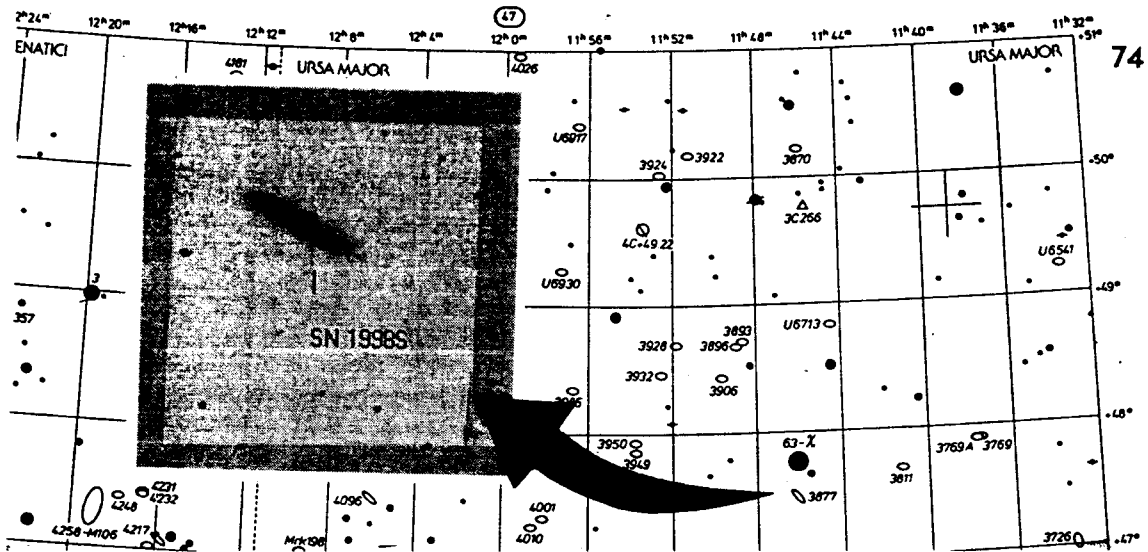


Saskatoon Skies

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

Volume 29, Number 3
March 1998



There is a 'bright', newly discovered supernova called SN1998S in NGC 3877 . At 13th magnitude, this supernova should be visible in an 8-inch telescope, even with the moon out, and should remain reasonably bright for the next few weeks. The supernova was discovered on March 3rd by the Beijing Astronomical Observatory Supernova Search. NGC 3877 is a spiral galaxy located at 11h46m06s +47d28m55s just south of chi UMa. The CCD image was taken by Phil Sullivan (C-14) and was copied from the excellent supernova search web page <http://www.ggw.org/freenet/a/asras/supernova.html>. The chart is a section of map 74 from Uranometria, Rappaport & Tirion, copyright 1998. The arrow is my own creation.

RASC Calendar Happenings

| Date (1998) | Event | Contact | Telephone |
|---------------|--|-------------------|-----------|
| Mar. 16 | General Meeting - Nat. Hydrology Building | Erich Keser | 374-4262 |
| Mar. 18 | Colonsay H. S. Science Fair Display | Al Hartridge | 373-0034 |
| Mar. 20 | Junior Astronomers Meeting, - 8:00 p.m., Sandy's Place - "Spring Constellations" | Sandy Ferguson | 931-3184 |
| Mar. 27 | Youth Group Meeting - 8:00 p.m., Sandy's Place - "Spring Constellations" | Sandy Ferguson | 931-3184 |
| Mar. 27 or 28 | Observing Session at Sleaford Observ'y - 8:30 p.m. | Darrell Chatfield | 374-9278 |
| Apr. 16 - 25 | Lyrid Meteor Shower - peak Apr. 22, 0400 CST | Rick Huziak | 665-3392 |
| Apr. 20 | General Meeting - Nat. Hydrology Building | Erich Keser | 374-4262 |
| Apr. 24 or 25 | Observing Session at Sleaford Observ'y - 8:30 p.m. | Darrell Chatfield | 374-9278 |
| Apr. 25 | Junior Astronomers/Youth Group - "Kick Off Astronomy Week" - TENTATIVE - Possible BBQ (if balmy) and OBSERVING NIGHT at the Sleaford Observatory (near Colonsay) | Sandy Ferguson | 931-3184 |
| May 2 | International Astronomy Day - Mall at Circle&8th | Sandy Ferguson | 931-3184 |
| May 9 | RASC Garage Sale at Corman Park School | Al Hartridge | 373-0034 |
| May 22 or 23 | Observing Session at Sleaford Observ'y - 8:30 p.m. | Darrell Chatfield | 374-9278 |
| Jun. 18 - 22 | 1998 General Assembly - Victoria | Rick Huziak | 665-3392 |
| Jul. 23 - 26 | Sask. Summer Star Party at Cypress Hills | Erich Keser | 374-4262 |

Membership Update - a tonne of new members!

Renewed (Welcome back!):

Hugh Hunter, 202 - 337 - 6th Ave. N., Saskatoon, SK, S7K 2S3

Stan Noble, PO Box 142, Aneroid, SK, S0N 0C0, tel. (306) 588-2690, <s.noble@sk.sympatico.ca>

Welcome New Members:

Helen A. Dean, 12 Calwood Crescent, Ste. #3, Yorkton, SK, S7N 2T6, tel. (306) 782-3021

Pastor Chris Dean, P. O. Box 505, Porcupine Plain, SK, SOE 1H0, tel. (306) 278-2116

Brent Gratias, 806 - 33rd St. E., Saskatoon, SK, S7K 0S6, tel. (306) 653-2657

Rob Keir & Lianne Carpenter, 807 Ave. E N., Saskatoon, SK, S7L 1S7, tel. (306) 652-6593

Brendan King, 411 Whiteswan Drive, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 5R3, tel. (306) 931-4678

Ken Noesgaard, 246 Assiniboine Dr., Saskatoon, SK, S7K 4A2, tel. (306) 931-4755

Ken Wiebe, Box 176, Aberdeen, SK, S0K 0A0, tel. (306) 253-4731

Eric Wray, #207 - 222 Sask. Cres. E., Saskatoon, SK, S7N 0K6, tel. (306) 373-6139

Change of Address:

Dan Kulyk's new E-mail address is: <Dan.Kulak@EC.gc.ca>

Saskatoon Centre

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Newsletter Editor - Richard Huziak
 Copy, Collate, Stuff - Sandy Ferguson

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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 or as attached .GIFs. Send e-mail submissions to the editor at huziak@SEDSsystems.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 1st of each month. *Saskatoon Skies* accepts commercial advertising. Please call the editor for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items free of charge.

President's Report

by Erich Keser, President

Our last General Meeting may have set a new record for a February meeting. Five people joined or renewed their memberships. Brent Gratius had found us through the Internet, and showed up and joined. Ken Wiebe, who'd phoned in October to become a Temporary member, finally managed to make a meeting...and join. Rob Keir (and Leanne Carpenter), who've come out observing regularly also took the plunge. It was great to have Hugh Hunter, whose fairly regular attendance we'd missed for some time, finally join us again. And Ken Noesgaard, late of Winnipeg, in which Centre he was First Vice-president, also made this his first Saskatoon Centre meeting and renewed his membership.

