

Saskatoon Skies

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

Volume 29, Number 10
October 1998



The newsletter editor and his new 10" f/5.6 Newtonian. This scope was constructed in a weekend from a partially made tube assembly that was formerly owned by past-member Doug Miller. The scope features a reuse of the solar scope mount. Thus only one mounting has to be carted around since it fits both tube assemblies. The scope is decorated with (broken) cloud patterned wallpaper and has a 'star and moon' border around each end. So far, it's been a hit with kids during school talks. Photo by the editor.

RASC Calendar Happenings

Date (1998)	Event	Contact	Telephone
Oct 16 or 17	Starnight for Saskatoon Space Club at BCCA	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Oct 16 or 17	Observer's Group Session at Sleaford Observatory	Darrell Chatfield	374-9278
Oct 16 or 17	Training Session - Motion Picture & Sound at Sleaford	Erich Keser	374-4262
Oct 16-18	Edmonton Astronomy Workshop	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Oct 19	Dinner with Duchesne at Great Buffet - 6:00 pm	Erich Keser	374-4262
Oct 19	RASC Annual General Meeting & Elections - 7:30 pm	Erich Keser	374-4262
Oct 21-22	Orionid Meteor shower peak	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Oct 23	Youth Astronomers Meeting at S. Ferguson's - 7:30 pm	Sandy Ferguson	931-3184
Nov 1	Possible Meteor Burst watch near beta Cygni	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Nov 14-17	Leonid Meteor Storm Watch	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Nov 16	RASC General Meeting - 7:30 pm	Erich Keser	374-4262
Nov 20 or 21	Observer's Group Session at Sleaford Observatory	Darrell Chatfield	374-9278

*** Welcome New Members ***

The Saskatoon Centre would like to welcome the following **NEW** members!!

John Fraser, Box 171, Colonsay, SK, S0K 0Z0, tel: (306) 255-2032

Eyassu Yitbarek, PO Box 2869, Region 14, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, tel: 11 88 39

GET A BETTER START FOR LESS BUILD YOUR OWN SCOPE WITH STARGAZER STEVE

You'll see more with this exceptional long-focus scope that you've made yourself in a day! Follow the video to success!

IN EVERY KIT:

Deluxe Plasticised
"Night Sky" Starfinder
by David Chandler
correct for your
latitude.



"... an ideal project for a parent and child to work on together
...I felt a tremendous sense of discovery."
- Scott Barrie in Nov/Dec'97 Sky News

"...exquisite craftsmanship... a great school science project...
...veterans will have fun with it too."
- Glenn Chaple in Dec/97 Astronomy

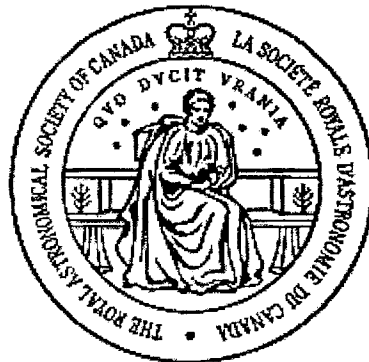
THE 4 1/4-INCH DELUXE REFLECTOR KIT
\$299.00 from Stargazer Steve.

1752 Rutherglen Cr. Sudbury, ON P3A 2K3, Tel: (705) 566-1314
Website <http://ww2.isys.ca/stargazer>

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
 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 3rd of each month.** *Saskatoon Skies* accepts commercial advertising. Please call the editor for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items free of charge.



An Now...The Annual Elections

The Annual Elections for the RASC Saskatoon Executive positions will be held at the October General Meeting. An Executive position is open to any member of the Centre in good standing. Positions are chosen by democratic vote by the membership. Note that most positions are one-year terms, and "up for grabs" means that the term is up (not that we're necessarily punting that person!). The same person can be renominated for consecutive terms with some restrictions. Anyone can nominate anyone else OR themselves for a position. Voting is done by a show of hands by those present at the General Meeting. In the event that you cannot attend the meeting, nomination by proxy will be gladly accepted. Please send these proxies to the Centre mailbox or give to a member of the current Executive.

