

Saskatoon Skies

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

Volume 30, Number 05

May 1999



Tyler Cottenie, Yorkton member, displays his 4.25-inch Newtonian at the February 25th RASC Starnight in Yorkton. Sandy Ferguson tells us what this starnight was like. See the story inside.

RASC Calendar Happenings

Date (1999)	Event	Contact	Telephone
May 14	Youth Group Meeting - 7:30 pm	Sandy Ferguson	931-3184
May 14 or 15	Observers Group at Sleaford	Darrell Chatfield	374-9278
May 17	RASC General Meeting - 7:30 pm	Erich Keser	374-4262
May 21	Naked Eye Occultation of Regulus	see article	
May 22	International Astronomy Day - display at Lawson Heights Mall	Brent Gratus or Brian Friesen	653-2657 384-2963
May 22	Int'l Astro Day Star Night at Beaver Creek	Brent Gratus or Brian Friesen	653-2657 384-2963
Jun 11 or 12	Observers Group at Sleaford	Darrell Chatfield	374-9278
Jun 21	RASC General Meeting - 7:30 pm	Erich Keser	374-4262
Aug 13 -15	Sask. Summer Star Party at Cypress	Erich Keser	374-4262

Sky Buys and Mirror Sells

The Saskatoon Centre's Swap and Sale Page!

Wanted: Construction materials for the Sleaford Observatory - We'll take 2x4's, 4x4's, 2x6's, 2x8's, nails, screws, rebar, concrete, landscaping materials, plywood, siding and any other useful construction stuff. *Spring is here - it's time to build!* We will pick up - call Rick Huziak at 665-3392.

For Sale: Great astronomy books: *The Messier Album* (Mallas & Kreimer) \$10.00, *Introduction to Practical Astronomy* (Jones) \$10.00.). Call Darrell Chatfield, tel. 374-9278.

For Sale: 10" Dobsonian telescope, f/5.6, good optics, finder & 5 eyepieces (35mm, 20mm Plossl, 12mm Kellner, 6.3mm Plossl, 2x barlow). Asking \$700.00. Contact Norm Pourier, RR#3, North Battleford, SK, S9A 2X4, tel: 445-0458.

For Sale: 1-1/4" filters - Lumicon OIII and Light Pollution (Deep Sky). Call Darrell Chatfield for pricing and trials. tel. 374-9278.

For Sale: Tasco Model 11TR 4-1/2" aperture, 900 mm f.l. Newtonian telescope. Comes with 20 mm and 4 mm eyepieces, 2X barlow, moon filter, equatorial mount and tripod. Call Gerald at 244-9918.

Wanted: Old bed sheets and pillow cases (white, coloured, print, flat or fitted) to be used for Kid's Kostumes at the Cypress Hills Star Party. All contributions gratefully appreciated, no matter what condition the sheets are in! Call Sandy Ferguson at 931-3184 or bring to the next General Meeting.

Saskatoon Centre

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IN THIS ISSUE

	<i>page</i>
Calendar of Events & Sky Buys and Mirror Sells	2
A Bright & Very New Supernova for Small Telescopes - <i>by Rick Huziak</i>	4
Astronomy in the Schools & Elsewhere - <i>by Sandy Ferguson</i>	6
Astronomy Day - <i>by Brent Grattius</i>	8
Consumer Report - The Omcon Plossl Eyepieces - <i>by Rick Huziak</i>	9
The Messier, Finest NGC and Herschel Club - <i>by Rick Huziak</i>	11
Record the Naked Eye Occultation of Regulus - <i>by Joan & David and Dunham (IOTA)</i>	12
Motion Picture & Sound Training Session a Success - <i>by Rick Huziak</i>	13
The Sleaford Page - There are Jobs to Do!	14
Minutes of the April 19 General Meeting - <i>by Al Hartridge, Secretary</i>	15

Saskatoon Skies is published monthly by the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC. Distribution is approximately 140 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, attached .GIFs, .JPGs or similar. Send e-mail submissions to the editor at <huziak@SEDSsystems.ca>. Submitted materials can be returned upon request. Please send articles in "generic" formats, with standard grammatical formatting appreciated - 5 spaces at the beginning of paragraphs, two spaces after periods, one space after commas. 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 26th of each month.** *Saskatoon Skies* accepts commercial advertising. Please call the editor for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items free of charge.

