

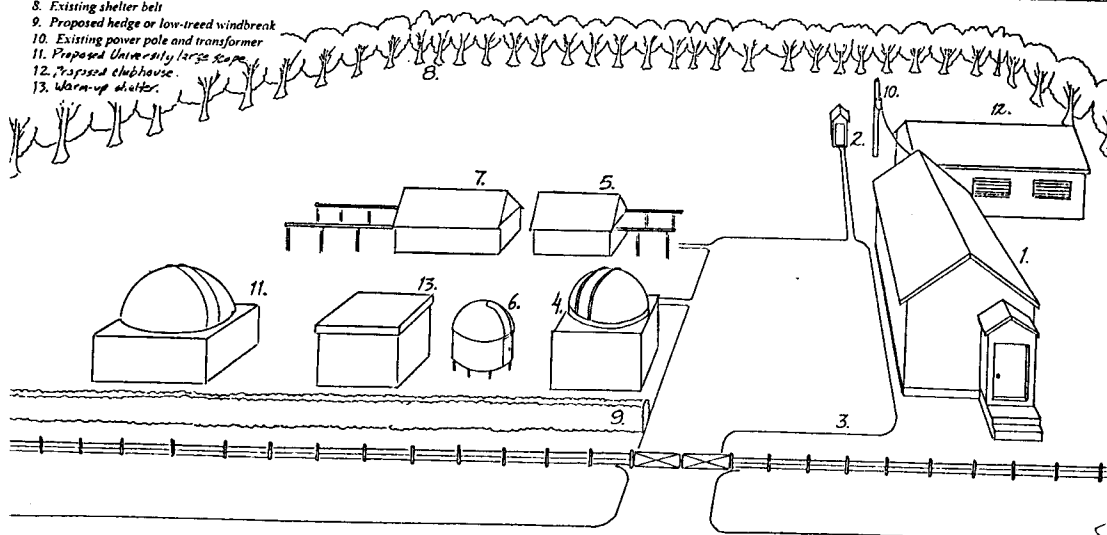
Saskatoon Skies

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

Volume 28, Number 11
November 1997

The Sleaford (Colonsay) Observatory

1. Existing Sleaford schoolhouse
2. Existing outhouse
3. Proposed parking area
4. 14-ft dome for the 16" telescope
5. Essick-Schmidt roll-off
6. 10-ft Rystrom dome
7. University roll-off shelter and piers
8. Existing shelter belt
9. Proposed hedge or low-treed windbreak
10. Existing power pole and transformer
11. Proposed University large scope
12. Proposed clubhouse
13. Warm-up shelter



The new Sleaford Observatory is coming along just about on schedule thanks to the hard work of many Centre members and the leadership of Darrell Chatfield. The sketch shows the latest version of the site plan which will accommodate all existing Centre and University telescopes.

Announcing the New Executive of the Saskatoon Centre

The annual elections for the RASC Saskatoon Executive positions were held at the October General Meeting. Here are the results of the elections - your new Executive. Congratulations to all!

The positions of Honorary President and National Rep are appointed and need reaffirming at the next Executive meeting.

Honorary President	Ed Kennedy	Membership Coordinator	Les Dickson
Past President	Richard Huziak	Fundraising Coordinator	Terry Nelson
President	Erich Keser	Observing Group Chair	Darrell Chatfield
Vice-president	Darrell Chatfield	Librarian	Ellen Dickson
Secretary	Al Hartridge	Councillor	Bill Hydomako
Treasurer	Mike Williams	Councillor	Dale Jeffrey
Centre Rep.	Gordon Sarty	Councillor	Bob Christie
Newsletter Editor	Richard Huziak	Councillor	Scott Alexander
Activities Co-coordinator	Sandy Ferguson	Councillor	Merlyn Melby
Activities Co-coordinator	Brian Friesen	Councillor	Kim Mysyk

The Event Horizon

Date	Event	Contact	Telephone
Nov. 13	Hepburn School Presentation and Starlight	Dale Jeffrey	223-4447
Nov. 14-17	IMO Leonid Meteor Shower Watch	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Nov. 17	Saskatoon Centre General Meeting	Erich Keser	374-4262
Nov. 21	Youth Group Meeting 7:30 pm at Sandy's	Sandy Ferguson	931-3184
Nov. 28	Sleaford Observers Group - meet at the Fas Gas on highway #5 to convoy. Check time with Darrell.	Darrell Chatfield	374-9278
Dec. 5	Junior and Youth Group U of S Observatory Tour - 7:45 - 8:45 p.m.	Sandy Ferguson	931-3184