The following Executive positions are available:

Position	Current	Status	Current Nominations
Honorary President	J. E. Kennedy	appointed	
Past President	Rick Huziak	not vacant -assumed	N/A
President	Erich Keser	not vacant - 2nd year of two year term	N/A
Vice-president	Darrell Chatfield	not vacant - 2nd year of two year term	N/A
Secretary	Al Hartridge	up for grabs	
Treasurer	Mike Williams	up for grabs, Mike resigned	Jim & Barb Young
Centre Rep.	Gordon Sarty	up for grabs, Gordon resigned	Sandy Ferguson
Newsletter Editor	Richard Huziak	up for grabs	
Librarian	Ellen Dickson	up for grabs	
Activities Co-coordinator	Sandy Ferguson	up for grabs	
Activities Co-coordinator	Brian Friesen	up for grabs	
Membership Coordinator	Les Dickson	up for grabs	
Fundraising Coordinator	Terry Nelson	up for grabs	
Councillor	Bill Hydomako	up for grabs	
Councillor	Dale Jeffrey	up for grabs (resigned)	
Councillor	Bob Christie	up for grabs	
Councillor	Scott Alexander	up for grabs	
Councillor	Merlyn Melby	up for grabs	
Councillor	Kim Mysyk	up for grabs	

If you know you have something to contribute to your Centre, please participate by voting or becoming a member of the Executive

President's Report

by Erich Keser

Good to see you all! The September 21st General Meeting was graced with the presence of some members who've faithfully paid their dues for years, but seldom managed to make meetings. Debbie Anderson is a nurse who often worked that night, but managed to make it out, as she'd also participated in SSSP. And just five days later, Debbie and her husband Guy were there helping at our Beaver Creek Public Star Night with their brand new Meade 4.5" reflector! Jean Dudley's work at Kelsey has also tended to keep her away, but she not only helped at the meeting (especially with overheads!), but has also offered to handle Firefly Book sales for our Centre. Terry Dençsak, whose driving job usually keeps him away, also finally managed to make it. And there were also a number of new faces, and even one or two young ones.

As our growing Centre strives to service members as far away as Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Kamloops, BC, and throughout much of Saskatchewan, it is also important to continue to communicate regularly with local members whose busy schedules and other commitments mean that we will seldom see them. They include long time supporters like Dr. James Wood, who practices in the University Choir on Monday nights and Halyna Turley who leads a very busy life as a school principal and educator. If we are really conscientious about letting them know what is going on then we're bound to see them out at the site, or at one of our events, sooner or later.

FUTURE MEETINGS will be better. Roland Deschenes, coordinator of the senior section of the Calgary Centre's three part Youth Program will give one of his excellent presentations on how to reinforce and get good use out of a small telescope. In November we should be having a professional presentation by a professor from the University Physics department. In December, there may be presentations by a couple of RASC members from out of town, and in January the Hamilton Centre's Mark Kay will be including us in a speaking tour of prairie Centres with a "dynamite AV presentation" as he himself describes it. More suggestions for speakers and topics are always welcome, as are your own presentations. Please contact me at 374-4262 with your ideas.

SASKATCHEWAN SUMMER STAR PARTY - August 13 - 15, 1999 - Just a note that we've received confirmation of the 35 accommodation units (2 and 3 bedroom condos, one and two bedroom cabins and hotel rooms) that we have block-booked for the convenience of participants. Please be sure to send Ellen and Les Dickson (tel: 249-1049) your \$10.00 to secure the unit you want, to offset the deposit fee that our Centre has paid, and please do remember that the full first night's deposit will have to be paid by February 1999 to hold the unit for you.

SLEAFORD SITE: BIG STEP TAKEN Good news! On Friday October 2, Site Committee Chair Bill Hydromako and our VP and Construction Coordinator Darrell Chatfield spent a blustery weekday (sacrificing a workday/day off) out at our Sleaford Site putting in piles. An almost voiceless Darrell (he already had a bad cold when he went out!) later related how they'd spent most of the day waiting for and pouring concrete, tamping and leveling it, sawing off sonotube, installing bolts and so forth.

This great contribution has eliminated an critical bottleneck since these piles will provide the foundation for extending the warm-up shelter on the north (road) side. This extension will provide the space for the toilet many of you had asked about, as well as allowing us to finally expand the rather cramped space in that building.

Please be ready to help if you can, on the coming Saturdays, evening or Sundays. There is a great deal of work to be done. Such projects as moving the Rystrom dome and taking off the old siding and framing, insulating and re-sheeting the shed will require a major mobilization of eight to a dozen people. However, there are also many useful tasks which two or three people, or even a single person, should be able to complete. Not all of them involve heavy physical work either; some are as simple as light clean-up and sorting through and organizing our belongings (and junk).

