

Saskatoon Skies

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

Vol. 38
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May
2007



International Astronomy Day, April 21

International Astronomy Day was held this year at the Farmers Market in the old Adelman Building. Thanks to all the volunteers who made it a success. For more photos see page 8.

Photo by Ellen Dickson

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Saskatoon Centre
The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
P.O. Box 317, RPO University
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4J8

WEBSITE:

www.usask.ca/psychology/sarty/rasc

E-MAIL: stonesw7@sasktel.net

TELEPHONE: (306) 857-4707

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS & CORRECTIONS

MEMBERSHIP? IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN!

Regular: \$65.00 /year Youth: \$34.25 /year Lifetime: \$1100

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 membership coordinator, Mike Clancy, or renew through the National Office and let Mike know that you did!

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
- The Journal of the RASC (bimonthly)
- SkyNews Magazine (bimonthly)
- use of the Centre library
- rent the Centre's Telescopes
<http://www.usask.ca/psychology/sarty/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 njensen@scs.sk.ca.

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 – Garry Stone, 857-4707

Secretary – Al Hartridge, 373-0034

Vice-President – Barb Wright, 249-1990

Treasurer – Norma Jensen, 244-7360



BOTTLE DRIVE & CANADIAN TIRE \$

by Darrell Chatfield

Thanks to everyone we have collected \$188.75 in Canadian Tire Money! If you cannot make it to a meeting but would like to contribute, your Canadian Tire money please call me at 374-9278.

Newsletter Editors – Tenho Tuomi, Ken Maher **Copy & Collate** – Les & Ellen Dickson **Labels & Temps** – Mike Clancy **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 articles. 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 – preferred as plain unformatted ASCII text files without line breaks. Images sent by e-mail should be attached .JPGs (.GIFs also accepted). Send e-mail submissions to the editor at <tuomi@sasktel.net>. Please send articles in “generic” formats with simple formatting – one tab at the beginning of paragraphs, one space after commas and periods. 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 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.

RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 11	Observers Group - 9:00 p.m., Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801
May 14	RASC Executive Meeting – 6:30 p.m., 175 Physics, U of S.	Garry Stone	857-4707
May 14	RASC General Meeting – 7:30 p.m., 175 Physics, U of S.	Garry Stone	857-4707
May 22	Noctilucent Cloud watch season begins (until Aug 12)		
Jun 8	Observers Group - 10:00 p.m., Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801
Jun 11	RASC Executive Meeting – 6:30 p.m., 175 Physics, U of S.	Garry Stone	857-4707
Jun 11	RASC General Meeting – 7:30 p.m., 175 Physics, U of S.	Garry Stone	857-4707
Jun 28 – Jul 1	RASC General Assembly (Calgary)		http://calgary.rasc.ca/ar2007/index.htm
Jul 13	Observers Group - 9:30 p.m., Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801
Jul 13-15	Alberta Star BQ , Eccles Ranch Obs., Caroline, AB	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Aug 9-12	Saskatchewan Summer Star Party - Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park	Barb Wright	249-1990
Aug. 28	Total Eclipse of the Moon (morning)		
Sep 6-9	Alberta Star Party , Eccles Ranch Obs., Caroline, AB	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Sep 11-16	Northern Prairie Starfest , Black Nugget Lake, Toffield, AB	Rick Huziak	665-3392

Minutes of the Executive Meeting April 16, 2007 by Al Hartridge

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting. Moved by Rick Huziak, seconded by Ellen Dickson and carried.
3. Assistance at Brightwater: Ron Waldron requires assistance at Brightwater. Anyone interested in giving Ron a hand please contact him.
4. Design and Dimensions : Garry Stone is requesting the type of design needed and the dimensions. He will make the display to fit in Barb's vehicle. Rick Huziak will provide data.
5. SSSP: Motion: made by Jim Gorkoff to propose an amendment to Council and the GA with respect to bylaws such that the bylaw regulating the annual meeting be amended so that the setting of the time and place of the annual meeting be at the discretion of council subject to the ACT, seconded by Barb Young and carried.
6. Thank you: To Paul and Sherry Campbell for the Canadian Tire money donation.
7. Astronomy Day: Will be held at the Farmer's Market located in the old Adelman building. Space will be limited.
8. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Minutes of the General Meeting April 16, 2007