Saskatoon Skies is published monthly by the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC. Distribution is approximately 135 copies per issue. *Saskatoon Skies* welcomes unsolicited articles, sketches, photographs, cartoons, and other astronomy or space science articles. Articles can be sent by mail in any format to the Centre's mailbox. Submissions may also be sent by E-mail - preferred as **plain unformatted ASCII text files without line breaks**. Images sent by e-mail should be UUEncoded. Send e-mail submissions to the editor at huziak@SEDSYSTEMS.ca. Submitted materials can be returned upon request. A separate subscription to *Saskatoon Skies* is available for \$12.50 per year. Articles may be reprinted from *Saskatoon Skies* without expressed permission (except where otherwise stated), but source credit is requested. **DEADLINE** for submissions is the 4th of each month.

Saskatoon Centre

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
 P.O. Box 317, RPO University
 Saskatoon, SK, S7N 4J8
 URL: <http://maya.usask.ca/~rasc/rasc.html>
 E-mail: huziak@SEDSsystems.ca
 Telephone: (306) 665-3392



Newsletter Editor - Richard Huziak
 Collating and Stuffing - Sandy Ferguson

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A Message from the New President - Toward the Future!

by Erich Keser, President

Thank you for electing me. Becoming President of the Saskatoon Centre is quite a challenge. Rick's are big shoes to fill (despite his much smaller feet). I've never had the honour of working with a better observer -or a better leader. It 's going to be an exciting job! The Saskatoon Centre is such an active organization of diversely talented people that I'm always discovering new ways in which our members contribute to astronomy and to our Centre. Even more, interest in Astronomy is obviously becoming important to all kinds of people, as our recent projects have confirmed.

A year ago, Sandy Ferguson initiated a modest program for the kids of members. This fall, this has grown into a full-fledged, two level Youth Program which is actively recruiting a whole raft of new Saskatoon Centre members. The many community, library and school presentations Sandy (and others) gave surely helped, but it's also clear that astronomy is becoming really COOL again!

Also in one year, the Saskatchewan Summer Star grew from a "test run" with 23 people and a cat to a full fledged major astronomical event involving eight times that number. The support of *SKY NEWS* and other Centres surely helped, but the interest and response even from people new to astronomy was incredible. (In fact, it took a tremendous effort by Rick, the Mysyks, the Chatfields, and many others, especially our Regina colleagues, to make a huge success a project which had outstripped in-depth planning and organization in many vital areas.)

We've moved mountains (of dirt, stuff and a building) in preparing our Sleaford dark site. Merlyn and Rick spent long nights digging up and cutting pipes at Rystroms. Darrell Chatfield has organized materials and work crews of up to a dozen on every weekend since Thanksgiving to install piers, pull wire, move the Warm-up Shelter, and install power. Thus we've saved ourselves and the University thousands of dollars on a job which might have waited many months for funding (AND we now we may have a usable winter site!)

Are we taking on too much? As the work for SSSP '98 already begins to grow, as we fight (and WIN!) over Murphy's Law at every turn at the Sleaford Site, and as our schedule of presentations grows and grows, I do wonder. I remember how beautifully the stars were coming out as we left the Sleaford site after we'd moved Warm-up Shelter. How Eetook was now out there ready for use, but the eyepieces weren't. And how, after ten hours of work, we were so tired that we hardly cared. And how some members who worked hard on the SSSP told me they'd had too little time to really enjoy the wonderful skies there.

The Saskatoon Centre is accomplishing tremendous things, and they are things that we WANT to do! However, it is vitally important that we as soon and as much as possible - be able to do the observing which is the real point of all these activities.

So, what can we do now? I do have some suggestions:

1) Do our darndest to finish and power the Warm-up Shelter; after all, there's nothing worse than leaving something about 95% completed after so much work. (And let's have one heck of a party or dinner to celebrate the completion!)