As far as the toilet is concerned, Darrell is investigating the two model lines on which Al Hartridge obtained information. I've also put out a call for advice, experiences and other possible buying options from others on the RASC list. Several Centres (including Halifax, Calgary and I think Winnipeg) have similar installations, and may be able to help us to make a final decision.

Last year, around this time, we thought that we'd never get the Warm-up Shelter out there and wired up in time for winter! Maybe we'll surprise ourselves again! Sandy (931-3184) and Brian (384-2963) will be telephoning members and supporters when help is most needed, but why not let them know that you can or want to help before they call you?

Yes, *Cosco* once again has quite capable Meade 4.5" telescopes in stock at a bargain price of under \$300.00 for this equatorially mounted reflector complete with two eyepieces. Also, *Motion Picture and Sound* has brand new 6" f/8 Celestron Starhoppers for sale for \$600.00 plus only one tax. Check out these bargains if you want a telescope.

Junior and Youth Astronomers Meet

by Erich Keser



The first meeting of the Junior and Young Astronomers at Sandy Ferguson's place was a sight to behold! There must have been three dozen kids and about a dozen adults crammed into her little apartment. The enthusiasm was palpable, as they watched slides of SSSP youth activities and some videotape of the "*Joy of Wonder*" play. Youth members (ages 12-16) will be paying a \$10 materials fee, and getting a copy of the *Beginning Observer's Guide*. Junior members will pay the same fee and be given a copy of a new handbook that Sandy is putting together, partly with the help of an *Astronomy Society of the Pacific* guide that the Centre has bought for this program. Both groups will, in the future, meet at Nutana High School at which the Public School Board has generally provided classroom space, partly in recognition of the many presentations we do for them. Please call Sandy Ferguson at 931-3184 for further details.

YOUTH GROUP MONTHLY MEETING - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23rd - 7:30 p.m.

Sandy's Place at 11-238 Main St. Highlights: Fall Constellations & Messier Objects; Learning to use the new scope; and observing! DRESS WARMLY!! Sandy: 931-3184

Rostern Starnight - A Busy Time for Two Astronomers!

by Dale Jeffrey

September 24th found Sandy Ferguson and me at Rosthern School, delivering an afternoon seminar on astronomy for grades 3 through 6. In addition, the students performed the "*Joy of Wonder*" play as written by my wife Whendi; a dramatic history of astronomy presentation featured previously at Cypress Hills this past summer.

Poor skies refused to cooperate for a star night which was planned to follow the afternoon seminar. Instead, on the following Tuesday, Rick Huziak and I set up our telescopes in the local football field, and had the privilege of showing Jupiter, Saturn, the moon, M31, and M13 to over 250 enthusiastic students and the parents and teachers!

However, Rick's trip to Rostern was far from uneventful. Rick managed to drive almost to Wakaw on the *wrong* highway before he realized where Rostern really was! Despite having to backtrack through Saskatoon to pick up the Rostern highway, and adding almost 150 kilometers to his trip, he managed to arrive only 10 minutes late! [Me drive fast - Ed.]

This event was a great success according to the principal and teachers of Rosthern Elementary School, Rosthern High School, and Rosthern Junior College. As a token of their appreciation, they donated \$50.00 towards the development of our Sleaford Observatory!

"I'm a Variable Star Convert!" - True Confessions

by Dale Jeffrey

For months now I've been looking for an observing project which could absorb my attention during those nights when excessive moon glow prohibits deep sky observations. Now don't get me wrong: I believe the moon and planets to be entirely worthy objects, but I wanted a little more!

Enter Rick Huziak.....After several conversations in which Rick enthusiastically described the awe and joy which could be experienced whilst looking regularly at variable stars, I finally agreed to at least look into it. You see, I was intimidated. I felt somewhat out-gunned by the few *Sky and Telescope* articles I had read on the subject. It seemed that to enjoy variable star observing you needed a graduate degree in astrophysics, and backyard equipment rivaling Mount Palomar!

Now enter David Levy. His latest book, "*Observing Variable Stars*" (Cambridge University Press, 1998) is subtitled, "*a guide for the beginner*", and for once I had a resource which even I (a scientifically untutored theology major) could understand! It contains excellent finder charts, and takes pains to assure it's readers that the Keck telescope is not required. One can actually do reasonable science in the variable field with a small amateur telescope, or a pair of binoculars, or even the naked eye.