The epidemic didn't stop there! Last week Helen Dean, an energetic school teacher and grandmother from Yorkton dropped by with three grandchildren in tow to join, and to buy another membership for her son Pastor Chris Dean (and his family) in Porcupine Plain. And she's already brought two of them, Mrs. Nyla Dean and Bryanne (8) to an observing (well, cloud-watching) session at Sleaford.

With over 75 members and many associated family members, we have a big challenge before us. How can we make the experience all these people have with us one which they'll want to continue? People join our Centre for a variety of reasons, but stargazing surely heads the list: physically, when health and time permit and vicariously if these don't cooperate. Thus, we should continue to encourage people to go out and see those Sleaford skies for themselves, by letting them know when we're heading out, by traveling as a group and car pooling when possible. Nevertheless, because of the distance involved, it also seems a good idea to inform especially some of our newer members and associates of our many school and other presentations and star nights closer to town.

Some of them will likely be eager to help as well as watch. In fact, many of our new members seem eager to get involved in Centre activities. With SSSP'98, the new site and much else (fundraising projects, public star nights, the library, the GA displays, etc.), we can surely use more hands (and brains!). But the REAL challenge is learning to do things in a way which will invite their participation.

At the start, this will often be MORE work for those who are experienced in various areas to take the time to teach others how they can help, and to move over enough to let someone else pitch in. Amateur astronomers are a pretty individualistic bunch to begin with, and most of us are so used to doing things by ourselves that it will take real thought to reorganize some of what we are doing into projects and tasks that others can take on. The homily: "If you want something done right, then do it yourself" will undoubtedly keep coming up.

Such thinking does seem sensible...until we take it to its logical extreme. Does the CEO of Safeway supervise all the cash registers, the order all the food and cut all the meat? Is that why he's paid \$22.5 million a year?

In the long run, most people will only maintain their membership in the Saskatoon Centre if they feel themselves to be a meaningful part of it. Observing the vast spectacle above us and sharing ideas about the awesome processes involved remains the best way to deepen the interest and knowledge of all of our members and associates. However, we must also work hard at finding and creating ways for as many people as possible to contribute their (often unexplored) individual talents to the many activities that support and compliment our viewing.

We COULD post upcoming activities and committee meetings, pass around sign up sheets at our meetings and do some of the same through our web page. We SHOULD get into the habit of thinking of ways in which some of the things we're doing could be turned into a project for someone new and also of talking to some of the new faces at meetings about them. And even with things that are better done by one or two people, some "job shadowing" would certainly be a good idea; after all, those one or two people are unlikely to be able to do them forever.

Our Centre is no longer little; and we continue to grow at a wonderful rate, and to do more and bigger things every month. Our organization, our newsletter and such activities as the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party have reached the point at which companies are willing to donate substantially (as *Motion Picture & Sound* and *Firefly Books* have for our raffle). With so many people involved and so much to do, it's time to stop operating like a corner store, and to set up a really comprehensive division of labour. (Now, if only this were a salaried job!)

School & Community Speakers Wanted

by Rick Huziak

As part of the RASC's goal of promoting astronomy to the general public, and also to raise a bit of cash here and there, some members of the RASC give a large number of presentations in and around Saskatoon. As a matter of fact, our presentations are in great demand, and between the 4 or 5 main speakers we have, we give more than 50 presentations each year to Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides, classes from 'K' to grade 12, and to the general public. Speaking often takes us to the Beaver Creek Conservation Area (where they automatically book us at \$20 a presentation), to Brightwater and Shekenah camps, to Osler, Prince Albert, Regina, and elsewhere (also usually paying gigs). However, many of our presentations, using slides, and on occasion, "Starlab", are done in the classrooms in Saskatoon. For the in-class presentations, we do not charge, since many of our own kids are in those classrooms. There are also a few of us registered with the Saskatchewan government's *Innovators in the Schools* program. Here we provide sponsored presentations wherever they send us, with expenses such as mileage and meals paid. *Innovators* can take us all over the province. Most of the money earned is turned back into the Centre, less expenses.

If speaking appeals to you, we could use your ability and volunteered time. Presentations can be scheduled to occur at any time of the day; obviously the in-class ones are between 9 and 4, but there are several evening and weekend opportunities. (If we really tried, we could be presenting virtually every day!). If you're interested, we can set you up with a slide set and a basic push in the right direction (or even some accompanied talks) once a week, once a month or once a year. Help would be greatly appreciated. For more information, call me at 665-3392.

Notice of the General Meeting of the Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Conference Room, the National Hydrology Research Institute
Innovation Place

Monday, March 16, 1998 8:00 p.m.

The programs will be:

"The 1998 Caribbean Eclipse" - Don MacKinnon (we hope)

"Partial Eclipse Views from Central America" by Winston Quan

"Building Stargazer Steve's Dob" by Dale Jeffrey

"Books for Sale" by Doug Miller

**"Edmonton Centre's October Astronomy Workshop" by Paul Campbell,
Edmonton Centre**

Members and friends are welcome. There is no admission.

The Deep Sky Observer

by Scott Alexander

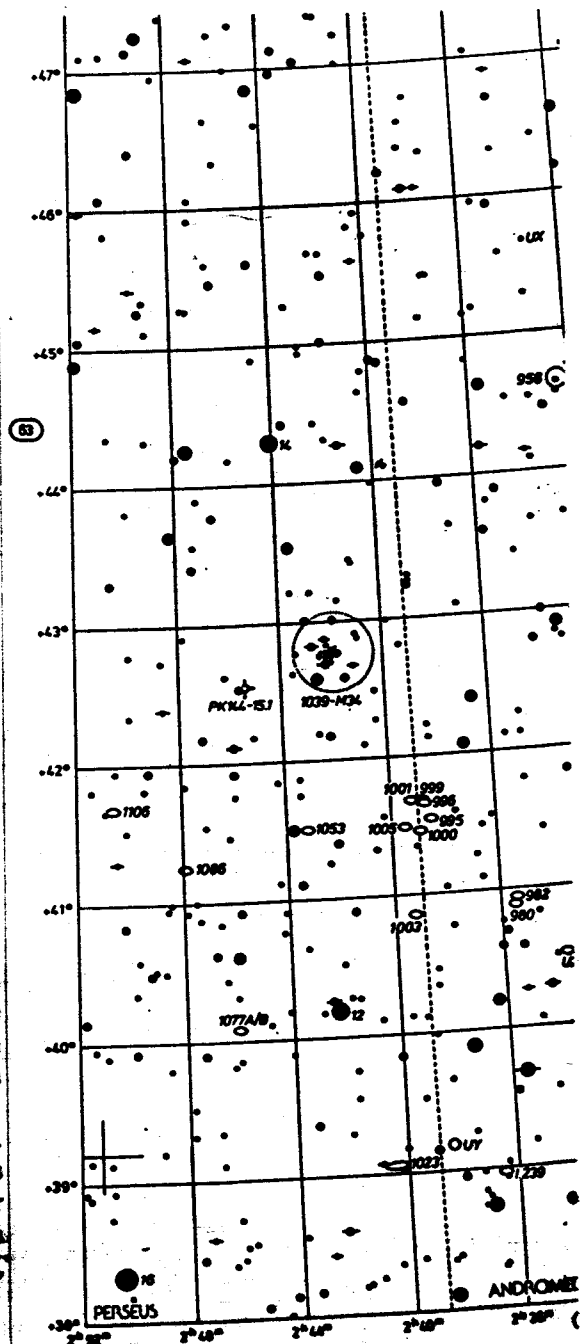
Hi folks! After a long time away, I'M BACK! This month I thought I would take us into the constellation of Perseus to look at a few galaxies of the NGC variety. The first one is called NGC 1023. You can find more about this galaxy in the 1998 Observer's Handbook, page 230, in the Finest NGC list. It is classed as a G-E7P galaxy and is at magnitude 9.5 so it is not all that hard to see in a 4-inch to 14-inch telescope. You can see this one. You just have to know where to look. It is a very nice galaxy; a small (thin) elongated edge-on spiral with a bright central core and not too wide arms. Not too much detail is seen in my 14.5-inch Dobsonian (at least when I look at it - bad sky perhaps!) I looked at the galaxy with 200mm (100x) and a 16mm (125x) Naglers. Try it to see what you can see.