2) Make some early decisions about SSSP'98 to significantly cut down the work involved in some areas: the dinner catered, the breakfast much less labourious or not at all, and also organize contingency plans and volunteer schedules, etc. in much greater depth.

3) Provide logistical support for Sandy with her youth program, and also back-ups for her, Rick, Dale and others with heavy schedule of presentations, as they ask for help.

Most importantly, we must, in all of these areas, encourage as many new people as possible, both members and supporters, to become actively involved in the work of our Centre by welcoming both their suggestions and their participation in projects (how else would we ever have learned that Ron Schnor is a champion building mover, for example!) and by taking the extra effort to call them and keep them informed of what is going on. This will initially be more work than relying on a few people to do everything, but it will, in the long run, build a more active organization, which can do more than one, or even two things at a time.

Finally, I also feel that there is a need to discuss some basic philosophical issues. The RASC began and still is a learned Society. However, it is also for many of us our local astronomy club. We also function as a service organization to promote astronomy. As our century old organization moves toward the next millennium, some clearer definition of how these elements interact seems in order. I feel that, in addition to reacting tactically to cope with the spectacular success of SSSP and of our Youth program, we should also actively RESPOND to them, both in terms of setting our own priorities and also by determining ways in which our national organization could better support such activities.

Such questions could worthwhile subjects for discussion over the winter months.☺

Hepburn School Goes Astro

by Dale Jeffrey

RASC members Rick Huziak, Sandy Ferguson and I have been invited by Hepburn Public School, through the Innovator's program, to provide an astronomy seminar and star night on November 13th. Grades 1 through 8 and their parents will experience a slide presentation, a look through a solar telescope, a presentation on the history of astronomy, and of course, some propaganda on the wonders of the RASC and the Junior Astronomers' Program. Weather permitting, a public star night for the town of Hepburn will follow the day's seminar. A donation to RASC Saskatoon Centre's Observatory Fund has been promised.☺

Notice of the November General Meeting

Members and friends are invited to attend the November General Meeting of the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC. The main presentation will be by Dr. Mel Stauffer. There will be other small presentations on topics in astronomy.

Monday, November 17, 1997

8:00 P.M.

Conference Room, National Hydrology Research Centre

11 Innovation Boulevard, Saskatoon

About the Main Presentation - The several thousand meteorites that have been collected so far fall into three main compositional types: **Stony Meteorites** (about 90% of those seen to fall (falls) but only about 50% of those found but not seen to fall (finds)); **Iron Meteorites** (about 10% of falls but about 50% of finds); **Stony Irons** (about 1%); with a considerable number of textural and compositional subtypes or varieties.

The Stones have perhaps the most interesting varieties, including Chondrites (90%) and Achondrites (10%). Some of the Achondrites are thought to be "splash" from impacts on the moon and Mars.

The chondrites include about 90% "normal" chondrites which are thought to be similar to the composition of Earth's mantle (the irons may be similar to Earth's core). The other 10% or less of the chondrites contain carbonaceous compounds including micro-diamonds and amino acids. These are thought to be similar to the original material of which our solar system was made, and contain the chemical compounds from which organic life was formed on Earth. Carbonaceous chondrites in the asteroid belt may be trapped comets that have been de-iced.

Dr. Stauffer will bring examples of all of these types of meteorites for examination. He will also be willing to talk about MIAC.

About the Speaker - Mel Stauffer has been a professor in the Department of Geological Sciences, University of Saskatchewan for 31 years. His main professional interests are in the fields of Structural Geology (the study of folds and faults), and the Precambrian evolution of the Earth's crust. Meteorites have been a sideline since his undergraduate days, but he has been involved with the discovery of several meteorites and has published a paper on the discovery of the Wynyard meteorite. He has been a member of MIAC since 1992.

ROBERT BURNHAM DIES IN OBSCURITY

Condensed from *Astronomy Now*
(reprinted from the RASClisT)

Last month, the Phoenix New Times reported that Robert Burnham Jr. passed away virtually unnoticed in 1993. Burnham's name is familiar to many astronomers because of his observing guide, Burnham's Celestial Handbook. This work spans three volumes and gives detailed information on objects to observe, constellation by constellation.