Now on my desk I have Levy's well-thumbed book, my *Uranometria*, and some more variable charts which Rick downloaded for me from the *American Association of Variable Star Observers* website. Looking at my observing log, with all the blank areas due to excessive moon-glow, I am pleased to have another reason to get out and enjoy the mysteries of the universe.

Sky Buys and Mirror Sells

Wanted: Binoculars 10x70 or 11x80 - Please call Brent Gratias 653-2657 - or E-Mail <thunderb@home.com>.

Still Wanted: Donations of building materials for the Sleaford Observatory site. We'll take miscellaneous 2x4's, 2x6's, 4x4's etc., plywood (even partial sheets), nails, screws, white paint, primer. Every little bit helps. I will pick up. Call Rick Huziak at 665-3392.

Wanted: E-mail addresses of members! It's a lot quicker to disseminate information about the Centre if we have you're e-mail address on file. Please call Erich Keser at 374-4262, or better yet, em-mail him at <keser@duke.usask.ca>.

You are invited to the
General Meeting and Annual Elections of the Saskatoon Centre
Monday, October 19, 1998 at 7:30 p.m.
Conference Room, National Hydrology Research Institute building
Innovation Boulevard

Topics:

- **Annual election** of the Saskatoon Centre Executive Council
- **Roland Dechesne** (Calgary Centre) - *Small Telescope Selection, Modification and Use*

Mr. Dechesne's topic: Choosing a first telescope can be a daunting challenge for a beginning amateur astronomer. The wide range of styles, sizes, options, costs and, manufacturers can leave anyone with head-spinning choices. Knowing a little bit about the physics of optics allows the consumer to tell when the manufacturer has cut corners to save costs, or is even lying about the product (yes, it happens regularly in the small-telescope market).

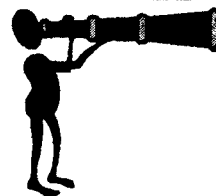
What can inexpensive telescopes show of the night sky? Sometimes a small 'scope can be a real turn-off to astronomy, instead of a turn-on. Simple modifications can make most small telescopes more usable and we'll examine some easy changes that anyone can do. I'll also talk a little about what's going on in our club - Youth Group, telescope for lend, observing projects, etc. and show some of the wide-angle photography I've been attempting."

Roland Dechesne has been interested in astronomy for 21 years and started out observing with binoculars and later with a 60 mm refractor which has been modified over the years. Current observing programmes include sun spot sketches with the 60 mm refractor, galaxy-hunting with an 8 inch Schmidt-Cassegrain and piggy-back astrophotography. Roland teaches the advanced class of RASC Calgary Centre's youth group, and also is the Centre's public event coordinator and 2nd Vice President. He is also the President of the Calgary Science Network, which coordinates public science events, science workshops for teachers and scientist-in-the-classroom programmes.

November's meeting: **Dr. Chary Rangacharyulu**, Professor of Physics, U. of S. - *"The Subatomic World of Astronomy and Cosmology"*

Star Clusters and Galaxies in Cas, Cep and Peg!

by Scott Alexander



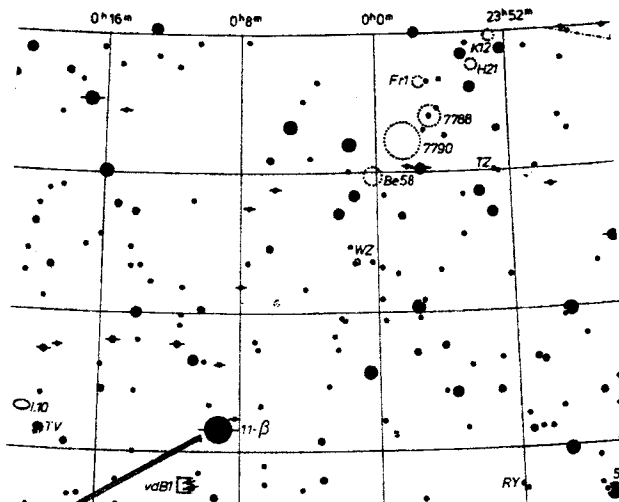
This month I will be looking into the constellations of Cassiopeia, Cepheus and Pegasus for some very nice objects. First of all, into Cassiopeia for some tough open clusters that require an 8- to 10-inch or larger telescope to see. The first one to try and find is NGC 7790, the brighter cluster in a chain of clusters. The magnitude of this object is 8.5, so you could see this one with a pair of 10x50 binoculars from a dark sky sight. The cluster would look like a faint haze in the binoculars. A better view is to use a telescope. There are not a lot of stars in this cluster - only about 40, from information I found in the *Deep Sky Field Guide to Uranometria 2000*. Despite this, this is a very pretty cluster.

