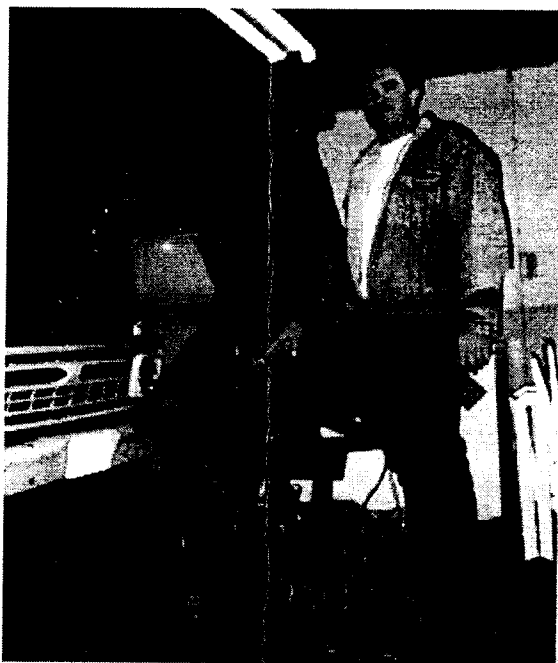


Saskatoon Skies

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

Volume 29, Number 4

April 1998



Distant member Stan Noble of Aneroid, Saskatchewan poses with his home-built 10-inch Newtonian. Stan built the scope with a heavy-duty fork mount to minimize vibration during astrophotography.

RASC Calendar Happenings

Date (1998)	Event	Contact	Telephone
Apr. 13	Executive Meeting at Sandy Ferguson's - 7:30 pm	Erich Keser	374-4262
Apr. 16 - 25	Lyrid Meteor Shower - peak Apr. 22, 0400 CST	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Apr. 20	General Meeting - Nat. Hydrology Building - 8 pm	Erich Keser	374-4262
Apr. 24 or 25	Observing Session at Sleaford Observ'y - 8:30 pm	Darrell Chatfield	374-9278
Apr. 24 or 25	Colonsay Community Starnight - Sleaford - 8:30 pm	Erich Keser	373-4262
Apr. 25	Junior Astronomers/Youth Group - "Kick Off Astronomy Week" - BBQ (if balmy) and OBSERVING NIGHT at the Sleaford Observatory (near Colonsay) 6 pm	Sandy Ferguson	931-3184
May 2	International Astronomy Day - Mall at Circle&8th	Sandy Ferguson	931-3184
May 2	Int'l Astro Day Starnight at Beaver Creek - dusk	Sandy Ferguson	931-3184
May 9	RASC Garage Sale at Corman Park School	Darrell Chatfield	374-9278
May 11	General Meeting - Early due to Victoria Day!!	Erich Keser	373-4262
May 22 or 23	Observing Session at Sleaford Observ'y - 8:30 pm	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

Welcome New Member:

Tyler Cottenie, 30 Steele Bay, Yorkton, SK, S3N 4A3, tel. (306) 783-4461

The March Observers Report

by Darrell Chatfield

The observing sessions were slated for March 27 or 28, 1998. The weather did not cooperate on the 27th, but was favourable on the 28th, Saturday evening. But this time something else was wrong ... I was sick! However, feeling responsible as Observers Group Coordinator, I called up a few people who managed not to be in at the time. So after leaving a message with Brent Gratias, and talking with Larry Grenkow, the guys at least had an option of possibly meeting someone at the site, or going out on their own. As it turned out, Larry went out observing with his binoculars from 9 - 11 pm, meeting up with Rick Huziak, who had arrived at 10 pm. Rick did his usual variable stars until Brent came out at 12 am. Rick was able to impress Brent with the brightest sky objects, such as the arms of M51, globulars and open clusters, and supernova 1998S in NGC 3877. I'm sure Larry and Brent were impressed with the dark sky afforded by the site. A special thanks to Rick on my behalf for helping out. We all hope the weather will be suitable for the observing session in April.

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.

From the President

by Erich Keser

First of all, I want to welcome the many new members who have joined over the past few months, and also encourage the many others I have talked to on the phone or in person to make it out to the next two ordinary meetings. We're taking special steps to try to make meetings more accessible to you, and will have some wonderful guest speakers for each of them.