The publication grew out of Burnham's dissatisfaction with the star charts of the time. He was anxious to learn all he could about the objects in the sky but could not get that information quickly and easily anywhere. He began his 'celestial survey' in 1955, patiently observing the sky and recording what he saw. His skill as an observer led to his being offered a job at the Lowell Observatory. He took the position and, as well as conducting his new

duties, he used the library to research the objects he included in his handbook.

Burnham published the first edition himself in 1966 and ten years later signed a deal with Dover Publications Inc., who still publish the work today. In 1979, however, his employment at Lowell came to an end and this appears to have precipitated a personality breakdown.

In the final years of his life, Burnham lived in a San Diego hotel, selling paintings of cats in a local park. He purposely covered his tracks from his family and it was not until two years after his death that his sister finally learned the details of his passing. She did not communicate this information to the astronomical community because, sadly, she had no idea Burnham's work was so revered. ☾



The 1997 North American Leonid Meteor Watch

(reprinted from the RASClst)

James Richardson - AMS Operations Manager
Graceville, Florida
Richardson@digitalex.com

James Bedient - AMS Electronic Information
Coordinator
Honolulu, Hawaii
jamesbed@hcc.hawaii.edu

Since the last Leonid meteor storm in 1966, meteor observers and scientists have been eagerly awaiting the next approach of Comet Temple-Tuttle, the parent body of the Leonid meteor stream, in hopes of witnessing another such event. In March of this year, University of Hawaii astronomers K. J. Meech, O. R. Hainaut and J. Bauer used the Keck II 10 meter reflector atop Mauna Kea to recover Comet Temple-Tuttle, now headed toward the inner solar system on its 33-year orbit, and the meteor science community is gearing up to study the November Leonid maximum.

Though the comet will not reach perihelion until February 28, 1998, the Leonid meteor stream associated with this comet has already given meteor observers enhanced displays in 1994, 1995 and 1996. This year, despite the bright gibbous moon which will be present, professional and amateur meteor scientists in North America will be watching closely as the Leonids reach maximum, predicted for Monday morning, November 17, 1997, at 1335 UTC. This timing (5:45 am PST) favors visual observers in Western N. America and the Pacific. In addition to the "classical" peak, which is characteristically rich in bright, trained meteors, observations from the past two years have hinted at a newer, fainter concentration of particles occurring a few hours prior to the normal shower peak.

Professional astronomers in North America will observe the Leonids from widely separated geographic locations. From Waterloo, Canada and Edwards AFB, California, meteor scientists James Jones and Peter Brown (University of Western Ontario) will be conducting extensive back-scatter radar observations -- including the testing of a mobile meteor radar. Video observations from Edwards and an airborne observatory will be coordinated by Robert Hawkes (Mt. Allison University). Collaborator Ray Russell will be attempting visual and infrared meteor spectroscopy from the airborne platform. Peter Jenniskens (NASA / Ames Research Center) and his associates will be organizing both visual and photographic campaigns at Edwards AFB, in addition to attempting to make telescopic meteor train observations from facilities in Chile. In the Caribbean, John Mathews and David Meisel, along with a team of other scientists from Cornell, Penn State and SUNY-Geneseo will be using the Arecibo Radio Telescope in Puerto Rico to sample the faint component of the Leonid stream using a narrow-beam back-scatter technique. The Arecibo dish is fortunately situated such that the Leonid radiant will pass directly through the radar beam very close to the time of predicted shower maximum. An array of LIDAR and optical instruments will be monitoring the Leonids at Arecibo as well.

On the amateur side, the American Meteor Society will coordinate visual observations from diverse locations as far east as Halifax, Nova Scotia, and as far west as Oahu, Hawaii. Using the combined forces of observers from the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO), Meteor Group Hawaii (MGH), North American Meteor Network (NAMN), New Jersey Astronomical Association (NJAA), and our regular AMS observers, the Society will cover nearly a quarter of the northern hemisphere. The bright waning gibbous moon will be high in the sky at the time of radiant rise near local midnight, but Leonid rates should continuously improve through the night as the moon sets and the radiant rises. Visual observers are encouraged to utilize a building or other nearby object to make observations from the moon's shadow,

In addition to visual observations, the three operational stations of the AMS Radiometeor Project (Florida, California, and Maryland) will also be collecting forward-scatter data continuously throughout the Leonid period. Despite the irritating moonlight, all observers are encouraged to help us to keep a close watch on the Leonids this November 17th.