Next to NGC 7790 is another cluster called NGC 7788. This one is just a bit tougher at magnitude 9.4. It is also a lot smaller in size and has a lot fewer stars. This one has 20 stars and also has a star sitting right on top of the cluster that helps you see it better. Both clusters are in the same field of view of my 20mm Nagler eyepiece that I used when I saw these clusters with my 14.5-inch Dobsonian telescope.

Also, just out of the eyepiece field is another tougher cluster called Be58. This cluster is at magnitude 9.7 with 30 stars packed close together so that they look like a small haze. I was not able to see all of these stars because on the night that I looked there was a bit of haze. But on a clear night, you should be able to see most of them. This cluster is on the opposite side of NGC 7790 from NGC 7788. The cluster was harder to see than either of the other two, but you could still make out a haze where the cluster was.

The next cluster to find is a lot harder. Go back through NGC 7790 and keep going through NGC 7788 for about the same width as the three clusters together. You will come to a triangle of bright stars. This is where you will stop to find two more clusters called H21 and K12. (The 'H' stands for 'Harvard' and the 'K' for 'King'). They are clusters that I read about on page 203 of the newest *Journal of the RASC*. Both of these clusters are at magnitude 9.0, so they are both fairly easy to see. H21 has only 20 stars while K12 has 15. So they are a bit dimmer than their magnitudes say. Give both of them a try. There is also one other cluster in this chain, but it is almost invisible. It has only 4 or 5 stars that I could see. Its name is Fr1 (Frolov 1).

The coordinates of these open clusters are between 23h52m and 00h00m right ascension and 61 and 62 degrees declination. These clusters are just off of the star *beta* in the 'W' of Cassiopeia.



The open clusters described in the article stretch out from beta Cassiopeiae. This illustration is from chart 35 of *Uranometria 2000*, copyright Willmann-Bell, Inc., 1988.

Now for the next objects to look at. These are in the constellation Pegasus and are galaxies called NGC 1, NGC 2, and NGC 16. The RA of these galaxies is between 00h07m and 00h10m and between dec. +27 and +28 degrees. These galaxies are for those with 10-inch or bigger telescopes because they are at magnitudes 12.9, 14.2 and 12.0 respectively. However, the two 12th magnitude galaxies could be seen in a telescope as small as an 8-inch. I saw them as faint streaks of light almost edge on. NGC 2 was invisible to me on the poor night in which I viewed NGC 1 and NGC 16.

The last objects to look for are called NGC 6939 and NGC 6946. NGC 6939 is an open cluster, while NGC 6946 is a face-on galaxy. The RA for NGC 6039 is 20h31.4m and the dec. is +60d38m. It is at magnitude 7.8. NGC 6946 is at RA 20h34.8m +60d09m with a magnitude of 8.8, so both of these objects are visible in 10x50 binoculars from almost anywhere! I saw them from my dad's yard with two bright lights not far from me. The open cluster NGC 6039 is a spread out cluster with about 80 stars in it. The galaxy, NGC 6946 is a face-on spiral with a bright center and diffuse arms.

I hope you enjoy finding these objects. Take your time. It is more fun that way. See you next month. Good luck and clear skies!

The 1999 RASC Calendar is Now Available.

This edition features a larger size, 10 by 12.5 inches (was 8.5 x11). Also, all photos are in colour for the first time. The 1998 edition was the "Best Calendar" winner in the Ontario Printing and Imaging Association's annual competition. The same high quality has been retained in the new, larger, 1999 version. Copies will be available for sale at the October meeting. Excellent Christmas gift!

The Sleaford Page

by Rick Huziak

Longitude: 105 deg 55' 13" +/- 13" W **Latitude:** 52 deg 05' 04" +/- 8" N

Caution to users of Sleaford Site CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES!