The April 20th meeting will START with presentations at 8:00 pm and will feature wonderful images and experiences of the February total Solar Eclipse by Edmonton's Murray Paulson and our own Don MacKinnon and Winston Quan (who, with his family, helped 200 people to view it from a Yucatan Aztec temple) plus a great presentation by Edmonton President Bruce McCurdy. Then, on May 11th (early because of Victoria Day) National President Doug George will pay us a special visit. So Debbie A., Anne C., Tony D., Jean D., Barbara E., Floyd K., Chris M., John T., and Eric W. THIS would be an excellent time to finally get your money's worth and let us entertain you!

Notice of Motion:

I will be proposing that we move Executive (or "Council" meetings) to a different night from General meetings, and that we start both at 7:30 pm. The increasing number of Centre activities is making it impossible to meaningfully discuss all our business in the hour between 7 pm. and 8 pm. This means that Council meetings tend to run late and to delay the start of General Meetings. Nevertheless, the Council meetings are becoming so rushed that items are sometimes missed, often postponed, and have even had to be referred to meetings in Donut shop!

OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

- 1) We have an increasing number of youth members and families involved. Late general meeting starts are a big problem for these people, as it becomes very difficult for the meeting to end at a reasonable time for young people who have to be in school the next day.
- 2) We have members who do not have their own transportation, and our meeting location is somewhat awkward to reach by public transit. We want to provide rides for such people, but the present system of back-to-back meetings makes this difficult for executive members.
- 3) While Committees can take care of details and RECOMMEND Centre strategy, major questions which the Executive should discuss arise regularly. For example, the April 13th 7:30 pm special Executive meeting at Sandy Ferguson's will start to discuss issues ranging from fundraising to new site priorities and the long term strategy for the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party, as well as organizational questions.

IMPLEMENTATION: Suggestions are welcome, a couple are:

- 1) To have Executive meetings on the 2nd Monday and General meetings on the 3rd Monday of every month (regularity is important!).
- 2) To have Executive meetings go from 7:30 to 9 or 9:15 pm, and to have one or two committee meetings follow, thus keeping meetings short and cutting down on the number of meeting nights.

To have a short report from Council to the General meeting from 7:30 to start the presentation portion at 8 pm. Please do not hesitate to call Executive members, or write or e-mail with your comments on this proposal. Would the earlier

GM starting time and a consistent starting time for presentation help get you and yours out to more General meetings? If you are on or interested in the Executive, would two shorter meeting nights a month be manageable for you?.

Saskatchewan Summer Star Party:

- How big do we want it to get?
- How much of our Centre's energy and resources can we afford to commit?
- What character do we want it to take, as it grows?
- To what degree dare we compete with other Star Parties?
- Could it be the site of an RASC GA?

Fundraising:

- Do we want to engage in lucrative, but non-astronomy-related activities like bingos? If so to what extent?
- Can we take on a major public fundraising event for Spring 1998? If so, then what should its general outlines be (size, speaker(s), budget, time line, target audience). Can we create an efficacious fundraising Committee?

Sleaford Site:

- Should such resources as the Library be transported out there?
- Should we use secondary sites closer to town for more casual, deep winter and less light-critical events? (We have access to two).
- Are there general issues arising out of the Partnership Agreement?
- Do we, as a Centre, want to set any broad development priorities?

National Questions:

- Concerns over family membership and ideas for implementation.
- Plans for the Victoria General Assembly: Centre display, presentations.

Organizational questions:

- Can we organize better ways to get our many new members involved?
- How could the Executive and Committees function more effectively?
- How can we continue our Youth program?
- How can we do more for our outlying members?
- How can we ease the load for those with multiple responsibilities and get more "new blood" involved?

(Council meetings are open to members. If you have suggestions or want to help with any of this, please contact me or another executive member so that we can discuss ways for you to participate and fill you in on the background.)