by Al Hartridge

1. Meeting called to order at 7:26 p.m.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting. Moved by Les Dickson, seconded by Scott Alexander and carried.
3. Events Committee: Things are organized for the upcoming Astronomy Day this weekend. Gastronomy event is set to start at 5:00 p.m. at Mano's restaurant.
4. Fundraising: A good number of raffle tickets have been sold, bottles and Canadian Tire money continue to be collected.
5. Observer's Group: On the last two Fridays there have been 8 observers out. Some have been using the 16" Meade.
6. Newsletter: Deadline for articles etc. for upcoming newsletter will be April 23.
7. Sleaford: Bill talked about various site proposals for the dome for the 16" telescope.
8. Exploring the Universe Certificate presented to Brent Gratias by Garry Stone.
9. Presentation: New Developments in studies of Polar Mesospheric Clouds - Dr. Svetlana Petalina, Institute of Space and Atmospheric Studies, U of S.
10. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



Explore the Universe Certificate presented to Brent Gratias by Garry Stone

Photo by Rick Huziak

**MONDAY, MAY 14
7:30 PM ROOM 175,
U OF S**

**Noctilucent clouds
- a call for Amateur Observation**
by Rick Huziak
A New View of the Solar System by
Rick Huziak

Note: There will be an executive meeting at 6:30 p.m. in room 175.



SKY BUYS & MIRROR CELLS

The Saskatoon Centre's Swap and Sale Page!

FOR SALE: Antares 12"DOB asking \$850.00 or best offer. Please contact Beverly Davis at 306-285-3639 or fadavis@sasktel.net

FOR SALE: Celestron FirstScope 70 EQ Refractor Telescope, model 21076. Any reasonable offer accepted. E-mail: Audrey Bayduza bayduza@sasktel.net

FOR SALE: 12" Orion SkyQuest Intellescope with object locator. Regular \$1400.00, first \$850.00 takes it, never used. Bob Johnson bjohnson53@shaw.ca

To Make a Charitable donation to RASC Saskatoon Centre

write a cheque out to RASC and place on the bottom that the donation is to the Saskatoon centre – a tax receipt will be issued in December of that year . Mail or give to the current treasurer.



BOOKS FOR SALE

by Bruce Brandell, Sales Coordinator

All items will be available at our next meeting or call 249-1119, or email bruce_brandell@yahoo.com

Title	Author	#Avail	Price	Title	Author	#Avail	Price
Books							
RASC 2007	RASC	4	\$14.00	Exploring the Sky by Day	T. Dickinson	5	\$9.50
Skywatcher's 07	S. Schadick	6	\$18.00	Exploring the Night Sky	T. Dickinson	1	\$9.50
Skywatcher's 06	S. Schadick	1	\$5.00	Night Watch	T. Dickinson	1	\$33.00
Miscellaneous				Summer Stargazing	T. Dickinson	5	\$18.00
RASC Centennial Mug		2	\$5.00	Night Sky Atlas	R. Scagell	3	\$27.00
RASC Stickers, blue or white		lots	\$1.00	Stargazing with a Telescope	R. Scagell	2	\$14.00
SSSP 2001 Pin (Summer Triangle)		29	\$2.00	The Moon Observer's Guide	P. Grego	5	\$14.00
SSSP 2002 Pin (Comet)		17	\$2.00	Stars	Zim, Baker & Chartrand	1	\$10.00
SSSP 2006 Pin (10)		17	\$5.00	Firefly Planisphere	Firefly	5	\$19.00
Books				Firefly Astronomy Dictionary	Firefly	3	\$14.00
The Backyard Astronomer's Guide	Dickinson & Dyer	2	\$45.00	Pocket Sky Atlas	R. Sinnott	5	\$24.50
The Beginner's Observer's Guide	L. Enright	2	\$19.00	Patterns in the Sky	K. Hewitt-White	5	\$19.50
Observer's Handbook 2006	RASC	5	10.00	Binocular Highlights	G. Seronik	4	\$35.00
Observer's Handbook 2005	RASC	1	5.00	Deep-Sky Wonders	W. Houston	2	\$24.50
Isabelle Williamson Lunar Observing Program	RASC	7	\$10.00	Mars Observer's Guide	N. Bone	2	\$14.00
Skyways – Astronomy Handbook for Teachers	M.L. Whitehorne	2	\$20.00	Deep Sky Observer's Guide	N. Bone	2	\$14.00
				Practical Astronomy	S. Dunlop	4	\$14.00
				Field Map of the Moon	Sky & Telescope	3	\$12.50
				Moon Map (laminated)	Sky & Telescope	3	\$6.00
				Messier Card	Sky & Telescope	6	\$5.00
				Saskatoon's Stone	W.K. Mysyk & C.L. Kulyk	11	\$3.00

SSSP 2007

by Kathleen Houston

Please join us for an excellent star gazing experience, at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park, hosted by RASC Saskatoon and Regina Centres.