The next thing I went after was a galaxy cluster just near M34. The cluster has about 6 or 7 members of magnitudes between 13.0 and 14.3 (containing NGC 995, 996, 999, 1000, 1001 and 1005), but I was only able to see 3 or 4, again due to a bad sky. The cluster is centered around RA 02h38m and declination between +41 and +42 degrees.

The next galaxies I went after are NGC 982 (0235.4 +4057) and NGC 980 (0235.5 +4054). NGC 980 is at 13th magnitude, and NGC 982 is at 12.5. Don't let the magnitudes scare you from trying these galaxies. Sometimes the magnitude of an object can appear to be really dim, but the actual object can appear to be brighter than that.

NGC 1023 will be marked in any reasonable atlas. For the others, you will need a better atlas such as Uranometria, or a chart plotted from the Sky, ECU or other planetarium software. The chart below shows the galaxies in this article. It is from Uranometria, chart 62, copyright Rappaport & Tirion.

Good luck and clear skies.



Self-Publishing Saskatoon Skies

by Rick Huziak

You may have noticed a bit of a change in Saskatoon Skies last month. The newsletter, to defer costs, is now being self-published by our Centre. This was made possible by some timely and valued donations to the Centre. The first was a 486SX 66MHz computer donated by Eric Wray and appraised by Brendan King, which now allows the editor to work at home rather than at work when the newsletter is in editing. As well, this computer will let us set up an astronomical software display at mall displays, without subjecting members' equipment to the dangers of public displays. Secondly, Dave Cornish donated a great Canon photocopier (plus a hundred dollars of servicing and several bottles of toner). This copier is now located at Sandy Ferguson's house. With this copier, we ran the February issue and will be running the subsequent issues of the Skies. In addition, the photocopier will be available for any member who needs make Centre-related copies for presentations, observers groups, etc; most likely for the cost of the paper, which is currently running only a few cents a page.

You may have noticed a slight drop in the quality of this paper, but this will be worked out over the next few issues. It was felt that the drop in the photo quality was worth the saving of about \$50 per month in copying costs! This saving, however, has come at some cost. It now adds about 4 hours to the production schedule since we have to run all of the 8 or so double-sided pages through the copier ourselves, and this is not a high speed or high volume machine! Many thanks must go to Sandy Ferguson for the extra effort. Now, in addition to the regular collating and stapling, she also adds copying to her repertoire! (I try to help here as much as I can by bargaining in, drinking all her coffee and eating all her cookies!)

If you have comments about or suggestions for the newsletter, please feel free to let me know!

YOUR OBSERVATORY NEEDS YOU!! Fundraising Events

BOTTLE DRIVE:

We're planning our second bottle drive for around the end of March. We would appreciate it if all members would collect whatever plastic, glass and other refundable materials they wish to contribute, so that we may trade them in for cash at SARCAN. Every little bit helps to fluff up our Centre's coffers! To make arrangements for your contributions, for delivery or for pick up, if necessary, please give AL HARTRIDGE a call at 373-0034.

GARAGE SALE:

The Centre is planning a HUGE (we hope!) Garage Sale for May 9th. We intend to join the Corman Park Community Association in their annual garage sale, which they hold just behind Corman Park School. Remember--YOUR TRASH IS SOMEONE ELSE'S TREASURE! Please help us finance our observatory and other activities by contributing any dusty old relics, outgrown children's toys/clothes, odds and ends from kitchens/workshops/attics and just plain junk to our cause. Please box up any items and mark your name on the box if you wish to get them returned if not sold. Otherwise, leftovers go to Community Living. More about this next month. **PLEASE CALL DARRELL CHATFIELD AT 374-9378 OR SANDY FERGUSON AT 931-3184 FOR ANY INFORMATION. THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!**

JUNIOR ASTRONOMERS AND YOUTH GROUP FEBRUARY MEETINGS

by Sandy Ferguson

Jr. Astronomers - February 6th: Yes, we had another cloudy night--this is getting to be REALLY sad! However, we continued our discussions on astrophotography and showed a brief video on how professional and amateur astronomers use the camera to record the sky. A guest astronomer, Centre Secretary Dr. Al Hartridge (Graham's Dad), visited and gave a great slide presentation on some of his astrophotography work. We then had a short demonstration of solar eclipses (since one was coming up on February 16th), with the usual balloon/orange/potato (sun/earth/moon) models. We discussed ideas for the upcoming Astronomy Day display, perhaps a home-made solar system to be strung out along the mall, and everyone was to bring his/her thoughts to the March meeting.

Youth Group - February 13th: FINALLY we got a clear, mild night. Al Hartridge again presented his slides on astrophotography to this older group. Following that, we took my 10" Dob outside to view the Orion Nebula and Pleiades and to get a start on some Messier objects. The night was very clear and from our observing site in the alley behind the building we faced the southern sky. The Winter Six constellations (Orion, Canis Major and Canis Minor, Gemini, Auriga, and Taurus) are an excellent place to start on the Messiers, as there are so many that are naked eye and binocular objects. As almost everyone recognizes the 'belt and sword' areas of Orion, we pointed out how to use the constellation to locate the other members of the "Winter Six." With binoculars and the telescope we checked out how 6 naked eye stars in the Pleiades become a few dozen in the binocs and 'scope. We mentioned some of the other brighter Messiers available in that region, such as M1, in Taurus; M41 near Sirius; M35 in Gemini; the three open clusters of M36, M37 and M38 in Auriga, and the best known object M42, the Orion Nebula. We turned the 10" on the nebula and viewed it in two different eyepieces--a wide field 25 mm, that shows the nebula as a large, wispy, greenish cloud, with the adjacent M43, and a narrower field 12mm Koenig, which showed everyone the bright stars in the central part of the nebula, representing the young, hot stars that are developing there.