Work on the Sleaford Observatory continues despite the now somewhat unfavourable fall weather. After a great effort by Darrell Chatfield and Bill Hydromako to get all of the concrete figured out and the piles poured, on Saturday, October 10th, Darrell, Bill, and I managed to finally get the Rystrom Observatory loaded onto a Dasher Courier flatbed truck and moved to the new Sleaford site. Darrell and Bill did a large amount of preplanning for the move, including drawing the blueprints for the dome piles, deck and shelter extension, and lining up the flatbed. Despite failing weather, we hoisted the dome, building bottom and 700 pound pier onto the truck and tied it down. Erich Keser also showed up to give a TV interview about the move to CFQC-TV (CTV). On the Sleaford side, we were met by a large RASC contingent, including Sandy Ferguson, Les & Ellen Dickson & Brian Friesen, all of whom had arrived to witness the move, and to dig a bit of dirt up from around the warm-up shelter.

SUMMIT WORK CREW MAKES NAKED EYE OBSERVATIONS OF NIGHT SKY WITH KECK II

News from the Internet - taken from Mel Bartels <mbartels@efn.org>

(MAUNA KEA, HAWAII) - Not many people have had the opportunity to take their first-ever look through a telescope from the summit of Mauna Kea, where the pristine atmosphere overhead allows some of the best "seeing" available anywhere on Earth. For most of us, seeing the wonders of the heavens the first time usually takes place in a backyard through binoculars or small refractor telescopes. If you've been introduced to the night skies with a large reflector telescope in the 8-inch to 16-inch class, count yourself lucky.

On Thursday, December 11, 1997, a small crew of about 30 W. M. Keck Observatory employees made astronomical history when they stood on the Keck II Nasmyth platform and looked into the light path of a 10-meter telescope during night-time observations.

Unencumbered by digital cameras or optical eyepieces, the assembled few looked directly into the beam of light straight off Keck II's tertiary mirror.

"Jupiter was the size of a baseball, and the full moon, about 3.5 meters in diameter," said Keck optical engineer Mike DiVittorio. "With Jupiter you couldn't see the whole planet at once, but you could see the bands clearly and the color was nice.

"The highlight, though, was looking at the moon. It was fabulous. I could have stared at the terminator of the moon all night long - we had a crater on the edge where all you could see was the ridge. The crater was about the size of a Danish (pastry)."

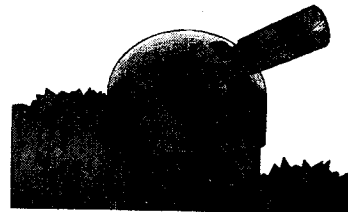
The star-party was a gift from observatory management to the summit work crew, which labors day after day and sometimes well into the evening to keep the twin 10-meter telescopes ready for astronomers.

The "star party" was actually the first hour of an "engineering night", observations that checked out a new optical configuration (f/40) using an electronic camera. The f/40 Nasmyth focus will be used for the observatory's upcoming suite of f40 infrared instruments.

But for the group that gathered for a naked-eye look at what a 10-meter telescope can produce, it was a chance "to see something pretty - the beautiful side of astronomy," said DiVittorio.

Besides Jupiter and its cluster of Galilean moons, the observers viewed Saturn and could see the shadow of the rings on the giant planet.

But it was earth's moon projected onto a portable movie screen that took everyone's breath away, said DiVittorio. Even with the screen, only a fraction of the moon could be shown. Still, after a few quick computations, DiVittorio determined that the observers saw earth's moon as if viewed three feet back from a spaceship window with the spaceship orbiting about 300 miles above the surface of the moon. "It was spectacular! It was first time an organized group has used a 10-meter telescope in this way. And for some of the summit crew, it was their first time ever looking through a telescope. And it was a 10-meter!"



The Messier, FNGC & H-400 Club

MESSIER CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

Rick Huziak, Gord Sarty, Scott Alexander, Sandy Ferguson, Dale Jeffrey, Darrell Chatfield

Bob Christie	99
Wade Selvig	63
Erich Keser	51
Tyler Cottenie	33
Stan Noble	28
Terry Nelson	21
Les & Ellen Dickson	still more than Terry!
Brian Friesen	15
Brent Gratias	11

FINEST NGC CLUB

Richard Huziak (applying)	110
Gordon Sarty	50
Dale Jeffrey	40
Darrell Chatfield	40
Scott Alexander	30

HERSCHEL 400 CLUB

Rick Huziak	318
Gord Sarty	some
Darrell Chatfield	59
Scott Alexander	beginning

Join the Messier, Finest NGC and H-400 Club!