August 9 – 12, 2007.

SSSP 2007 General Information

Come join over 250 enthusiastic explorers of the skies from across Western Canada & North America for the August new moon. Experience the high altitude and dark skies that characterizes Cypress Hills. Mingle with the experienced and novice amateur astronomers and find first hand the camaraderie only SSSP can offer. The days are informative and the nights prime for observing.

SSSP 2007 Fr. Kemble Memorial Lecturer

Dr. Luc Simard, National Research Council of Canada, is this year's **Father Lucian Kemble Memorial Lecturer**. His appearance at SSSP is made possible through the generous support of the Canadian Astronomical Society/Societe' Canadienne d'Astronomie WESTAR lectureship program. He will talk about the science that will be done with the 30-metre telescope, and reviewing its engineering. He will also discuss plans for a bank of powerful lasers used during imaging. We will enjoy hearing about the role Canada plays in this cutting edge project.

For more information contact SSSP 2007 Registrars and mail registrations to:

Kathleen Houston and Jeff Swick

SSSP 2007 Registrars

2118 Coy Avenue

Saskatoon, SK S7M 0J2

tel: (306) 373-3902,

e-mail: sssp.sk@sasktel.net

Visit our web site regularly for updated information and download your registration form:

<http://www.usask.ca/psychology/sarty/rasc/starparty.html>



Letter to the Editor: George Moores Memorial Award Correction

by Rick Huziak

The April issue of Saskatoon Skies was quite generous in leading the readers to believe that I was quite involved in the Beaver Hills Dark Sky declaration. However, I wasn't as involved as the article states, so I should make a correction for the record. The April article reads "The DSP committee, led by Rick Huziak, was instrumental in creating the Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve..." and "It was Rick's initial contact with Parks that started the ball rolling."

In reality, the concept of the Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve had its roots in my living room when John Cliff, Sharon Tansey and Bruce McCurdy (all Edmonton RASC members) were visiting at the time of the 2004 Transit of Venus expedition. We had been talking about the success of the Cypress Hills Dark-Sky Preserve, which was scheduled to be signed in ink only a few months hence. John spent much of the mad dash to Fort McMurray (where they successfully viewed the transit) discussing the possibility of an Alberta DSP with Bruce. Once they arrived home, John got to work and led the Edmonton light pollution team in meetings with both provincial and federal parks representatives to get the ball rolling. During the process, I also provided the Edmonton crew with the documents we had signed for the Cypress Hills DSP. And basically, that is the extent of my involvement until I was asked to speak at the September 2006 declaration ceremony at Elk Island National Park. The BHDSPP was created by the efforts of the Edmonton members named in the article. Despite this, I am deeply honoured to have received this award from the Edmonton Centre.

15 Minutes of Fame - Living Night Skies: Saskatchewan (Summer) Star Party

posted by Rick Huziak to RASC LPA Committee

While poking around the Saskatchewan Communication Network (SCN-TV) site, I noticed that the episode of "15 Minutes of Fame - Living Night Skies: Saskatchewan (Summer) Star Party" is on-line and can be viewed in its entirety. The program was filmed at the 2006 Sask Summer Star Party as part of a series that features / events all over the province. It was filmed by a crew of 3 new film-school graduates, whom I think did an awesome job. (You can forgive the shaky camera work here and there - chalk it up as 'style'). However, the 13-minute program gets the point home and does an excellent job of featuring the SSSP and especially the message about why the Dark-Sky Preserve designation (Sept 28, 2004) was so important to everyone.

Something I found very impressive is the knowledge and enthusiasm by the park interpreter (Melody Nagel-Hisey) about the DSP and what it does for the park. (By the way - off topic - as part of the DSP programming created in support, 3 park interpreters were trained in astronomy and the park bought a 10" scope and big binocs and will follow

up with more equipment - the astro night program is the most popular interpretive program in the park!)