Editor's Note: I would like to thank everyone who submitted articles to this newsletter after my February plea. I now have a great many articles to run. Unfortunately, I have to delay a few to the next month due to room restrictions. To help out in reducing editing time, PLEASE submit articles in as plain and unformatted text as you can. In particular, please do not include streams of space characters, or other strange indentations or formatting, since the first thing I have to do is to strip all of this out to fit the general formatting of the newsletter. A single tab is far better. Also, if you can, send the articles as "text without line breaks", or I have to strip out all of the carriage returns as well. All of this is very time consuming. However, please do not let this stop you from sending more articles! I can always use more - and I especially treasure observing articles and ones that deal with astronomy! Printed copies (instead of electronic e-mail or disks) are just fine as well, since I type fairly quickly and have access to a scanner for text and pictures anyway! Thanks everyone for your great support!

The Edmonton Centre Page

by Rick Huziak

Paul and Sherry Visit the Saskatoon Centre

Those who attended the March general meeting were graced by the presence of Paul Campbell and Sherry McLeod of the Edmonton Centre. Paul and Sherry were in Saskatoon for business reasons and coincidentally were able to attend our meeting and meet some of our members. At the general meeting, Paul gave an excellent slide presentation describing the Edmonton's Centre Weekend Astronomy Workshop that they put on each fall. (See a future issue for details on this exciting camp!) They also attended the post meeting Tim Horton's meeting. Since they were in town all week, we were also able to get together for supper one evening and later in the week, I toured them through SED's Radarsat Tracking Station. We were able to schedule the visit during an actual Radarsat pass, so we got to see the antenna in action and heard the downloading data from the satellite. Later in the evening, I toured Paul and Sherry through the University of Saskatchewan Observatory. Since the night was clear, we took the opportunity to look at several objects through the 6" f/16 Cooke refractor, which they enjoyed.

I got know Paul and Sherry at last year's SSSP; they plan to attend again this year. I had a great time with them! And at this year's SSSP, ask Paul how big the badger was!

McCurdy and Paulson to Speak at the April General Meeting

Over the last few years, we've slowly formed a working relationship with the Edmonton Centre. Several of our members have attended the last few Alberta Star Parties (which they jointly run with Calgary and Lethbridge), and the Edmonton members came in droves to the first SSSP. Last year, I also made several trips to Edmonton, either speaking at their general meeting or just visiting at the public observatory - the "Deck". And now, our Centre will be able to meet two of their most prominent members, President Bruce McCurdy, and Murray Paulson.

Bruce is an avid observer, educator and prolific writer. You can almost always find him around the Edmonton Space & Science Centre's "Deck" Observatory, immersed in conversation with the general public on any branch of astronomy. Appropriately, Bruce will be talking to us on just the same topic; a speech describing his "Eleven Years Working in the Observatory Sharing Astronomy with the Public". Bruce has many great stories from the "Deck" experiences.

Many of you met Murray Paulson at SSSP97. Murray was a feature speaker and also guided dozens of observers through the night sky with his highly praised "Binocular Starwalk", which he will repeat at this year's SSSP. Murray was also fortunate enough to have attended the total eclipse in the Caribbean this February, and he will talk on this experience and show many excellent slides of the eclipse. Murray also has a great interest in meteorites, and has a vast collection which he will proudly display if you go drink beer at this house (as I did)! Maybe he'll bring some along!

WHAT PRICE BARGAINS? - A Personal Note

by Erich Keser

A few weeks ago I received a shocking offer: the whole of Burnham's *Celestial Handbook* for \$4.95. This upset me because I'd just read about the sad life of its author in the January issue of *Astronomy*. Robert Burnham Jr. was so little known that astronomers didn't discover that he'd died for almost five years. And his condition, when he died in March, 1993, suggested poverty and neglect; he was suffering from a blood clot, gangrene and pneumonia, all related to an untreated heart attack. In his last communication to the astronomical community, a 1984 letter to *Sky & Telescope*, he'd complained:

"I have devoted over two decades of my life to astronomy, and my CELESTIAL HANDBOOK has been called a modern classic. I am the discoverer of six comets, not to mention thousand of new proper motion stars, which my colleagues...." and he continues *"...As a result my income has rarely risen much above the poverty level..."*

Apparently, Astronomy Book Club discounting practices cost Burnham much grief. Obviously, this shy and reclusive man had personal problems which frustrated those who did try to help him. Nevertheless, receiving the offer of such a give-away price for this monumental work, both as a form letter and as an ad in *Sky & Telescope*, just after reading all this was upsetting. Perhaps it is wise to look more closely at some "bargains". ☺

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, April 20, 1998 8:00 p.m.