For future planning here are the predicted times of greatest Leonid meteor activity in 1998 and 1999:

1998: Peak date / time, November 17,
1945 UTC

Most favored area: Asia.

Moon phase: New Moon, 28 days

1999: Peak date / time, November 18,
0150 UTC

Most favored areas: Eastern Atlantic,
Europe, Africa, Asia.

Moon phase: Waxing Gibbous Moon,
9 days.

☾



An old print depicting the Leonid meteor shower in 1833.

NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

by Gordon Sarty, National Council Rep.

The latest National Council (NC) meeting was held on October 18 in Toronto. The most significant agenda item was that Saskatoon Centre member Scott Alexander was awarded his Messier certificate. Congratulations Scott!

I was not able to personally attend the meeting but keep in touch through e-mail from the National Recorder, Peter Jedicke. After the recent reorganization and revitalization of the RASC, especially of the publications, the last few NC meetings have been pretty quiet. This means that business can focus more on other issues that directly affect our Centre. Two of these issues are family membership and youth membership. Youth membership was discussed at the General Assembly (GA) meetings last summer, largely by Calgary members. At issue was offering youth members the Beginner's Observing Guide (BOG) in lieu of the more sophisticated Observer's Handbook. The issue was resolved by having a coupon for the discounted purchase of a BOG included in the new members package. The new members package will be shipped by the University of Toronto Press (UTP) to all new members.

A closely related issue is that of family membership. Rick Huziak wrote a letter to National Council suggesting that families join at a single member rate or otherwise reduced

rate, with the idea that only one copy of the publications would be sent to the household but that all joining family members had equal voting rights within the RASC. An agenda item for Rick was printed with the agenda for the October 18 meeting but since neither Rick nor myself were there, I do not know what was discussed. There do not appear to have been any motions made but I will have to wait for the official minutes to appear before I can verify this. The opinion of the Membership and Promotion Committee was that the Constitution Committee would have to consider changes to the By-Laws to accommodate family membership. I expect to follow up on this item at an NC meeting soon.

The final issue I would like to mention is that of opting in to the national UTP membership administration program. Currently the UTP is handling the membership renewals and keeping track of the RASC memberships for all Centres except three: Calgary, Toronto and Saskatoon. We remain opted out largely because our treasurer believes that the new system will cause him more work. I believe that opting in to the UTP system will foster tighter ties with National for our members. However, we will wait another year to see if UTP can work out their not insignificant bugs before we consider opting in. ☺

Bits and Bites

Dues are Past Due

Dues for membership in the RASC have not changed. Membership runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. Please send payment to the Centre mailbox as soon as possible so you don't lose out on the publications.

Regular - \$40.00 Youth - \$22.50 Life - \$720.00

Sky and Telescope Magazine Through the Centre

Sky and Telescope offers a 10% discount to subscribers if they participate in a Centre subscription program. In order to retain this discount, the Centre must have at least 5 participants. Currently the Saskatoon Centre has ONLY 5 participants and is in danger of losing the benefit if someone drops off. If you currently subscribe to S&T, please renew through the Centre for your automatic discount by filling out your renewal card when it comes due (with MO or credit card number) and sending it to the Centre mailbox or Mike Williams, (though it's simpler for Mike if you pay by credit card - no international money orders required). Also within this program, you can receive a 10% discount on most merchandise received from *Sky Publishing Corporation*; but you must be a registered member of the subscription program. For new members who are not subscribing to *Sky and Telescope*, this magazine is one of the best; containing excellent articles and superior observing information. It is a highly recommended source of information.

We Still Have 1998 RASC Calendars!

They're here, they're here! Only 15 left! The new 1998 Calendars have arrived - just in time for your next present-giving session! As always, the Vancouver Centre has outdone themselves and have produced an even better looking and more informative calendar! The calendars will be available for sale at the November general meeting for \$11.00 each. If you can't make it to the meeting, then call Rick at 665-3392 to reserve yours. They are going fast!