The program features many astronomers from the prairies - some of which you may even have heard of: Alan Dyer & lots of his awesome sky animations (Calgary), Vance Petriew (Regina), moi :-) (Saskatoon), David & Linda Prud-homme (Edmonton) and many others. So you'll get a chance to see what some of us look & sound like, and also learn about why we are kind of proud of our star party and the Dark-Sky Preserve. To find it:

<http://www.scn.sk.ca/index.php>

On the top tool bar click: SCN Online
Go to: 15 Minutes of Fame
Choose: Season 1, Episode 14 (Cypress Hills (Inter)Provincial Park) Living Night Skies: The Saskatchewan (Summer) Star Party
Enjoy

I'm not sure you can download it, but it seems you can, or play it straight off their site, so it would make a nice presentation for your next club meeting, and of course, is very good advertising for our star party (which you all should attend once our new 07 website is up in about a week - Aug 9 -12 this year) :-)

Reply by Kim Hay to RASC LPA Committee:

What can I say, AWESOME, it's like being there all over again. I loved our 6 nights there. Even when everyone left the starparty, we stayed two extra nights, and it was so clear, a bit windy as a storm front was coming our way and so quiet, you could hear the wind in the trees, and just sit back and watch the constellations rise. I got quite a few of my Messiers there. We followed the comet in Hercules for 6 nights, can't do that in Ontario.

On Saturday night, there were members of the Ojibway & Cree tribes present playing the drums and telling the star lore stories, still gives me goose bumps.

Thanks for sharing Rick. ... and our van & trailer got .1 sec of fame on a panorama shot.

Can't wait to come back ... now if we can win the lottery, we will be there this year ...

STARLAB

by Ron Waldron

STARLAB went over very well at Spectrum 2007, at the College of Engineering, U. of S. on January 18-21.

We gave 42-20 minute shows in 36 hours and 2200 guests experienced STARLAB. My brother Bruce and I took turns giving the presentations.





Ask AstroNut

The **Ask AstroNut** column is an anonymous question and answer advice column, where you can ask any question you want, boneheaded or brilliant, and the editor will find someone who will give you a somewhat educated answer.

Question: What is the sign of the mirror not having the same temperature as the outside before the temperature stabilizes? What difference do you see and by how much does an electric fan cut the time for mirror to stabilize?

Astronut Answers: Remove the eyepiece from the holder and look down through the holder at the mirror at a decently bright star. If you see swirling turbulence the mirror has not cooled down enough. Distinguish this from lots of scintillation, or local 'wiggling' of the star image, which could be a warm mirror or just a bad sky. Swirling turbulence and moving shadows all across the mirror is always "tube currents" due to a warm scope.

With no assistance, glass cools at a rate of about 1" thickness per hour to reach the ambient temperature. (A 1" thick mirror takes 1 hour, 2" thick - 2 hours, etc). This is a guideline and it depends from how warm to how cold, so it is best to store your scope in a shed so the temperature is always near ambient.

Taking scopes in and out of the house assures a long cool-down time and also assures condensing moisture on the optics when you bring it back in, which helps to slowly degrade mirror and lens coatings.

Rapid temperature changes during observing periods can also create turbulence, so settling to ambient temperature can be done quicker with a fan if your seeing changes abruptly and stays bad or just for your initial cooling session. You should note that properly designed scopes should have some space at the tube wall to have airflow down the tube and past the mirror. Newtonians also should not have completely closed tubes, and should have ample venting around the back. (Other scopes should also follow suit with some ventilation, but this does not happen in most Schmidt-Cassegrains). You really need a way to vent any temperature changes. Remember, though, that if you have vents for airflow past the mirror, you have to baffle the gap between the mirror and wall somehow so your eyepiece doesn't see the snow on the ground past the mirror edge.

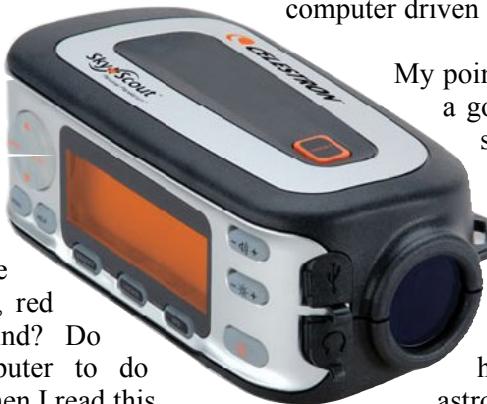
So if you can run a fan, it is an advantage and you will get to temperature sooner and have more stable images. A few years ago, someone suggested that blowing air across the face of a mirror was superior to fans that pull off of the rear surfaces, but that has not turned out to be a spectacular gain. However you mount the fan, cool your optics, then turn it off while observing.