The programs will be:

- "Eleven Years Working in the Observatory Sharing Astronomy with the Public" - Bruce McCurdy, President, Edmonton Centre**
- "The 1998 Caribbean Eclipse" - Murray Paulson, Edmonton Centre**
- "How Not to Photograph an Eclipse" - Don MacKinnon**
- "The Eclipse from Chichen Itza" - Winston Quan**

Members and friends are welcome. There is no admission.

The Deep Sky Observer

A Galaxy Cluster in Gemini

by Scott Alexander

This month I would like to look at the constellation Gemini to look for some nebulae from a list that the astronomer, the late Reverend T. W. Webb, compiled in 1850 or 1860, and listed in his book *Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes*. The galaxy group that I will describe has 7 galaxies located near the star Castor. They are called NGC 2373, 2375, 2379, 2385, 2388, 2389 and 2393. These objects were called *nebulae* back then, but we now know they are galaxies.

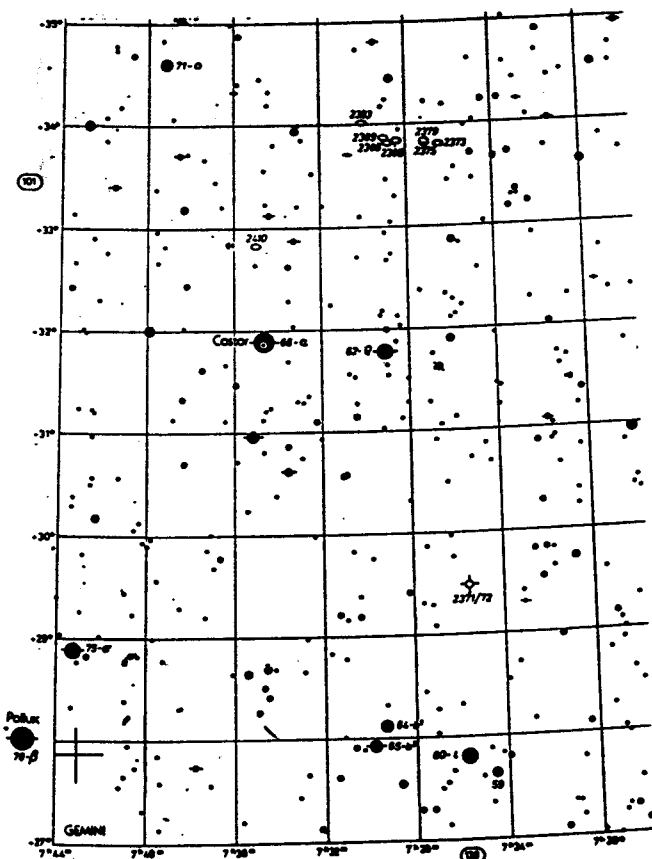
The first object, NGC 2373 is listed at a magnitude of 13.7, but you can try these galaxies with a scope of about 6-, 8- or even 10-inches in size. You don't necessarily need a huge scope to look for fainter objects; experience and a dark sky really count for a lot! Also make sure your optics are clean to reduce light scatter in the telescope. This galaxy is part of a small cluster of about 6 or 7 galaxies. This galaxy is only about 0.8' x 0.6' in size, which means that it is almost edge on and not a face-on spiral. You will not be looking at a very wide or big galaxy, so give it a try. (If at first you don't see anything, keep trying. You will eventually get it).

The next pair is almost right next to NGC 2373. They are NGC 2375 and NGC 2379, and are listed at 13.6 and 13.5 respectively. They are classed as *spirals* [SB(s)b & SA0] in the Hubble classification charts. These galaxies are a bit wider than NGC 2373. Their sizes are 1.3' x 0.8' & 1.0' x 1.0' respectively, so they should be a bit easier to see.

