

Saskatoon Skies

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

Vol. 44, No. 9

September 2013



SSSP 2013 was another success thanks to good planning and execution by both Saskatoon and Regina Centres. To see more photos look on page 6 of this issue. All photos by Centre member and SSSP photographer George Charpentier



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To view *Saskatoon Skies* in colour, see our Website:
<http://homepage.usask.ca/~ges125/rasc/newsletters.html>

In This Issue:

Membership Information / Bottle Drive / Officers of the Centre	2
U of S Observatory Hours / Light Pollution Abatement Website	2
Calendar of Events / Notice of Meeting	3
Minutes of June Executive Meeting	4
Minutes of June General Meeting	4
Notes from Our Vice President – Jim Goodridge	5
SSSP Speakers - Photo Collage – George Charpentier	6-7
National Council 132 Report – Richard Huziak	7,8,9
Observer's Group Report – Larry Scott	9
Observing Clubs and Certificates	10

MEMBERSHIP? JOIN TODAY!

Regular: \$80.00 /year

Youth: \$41.00 /year

Associate: \$33 /year

The Saskatoon Centre operates on a one-year revolving membership. You will be a member for the next 12 months no matter when in the year you join. If you do not want to join at this time, ask to get onto our FREE 3-month Temporary Membership list. You will receive regular mailings of our Saskatoon Skies newsletter and will be invited to participate in Centre activities. Members are encouraged to renew early to avoid disruption in publications. Renew through the National Office at <national@RASC.ca>!

Benefits of Membership in the Saskatoon Centre

- knowledgeable & friendly amateur astronomers
- use of the Sleaford Observatory
- use of the U of S Observatory (after training)
- Saskatoon Skies Newsletter
- Observer's Handbook
- Journal of the RASC (electronic format)
- SkyNews Magazine (bimonthly)
- use of the Centre library
- rent the Centre's Telescopes
<http://homepage.usask.ca/ges125/rasc/telescopes.html>
- discounts to Sky & Telescope Magazine*
- free, no-cost, no-obligation, 3-month temporary membership if you don't want to join right now!

*New subscription or renewal of Sky & Telescope? Send new info or renewal notice, plus credit card # to Norma Jensen, 128 – 4th Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7H 1H8, or email her at norj@sasktel.net.

U OF S OBSERVATORY

The U of S Observatory is open to the general public every Saturday of the year. Admission is free. The observatory is located on campus, one block north of the Wiggins Avenue and College Drive entrance. On clear nights, visitors may look through the vintage 6-inch and tour several displays. Current events are recorded on the Astronomy Information Line at 966-6429.

Observatory Hours:

January–February	7:30–9:30 pm
March	8:30–10:30 pm
April	9:30–11:30 pm
May–July	10:00–11:30 pm
August	9:30–11:30 pm
September	8:30–10:30 pm
October–December	7:30–9:30 pm

SASKATOON CENTRE'S MAIN OFFICERS:

President – James Gorkoff, 644-1343

Secretary – Tenho Tuomi, 306-858-2453

Vice-President – Jim Goodridge, 370-8530

Treasurer – Norma Jensen, 244-7360

Bottle Drive & Canadian Tire \$

By Colin Chatfield

If you cannot make it to a meeting but would like to contribute your Canadian Tire money please call me at 934-7046.

Newsletter Editor – Ron Waldron
Copy & Collate – Les & Ellen Dickson
Labels & Temps – Mark de Jong
Web Posting – Gord Sarty

Saskatoon Skies is published monthly by the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC. Distribution is approximately 100 copies per issue. Saskatoon Skies welcomes unsolicited articles, sketches, photographs, cartoons, and other astronomy or space science material. **Articles can be sent by mail in any format to the Centre's mailbox.** Submitted materials can be returned upon request. Submissions may also be sent by e-mail to the editor at rmwaldron@shaw.ca as a .doc, no indents, no tabs, one line between paragraphs. Images: .jpg please, no larger than 1 – 1.5 MB, sent by e-mail as attached files. **Deadline for submission of all articles for an upcoming issue is the first Friday of the month!**

A separate by-mail subscription to Saskatoon Skies is available for \$15.00 per year. Saskatoon Skies is also posted on our Saskatoon Centre homepage as a .pdf file and can be downloaded free-of-charge. Members may choose to receive the newsletter by regular mail or via the Internet. Articles may be reprinted from Saskatoon Skies without expressed permission (unless otherwise indicated), provided that proper source credit is given. **DEADLINE for submissions** for each month's issue is the 1st of the month. Saskatoon Skies accepts commercial advertising. Please call the editor 306-665-3392 for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items free of charge.