Celestron's SkyScout - Why!?

by Scott Alexander

I just wanted to let everyone know that Celestron has officially gone nuts in the new ad in this month's edition of SKYNEWS (back page) (March/April 2007), and I quote "For those unwilling to spend years learning astronomy we present instant gratification". What is wrong with spending years learning astronomy? Is that not the point of astronomy to learn it? And yes it gets worse. They say that with the SkyScout you can learn to locate and id thousands of objects, planets and stars without (now get this) the hassle and confusion of learning the night sky. What hassle and confusion is there in learning the night sky with a book, red flashlight, telescope and the human mind? Do we always have to have the computer to do everything for us? I almost fell over when I read this.

and a goto gps computer driven scope to enjoy the night sky. Where have these people been living the past 100 to 200 years when you did not have a computer driven scope to enjoy astronomy and everybody did have fun without any computers? And yes I know they did not have computer driven scopes in the past 100 to 200 years.



My point is you do not need anything other than a good star atlas, red flashlight and a good scope, and a will to go out and make the fun yourself under the stars by finding the objects you're looking for yourself by star hopping. The person starting out in astronomy will think that you have to spend thousands of dollars to learn astronomy and that is not true. I hope that not a lot of newcomers to astronomy will buy this SkyScout. Why spend that kind of money to get a thing that lasts only a couple of hours on a set of batteries? Books don't need batteries. Donate to the "help Celestron get a mind fund" and donate often.

I for one will not buy anything from Celestron until they come back to living on this planet with us amateur astronomers. And apparently you have to have a SkyScout

Activities Coordinator Report

by Jeff Swick

Well another Astronomy Day weekend has come and gone. Clouded out both nights, welcome to Saskatchewan eh. Still that was only two of the events. Two other events went very well.

First off we tried a new location. Instead of a mall display the club this year tried the Farmers Market and from all reports it went very well. More people, in fact more smiling people unlike the mall and folks were prepared to stay, visit and ask questions and of course purchase both books and raffle tickets. Bruce Brandell tells me he's pleased with the number of items purchased . Good work Bruce. Thanks to everyone who worked the booth. Thanks also to those of you who rose at some ungodly hour to be there bright eyed and bushy tailed to set up and have everything ready to roll by 7:00 a.m. You're all better people than I.

We also held a gastronomy event at Mano's on 8th st that was well attended with about 20 people or so. We then headed out to Beaver Creek just in case some people showed up. Rick was ready with a slide show presentation.

I also can't let pass this opportunity to pass along thanks to all who printed and distributed



Photo by Ellen Dickson



Photo by Ellen Dickson

posters. I heard that Scotty Alexander posterized several towns around his home and Bob Johnson put a couple up at his photo display at Circle Center Mall. Excellent visibility. I know the posters generated significant interest as the folks from the Lakewood Civic center called to tell me they were getting phone calls about the event.

Perhaps it would be an idea next year if we held one of our general meetings at the center followed by some sidewalk astronomy. In fact perhaps we could discuss at having a meeting out at Beaver Creek. Both events could be advertised and it would make us more visible in the public eye and perhaps grow our membership a bit.

Anyway....again A BIG THANK YOU to all those who volunteered their time and effort.



Photo by Tenho Tuomi

A final note is that as a result of being clouded out we now have 1000 various print items courtesy of Astronomy Magazine that we can distribute at events. If you are doing any outreach give me a call and I'll set you up. They do far more good in public locations than sitting in the garage.

Observer's Group Notes

by Larry Scott

For the second month in a row we were able to get out to Sleaford for the Observers Group on the scheduled date under generally good conditions. (Truly a sign the apocalypse is upon us.) We had a good turnout with eight people enjoying the night sky. As far as I know everyone was pursuing their own observing agendas so no messier marathon reports were given to me.

Saturn is the showpiece right now as it is high in the south in the early evening but there was a lot of galaxy hunting going on as well. At twilight we also had a pretty impressive show as several large flocks of geese passed over our heads at low altitude looking for a place to stay for the night. One of them left me a nasty little surprise on my lawn chair, so make sure you don't have any glass pointed up when they're going over. An umbrella might be a good idea too.