Observe all 110 Messier, 100 FNGC or 400 H-400 objects and earn your

CERTIFICATE!

Now that many of us have complete our Messier Certificates, we've added the Finest NGC and Herschel 400 lists to our program. The first 2 lists can be found in the Observer's Handbook. The Herschel 400 list will be available at each general meeting for 50 cents (covers photocopying) or can be mailed out on request to distant members. Each month I'll be posting updates. E-mail or phone in you new numbers! If your name is not on this list and you're observing the Messiers, FNGCs or H-400's, let me know & I'll add you on!

The Messier, FNGC and H400 lists are meant to promote observing! Please send in your observations of these objects, and I'll publish them in the newsletter!

Just Got to Join the RASC? - Well - it's the start of the new membership year. Please renew now!

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

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

Minutes of the Sept. Special Executive Meeting

Monday, Sept 1, 1998

held at Al Hartridge's House, Saskatoon, 7:30 p.m.

1. **Report by Honourary President, Ed Kennedy** - Ed reminded the executive how important it is to preserve all of the Centre's archives.
2. **The SSSP** has become our largest single activity. 1999 will involve a number of important changes:
 - a revised split with Regina is proposed - 75-25 or 80-20.
 - unlimited publicity also proposed.
 - a weekend in Aug. will be chosen which may conflict with Mt. Kobau.
 - guidelines on how much we want to invest in speakers and or presentations.
 - a contract for rooms & booking involving a \$200.00 deposit is on hand to be signed.
3. **Fund Raising** - net gains:
 - Raffle - \$3600.00
 - Silent Auction - \$700.00
 - Bingo License has come through
 - Bottles - \$360.00
 - Rick's summer presentations -\$250.00A fund raising committee & coordinator is needed.
4. **New Site Report:** Bill Hydomako. University construction discussed, the outhouse has been moved and painted, the school has been painted by the friends of Sleaford, the hole for pier in the 10' dome has been dug, the electrical wiring to be completed and brought to spec., 10' dome has to be moved from Rystrom farm.
5. **Upcoming vacancies and election** - Mike Williams and Gord Sarty are resigning.
6. **Future Meetings:**
 - Big report on SSSP including finances, slides and video to be organized for Sept. 21.
 - Report on GA, including awards to our members.
 - Roland Deschenes to give presentation in October.
 - Possible speakers for Dec. and Mark Kay for January.
7. **Proposal on Meetings:** We decided that the matter would be reconsidered in light of experience. Five months and three meetings have gone by. The change made to starting with the presentations has proved popular but only three were preceded by a short executive meeting. On discussions with over a dozen members and members of other centres, it is recommended that:

Motion: by Sandy Ferguson and 2nded by Les Dickson and carried that General Meetings start at 7:30 pm. and end by 9:30 pm. Carried.

Motion: by Al Hartridge, 2nded by Darrell Chatfield that executive meetings be held at least every second month on a separate night. Carried.
8. **Other Business:**
 - Firefly books - all copies sold.
 - RASC Calendar - sold 17 copies.
 - Skywatcher's Trivia Calendar - sold 8 copies.
 - Partnership agreement - discussion with Don MacKinnon to get on track.
 - Public Starnight at Beaver Creek - Brian Friesen has notified media.
 - Centre copy of Sky and Telescope - Darrell will get Mike to reorder.
9. **Youth Group Discussion** - Sandy already has 25 kids - she will try to find a larger meeting place such as the Meewasin Valley office or the Marr Residence.
10. **Meeting adjourned** at 10:30 pm.

**Minutes of the General Meeting
Monday, Sept.21, 1998**

held at the National Hydrology Conference Room, Saskatoon, 7:30 p.m.

1. **Meeting called to order** at 7:30 pm.
2. **Star Night Requests** - Rick says there have been a number of requests for star nights:
 - Oct. 15 or 16 the Space Club requests a star night , there could be as many as 100 people, a silver collection will be taken.
 - Martensville. Valley Manor star night - no date set as yet.Rick will need volunteers to help at these events. Please offer your time.
3. **Presentations:**
 - Sask. Summer Star Party - a nice slide presentation was given by Erich Keser.
 - GA in Victoria - presented by Erich Keser.
 - University Roll Off Shelter - Yannis brought the club up to date on what has been happening with the university observatory.
 - Sleaford Site - Darrell Chatfield described what has been done at the site recently and the proposed upcoming events.
 - Whitetail Star Party - a great spot for a star party - Bob Christie presented slides on the club's first ever star party at this new site.
4. **Fundraising Efforts** - have been very successful to date. An exact figure is not available at this time but it would appear to be around the \$5,000 mark. This has been brought about by the Raffle, Silent Auction, Sale of Calendars and Firefly books, bottle drive, donations, and stipends paid to members who have made presentations to special groups. Our first BINGO also made just over \$400.00. WE NEED ALL MEMBERS HELP TO MAKE PROJECTS LIKE THIS A SUCCESS.
5. **Budget for the new site** (Bill Hydromako) - Presented by Darrell Chatfield.
6. **Meeting adjourned** at 10:00 pm.