Greg Mason, Nathan Young, Don Fentie and Nathan Quennell chose to stay out and try their hands at photographing Orion (Don also took a shot of the Pleiades), with camera and tripod, while the others came indoors to warm up. Their first efforts at astrophotography were very successful and it is hoped they will bring their pictures to a future Centre meeting to show everyone. We then came indoors to have some of Brenna Wright's valentine cookies (for which MANY thanks!). Messier lists were handed out, so everyone could record each object as it is observed. The RASC presents Messier Certificates to those members who have observed all 110 objects.

Books & Telescope Supplies for Sale at the March Meeting

Former member Doug Miller will be in attendance at the March General Meeting to display his collection of astronomy books and telescope making supplies, which will be up for sale. Interested persons should scan the following list for covers and equipment they are interested in. Most of the books are in immaculate shape. Doug also has extensive back issues of Sky & Telescope and Astronomy for sale.

Doug Miller's Books and Telescope Making Supplies for Sale

| | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------|----------|-------------|--|
| 10" DOBSONIAN TELESCOPE KIT | | | | \$500.00 | |
| 10" #6.6 Couder mirror | | | | | |
| 10" Novak primary holder | | | | | |
| 2.4" secondary mirror | | | | | |
| secondary holder | | | | | |
| 2" rack and pinion eyepiece holder | | | | | |
| 12" cardboard tube | | | | | |
| 4.25" f/10 NEWTONIAN (needs work) | | | | \$100.00 | |
| 4.25" F/10 spherical primary and secondary | | | | | |
| tube | | | | | |
| focuser | | | | | |
| AMATEUR TELESCOPE MAKING STUFF | | | | | |
| 10" pyrex mirror blank, fine ground f/2.5 with tool | | | | \$120.00 | |
| 10" pyrex mirror blank | | | | \$100.00 | |
| 6" pyrex mirror blank | | | | \$30.00 | |
| 6" pyrex mirror blank | | | | \$30.00 | |
| 4.25" pyrex mirror blank | | | | \$15.00 | |
| hexagonal ceramic tiles | | | | \$20.00 | |
| 1.25" rack and pinion Cassegrain focuser | | | | \$50.00 | |
| 2" Erfle eyepiece (32 mm) | | | | \$70.00 | |
| BOOKS | | | | | |
| | Title | Author | Quantity | Sale (CDNs) | |
| | Burnhams Celestial Handbook, vol. 1 to 3 | Burnham | 1 | 40.00 | |
| | Deep Sky Observers Handbook, vol. 1 to 7 | Enslow | 1 | 100.00 | |
| | Photoelectric Photometry Handbook (2 copies) | Genet | 2 | 20.00 | |
| | Photoelectric Photometry Handbook II | Genet | 1 | 20.00 | |
| | Automatic Photoelectric Telescopes | Genet | 1 | 20.00 | |
| | Photoelectric Photometry of Variable Stars | Hall, Genet | 2 | 25.00 | |
| | Microcomputers in Astronomy | Genet | 1 | 20.00 | |
| | Microcomputers in Astronomy II | Genet | 1 | 20.00 | |
| | New Generation Small Telescopes | Hayes | 1 | 30.00 | |
| | The Study of Variable Stars Using Small Telescopes | Percy | 1 | 65.00 | |
| | The Cambridge Deep Sky Album | Newton | 1 | 30.00 | |
| | A Manual of Advanced Celestial Photography | Wallis | 1 | 50.00 | |
| | Astrophotography for the Amateurs | Covington | 1 | 55.00 | |
| | Galaxes | Ferris | 1 | 60.00 | |
| | Astronomical Photometry | Henden | 1 | 50.00 | |
| | The Practical Astronomer | Jones | 1 | 25.00 | |
| | Amateur Astronomers Handbook | Sidgwick | 1 | 25.00 | |
| | Galaxes | Ferris | 1 | 75.00 | |
| MAGAZINES | | | | | |
| | Sky and Telescope, 1972 to 1996 | | | \$2.00 each | |
| | Astronomy, 1981 to 1994 | | | \$2.00 each | |
| some duplicates, some missing | | | | | |

Adventures in Laird With Stargazer Steve

by Dale Jeffrey

Last night and the preceding one were magnificent out here in Laird, with clear dark skies and exquisite seeing. My son Richard and I had recently built a 4.25 inch Dobsonian using the Stargazer Steve Kit, and at last our part of Saskatchewan had the skies under which it could truly be tested.

It is a marvelous thing to see a young person learn astronomy in such a "ground up" manner. Rick had invested a considerable effort in understanding light path, magnification, and basic design, and had served as a good assistant in the scope's manufacture. Now, he could go further...he could actually use these optics and point them at celestial wonders! (Can you remember your first time???)

With some effort and a little coaching, Rick eventually found the Pleiades cluster, and the resolution was superb with first a 25mm eyepiece and then a 10mm. Then, entirely unassisted, he found M78 in Orion. Together we then observed M42 and Saturn, comparing the views from his Dobsonian and my C8. The evening culminated in a great view of M31 and it's companions. After returning the telescopes and other equipment and charts to their designated spots, we then discussed the importance of recording our observations, and a new "Richard Jeffrey - Astronomy" journal was begun.

For members interested in a low cost but nevertheless excellent viewing system, I would heartily recommend Stargazer Steve's kit. It was jointly assembled in under a week (although it could have been done in a day), it comes with a very instructional video, and it is sure to bring out the astronomer in everyone. The construction is VERY easy, even for Ricky and I, and as indicated above, the views are truly worthwhile.

The total cost was about \$325, and the views compared very favourably with my old Celestron 4.5, which was considerably more expensive, and which had the further disadvantage of being rather daunting and complicated to operate for young children.

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY, MAY 2ND, 1998

by Sandy Ferguson

Once again the Centre will be celebrating International Astronomy Day, which this year will be held on Saturday, May 2nd. We will be setting up our display tables, panels and telescopes at the MALL AT CIRCLE & 8TH throughout the day (9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.), where shoppers can stop by and go through the publications and items we display, ask questions on astronomy, and peer through the various telescopes we also set up. Both our Jr. Astronomers and Youth Group will be involved for the first time, and we look forward to their participation.

In the evening our annual Astronomy Day Public Star Night (weather permitting) will be held at Beaver Creek Conservation Area. The star night will begin at dusk and will be publicized in the local media and through the Beaver Creek Newsletter, so we anticipate a good crowd.

As in previous years, we would appreciate any help Centre members can provide to put the day together. If you can help at the display tables for an hour or two during the day and bring your telescope and/or your enthusiasm out in the evening, it will ensure another great Astronomy Day. As usual I will be carrying out the annual-membership-list-telephone-hounding tradition that has been so successful in previous years!