The next four galaxies in this little group are NGC 2385 (mag. 14.2), NGC 2388 (mag. 13.7), NGC 2389 (mag. 12.9) and NGC 2393 (mag. 14.0). All of these galaxies sound very faint for a

6-, 8- or 10-inch scope, but give them a try anyway. You will never know what you can see!

The galaxy cluster is between the right ascensions of 0726.5 and 0730.0 and declinations of +3348 and 3401. Check the chart to see the location of the cluster. Try and have fun with this and consider it an observing challenge!



Reproduced from Uranometria chart 100, copyright Willmann-Bell, Inc, 1987, 1988.

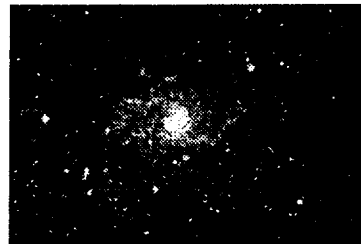
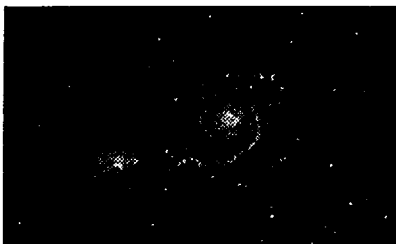


COMET HALE-BOPP

Saturday

The Mall at Circle and 8th.
Between 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM

Display and information tables will be set up along with a display of telescopes and accessories. Free public star night at Beaver Creek Conservation Area starting at dusk.



For more information call: Sandy 931-3184

!!KICK OFF TO ASTRONOMY WEEK!!

FOR ALL JUNIOR ASTRONOMERS/YOUTH GROUP AND THEIR FAMILIES:

DATE: SAT., APRIL 25th
PLACE: SLEAFORD OBSERVATORY
TIME: 6:00 PM

WE ASK THAT EVERYONE BRING THEIR OWN BBQ FARE. WE WILL SUPPLY SNACK MUNCHIES AND DRINKS. PLEASE DRESS WARMLY, WITH WINTER BOOTS, MITTS, ETC. TELESCOPES WILL BE SET UP FOR OBSERVING AFTER DARK. CALL SANDY AT 931-3184 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

!!INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY!!

DATE: SAT. MAY 2nd
PLACE: CENTRE AT CIRCLE & 8TH, (WE'RE SLATED FOR THE "SMITTY'S" AREA)
TIME: 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM

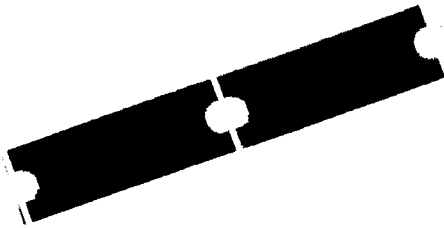
PUBLIC STARNIGHT WILL BE HELD (WEATHER PERMITTING) AT DUSK AT THE BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA.

WE WILL BE NEEDING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP AT THE DISPLAY TABLES DURING THE DAY AND TO BRING THEIR SCOPES TO BEAVER CREEK IN THE EVENING. CALL SANDY AT 931-3184 IF YOU CAN DO EITHER OR BOTH!

!!GARAGE SALE!!

DATE: SAT., MAY 9th
PLACE: CORMAN PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE, BEHIND CORMAN PARK SCHOOL (SALE WILL BE IN ARENA IF WEATHER POOR)
TIME: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

PLEASE SAVE ALL YOUR DISCARDED TREASURE S FOR OUR TABLES. WE WILL ALSO NEED A FEW VOLUNTEERS TO PRICE THINGS AND MIND TABLES. CALL DARRELL CHATFIELD (374-9278) OR SANDY (931-3184) TO ARRANGE FOR DELIVERY OR PICK UP OF ITEMS. LET'S MAKE THIS A REAL SUCCESS!!



Astro Raffle Big Prizes

by Erich Koenig

This is your big chance to help raise money for our new Sleaford Observatory Site and also have a good crack at winning some really neat prizes!