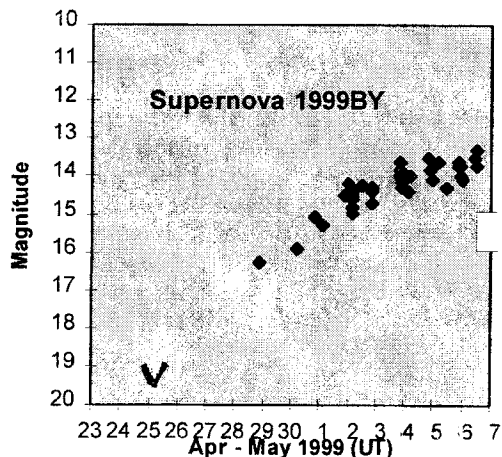
A Bright and Very New Supernova for Small Telescopes

by Rick Huziak

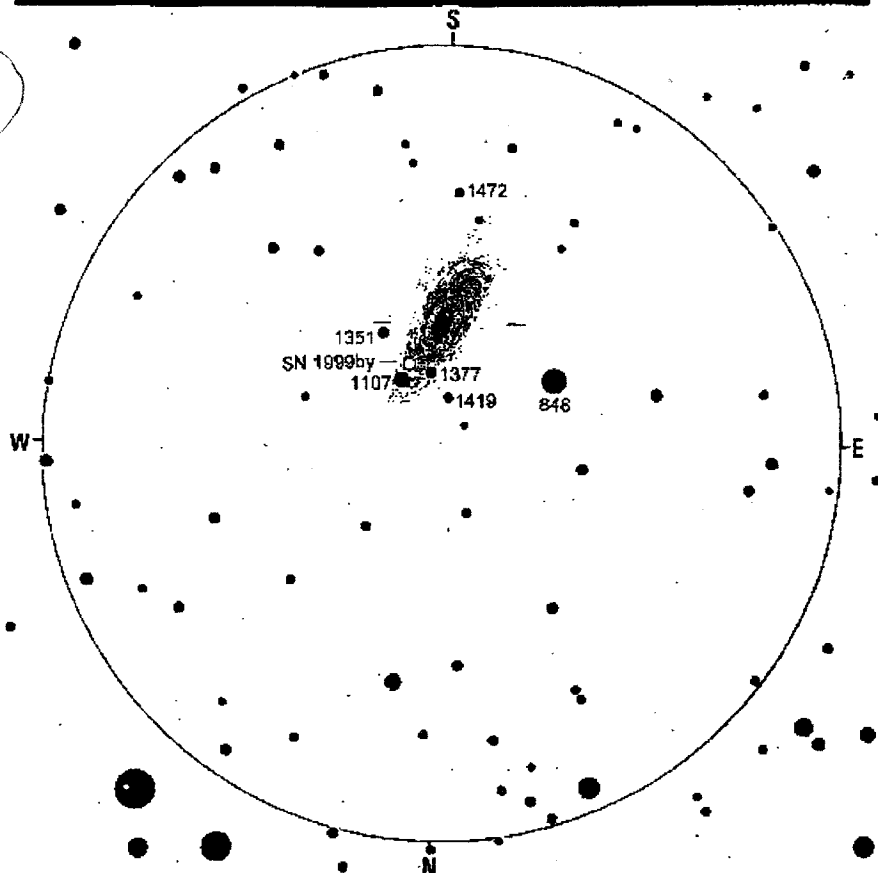
The brightest supernova in the last 3 years is now visible in almost any telescope. This supernova, designated SN 1999BY, was found on April 30, 1999 while still brightening. The supernova is located at 0921.9 +5100.1, at the NW edge of the bright, 10.5 magnitude galaxy NGC 2841. NGC 2841 is located 2 degrees SW of theta UMa (in the Great Bear's front feet), and 15 minutes SE of a 4.5 magnitude star (still known as) 37 Lyncis. This galaxy is plotted in Sky Atlas 2000, and in Norton's Star Atlas (where in older versions it is identified as Herschel I 205). The supernova was found independently by British amateur astronomer, R. Arbour, and by the Lick Observatory Supernova Search (LOSS). When first imaged on CCD, the supernova was near magnitude 15.7.