More about this event in next month's Saskatoon Skies. For more information and to volunteer your assistance, please give me a call at 931-3184.

National Council Report

by Gord Sarty, National Council Rep.

The RASC National Council met on February 14, 1998 in Toronto. What follows is a report about items that I felt were of direct concern for our Centre. The complete text of the reports presented will all eventually be posted to the national web site which can be accessed through our Centre web site. I have also added as an appendix, the complete Journal Editor's Report since the information is vital to the deliberations of one of our Centre's ad hoc committees.

First, the good news. Congratulations to Sandy Ferguson on winning the National Service Award! Sandy has been a very active member of both the Ottawa and Saskatoon Centres and is a very deserving recipient of the award. Way to go Sandy!

Some items of interest to Saskatoon members include:

- (1) The Membership and Promotion Committee has announced that they will be making a Centre Formation Package: an information package for astronomy clubs who are interested in becoming an RASC Centre. They are looking for ideas, so contact Don Hladiuk of Calgary Centre if you have some.
- (2) Kim Hay of the Membership and Promotion Committee is working on a web accessible membership form so that people may join the RASC just by filling out the web form. Of course, this mechanism will only work for those Centres who have opted in to the UTP membership handling plan.
- (3) There was a report by Randy Attwood about the state of the UTP operation. The operation is getting better, but there are still some bugs, especially with respect to the Centres that have still not opted in. Some of the problems have been caused by the loss of a staff member at UTP. Dave Lane is expected to have an electronic version of the membership lists available in a few months. These lists will be sent out once a month to those Centres who have opted into the UTP plan (the information required does not exist at UTP for the opted out Centres).

I brought up two items for discussion at the National Council (NC) meeting. The first was a discussion about adding to the current travel policy. The current policy allows for reimbursement of Centre representatives travel costs (hotel and travel only) of 100% for one trip, 75% for a second and 50% for a third. This is very generous since previously, the Centre and/or representative always had to bear some travel cost. Nevertheless, I proposed the idea of adding an option of two trips at 100%, exclusive to the current 100/75/50 option. While the proposal may have passed had I proposed it as a motion, I wanted to think more about the idea before I proposed it. The motivation behind such a proposal would be to increase to communication between the National organization and the Centres, especially the western Centres. Normally, it seems, three NC meetings are held each year; one at the GA and two in or near Toronto. Perhaps we could propose, instead of my original idea, that one of the two non-GA NC meetings every year be held in the west if the GA is held in the east and in the east if the GA is held in the west. In case the GA occurs in Ontario, the location of one of the other two NC meetings could then be held in either the west or the east (but not Ontario). I would be interested to know your reaction to this new idea. Do you think it will improve National/Centre communication?

The second item I brought up was the family membership proposal, to follow up Rick Huziak's letter to NC of last fall. Specifically, I proposed that two categories of existing membership be modified as follows:

- (1) ordinary membership
 - (a) with full fees to include all publications
 - (b) full fees less \$1 - no Journal subscription
 - (c) ordinary family member - approximately half the regular fee - to be available only to a family member of an ordinary member living at the same address - no publications.
- (2) youth membership (less than 21 years of age)
 - (a) with full fees to include all publications
 - (b) full fees less \$1 - no Journal subscription

(c) youth family member - approximately half the regular fee - to be available only to a family member of an ordinary member living at the same address - no publications.

The point of options 1(b) and 2(b) was to take advantage of the governmental *Publications Assistance Program (PAP)* while discouraging RASC membership without the publications. However, the rules of the PAP don't allow such a structure so the RASC will take a hit to the tune of approximately \$10,000/year. The current way of dispersing membership fees is 60% to National and 40% to the Centre (based on \$36) per year. The Centres are also allowed to add a surcharge (here in Saskatoon, it is \$4). In a separate agenda item, our national treasurer discussed the possibility of changing the 60/40 rule. As it currently stands, 60% of \$36 (\$21.60) is required to have a full national membership. There was some strong opposition to implementing the family membership at the National level, especially from the Edmonton Centre, as the Associate member category is already available which allows family membership at the Centre level. Many Centres now use the Associate member category to handle family membership and it was suggested that Saskatoon Centre do the same. It should also be noted that by using a negative surcharge structure, we can de facto create a national family membership category, but it would mean less membership money for the Centre.

Finally, the nominees for next years NC positions are: Randy Attwood (President), Robert F. Garrison (1st VP), Rajiv Gupta (2nd VP) and Michael Watson (Treasurer). There is still plenty of time for more nominations which may take place up to 60 days before the election at the GA on June 20, 1998.

Appendix: Journal Editor's Report

There are enough events associated with the current operation of the Journal that I am making this report rather lengthy in an attempt to clarify the situation as well as to explain to members how matters related to the Journal are being handled. The major highlights of what has been happening are summarized below.

1. The compilation of a cumulative index for the Journal/National Newsletter/Bulletin covering the years 1967-1996 is about half complete; the index should be ready for publication by the summer. The compilation is primarily the effort of Beverly Miskolczi, a part-time graduate student in the Astronomy M.Sc. program at Saint Mary's.
2. A new provider was hired to replace Strategic Ink, whose services in the area of quality control were creating a serious "burnout" threat for heavily overworked members of the Halifax editorial staff. (Note: the lateness of the December 1997 issue was caused entirely by the lack of priority given to it by the outgoing publishing house - something over which we had no control.) The new provider, Redgull Integrated Design, is headed by Brian Segal, a longtime astronomy enthusiast and a former member of the Halifax Centre. The February issue, the first to be produced in conjunction with Redgull, incorporates a variety of design, layout and printing modifications (including a new table of contents and a second color on the cover) that should be immediately evident to readers. It is expected that there will be continuing improvements throughout 1998; however the basic Journal concept remains that developed in 1997. One potential advantage of the switch to Redgull Design has been the manner in which galleys are handled. Since they are now produced as Adobe Acrobat files that are transmitted electronically, it should be a relatively simple step to create an electronic or on-line version of the Journal in the future.
3. Articles intended for publication in the Journal continue to be received at a healthy rate. Most are research papers, review articles, regular columns and education notes, so the need for articles intended for publication in the popular section remains a serious concern. I encourage Council members to assist in soliciting articles for the Journal. It will be difficult to maintain a healthy mix of popular and research articles if one of the two sources "dries up". At the moment the submission of popular articles is very much in need of stimulation.
4. The Journal has grown in complexity with the changeover and it is no longer possible for all of the editorial responsibilities to be handled by only a few individuals. Neither is it always a simple manner to add volunteers to the

existing staff without determining what particular niche needs to be filled. Yet there are staff positions that are unfilled at the moment, in particular that of book review editor.

5. The role played by the Journal in the publication of abstracts from the CASCA annual meeting needs to be clarified or changed. Problem areas lie in the growing "delinquency rate" for abstracts, which delays publication, and the need to bring the publication charge into line with the actual cost of publication. The reasons for publishing the abstracts have never been made clear, and it is uncertain whether or not both the RASC and CASCA wish to continue the practice. It seems to be a matter that should be decided between the executive officers of the two societies, in consultation with those who edit the abstracts for publication.