- **A 6" f/8 Celestron Starhopper Dobsonian telescope** donated by Motion Picture and Sound - full price about \$750.00. This is an ideal telescope to start with and to keep forever: **quick** and simple to set up and aim, but with enough aperture to view many deep sky objects, and a **long** enough focal length to provide excellent planetary images.
- **A beautiful print of Comet Hale-Bopp** over a pine forest by renowned Saskatchewan **artist** Glenn Scrimshaw (his donation), professionally framed (as a donation) by Royal Oak Galleries. **Total** value about \$420.00.
- **A pair of Bushnell's new Legacy 7X50 binoculars** donated by Bushnell - full price **above** \$200. These binoculars are a bargain at their full price because they incorporate the **functionally** critical features of megabuck German and Japanese models into an affordable unit.
- **Five of Terry Dickinson's great books**, donated by Firefly Books.

Your chances of winning are excellent because only 2250 tickets will be printed. **Thus, if** you buy three tickets for \$5, your odds of winning a prize are better than one **in a** hundred. Our raffle/lottery application is in, and most of the prizes have arrived. **Gay** Brett has generously agreed to donate his professional services and equipment (**usually** handsomely paid for by companies like McDonald's!) to make signs to use for **bill** displays, etcetera. The final draw will be at 10 PM, July 25th, 1998, at the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party's Saturday evening session, and will be made by Park Administrator Brad Mason, under the Supervision of Father Lucian Kemble (these are the **only two** people who will not be allowed to buy tickets). The provincial approval process will **take** several weeks, but you are welcome to pre-order tickets, both for yourself and to sell **from** Raffle Chair David Cornish (306) 242-7125, e-mail <david.cornish@sk.sympatico.ca>, or through the Centre address.

The **Saskatoon Centre**
of the **Royal Astronomical Society of Canada**
(with the support of the University of Saskatchewan Physics Dept.)

invites

residents of the Colonsay area

ESPECIALLY

Students of the Colonsay School

to a

STAR NIGHT

(Come out and share the magnificent spectacle above with us!)

at the

Sleaford schoolsite

on

Friday, April 24th, 8:30 PM

(in case of cloud, etc. , this will be on Saturday April 25th)

- Please dress warmly and bring your binoculars. A flashlight filtered with red plastic or paper is also very useful.
- We will provide telescopes advice, good cheer, and hot drinks.

NOTE:

- Surface conditions and Safety Concerns (the presence of children) may make it advisable to park along the roadside.
- This is also advised so those who arrive later avoid blasting those of us already stargazing with their bright headlights.

For further information, please call:

Erich Keser (306) 374-4262
(President, Saskatoon Ctr, RASC)

*The Messier & Finest
NGC Club*

MESSIER CLUB

Rick Huziak (Certified!)	110
Gord Sarty (Certified!)	110
Scott Alexander (Certified!)	110
Sandy Ferguson (is applying)	110
Dale Jeffrey (is applying)	110
Darrell Chatfield (is applying)	110
Bob Christie	69
Wade Selvig	57
Erich Keser	51
Stan Noble	28
Brian Friesen	15
Les & Ellen Dickson	still more than Terry!
Terry Nelson	11

FINEST NGC CLUB

Richard Huziak (is applying)	110
------------------------------	-----

*Join the Messier and Finest NGC
Club!*

Observe all 110 Messier and FNGC objects and
earn your **CERTIFICATE!**

Now that many of us have complete our Messier Certificates, we've added the Finest NGC list to our program. The list can be found in the Observer's Handbook. 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 or FNGCs, let me know & I'll add you!

***** **Dues** *****

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

Regular - \$40.00

Youth - \$22.50

Life - \$720.00

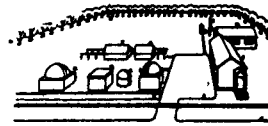
*The University of Saskatchewan
Observatory Hours*

During April, the U of S Observatory will be open to the public on Saturday evenings from 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. During May, June, July, the hours will be 10:00 p.m. - 11:30p.m. The observatory is located on campus one block north of the Wiggins Avenue entrance off of College Drive. Visitors may view a variety of objects through the 6" telescope. Admission is free. Group tours of the observatory can be booked for Friday evenings. For further information, phone the recorded Astronomy Information Line at 966-6429. ☺

For Sale: A Tasco 4.5" Newtonian telescope, 3 eyepieces, moon filter, equatorial mount with tripod. A few years old - bought new from MPS. Excellent shape. \$250 OBO. Call Gerald Friesen 244-9918.