This galaxy and supernova are very easy to see. I first observed the galaxy easily from my backyard in Saskatoon on May 4 using my 10-inch f/5.6. The galaxy and its fuzzy body were easy to see despite Saskatoon's background lighting. The supernova was about 14.0 magnitude, but barely visible. By the time you read this, the supernovae will have brightened substantially and will be easy to see. It will be visible for the next few months for variable star observers who will follow it as it brightens, then fades from view somewhere beyond the 17th magnitude visual limit for larger scopes. Use the accompanying chart from AAVSO to identify the supernova, and attempt to make magnitude estimates. (Note - the chart records the magnitudes to 2 decimal places, i.e. 1107 = 11.07 magnitude. Round these to ONE decimal place and make your estimate to ONE decimal place only!) Identify the supernova carefully. I'd love to hear of your results.

Imagine - this event is the explosion of a single star - briefly brilliant enough to outshine the other 100,000,000,000 stars in that galaxy!! Were any planets destroyed along with their civilizations? Or did those fortunate to be further off witness a new star in their sky as bright as the full moon or better? We won't ever know since even if they survived this blast, these poor creatures would have died from natural causes more than 50,000,000 years ago - when here, on earth, tiny proto-mammals still had recurring nightmares about their now-lost dinosaur tormentors!



NGC 2841	Sky Atlas 2000 – 6	Mag 10.5
	Scale: 10" = 1 mm	Dim 8'.1 x 3'.8
	RA (1950) 09 18.6	Dec +51° 12'
	RA (2000) 09 22.0	Dec +50° 58'



Ursa Major. H.I 205. Has a small bright nucleus. Limiting magnitude ~15.0. Approximate distance modulus 30.6. Expected maximum brightness SN Type I – 12.1. Sequence revised from Corwin and Frueh on Thompson/Bryan chart to Skiff photometric reference file 5/1999 (vsnet-alert 2917).

Chart taken from AAVSO web-site at <http://www.aavso.org/>. Chart is copyright AAVSO 1999.

ASTRONOMY IN THE SCHOOLS (and ELSEWHERE)

Sandy Ferguson Talks at Yorkton's M.C. Knoll School

story & photographs by Sandy Ferguson

It's amazing how much astronomy one can stuff into a season! Although we've been taking astronomy to the schools for a long, long time, this past winter/spring was by far the busiest for me since 1985/86, when Comet Halley had the world in a flap. Looking at my calendar for the first part of the year, I see that from the third week of January to the last week of March there were only FIVE WEEKDAYS free of anything astronomy related! The rest of the period was spent taking slide presentations, demonstrations and the like to various schools in the area, a week at Victoria School operating and taking classes into Starlab, two six-week classes for Grade 7/8 gifted students in the Catholic School Board (a thoroughly DELIGHTFUL experience!), a winter observing workshop for the Recreational Technology students at Kelsey, three workshops for Grade 6 students at Fr. Vachon School, a U of S observatory tour, some Brightwater starnights with Rick, and a two day junket to Yorkton to give presentations and help with their starnight at M.C. Knoll School, where Centre member Helen Dean teaches. Whew!

The Yorkton trip, particularly, was great fun. Jim Huziak gave a brief account of the starnight in last month's Saskatoon Skies, but I'd like to expand a bit on the visit. This trip was under the auspices of *Innovators in the Schools*, which, at the request of teachers and other educators, sends people like ourselves out into the schools to bring science to the students. Helen had asked that we bring a slide presentation and help with a starnight planned for her class.