The University of Saskatchewan Observatory Hours

During the months of November through February, the U of S Observatory will be open to the public on Saturday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The observatory is located on campus one block north of the Wiggins Avenue entrance off of College Drive. On clear evenings, visitors may view the moons of Jupiter, the rings of Saturn and the Hercules globular star cluster through the telescope. Admission is free of charge. Group tours of the observatory can be booked for Friday evenings. A course introducing the public to star maps will be offered on December 3. For further information, phone the recorded Astronomy Information Line at 966-6429.

Details about the 1999 GA Announced

An e-mail from J. Randy Attwood, RASC National First Vice President announces that the 1999 GA will be a joint meeting of the RASC, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP) and the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO). The joint meeting will take place in Toronto during the Canada Day weekend. This will be a very popular GA, so book early!

More Requests for School Seminars and Star Nights

Our member from Laird, Dale Jeffrey, has been receiving requests from other schools in the SaskValley School Division for school seminars and public star nights. Any members who feel that they could spare an afternoon or an evening for the astronomical enrichment of our children's education programs, as well as a fund-raising opportunity for our club, please contact Dale at 223-4447 in Laird.

A Star Night for Warman Girl Guides

by Dale Jeffrey

Approximately 15 young girl guides and their leaders attended an evening of astronomical fun at my home in Laird on the night of October 24th. After being regaled by constellation stories as narrated by classicist and guide leader Miss Christie Nelson of Warman, the guides explored the night sky using my C8. Saturn, Jupiter, Vega, Aldebaran, M45, and M31 were the highlights for an enthusiastic group of young star-gazers. ☽

Sleaford Observatory Almost Ready for Winter

by Rick Huziak

The new Sleaford Observatory has seen a flurry of activity in the last few weeks due to good planning by Darrell Chatfield and because of excellent pitching in by a great many other Centre members and Stan and Yannis from the U of S. Work-to-date includes pile pouring, moving of the warm-up shelter to it's new location (no mean feat!), and trenching in the conduits for the main power run and the data cables. Within a few weeks, the site will be wired in with permanent power. We still need to remove the domes from Rystrom's and move these to the Sleaford Observatory for winter storage. With the move going as expected, to our delight, the site will soon be ready for winter use, including having working heaters! ☽

Minutes of the October Executive Meeting

Monday, October 20, 1997

at the Conference Room, National Hydrology Research Institute, Saskatoon

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. It has been suggested that "New Business" be added to the agenda either before the meeting begins or to allocate 5 minutes at the beginning of the meeting to assure importance can be assessed. New business can, of course, be introduced throughout the meeting if warranted. Agreed.
3. The mailbox rental fee is due at \$40.00. Motion to pay - Jim Young. Seconded Sandy Ferguson. Carried.
4. Brian Friesen has requested to vote in the elections by proxy. Proxies are allowed by National constitution. Agreed that this is in order.
5. Terms of reference of committees read by Richard Huziak to provide guidance to committees:
 - Decisions within the committee need to be made by committee consensus at the committee meetings.
 - The committee needs to meet often enough to avoid delays and plan ahead.
 - Spending beyond the budget requires pre-approval by the executive, and in cases exceeding \$40.00 to be ratified by general membership.
 - If the committee has a budget, then they can spend their budget by agreement of the committee members, without general executive approval.
 - The president is automatically a member of all committees, though the committee is free to elect their own chair. The president is there for information and guidance and may choose to attend or not attend as required.
 - Committees are required to give short summary reports to the executive and to the general membership as required, but there is rarely then need for *decisions* to be made outside the committee meetings.
 - Receipts are required for all expenditures. Receipts must be genuine and value must be verifiable. Members may submit receipts for personal expenses they have incurred to help the job get done if the committee decides this is OK. Either cash or tax receipts can be given.
6. Cypress Hills Report - The committee needs to meet to begin planning for next year. Members are the same as last year until they change. The star party can have the hall on Saturday afternoon and evening. Much of the accommodations have already been booked. Erich has already booked for himself and Alan Dyer. The committee will meet on November 4th at 8:30 p.m. at Kim Mysyk's.
7. Sleaford Observatory Report - Partnership agreement is still in review and land purchase completed. Next Observatory Committee meeting on Oct. 27, 8:00 p.m. at the National Hydrology building. A Sleaford Observatory RASC/U of S Joint Committee needs to be appointed by the general committee. Work to be done this year - piles poured, warm up shelter being readied for the move, trenching and wiring. The committee needs to make projected and detailed plans so we can begin applying for grants.
8. Insurance: It was moved by Darrell Chatfield, seconded by Gord Sarty and carried that we pay the \$288.00 for our insurance premium.