The Sleaford Page

by Rick Huziak



First-off, I really should correct a bit of a misleading point I made in February's column. Although it was Les Dickson who informed me of the Colonsay's plan to expand their outside operations, it was really Ellen Dickson who first came across the story. Give credit where credit is due!

Although weather was very poor throughout February, the observatory received a few observing visits, and one by Darrell and myself to deliver 10 metal lockers which have been donated to the RASC courtesy of SED Systems. These are half-height lockers intended for use for securing Centre property, such as eyepiece, atlases and the C5, and also envisioned for personal storage. The exact method for getting a locker is still being worked out.

March was a better story, with better weather, and so several visits to the site; especially near the end of the month. The mud only lasted about a week in front of the warm-up shelter, so that's over with. And the Meridian road south of the 'jog' is also fine now, making the trip to the observatory just a bit shorter.

Safety-wise, there is now a first-aid kit on site (donated by the U of S), and other accessories such as several atlases and a hair dryer. Please make use of the site and enjoy yourselves! Remember to bring your own water if you want coffee!

Minutes of the March Executive Meeting

Monday, March 16, 1998

at the Conference Room, National Hydrology Research Institute, Saskatoon

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.
2. Motion by Al Hartridge and seconded by Scott Alexander that we renew the subscription for Sky and Telescope. Carried.
3. National Business: Ed Kennedy talked about the quality of the editing of the Journal which he feels is unacceptable.
4. Sleaford Site Committee report: given by Bill Hydromako. The committee met to discuss the overall and project by project budget. A first aid kit has been given to the site by the University. Rick is coordinating emergency procedures for the site. Friends of Sleaford have withdrawn their request to RM council.
5. Colonsay School Science Fair - Mar. 18th. Al Hartridge, Sandy Ferguson and Terry Nelson will organize and transport the displays. There will be two sessions. 2-3 pm. and 7-8:30 pm. There is also a proposal for a Sleaford Star Night on April 24 or 25th. The school principal is also requesting three school presentations.
6. Fundraising - Dave Cornish. A major raffle proposal has been made by Dave Cornish. He already has some very exciting items available to raffle off. A garage sale is being organized by Sandy and Darrell and will be held at Corman Park School in May. Minor fund raisers such as collection of bottles and coffee fund are adding up. Terry Nelson has a line on some possible corporate donations.
7. Sask. Summer Star Party: Dates for the next five years have been proposed and Erich would like permission to book for the next three years soon. We need many Volunteers to carry the event off.
8. Proposal for separate executive and general meetings. Many would like to see separate nights for the two meetings. Also we would like see more astronomy presentations and much less business at the general meeting to keep members interested in continuing to come out. There will be a separate executive meeting on April 13th at 7:30 pm. The next general meeting will be on April 20th at 8:00 pm.

9. Other Business:
 - News Letter Report - Rick update on newsletter costs.
 - Future Speakers - Murray Paulson, Bruce McCurdy, Dr. Michael Bietenholz.
 - Centre Weight loss program - Inventory help needed.
 - Oratory and rotation model has been loaned to our Youth Program by the university.
10. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes of the March General Meeting