I hopped on the bus for Yorkton in the morning of February 25th and arrived just after lunch. Helen picked me up at the station and we went immediately to the school, where the afternoon was spent introducing two kindergarten classes to the

solar system and constellation myths. During recess we set up the 6" reflector Helen has in her classroom and entertained everyone by projecting the sun (no spots...). After school was dismissed we loaded up this telescope, as well as Helen's 75 mm refractor and various other bits and pieces and sped off to the starnight location to set up in daylight. On the way we picked up Tyler Cottenie, our Youth Group Yorkton member (who also attends the school), and stuffed him and his 4-1/4" reflector in the back, amongst other astronomy gear.

M.C. Knoll's music teacher, Audrey Martel, and her husband Grant had graciously invited us to hold the starnight at their farm a few miles outside of town. It was a great spot! They had cleared the snow from an area by their garage, which protected us from some of the wind, but still gave good views in all directions. We set up the scopes, then flew back into town to have dinner, before returning for the starnight.

When we returned, it was twilight and as we drove in the long lane to the farm we could see the four planets available that week - Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn, which were strung out at an angle in the west. Jim Huziak had arrived with his 13" 'scope, so we had a total of four telescopes available for the crowd that turned up, which turned out to be over 60 parents and students by night's end! Over the course of the starnight everyone had a chance to see the planets, features of the winter constellations, such as the Orion Nebula and Pleiades and, yes, even the moon at gibbous phase. Audrey and Grant had set up hot chocolate in their garage, which was really popular with everyone. The night ended around 11:00 pm, when the last of the stragglers headed back to town.

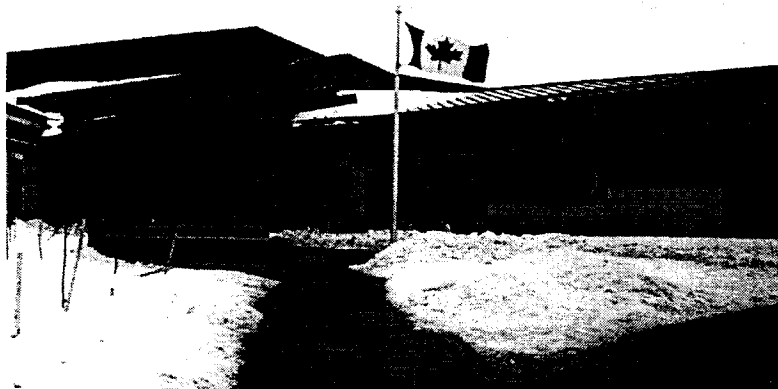
The next day, the 26th, was really busy, as it was a full day of presentations to all the other classes. We didn't have an opportunity to look at the sun this time, as the weather didn't cooperate, but Helen decided to take the telescope out more often so that the class could do some solar

observing on a regular basis. After school ended we packed up for the trip back to Saskatoon.

It was a great visit to Helen and Tyler's school and a terrific opportunity to meet the students and other teachers. Already they are planning a starnight for the fall!



Helen Dean projects the sun with Tyler's 4.25 inch telescope.



Helen's MC Knoll School – where Sandy did the talks.

Cover and these photos by Sandy Ferguson.

International Astronomy Day by Brent Gratijs" <thunderb@home.com>

One day each spring, astronomy clubs, planetaria, and other groups of sky lovers band together to show the public how much fun astronomy can be. *"To promote the forerunner of all scientific endeavors and to provide information, resources, and encouragement in all facets of astronomy"* is the official reading, but showing that astronomy is fun is really what it's all about.

This year that day is Saturday May 22. We are planning a display at the Lawson Heights Mall for Astronomy Day this year, followed by a **public starnight at the Beaver Creek Conservation Area** after dusk.

Our mall display from 9:30am to 5:30pm will consist of a few tables set up to display written materials, an area to display member's telescopes and equipment, as well as a photographic exhibit and poster type displays. We would also like to set up Rick's solar telescope outside one of the entrances for the public to view the sun.