MINUTES of the EXECUTIVE MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1998

held at Sandy Ferguson's Apartment, Saskatoon, 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Erich Keser, Darrell Chatfield, Les Dickson, Brian Friesen, Al Hartridge, Sandy Ferguson, Rick Huziak, Jim and Barb Young, Mike Williams, Scott Alexander, Bill Hydromako.

1. **Mike W. presented us with his figures** regarding the financial position of the club to date. Some of them were:
 - SSSP 1999- Mike will carry forward T. Nelson and Fels memberships, and not the money for meals from this year's star party. These people paid, but did not attend. This amount was \$92.00.
 - SSSP 1998 - net amount was \$582.00, less than anticipated.
 - Raffle, Bingo account - \$4400.00 is available after expenses.
 - Jim and Barb Young have offered to take over the job of treasurer as a co-position. They would have 2 votes at General meetings, and 1 executive vote. Carried.
 - Funds split with Regina was agreed to be 25% net. Carried. Our funds were discussed, with all agreeing to carry all funds forward to 1999 SSSP.
 - Mike suggested we need to keep \$600.00 in general account to pay club insurance by Oct. 15/98, and that we should take wiring expenses off our books this year that were incurred at the Rystrom site. Carried.

2. **Exec. Council:** there is no need to appoint a book coordinator as an Exec position, as in Jean Dudley. Council is already large enough. All positions are open for nominations, except Pres. and Vice Pres., which are 2 year positions.
3. **Sleaford:** Bill gave a report on activities. Bill & Darrell have tried to get out to pour piles for the 10' dome, etc. It has been too wet. Bill generated a task list that showed we need 200 - 300 hours of labour to complete the dome, deck, and warm-up shelter extension, and wiring. Brian & Sandy will be the phoning tree people. Rick volunteered to pick up any lumber donations for the site.
 - Terry Nelson will need a proposal from the club to take to the Colonsay mine people for possible site funding. We need someone to apply for a matching grant from National office. Erich suggested we ask for \$3500.00.
4. **National:** Sandy Ferguson will be going to the National Council meeting on Nov. 7 & 8/98 in Montreal. Erich talked about youth and family membership rates. Jim Young said under the present system, he could pay for 2 adults, and a youth membership. Erich proposed applying for membership certificates, after having been a club member for over 5 years. Rick Huziak talked about the physical look of the national certificates i.e. the Messier certificate. These may be changed to be more appealing.
5. **Local:** Erich Keser proposed a token gift for major speakers, such as money, or a framed picture.
6. **Newsletter:** Brian Friesen has donated use of a Rezzographic machine in the printing of our newsletter text only. Photo pages could be done at Perky's Copy Center.
7. **Misc.:** - we need to deal with handbooks. Gord Sarty got invoiced for the last shipment. It would be easier to handle these on a consignment basis. Carried. Erich Keser to e-mail Bonnie Bird re. this issue.
 - - Erich talked about the telescope loaner program. Do we need upgrades? Our fund now sits as \$95.
 - - The sale of Firefly books has been taken over by Jean Dudley.
 - - RASC calendars for 1999 - 9 left, out of 40. 10 are on consignment.
 - - A *Simply Accounting* software package was donated by the Youngs
 - - The \$40 cost to renew the U. of S. mailbox was carried.
 - - Erich mentioned that we need a fund-raising coordinator.
8. **Adjournment** - by Brian F.

Dining with Dechesne

Any members and their families that would like to meet the October General Meeting's guest speaker Roland Dechesne are welcome to attend an informal dinner in his honour preceding the Monday general meeting.

Where? Great Buffet of China
When? 6:00 p.m. October 19, 1998

Contact? Erich Keser (306) 374-4262



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