LIGHT POLLUTION ABATEMENT
WEBSITE AT:
www.ras.sk.ca/lpc/lpc.htm

RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 1	Observer's Group at Dusk - Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott
Sept. 16	Executive and General Meeting – 175 Physics – U of S – 6:30 and 7:30 PM respectively	Jim Gorkoff
Sept. 28	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
Oct. 5	Sleaford Open House and Bbq ???	Barb Wright
Oct. 21	Executive and General Meeting – 175 Physics – U of S – 6:30 and 7:30 PM respectively	Jim Gorkoff
Oct. 26	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
November	Comet C/2012 S1 (ISON) visible all month	Rick Huziak
Nov. 2	Observer's Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
Nov. 18	Executive and General Meeting – 175 Physics – U of S – 6:30 and 7:30 PM respectively	Jim Gorkoff

For a complete list of club events, please check out: <http://www.usask.ca/rasc/activities.html>



General Meeting for all members

September 16th at 7:30 PM

Room 175 Physics Building
University of Saskatchewan

PROGRAM

Paul Lemkuhl presents ...

U of S Campus Observatory – A Brief History

A promotional video for the campus observatory he just completed as part of a grad class. It incorporates history, technical aspects and issues concerning light pollution.

Note: there will be an executive meeting at 6:30 PM

June Executive Meeting Minutes by Tenho Tuomi

Chairman Jim Gorkoff opened the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Minutes of the May 13 Executive meeting. “garage package” should read “shed package”.

Moved as corrected by Darrell Chatfield and Les Dickson. Carried.

Vice-President’s report by Jim Goodridge -- There should be an award for astrophotography such as imaging all Herschel 400 objects. It was suggested that this and other significant achievements be recognized at the annual Christmas potluck.

Sleaford report by Darrell Chatfield.

- Approval has been received from the U of S for the site of the new shed East of the old school. – We have a quote from the Co-op for a 13’x16’ shed with siding, shingles, double width door, and concrete for

\$7880, installed by the end of August. Electrical wiring is extra.

Centre Rep report by Rick Huziak. Voting is now open for three members for the Board Transition Committee that will be part of the new Board of Directors under the new by-laws on June 30. Email notice has been sent to all members. There are five candidates to choose from.

Light Pollution Abatement Committee.

- There was a tour on June 5-8 of Dark Sky Preserves.
- Work is being done with the city on policies regarding the Swale, and with the province on building codes for parks.

Chairman Gorkoff suggested that we look at having executive meetings only three times a year plus as needed.

June General Meeting Minutes by Tenho Tuomi

Chairman Jim Gorkoff opened the meeting at 7:53 PM.

Committee reports:

Vice President’s report by Jim Goodridge.

- An awards banquet is being planned to recognise significant achievements within the Centre.
- Presentations are needed for the fall meetings.
- The Sobey’s gift cards brought a profit of \$240 for the Centre.

Observing report by Norma Jensen – Come July 6 to help mow lawns at Sleaford.

Newsletter report by Ron Waldron – no newsletter for July/August. Next article deadline is September 6.

Sleaford report by Les Dickson – see Executive meeting report.

SSSP report by Les Dickson.

SASKATOON SKIES

- Tour of selected telescopes is being planned.
- Astrophotography workshops by Alan Dyer and Tenho Tuomi.
- Early registration deadline is July 5.
- Guest speakers are Dr. Erica Bird, Jennifer Newman and Gordon Sarty.

Centre Rep report by Tenho Tuomi – vote for members for the National board of directors.

On behalf of the Centre, Jim Goodridge presented an award to Tenho Tuomi for imaging all objects in the Herschel 400 list.

After the meeting there was a coffee break followed by presentations.