Our display is only as good as the members who contribute to its success. Bring in an album of your best astronomical pictures, your favorite astronomical book, the meteorite you found in a field last year, anything you can think of which might fire the public with a love for our hobby. Of course the greatest draw at events such as these is seeing, up close, the primary tool of our trade. Our **Telescopes!**

All who are able are invited to spend at least some time at this "once-a-year" event. Members are required to man the tables, man the solar scope, field questions from the public and to supply their scopes for the people to see. Following this, the public will be invited to Beaver Creek at dusk. Once again members and their scopes are greatly appreciated. **If you are able to contribute, even in a small way, please contact Brent 653-2657 or Brian 384-2963.**

Astronomy Day is a great way for our club to gain visibility in the community. Having the public look through our telescopes and at our displays can generate a good deal of publicity, especially when we get the local press involved. Besides, it could also add to our membership roster. Perhaps most important, Astronomy Day is fun and a good boost of morale for the club. It brings us together for a day of sharing our love of the sky with others.

This NEWSLETTER, with the exception of the cover page, is copied on a Risograph Model TR1510 copier at 3 pages per second!

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Consumer Report - The Omcon Plossl Eyepieces

by Rick Huziak

I'm delighted with the recent purchase of a new set of eyepieces! I have replaced my 20-year old junk set of Kellners and Orthoscopics with a new set of Omcon brand 4-element Plossls. I chose these eyepieces for a few reasons; I got to see them at Blaire Colborn's display at last year's SSSP, and the price was right! (See *Blaire Colburn's ad on the last page*). My new set consists of a 32mm, 20mm, 12.5mm and 7.5mm. This set, on my 10-inch f/5.6 scope, gives me a nice range of magnification (45X, 73X, 114X, 189X). The eyepieces are fully coated and cost only \$85 for the 32mm and \$65 each for the other sizes. The images in these eyepieces are actually very good; I have no real complaints, except that on the 32mm, there is a fair amount of light drop-off around the outside edge. I suppose I will get used to this, and it is hardly noticeable for most observing. The cure for this defect would be to buy top quality 6-element Plossls for 4 or 5 times the price, so I'm more than satisfied with this eyepiece! Drop-off (vignetting) is not noticeable on the other sizes.

I bought this set for another reason - I do a lot of school kid presentations and star nights. The Plossls give brighter images, wider fields-of-view, and better eye relief than my old set, making the views more impressive for the kids. Also, at these very reasonable prices, my heart does not stop every time a kid puts his or her sticky fingers or tongue on the lens!

I highly recommend these eyepieces; and especially as an up-grade set for small telescopes, or as a high quality, low-cost kick-around set. By all means, if you have the financial resources to pick up some of Blaire's top quality pieces, do so! Your telescope is only as good as the eyepieces you have!

Please renew now

It's not too late!

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

Regular - \$40.00

Youth - \$22.50

Life - \$720.00

You are invited to the
General Meeting of the Saskatoon Centre
Monday, May 17, 1999 at 7:30 p.m.
Conference Room, National Hydrology Research Institute building
Innovation Boulevard

Presenting:

Cats in Space
Bill Brooks, Western Space Education Network

Bill Brooks is a long time educator and the Executive Director of the Western Space Education Network. Bill works closely with the Canadian Space Agency. He will be speaking about "*Cats in Space*", *Shuttle flight Number 96*, for which Canadian Astronaut Dr. Julie Payette will be the Stowmaster, and will stock the International Space Station for its first six month crew. The reference to cats will become clear during his multimedia presentation.

This event is open to the general public. There is no admission charge.

Sheet Donations for SSSP'99

The RASC would like to thank the Sandra Savage and the Meacham 4-H Club for a donation of a large bag of sheets and pillow cases that will be used for kids' costumes at the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party! Thanks for helping us make the SSSP a success!

Did you know?.....

.....Did you know that for years, telescope makers have kept a decades old secret, but now, the truth has been leaked out this month. According to reputable sources quoting a now-deceased unidentified veteran telescope maker, the proper way to perforate a Cassegrain mirror is to point it into the radiant of the Perseid meteor shower, and wait. This is why so many mirrors take so long to complete, the sources says.