In view of the question that was recently put forward at the last annual meeting about the editorial practices for the Journal, I would like to describe in some detail how material submitted for publication in the Journal is handled. First of all, there are several different categories of articles that are submitted. Research papers are always sent to referees for review. Anywhere from one to three different referees may be used for each paper, depending on the complexity of the research and the availability of referees. In some cases the submitted papers deviate rather significantly from the Journal style or were generated in rather crude typeset, so it is not unusual to scan papers electronically and to modify them to a Journal style before they are sent for review. Following receipt of a review, papers are either returned to authors for revision (the typical situation), accepted as submitted, or rejected entirely (which happens about 25% of the time). Papers intended for publication may then undergo further editing prior to publication in order to reduce the use of excessive jargon, to bring them into conformity with current Journal style, and/or to make them more accessible to advanced amateurs.

Articles intended for the popular section generally require a large amount of editing to correct grammatical errors or stylistic problems. In most cases there is insufficient time to pass the edited versions back to the authors for checking, but we have done that when lead time is sufficient. Regular columns are treated similarly, although they generally require very little editing and are not normally returned to the columnists prior to publication. Education notes are handled like research papers by the education notes editor, and the accepted versions usually require only minor editing by the principle editors. Book reviews are normally edited by the book review editor, with final editing by the principle editors.

Editorial corrections for the remaining material are made in various ways. Since the devolution of responsibilities is ongoing and Journal "standards" are constantly being refined, what follows is a rough idea of what happens in actual practice. In general all of what goes into an issue of the Journal passes through the editor prior to being forwarded to the publisher. Much of the material received for the popular section as well as some columns are edited by the associate editor before being sent to the editor. Sometimes articles are cycled back and forth electronically a few times before a final version is considered acceptable. We are also beginning to use our proofreaders, Mike Attas and Suzanne Moreau, more frequently in the early stages prior to publication. They have proven invaluable for making final corrections of copy prior to publication, and in some cases I have sought the assistance of either Mike or Suzanne in making wording changes for difficult items. Some people might question that practice, but it must be realized that the readership of the Journal entails a mix of amateurs and professionals, so published pieces should conform to minimum levels of readability. The editor is not always the best person to make judgments on that. In cases where authors are queried about potential changes of this type, they are generally acceptable to any "improvements" made to their originals. Occasionally some authors complain about the practice, but other authors also comment that the editing is quite light compared with what they have encountered elsewhere.

Owing to the constant "damage control" that was the norm for the Journal in 1997, there has been up until now no time to forward copyedited manuscripts to authors of research papers. However, authors of research papers, as well as authors of education notes, are always sent copies of the galleys of their papers prior to publication. Some authors are very conscientious about correcting galleys, others are not. In every case I have come to rely quite heavily upon the proofreaders for catching awkward wording and on occasion questionable scientific terminology. It is important to note that editorial staff members are often reviewing the proofs of research papers at the same time as the authors.

Minor typographical and grammatical errors corrected at that time are therefore not generally "passed through" the authors a second time.

Because of the complexity of the research papers relative to popular-level material, we are trying to implement two "streams" in the publication process. The intent is to produce final galleys for research papers independent of a specific issue of publication. When a paper is finally considered ready for publication, it will simply appear in the next available issue.

For the last eight months Dave Lane has gradually taken on the chore of collecting all of the electronic files for each issue, sorting the articles and indicating preferred placement in the issue, making sure that there are scanned versions or hard copies for all images and figures, and forwarding the assembled set of material to the publisher. Following that he becomes the intermediary between the editorial staff and the publisher, proofreads the galleys and collects proofreading corrections sent by the proofreaders and authors, and assures that all corrections have been made to the galleys prior to publication. He also performs a myriad of other chores, such as tracking down images to complement articles and maintaining regular E-mail contact with the publication staff. Some of the same chores are also done by the associate editor, whereas the editor has been attempting to disengage himself from many of them in an attempt to avoid "burnout". It has become virtually impossible to handle on a volunteer basis all the chores often considered to be the job of the principle editor, so the role of other volunteers on the editorial staff has increased in importance to compensate. We are fortunate in having quite capable persons presently engaged in such activities.

In summary, there is a very enthusiastic, but small, corps of volunteers who have taken on the responsibility for maintaining Journal standards, and it is a situation that can only improve with time. There is a rather lengthy "wish list" of items that are needed to maintain the momentum developed in the past year or so - sub-editors for sections like News Notes and Society News, obituary writers, a full-time book review editor, someone to solicit articles on a regular basis, a scanner for Head Office to permit cover scans of books received for review - and certainly things could be done better than they are. However, I am certain that all of those presently involved with the editing and publication of the Journal are acting in the best interests of the RASC.

David G. Turner, "Director of Product Enhancement"

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

BY RICK HUZIAK

WELL, YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED WE BUST THE BANK THE SENT OUT AN EXTRA-THICK COPY OF SASKATOON SKIES THIS MONTH. SINCE WE WANTED TO SEND OUT THE SSSP'98 BROCHURE TO ALL OF THE MEMBERS, AND SINCE MY CRANKY MESSAGE LAST MONTH GOT ME A HOST OF GREAT ARTICLES, WE DECIDED THAT AN EXTRA 4 PAGES OF THE NEWSLETTER WAS IN ORDER. THESE PAGES COME AS A 'FREE' BONUS, SINCE WE HAD TO PAY 71 CENTS FOR THE POSTAGE DUE TO THE EXTRA WEIGHT OF THE SSSP BROCHURE. I HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS ISSUE. KEEP THE GREAT STUFF COMING!!

The Saskatoon Centre's Upcoming Raffle Fund-raiser

by Erich Keser

While some of us have been dreaming of bottle drives and garage sales, David Cornish has been working on raffle ideas. Our friend Chris MacAulay, on behalf of **MOTION PICTURE AND SOUND** in the Scotia Centre on Second Avenue (244-5995) has agreed to donate (are you ready for this?) a 15 cm (6") Celestron Dobsonian telescope for our fundraising purposes. In addition, **FIREFLY BOOKS**; (tel. 1-800-387-6192 or fax. 1-800-450-0391 - see *SKY NEWS*), publishers of Terence Dickinson's books, has also given us five of his writings: 2 copies of his latest *Splendors of the Universe* and a copy each of *Nightwatch*, *The Backyard Astronomer's Guide* and *The Universe and Beyond*.

It has been decided to run this raffle from around the beginning of April to the weekend of the SSSP, July 23-26, when the draw will be made. (We are awaiting our Permit Number for the raffle). Members are being polled to ascertain those who will commit to selling a number of tickets towards this, and tickets will be sold at every opportunity from our **ASTRONOMY DAY** festivities, the **STAR NIGHT** and the **GARAGE SALE**.