- George Charpentier showed pictures from the 2012 SSSP.
- Ron Waldron spoke on, “Sharing the Passion – Living the Dream”, Highlights of a lifelong astronomer’s passion for sharing the night sky.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

SEPTEMBER 2013

Notes from our Vice President *by Jim Goodridge*

- One of our members, Paul Lehmkuhl, has completed a really neat project, in his own words "....I am making a promotional video for the campus observatory as part of a grad class that I am taking right now. It incorporates history, technical aspects and issues concerning light pollution. The 100th anniversary of the observatory is coming up in just 16 years so if we could get the information now it will make someone's future task much easier.
- Next year for the Star Party we will need a couple of people to join the committee, nothing too onerous to do, and it is a lot of fun. The other thing is, we have some of the best observers on the committee and you get to ask them questions at the meetings. You can find out more helping with the Star Party than you can get by 3 years of reading. (no replacement for actual observing though, that is the best thing about observing, it is just like losing weight or quitting smoking, no one can do it for you). Please join the SSSP Committee for next year, first meeting will be in November, I think.
- I still need presentations for our meetings this fall, please contact me. Even if you have a topic that will only cover 15 minutes, let me know and I can group several short presentations for the same night. if I can't come up with any volunteers then I will have to do it myself and you never know what that might lead to. The presentations are a really important part of our activities and we have so many members who know so much. Please share your experience.
- Fraser Williams, Bailey Wolkowski and others are planning on starting up a U of S campus astronomy club. Fraser and Bailey are both students at the University, and guides at the campus observatory, and are very interested in working with us on outreach and other astronomical endeavours. A campus club will be a great asset to the astronomical community in Saskatoon. There is an open invitation for all of the campus astronomy club members to attend our meetings.
- SSSP was a great success - you will have to come to the September meeting to get the details. Big thanks to Barb Wright, Les Dickson, Ellen Dickson, Rick Huziak, Darrell Chatfield and all of the volunteers and helpers that made the SSSP possible. Our members were there in full force to help out, thank you.
- It looks like quite a few of our members have submitted observations of Nova Delphinus 2013 to the AAVSO. Thanks go out to Rick Huziak who has done yeoman's service in getting the message out and promoting observing and submitting data to the AAVSO.

SSSP Speakers - Photo Collage – George Charpentier

Part of the success of our annual SSSP is the multitude and variety of speakers who engage attendees during the daylight hours. This year was no exception. To see more photos taken this year, simply visit our RASC Yahoo Group Site at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rascstoon/photos/album/250805366/pic/list>



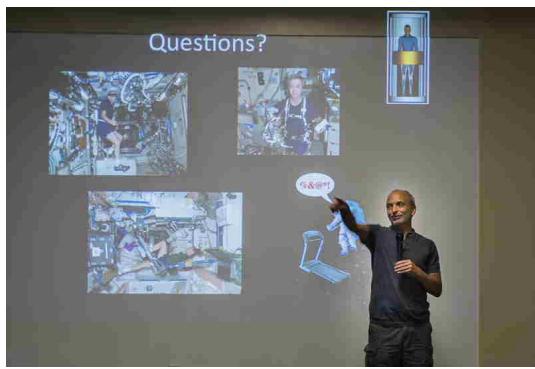
Alan Dyer



Alan Maclem



Dr. Erica Bird



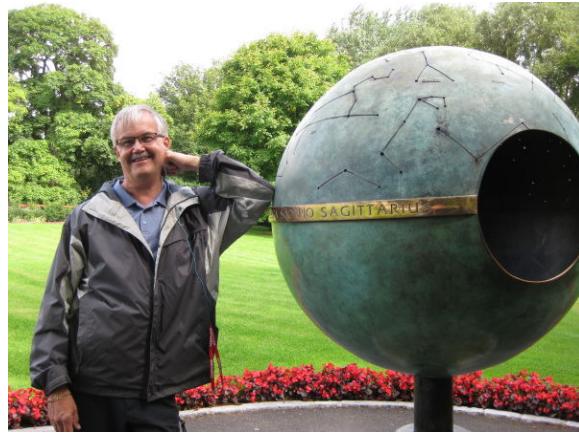
Dr. Gord Sarty



Jennifer Newman

Got Aperture Fever? - Look at this – Ron Waldron

Left Photo: While touring Liverpool England in August of this year, member and editor, Ron Waldron could not resist getting his photo taken next to this telescope with attached orrery displayed on the banks of the Mersey River. For anyone with aperture fever, this scope could provide an immediate cure.