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	(applied!!)	110
Wade Selvig		64
Erich Keser		51
Tyler Cottenie		33
Stan Noble		28
Brent Gratius		26
Terry Nelson		21
Les & Ellen Dickson		18
Brian Friesen		15

FINEST NGC CLUB

Richard Huziak (now certified)	110
Darrell Chatfield	85
Dale Jeffrey	83
Scott Alexander	71
Gordon Sarty	63
Sandy Ferguson	...23

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!

The race is back on! With better weather, I've noticed that several members are out observing again and have sent in their updates - Brent Gratius, Darrell Chatfield, Scott Alexander and Gord Sarty have all been doing deep sky observing this month. Please get your new number to me as soon as you can!

Send to <huziak@SEDSsystems.ca>

HERSCHEL 400 CLUB

Rick Huziak	321
Darrell Chatfield	158
Gord Sarty	96
Scott Alexander	70
Sandy Ferguson	...18

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

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

CERTIFICATE!

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!

Record the Naked-eye Regulus Occultation on Video, May 21-22

taken from an Internet release by the International Occultation Timing Association (IOTA)

Joan and David Dunham <dunham@erols.com> (edited)

A spectacular naked-eye occultation of Regulus by the first quarter Moon can be recorded directly with most camcorders from nearly all of the USA, Canada, and much of Mexico Friday night, May 21st-22nd. The event will be visible from most of North America, but it occurs in daylight or very bright twilight in Alaska, westernmost Canada, and the northwest corner of the USA. For [Western Canada], this will be the last naked-eye occultation for six years.

Please try to make the most locally of this last good occultation opportunity; pass on local information about the event to colleagues, friends, and relatives, especially those with camcorders, not just to fellow amateur astronomers, since this is an event that does not need a telescope. Information about the occultation, including some camcorder observing information, is on pages 109-110 of the May issue of *Sky and Telescope*

VIDEO TIMINGS, COORDINATION: In order for others, including most amateur astronomers, in your area to obtain accurate timings of the occultation when they don't have a receiver for WWV or CHU short-wave time signals, arrangements need to be made for someone to record the time signals along with a local TV station to create a master tape. [Note that the person who makes the master tape doesn't need to have ANY knowledge of astronomy, but just needs to have a camcorder, ordinary TV set, and a short-wave receiver for time signals...Then others can use the local TV station as a time reference. The procedure is briefly described in the *S&T* articles, and more[information about this technique can be found on the IOTA web site]. Many observers are

likely to access IOTA's Web site through the Skypub site given in the *S&T* article, so we would like them to see a local TV station selected as a timebase in your area. Please send the TV station that you select to me and/or to iota@qni.com so that we can list it, and your e-mail address, on our Web site.

PREDICTIONS: Maps, views of the Moon, and lists of the predicted times of the Regulus occultation for about 300 North American cities are given on the Web site of the International Occultation Timing Association (IOTA): <<http://www.lunar-occultations.com/iota>>.

One view of the Moon shows the disappearance and reappearance locations for several of the larger cities, with more legible blowups for each event. Also, there are maps that show the progress of the Moon's shadow across the continent, allowing times and circumstances to be estimated for any location in the lower 48 States and southern Canada. There is also a list of the simple steps that owners (or borrowers) of camcorders in those areas can take to make a scientifically valuable recording of the occultation. There are two versions of that timing item, a generic one and one for the Baltimore, Maryland area, as an example of how the generic timing information can be modified for local use.

A small telescope will be needed to see the bright-side reappearance. For Saskatoon and area, the occultation disappearance will occur about 9:35 p.m. (May 21) and reappearance about 10:42 p.m. CST. For eastern Saskatchewan (Yorkton) the disappearance will be at about 9:41 p.m. and reappearance at about 9:51 pm. Good observing.

University Observatory Hours for Public Viewing

The U of S Observatory is open to the general public every Saturday evening. Admission is free. The observatory is located on campus, one block north of the Williams Avenue and College Drive entrance.