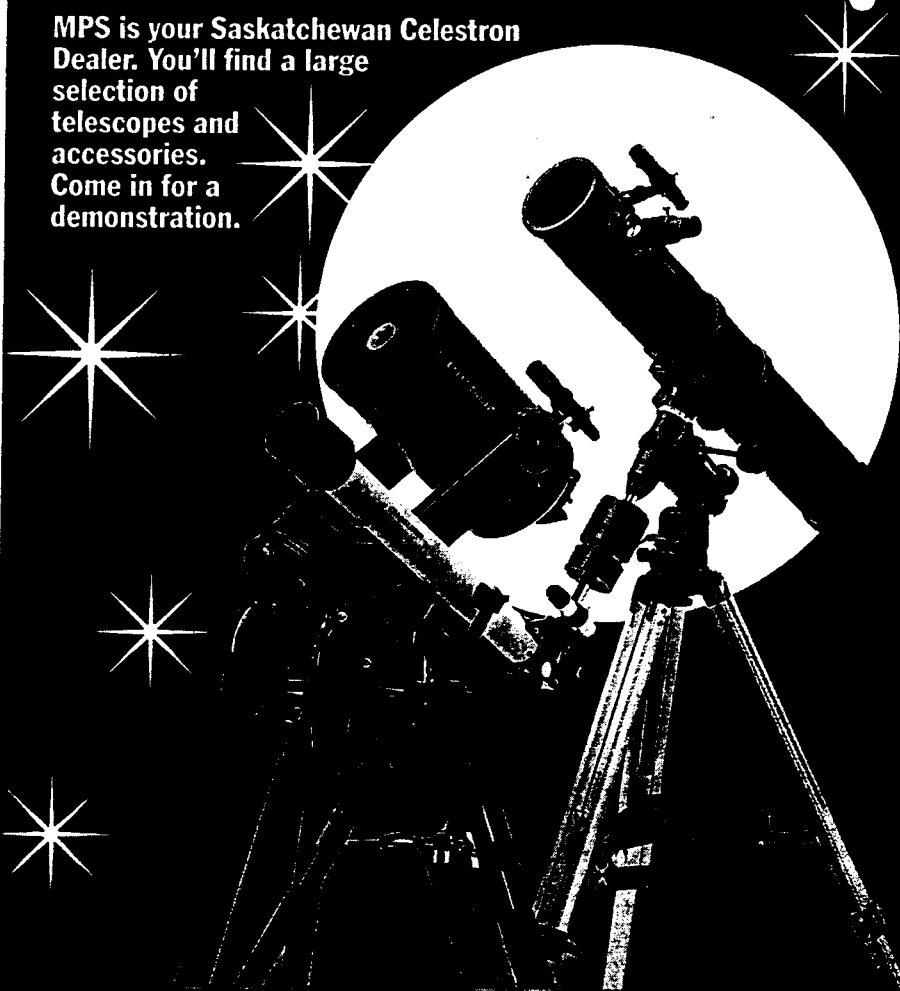
Monday, March 16, 1998

at the Conference Room, National Hydrology Research Institute, Saskatoon

1. Meeting at 8:00pm.
2. Fundraising Report: Dave Cornish presented the items that he has obtained for a raffle to raise funds for the new observatory. There was a great deal of discussion as to how this should be handled. The fundraising committee will make the final decision. A licence will have to be obtained before the raffle can be held. The draw for the prizes will be held at the Sask. Summer Star Party.
3. Membership: Welcome to new members Helen Dean and Christopher Dean. Another quick appraisal was made as to who has and hasn't received the handbook and Sky News.
4. National Business:
 - National Report is in the current newsletter - any questions answered.
 - 98 GA - Who is going? - Display and presentation help is needed.
5. Saskatoon Skies - report by Rick.
6. Sleaford Site Committee Report: The priorities for spring were discussed. The U of Sask. may make a 6" f/8 Newtonian available to the site. Eetook will be fitted with a Telrad to make it easier to aim.
7. Observing Session Report: A small group showed up at the new site but were clouded out while just a few kilometers to the west the sky was perfectly clear.
8. Junior and Youth Group Astronomers Report: Sandy talked about upcoming events including a proposed barbeque and observing session at Sleaford on April 24th or 25th.
9. Separation of Executive and General meetings: please see executive minutes. We need much more astronomy and much less business at the general meeting. Members come to learn more about astronomy and do not want to be bored by hearing about the problems of the executive. Let's strive to have more talks, discussions, reviews and presentations at the general meetings. That means members may be asked to take part.
10. New Business:
 - garage sale - Sandy - at South Corman Park School May 4th.
 - bottle drive - Darrell - the collection of bottles is adding up to a substantial sum. Please continue to offer your empties to the club.
11. Programs:
 - Astronomy Workshop - hosted by the Edmonton Centre - Paul "Badger" Campbell - dates of October 17th, 18th and 19th. Sounds like a good deal!!
 - Books and ATM stuff for sale - Doug Miller.
 - Fireball in Greenland - proposed asteroid strike in thirty years & the supernova 1998S in NGC3877 - Rick Huziak.
12. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

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