Right Photo: Also, while touring Ireland, Ron spotted this metal pinhole globe of the night sky – the viewer simply puts his head in the hole and views the sunlight coming through the small holes

National Council 132 Report – Richard Huziak

**Thunder Bay General Assembly
June 28, 2013 9:05 a.m. – 3:25 p.m. EDT
Richard Huziak, NC Rep., Tenho Tuomi, NC Alternate Rep.**

Thirty-five participants attended this meeting in person and six attended by phone. This, and NC 133, are the very last of the council meetings involving the old RASC governance structure.

Publications - A discussion ensued (moderated by Colin Haig) regarding if our publications will become e-publications that could be available by download. Everyone realized, especially for yearly-revised publications like the *Observer's Handbook*, that this becomes a very large volunteer effort. Brenda Shaw reports that she is doing a total revision of the *Beginning Observer's Guide* to update, reorganize and making it user-friendly.

Family Memberships – Denis Grey reports that Centres need to set their fee rates for family members. Family memberships must consist of a regular or life member and then other related family members can be added.

Wood Buffalo National Park & North Frontenac Township Dark-Sky Preserves – Rob Dick announced that the park and township have met the requirements for dark-sky preserve status. Wood Mountain (Alberta) is 4.4M hectares in size; North Frontenac (Ontario) is 116,000 hectares. Council voted to accept the designations. The LPA Committee and Council also adopted a new Nocturnal Preserve designation for natural environments that do not necessarily have astronomy outreach programs.

Webpage – the *members* and *merchandizing* sections of the RASC web page are being rewritten and will make buying, renewal, Centre statistics, reports and advertising easier. This is necessary because current software is more than five years old and does not support some modern media. Centre information will be editable by the local centre through a centre portal at any time for their own marketing reasons. The new software is targeted for mid-September release.

Constitution – The RASC voted to release the *RASC Policy Manual* that guides how the Board of Directors, National Advisory Council (the replacement for the National Centre Representatives), Committees, RASC programming and other sections of the RASC function. The Manual is available on the RASC website under the governance section.

The 2014 General Assembly will be hosted by the Victoria Centre. The 2015 General Assembly will be hosted by the Halifax Centre. The 2016 General Assembly has been requested by the Regina Centre.

Thunder Bay General Assembly
June 30, 2013 9:00 a.m. – 10:53 a.m.

Eighteen of twenty-nine centres, plus several unattached members were represented at this meeting. Approximately 70 people attended.

The RASC has received the *Certificate of Continuance* from the Federal government that allows the organization to transition to the rules of the CNCA. The rewritten *Bylaw #1* was approved by the membership by special resolution. A motion was carried to set the size of the *Board of Directors* at nine. Beginning immediately after this meeting, the day-to-day business of the Society will be conducted by the *Board*, and the membership will now be represented by the *National Advisory Council* (NAC) who will advise the *Board*. However, any member may make motions directly to the *Board* with 90 days notice per *Section 20.1* of the *Bylaw*. In addition to *Bylaw #1*, the *RASC Policy Manual* is available to all members.

The *Transitional Board of Directors* will be the existing executive plus three new directors determined by the vote of the general membership done by electronic ballot. 473 votes were cast. The *Board* consists of: (existing) Glenn Hawley (Calgary), Colin Haig (Hamilton), Chris Gainer (Victoria), Denis Grey (Toronto), James Edgar (Regina), and (new) Paul Grey (Halifax), Paul Schumacher (Victoria), Francois van Heerden (Toronto). The board has one vacant seat. This board will exist until full transition to the CNCA at the 2014 General Assembly, where all nine positions will be voted in. The first meeting of the *Transitional Board of Directors* occurred June 30 at 11:00 a.m.

The complete minutes of this meeting can be found on the National website under the *Members* portal.

Thunder Bay General Assembly
June 30, 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.
Tehno Tuomi, National Advisory Council Rep., Rick Huziak, observer

Twenty-one NAC reps and observers attended this meeting. Glen Hawley (ex-officio co-chair representing the *Board of Directors*) and Roger Nelson (Calgary) chaired the meeting. Roger was voted, by the members present,

as the Co-chair of the *Council*. Chris Beckett was voted to be *Recorder* for this meeting only. Note that the intent for the choice of NAC reps still falls under each Centre's choice for their representative.