Hours:

May - July 10:00 pm - 11:00 pm

August 9:30 pm - 11:30 pm

On clear evenings visitors may look through the 6-inch refractor to view Venus, Mars, the moon, star clusters and other exciting astronomical objects. For further information, phone the recorded Astronomy Information Line at 966-6429.

Motion Picture & Sound Training Session a Success (Despite More Bad Weather Reporting!)

by Rick Huziak

On May 8th, the RASC conducted a training session for the employees of *Motion Picture & Sound*, in part to fulfill a promise made for their donation of a telescope for last year's SSSP fund-raising raffle. Despite threatening weather, it was decided to conduct the session anyway, since the forecast was for building clouds, maybe showers, but then *clearing!* Past-member Christine MacCaulay brought an array of MPS telescopes and her staff, Lori, Rob, Heather and Gordon.

As we were beginning, a second crew arrived, Janet Carlson, Marion, Danny and Scott Carlson, Sandra and Carleen Savage, Kevin and Heather Poncellet, all representing the Meacham community and the Meacham 4-H Club! With this crew, we ended up with at least 13 people at the site for this session.

I began with a tour of the observatory facilities. Then we set up the MPS telescopes, all Celestron products, a 60mm refractor, an 80mm spotting scope and a 3-inch Newtonian. I went through the set-up and alignment of each telescope in turn, noting the pros and cons of each, and stressing the importance of aligning the finder with the main scope, a point that new telescope users often don't fully understand. Because of the cloudy weather, we had to make due with comparative views of a distant power pole.

All in each, each telescope had its merits, despite an insufficient mount on the 60mm refractor, all in all, the tube assembly gave good images. The 3-inch, despite its small size performed well, and was actually in excellent collimation despite never being realigned since it was shipped from the factory. My favourite was the wide angle, erect view 80mm spotting scope. Those that have a few hundred dollars might consider this once as an ultra-finder for their larger scope! It would also be an exceptional scope for birding or other daytime hobbies. The 80mm is just a tube assembly which comes with a tripod quick-release mount, which would also make it handy for assembly and disassembly as a finder.

About 10:00 p.m. the clouds began to clear, and the participants were treated to views of Mars through some of the scopes, including my 10-inch. The crowd dispersed before we got into any deep sky observing, but the deep sky stuff didn't last long. The hole in the clouds closed in after a half hour, proving the weather man to be consistent, *as he was wrong again!*

The Sleaford Page

by Rick Huziak & Darrell Chatfield

This last April 25th saw the resumption of construction work at the Sleaford Observatory. Darrell, Bev and Jessica Chatfield and I met at the site to do a spring survey of finishing details remaining from last year. As Darrell checked and measured Bev and I took turns filling in the power excavation on the east side of the warm-up shelter. **There is no shortage of work to do at the site. Volunteers are needed to continue work, and funds desperately need to be raised. Here's a sample of the work outstanding:**

WARM-UP ADDITION

- Build temporary wall inside
- Cut hole into existing shelter wall to access new area
- Run power, plugs, lights and heat
- Insulate and sheet with plywood
- Put K-3 and lino on bathroom floor area
- Buy toilet and install
- Install door jamb to protect aluminum siding

WARM-UP SHELTER

- Put on 2 metal edge corners
- Fix roof flashing on west corner
- Add wood railing to west side
- Add east ramp
- Put up observing shelf
- Mouse-proof
- Shelf-mount the microwave oven
- Clean-up & replace the floor cardboard
- Re-install the external red warning light

PATTERSON DOME

- Add layer of flashing around base
- Install new hardboard around base
- Recut plywood inside around pier, and add piece to finish
- Prime/paint gusset plates
- Re-carpet with indoor/outdoor
- Install siding
- Install wedge and polar align
- Install steps and landing

RYSTROM OLD SITE

- Dig out old pier
- Clean up remaining scraps
- Restore land to previous condition.