9. Fundraising will be required for the new site and other Centre activities. Immediate funds are required for the first phase of the observatory and long term funds need to be generated over the winter.
10. Meeting adjourned 7:58 p.m.

Minutes of the October General Meeting

Monday, October 20, 1997

at the Conference Room, National Hydrology Research Institute, Saskatoon

1. Meeting called to order at 8:10 p.m.
2. As in the executive, it was also agreed that *New Business* at the General meeting be added to the agenda before the meeting begins or in the first 5 minutes at the beginning of the meeting..
3. Dues are past due- please pay the treasurer ASAP.
4. Calendar Sales- \$11.00 each. A motion was passed to allow Mike Williams to pay calendars.
5. Upcoming star nights:
 - October 21, 7:30 - 9:30 at Diefenbaker Park
 - Oct. 25 at Laird
 - November 1 (rain 2nd) at Alvin Buckwold School - Space Club
6. OG Group Report: Oct. 3 was a clear night at Colonsay and a good group turned out. The next OG will be on Nov. 28.
7. Youth Group Start-up Report: There has been a good response. Two meetings will be held this month. Two groups have formed - 14 in the junior and 16 in the youth group.
8. Sleaford Observatory Report: The piles have been poured at Sleaford, wire was pulled, shed freed, junk moved from Rystrom's. The cost to move the warm up shelter estimated at \$300; a ditch witch will also be available at low cost for trenching.
9. Cypress Hills - see executives minutes.
10. Fundraising: discussion of attaining funds via personal donations, National grants, Sask. lotteries, corporations.
11. A motion was made Erich Keser and seconded by Darrell Chatfield that we allocate \$200.00 from the Cypress funds to help pay for moving of the warm shelter. Carried.
12. Community News Paper at Colonsay would like to post our events.

13. Barbecue and Coffee Party at Sleaford for members and town folk was quite successful with a good turn out from the town.
14. Elections: moved by Gord Sarty and seconded by Scott Alexander that nominations be opened . Carried. Elections followed to elect the new 1997-8 executive. See elsewhere in the Newsletter for the list.
15. General Meeting programs:
 - Huziak's Variable Star- Rick Huziak
 - Sleaford Open House Slides- Erich Keser
16. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

When Members Write In...

by Rick Huziak with others!

Occasionally members write to the Centre mailbox asking for this or that. Besides the normal requests or contents such as renewal cheques, these letters generally contain interesting tidbits of astronomy . I recently received this interesting letter.

... While I was [in Calgary] I picked up a refractor telescope at Tele-Optics. It's an Omcon 128SE Research Grade with an 82 mm aperture. I also have some 10x50 Vandor binoculars, so you can fill up that glaringly empty "scope" column on the membership list next to my name. ...

I really enjoyed the star party in Cypress this summer. The highlight has to be when Fr. Like showed me Pluto and a certain star cluster in Camelopardalis [NGC 1502 - ed.] The Wilkinson Memorial Observatory near Eastend, where I volunteer sometimes, has been very active this fall, with public tours held regularly. Last month, for example, I led a tour of about 10 local people and showed them Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and the Lagoon Nebula. ...

Sincerely yours,

Wade Belwig



ROSET by REID

Sky News May/June 1997 says:

**"Today's Binoculars are better than ever.
Certainly much better than almost anything produced
one or two generations ago."**

**Most optical experts would agree that ZEISS, LEITZ
SWAROVSKI and BAUSCH&LOMB make the finest binoculars
available. Come to the only store in Saskatchewan that
stocks them all and compare for yourself!**



LEICA

BUSHNELL

**BAUSCH
& LOMB.**



#108 BAYSIDE, 255 - 2nd AVE. N.
SASKATOON, SK S7K 2B6
e-mail: b.roset@sk.sympatico.ca
<http://www.saskstar.sk.ca/roset/>

TEL: (306) 665-8665
FAX: (306) 244-0017

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