The NAC created their terms of reference through motions conducted during the meeting, and are as follow: most work will be done via email or by telecon, since this council will meet in person only once a year at the General Assembly. The council will follow Robert's Rules of Order. Unattached members can be elected (by their collective choice as stated in the Policy Manual) as members of the NAC.

Next meeting will be approximately two weeks after the next Board of Directors meeting at the end of September or early October.

Observers Group Report – Larry Scott

Finally the short, bug-filled nights of summer are passing and we can get back to our normal nocturnal habits. The June and July Observers Groups were cancelled due to the usual suspect. My observing log since May is looking pretty skimpy with not even much to report from SSSP. Although I again had a terrific time, in 8 nights at Cypress Hills there were perhaps that many hours of observing for me. I'm hoping to turn that around this fall and am looking forward to seeing you all at the Open House on October 5th.



Norma Jensen looks to the western horizon



We will have moonless evenings from September 26th till October 10th with a scheduled Observers Group on September 28th.

Larry Scott and Norma observing with binoculars while waiting for dark skies

Observing Clubs and Certificates

Join the Club! Observe all 110 Messier, 110 Finest NGC, 400 Herschel I or II, 140 Lunar, 154 Sky Gems or 35 Binocular objects, or Explore the Universe and earn great OBSERVING CERTIFICATES!

MESSIER CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

R. Huziak, G. Sarty, S. Alexander,
S. Ferguson, D. Jeffrey, D. Chatfield, B.
Christie, K. Noesgaard,
M. Stephens, B. Hydomako, T. Tuomi, L.
Scott, G. Charpentier, B. Johnson, M.
Clancy, L. Dickson, B. Burlingham, K.
Houston

Norma Jensen	110
complete	
Ron Waldron	105
Wade Selvig	75
Garry Stone	57
Bernice Friesen	45
Wayne Schlapkohl	43
Barb Wright	40
Ellen Dickson	34
Jeff Swick	24
Graham Hartridge	9

Chatfield BINOCULAR CERTIFICATE

Certified at 35 to 40 Objects:

M. Stephens, T. Tuomi, M. Clancy,
R. Huziak, K. Maher

Jim Goodridge	Up!	12
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FINEST NGC CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

R. Huziak, D. Jeffrey, G. Sarty,
D. Chatfield, T. Tuomi

Larry Scott	Done!	110
Scott Alexander		97
Norma Jensen		66
Sandy Ferguson		23
Kathleen Houston		23
George Charpentier		13
Mike Clancy		7

EXPLORE the UNIVERSE

Certified at 55 to 110 Objects:

M. Clancy, T. Tuomi, K. Maher,
B. Gratias

Wayne Schlapkohl	Done	55
Sharon Dice		31
Jim Goodridge	Up!	35

Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Certificate

Certified at 140 Objects:

T. Tuomi

Norma Jensen	133
Jeff Swick	29



HERSCHEL 400 CLUB

Certified at 400 Objects:

D. Jeffrey, R. Huziak, D. Chatfield, T.
Tuomi

Gordon Sarty	251
Scott Alexander	117
Sandy Ferguson	18
Larry Scott	20

HERSCHEL 400-II CLUB

Darrell Chatfield	Done!	400
Rick Huziak		246

LEVY DEEP-SKY GEMS

Certified at 154 Objects:

Tenho Tuomi	150
Darrell Chatfield	70

The Messier, Finest NGC and David Levy's Deep-Sky Gems lists can be found in the *Observer's Handbook*.

The Explore the Universe list is available on the National website.

On-line Messier and Finest NGC lists, charts and logbooks: <http://www.rasc.ca/observing>

On-line Herschel 400 List: <http://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/herschel/hers400.html>

Binocular List is at: http://homepage.usask.ca/%7Eges125/rasc/Chatfield_Binocular_List.pdf

*Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program Guide:

<http://www.rasc.ca/observing/williamson-lunar-observing-certificate>

Program details can be found at: <http://www.rasc.ca/williamson/index.shtml>