GENERAL SITE

- Clean out school storage for floor finishing
- Fill in power hole on east side of shelter

The site continues good usage rates by RASC members with the following number of nights used per month since the Observatory's inception:

1997 Oct.-6, Nov.-8, Dec.-7

1998 Jan.-4, Feb.-10, Mar.-5, Apr.-11, May-8, Jun.-2, Jul.-7, Aug.-4, Sep.-7, Oct.-9, Nov.-10, Dec.-2

1999 Jan.-2, Feb.-2, Mar.-3, Apr.-8

This makes 116 visits in 1.6 years of operation, (average. = 72 visits per year)! 34 visits involved some construction work. (Note: a few dozen U of S Astronomy Lab visits are not included in this total).

Minutes of the General Meeting

Monday, April 19, 1999

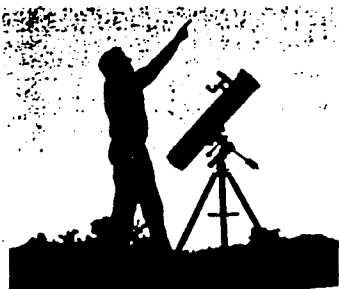
held at the National Hydrology Conference Room, Saskatoon, 7:30 p.m.
recorded by Al Hartridge, Secretary

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. Books and Calendars - There are still some Firefly books available. All the calendars have been sold.
3. Presentation- *Invasion of the Red Planet - Mars and How to View It* - by Murray Paulson (Edmonton Centre).
4. Special Report on SSSP 1999:
 - - 30 people to date have registered for the star party. About \$800.00 have been taken in so far.
 - - web page for the Centre - there has been a slight change in the URL.
 - - publicity- late in coming out, Rick may make a trip to Calgary, and Erich may go to Winnipeg, Murray Paulson will distribute brochures in Edmonton.
 - - the star party T shirt graphics are posted on the web-page
 - - the February motion for spending up to \$528.00 worth of first nights has been exceeded.
 - - volunteers needed - please sign the list to help at the star party.
5. Observing Report - Darrell reported two good nights of observing out at the Sleaford since the last meeting.
6. Youth Report - Sandy Ferguson is ill. Report will be given at the next meeting.
7. Site report- the site has been used more lately, including another a school visit. Erich suggests there may be some advantage in calling the site an "astronomy education Centre" in order to raise funds. *The Friends of Sleaford* will issue a brochure and have some planned renovations to the old school. They have money to redo the floor. The club must move all the articles in the school into a more confined area to allow for the renovations. A fundraising brochure is planned. A meeting with the Saskatoon Foundation is also to take place. The partnership agreement is very near completion.
8. Astronomy Day - Display will be held at the Lawson Heights mall on Saturday May 22. An ad will be placed in the Beaver Creek newsletter. A star party will be held at Beaver Creek on Saturday night as well.
9. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Something picked up off the net...

anonymous

Five years ago I was on a flight from Vegas to Dallas. We were flying over Arizona when the pilot said: "*Those of you sitting on the right side of the plane can look down and see a Meteor Crater. One of our flight attendants saw it for the first time last week and said 'Wow, it almost hit that road!'*"



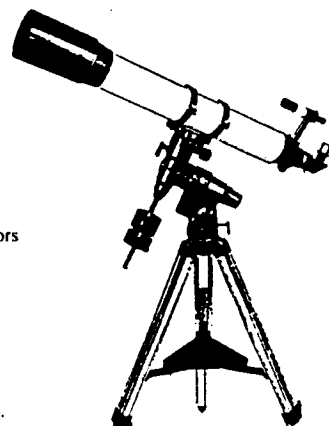
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- TELEVUE** - PLOSSL - simply the BEST quality - 50 degree AFV High index, edge-blackened, multi-coated glass - 8, 11, 15, 20, 32, 40 mm
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 7.5, 10, 12.5, 17, 26 mm @ \$70 each 32mm @ \$92 each
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- ANTARES** - PLOSSL - higher quality - Japanese-made 5 element, 52 degree AFV
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- BARLOW** Lens - 2x magnification multi-coated \$80 each

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- BAUSCH & LOMB Legacy** - 7x35 or 8x40 \$129 7x50 \$140
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