This is a wonderful opportunity to earn money for our observatory and activities and we ask that all members contribute to the success of the raffle by either selling tickets or buying them! Our special thanks go to **MOTION PICTURE AND SOUND** and **FIREFLY BOOKS**! Please contact David Cornish at 242-7125 for info. or to help out.

MIAC and the RASC Meet

by Kim Mysyk

The Meteorite and Impacts Advisory Committee (MIAC) to the Canadian Space Agency is a volunteer group of geologists and astronomers which serves as the coordinating body for meteorite and impact reporting and research in Canada. The group maintains a web site which contains a large amount of information about meteorites, fireballs and impact structures not only in Canada, but internationally as well (e.g. Chicxulub in Mexico). Links to other meteorite related sites are also included.

A local meeting was convened for those interested in the workings of MIAC. Attending were Dr. Mel Stauffer, Rick Huziak, Gord Sarty and myself.

Until recently, Mel had been the MIAC member for Manitoba & Saskatchewan. His research and teaching duties at the University of Saskatchewan Department of Geological Sciences required that he resign as a full member and become an associate member. Martin Beech of Regina has been appointed by the national MIAC committee as Mel's successor. Gord and Rick are associate members. I am currently in the process of becoming an associate member.

Several topics were discussed at the meeting. The fireball paper (which has recently been submitted for publication) by Gord and Rick, was of interest. We reviewed some of the aspects of the MIAC mandate, which includes informing government and civilian authorities (police, air traffic controllers, journalists, etc.) as to the nature of strange lights in the sky (meteors etc.). We also discussed various initiatives concerning meteorite searches. Peter Brown (University of Western Ontario) is attempting to organize a search for the Brandon area to follow up on the very bright fireball which was observed over much of Saskatchewan, western Manitoba and northern North Dakota on October 30, 1993.

Anyone who observes a fireball should report it to Rick or Gord. Fireball report forms are available from them and also from the MIAC web site. If you have a rock that you suspect may be a meteorite, contact Mel or myself.

The Messier Club

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Rick Huziak (Certified!) | 110 |
| Gord Sarty (Certified!) | 110 |
| Scott Alexander (Certified!) | 110 |
| Sandy Ferguson (hasn't applied yet) | 110 |
| Dale Jeffrey (is applying) | 110 |
| Darrell Chatfield | 109 |
| Bob Christie | 63 |
| Wade Selvig | 57 |
| Erich Keser | 45 |
| Stan Noble | 28 |
| Brian Friesen | 15 |
| Les & Ellen Dickson | more than Terry! |
| Terry Nelson | 8 |

Join the Messier Club!

Observe all 110 Messier objects and earn your

CERTIFICATE!

Each month I'll be posting updates. E-mail in you new numbers! If your name is not on this list and your observing the Messiers, let me know & I'll add you!

Recent E-mails - 10 & 24 Feb. 1998

"Hi, this is Wade Selvig from Shaunavon, e-mailing you from the terminal at the local library. I would like to join in the fun of the Messier Club. So far, I have found 53 objects: M3 to M13, M16 to M25, M29 to M39, M41 to M48, M50, M51, M57, M62, M67, M75, M80 to M82, M92, M93, M97 and M101." ..and on the 24th ..." One final note: over the weekend I found more Messier objects: M79, M1, and M110, bring my Mess. Club total to 57.

***** Dues *****

Membership runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.
Please send payment to the Centre mailbox.

Regular - \$40.00, Youth - \$22.50,

Life - \$720.00

Rides for Astronomers

There are at least four regular Centre members who have expressed an interest in attending meetings, but who need a ride to get to our meeting location. The same situation is, of course, also likely the case for any of our youth members whose parents are unable to make meetings. We would be grateful if any member could offer a ride to and from the General meeting (8:00pm to 10:00pm). To volunteer, please call Erich Keser at 374-4262.

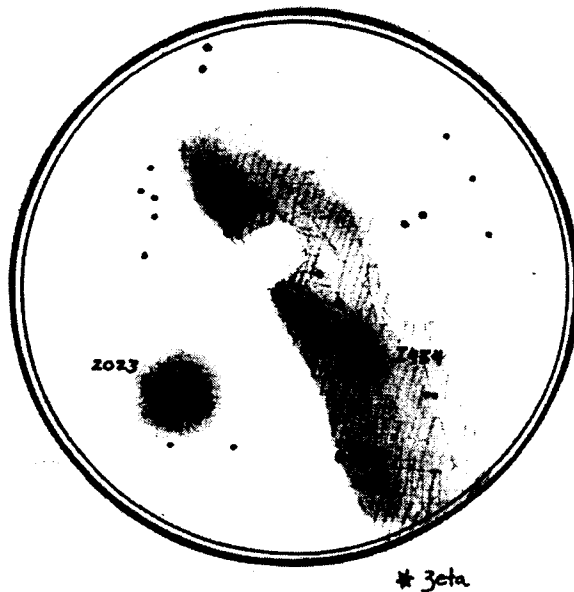
The Colonsay High School Science Fair

The Colonsay High School is holding a science fair on March 18, and the RASC is invited! Al Hartridge, Erich Keser, Terry Nelson, and Yannis Pahatouraglou have volunteered to set up and man the display, which runs from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The purpose of the display is to introduce the potential young astronomers to a wonderful hobby, and to promote the community use aspect of the Sleaford Observatory. The display will feature photo panels, telescopes and the model of the observatory. For more information, or to volunteer your services, call Al Hartridge at 373-0034 or Erich Keser at 374-4262.

Observation of the Month - Keser Sees the Horsehead (or Does He?)

by Rick Huziak

One of my favourite targets to judge the quality of the sky, the telescope and the observer is the Horsehead Nebula in Orion. It is quite difficult to see if you don't understand some of the tricks of the trade for hunting down both faint diffuse nebulae and dark nebulae. The first trick is to use a longer focal length telescope, preferably an $f/8$ or longer, since the contrast is greater. (I've seen the Horsehead in my 4.25" $f/10.8$ scope). Secondly, be persistent - observe the field for a LONG time. The faint nebula needs enough time to get the photons to your eye. Observe for at least 10 or 20 minutes before you give up! Thirdly, when searching for dark nebulae, such as the Horsehead is, you are not looking for what *IS* there, but what *IS NOT!* The Horsehead is a nebula that is not there! It appears as a jet-black ink dot taking a bite out of the very faint nebula of IC 434, and it is even darker than the general 'blackness' of the background sky. First you must see IC 434. Once you've seen IC 434 and the background sky, what's left over - *what isn't visible* - is the Horsehead. Once Erich realized this, he was able to find and hold the nebula steady in the eyepiece. The Horsehead is absolutely devoid of any stars or any fuzz and it had fairly sharp edges. What isn't visible in smaller scopes is the 'horse's chin', which is visible in long exposures. I was quite proud of Erich for '*not*' seeing the Horsehead that night!



This sketch was done by the author through Erich's C-11 ($f/15$) Schmidt-Cassegrain at low power (45X) early in February. North is down. The Horsehead is the 'bay' visible in the large reflection nebula IC 434. Zeta Orionis should be kept out of the field or it's 1st magnitude super-blast overpowers the faint nebulosities in the field.

