members of the Centre will be planning to go too, so ask around!

ASTRONOMY DAY 1992

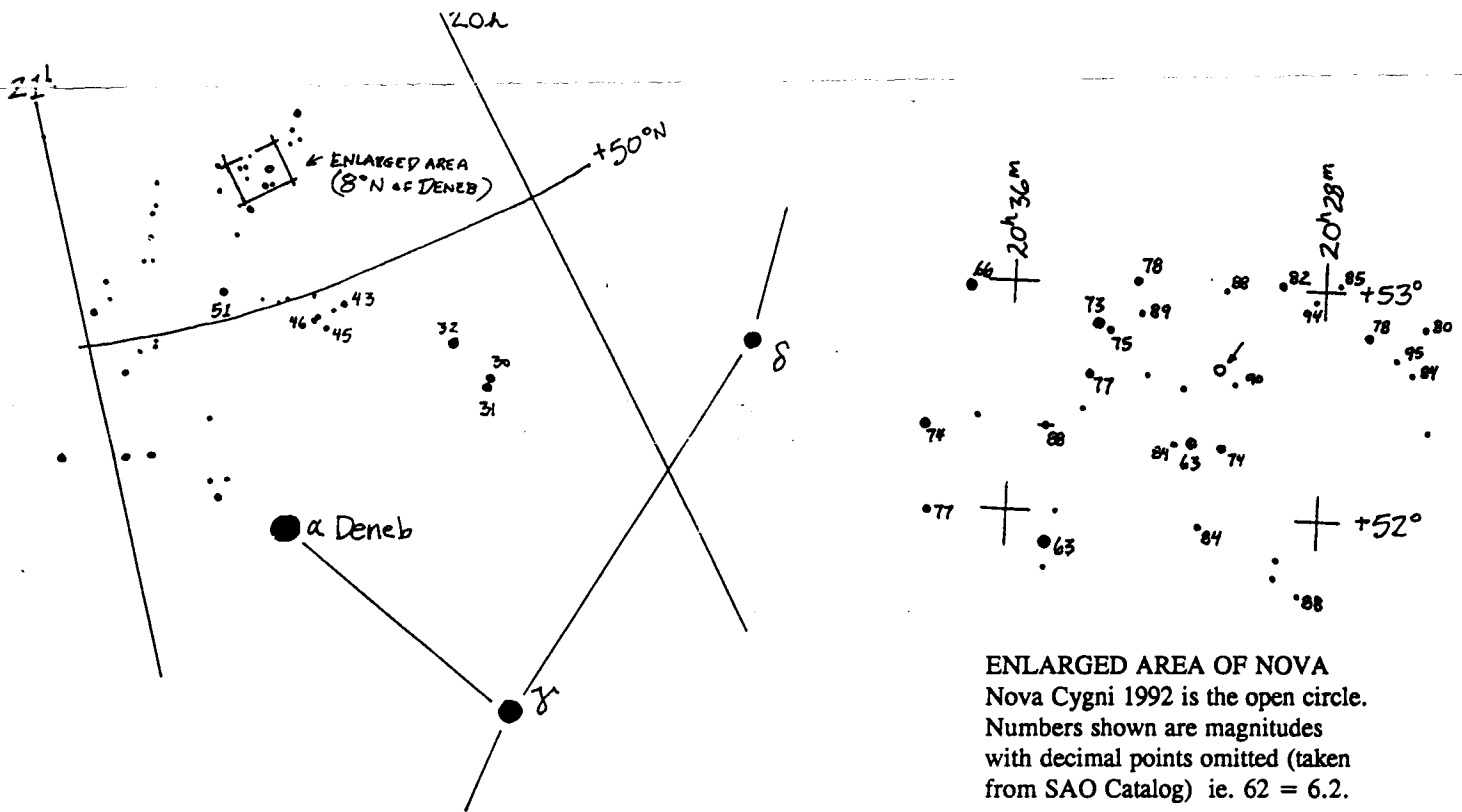
Astronomy Day 1992 has been set for Saturday, May 9. Sandy Ferguson has kindly volunteered to coordinate this activity and the current plans are to set up a mall display at the Lawson Heights Mall with a theme based upon light pollution. If you have any ideas you want to see expressed, or wish to offer your assistance, give Sandy a call at 382-0898.

NOVA CYGNI 1992

Richard Huziak

If you already haven't heard, a new, bright nova has graced the northern skies. Nova Cygni 1992 was discovered in February at magnitude 6.3 and peaked out soon afterwards at magnitude 4.3. It has been slowly fading since, but is still near magnitude 6.8 as of my last observation of March 21, 1992. This is still bright enough for binoculars and small telescopes. Estimates of brightness can be made from the accompanying chart which shows the naked eye/binocular view for star hopping and an enlarged 1 degree view for telescopes. Because of its high declination, it can be observed at any time by observers with clear northern horizons, otherwise, you will have to wait until at least midnight when Cygnus rises. This is one of the brightest novae in recent memory and well worth the effort to see and monitor over the months to come. The author of this newsletter would like to hear of your estimates, so please write or call.

It is expected that formal AAVSO (American Association of Variable Star Observers) charts will be available shortly (through the editor) which can be used to follow the nova as it fades below binocular limits.



ENLARGED AREA OF NOVA
 Nova Cygni 1992 is the open circle.
 Numbers shown are magnitudes
 with decimal points omitted (taken
 from SAO Catalog) ie. 62 = 6.2.
 Coordinates 20h30m +52°38'.
 North is up. Field is approx. 1°.