Minutes of the January Executive Meeting

Monday, January 19, 1998

at the Conference Room, National Hydrology Research Institute, Saskatoon

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Executive- Dale Jeffrey has resigned for health reasons.
3. Membership- There are 6 temporary members at present. There has been a low yield of permanent members from the temporary list this year.
4. Financial Report - Newsletter costs: Hand delivery is saving some money. A photocopier may be available to allow self publishing. Oculars for the loaner scopes: New oculars have been obtained. A motion was made by Rick Huziak and seconded by Scott Alexander and carried that we pay for the new eyepieces.
5. National business -
 - A motion to form a committee on National publications is proposed. Ed Kennedy feels that the new Journal is not being properly edited and proposes a committee to look into this. This motion was seconded and carried.
 - The 98 Victoria GA info. has been received. The possibility of a centre display was discussed.
 - A problem with timely delivery of the new handbooks has occurred. This will be looked into.
 - Secretary's report has been submitted to National.
 - Gord Sarty will again approach National regarding family memberships.
6. Sleaford Observatory Site Report - Friends of Sleaford School Committee has been formed. They are asking for Heritage Status for the old school. We need a meeting to develop a common policy. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES - The university is now also interested in this issue.
7. The Sask. Summer Star Party 1998: A report on the last committee was given by Rick Huziak. It was decided to forego a breakfast in the Meadows. The supper will be catered this year. A leaflet or brochure will be needed for e-mail inquiries.
8. Rystrom Dinner at Station Place Friday Jan. 23. A motion was made by Erich Keser and seconded by Al Hartridge to allot \$20 to the Rystrom dinner and awards. Motion carried.
9. New business-
 - Future speakers: Roland Deschenes(Calgary) and Mark Kaye (Hamilton) are possibilities.
 - Locking cabinet: Darrell Chatfield now has this in his garage.
10. Fundraising: A major proposal has been made by David Cornish. He suggests holding an astronomy program for the public and for the schools at the Centennial Auditorium and inviting Terence Dickinson as the major headliner. Proceeds would go 75% to a large aperture (portable) scope and 25% to the new observatory. A meeting will be held in the near future to discuss the feasibility of this venture.
11. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Minutes of the January General Meeting

Monday, January 19, 1998

at the Conference Room, National Hydrology Research Institute, Saskatoon

1. Meeting called to order at 8:00pm.
2. Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting- carried.
3. Membership - last to renew and welcome to new members. Erich took a pole of those who had or had not received their new handbooks.
4. National business - see minutes of executive meeting. A committee will be struck and will be coordinated by Rick to study the quality of the new Journal.
5. Saskatoon Skies - If there are any suggestions, articles or questions please see Rick Huziak.
6. Sleaford Site Report - Rick Huziak. The new site is being used, there are upcoming articles in the RASC Journal and on Campus.
7. Sask. Summer Star Party 1998. Inquiries and other indications of interest keep coming. The cost of the meal has dropped to \$13.00. Many volunteers still needed.
8. Observing Session Report - there was no activity in December. The next session will be Jan. 30th.
9. Junior Astronomers and Youth Group: Good turn outs are occurring. The program appears to be very successful. The chocolate chip cookies are yummy.
10. Rystrom Dinner - This will be our chance to say thank-you to the Rystroms. Please come out on Jan. 23rd. This will be held at the Station Place at 6:30 pm.
11. New business - A small star party will be held in Osler next Wednesday.
12. Donation: a 486DX computer with CD-ROM and modem has been donated to the Centre.
13. Programs:
 - Collimating Problems and How to Solve Them - Darrell Chatfield.
 - Using Your 1998 Handbook - Gord Sarty.
14. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Minutes of the February Executive Meeting

Monday, February 19, 1998

at the Conference Room, National Hydrology Research Institute, Saskatoon

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Membership: The status of the temporary memberships and renewals was brought up to date. Mr. Ken Noesgaard a previous Winnipeg Centre Vice-present has been located. He now lives in Saskatoon.
3. Newsletter Report: Rick gave an update on newsletter costs. The photocopier that was donated to the club is now at Sandy's and was used to do the present newsletter. This saved us about \$50.00. Hand delivery of some of the newsletters also saved us about \$10.00. Good work editors!
4. National Business: Gord Sarty will put an article in the next newsletter to help bring us up to date with all the latest issues.
5. Sleaford Observatory Site Report: Rick Huziak A meeting with Usask., "Friends of Sleaford" and AHS has occurred. The partnership agreement is still pending. An overall project by project budget has been drawn up by Bill Hydumako.

6. The Sask. Summer Star Party: Registration forms are being worked on by Rick and the Dicksons, June 30th is the cutoff after which there will be a late penalty. The Sat. morning breakfast has been canceled. A justification for the costs of the speakers was given. Publicity articles will be handled by Sandy and Erich. Bob Christie showed a draft of the brochure.
7. Fundraising: The minor fund-raisers are working well but need some attention. A corporate fundraising meeting is overdue. An update with the Dave Cornish proposal was given. Terence Dickinson is not available in April.
8. New Business: Possible future speakers were discussed.
9. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Minutes of the February General Meeting

Monday, February 19, 1998

at the Conference Room, National Hydrology Research Institute, Saskatoon

1. Meeting called to order at 8:15pm.
2. Membership: a welcome was given to Mr. Ken Noesgaard. Not all members have received their handbooks.
3. National Business: Gord Sarty gave a brief report on some of the issues at present but will put an article in the next newsletter explaining the issues at length. Some discussion of the 98 Victoria GA and a centre display occurred.
4. Saskatoon Skies: Rick gave a report and asked anyone with interesting articles or with photographs to submit them.
5. Sleaford Site Report: given by Rick Huziak. The status of and the use of the new site was discussed. An Emergency Procedures Protocol is in progress.
6. Sask. Summer Star Party 1998: Erich says inquiries and other indications of interest keep coming in. The breakfast has been canceled. There still a need for volunteers.
7. Observing Session Report: The last observing session was spoiled by poor conditions. Next session will be Feb. 27th and/or Feb. 28th.
8. Junior Astronomers and Youth Group Report: Both groups were given a slide presentation and talk on astrophotography. On the second Friday the skies were clear and the kids were taken out side to observe and to take an astrophotograph.
9. Rystrom Diner: A good time was had by all. About 30 people turned out for the event. The Rystroms were presented with photograph of Hale-Bopp.
10. New Business: A proposal for a major event in 1999 was discussed.
11. Programs:
 - six winter constellations for beginners-Sandy Ferguson.
 - surprise presentation - Sandy Ferguson informed of winning a National Service Award - Rick Huziak.
 - using and choosing binoculars - video tape of Murray Paulson's presentation.
 - Sask. summer star party 1998- What's happening.
12. Motion: A motion was made, seconded and carried that Sandy be sent to the next GA as an alternate for Gord Sarty provided that the club can provide the 25% of the cost necessary so that she can accept her award at the GA.
13. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.