I'm going to include a few personal observing notes this month just to stretch out the article. On March 13/14 from Sleaford Observatory I found 80 Messier's under poor sky conditions for my own Messier Marathon. March 28th at 22:30 from Saskatoon I watched the moon pass close enough to Saturn(approximately 25') so that both were visible in my field of view. April 19th at 20:30 from Saskatoon I observed a beautiful close conjunction of Venus and a waxing crescent moon.

The following Observers Group date falls on May 11th which I will be unable to attend. We're still looking for a volunteer to host this group so if you're able and interested, call me at 934-5801.

See you out there.

The Planets This Month, May 2007

by Murray D. Paulson, Edmonton Centre

Spring is unfolding on us in fits and starts, but the twilight advances like the tides. Fortunately the Moon and planets do not suffer too much from this light pollution. As May comes in, Venus dominates the early evening sky and royal Saturn is near center stage.



March 24 Aurora by Garry Stone

Mercury

starts off the month directly behind the sun, and swings out to an evening apparition over the course of the month. This will be a good opportunity to see Mercury as it will rise high above the ecliptic and sets near local midnight on the eve of its greatest eastern elongation on June 2nd. It will sit 23.37 degrees from the sun at this time, just above the horns of Taurus the bull. Mercury will shine at Magnitude 0.1 and show you a 8.3" fat crescent in the eyepiece. Dichotomy occurs 5 days earlier on May 28th. At that time you can see Mercury's 7.25" half disk. Well worth the effort so get out and see it!

Early in the month, **Venus** shines at magnitude -4.1 and exhibits a 17.5" very gibbous disk. I like tracking the spring apparitions of Venus and seeing just how far they can stretch out into the late evening sky. On May 19, Venus sets at 1:28 a.m., well after local midnight. Stay up and celebrate an inner planet's late night presence. Earlier that evening a thin crescent moon passes Venus in the twilight. By early June Venus has brightened to an incredible -4.3 and the disk will swell to 23.3". Venus sits 2 degrees above the ecliptic, and sets after 1:00 a.m. On June 9th, Venus is at greatest eastern elongation, 45.39 degrees from the sun. For those of you who ventured out to watch the transit of Venus 3 years ago, this June date marks an extreme distance from the sun. Raise a glass in fond memory.

Mars starts out the month near the eastern border of the constellation of Aquarius and shines at magnitude 0.9. The eyepiece will reward you with a view of its 5.4" gibbous disk. Not big enough to see much, but the disk is growing in size, and by early June it will have grown to 5.8". 6" is where ALPO considers it worth observing for reports and I will bet you that people are imaging it already. Mars moves into Pisces

early in May on its march up the ecliptic, but remains a morning object for the meantime.

Another morning object is **Jupiter**, a brilliant counterpoise on the other side of the sun from Venus. At the beginning of the month, it shines at magnitude -2.5 and in the eyepiece will show you a 44" disk. By early June it will

brighten slightly to magnitude -2.6 and the disk will grow to 45.6". Jupiter crosses the meridian at just after 2 a.m. DST at the end of May and will culminate 14 1/2 degrees above the horizon. I will have to go out to find a good horizon for viewing it in early June.

Saturn transits the meridian before the sun sets, so we are in the last act of the ring world's presence in our evening sky. As May comes in, Saturn shines at Magnitude 0.4 and its disk subtends 18.3". The plane of the rings has lifted slightly to 15.3 degrees since back in January when it was 13.0 degrees. By the end of this month, Saturn will shine at magnitude 0.5 and the disk will shrink slightly to 17.37". It will set just before 2 a.m., 4 hours after sunset and 2 hours after it gets dark enough to see it.

FUND RAISING DINNER



Mulberry's (sturdy stone) - 124-3rd Ave North
June 7th, dinner at 7:00 pm - cocktails at 6:00

\$12.00 per person
ticket sales at April and May meetings.

Silent auction and Door Prizes

contact Barb (249-1990) wrightb@sasktel.net,
or Norma (244-7360) njensen@scs.sk.ca.

The Messier, H-400 & H-400-II, FNGC, Binoc & EtU Club

Join the Club! Observe all 110 Messier, 110 Finest NGC, 400 Herschel I or 40 Herschel II

Explore the Universe, or 35 Binocular Objects 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

Brent Burlingham	Up!	109
Ken Maher		105
Ron Waldner	New!	105
Brent Gratias		96
Mike Oosterlaken		93
Lorne Jensen		89
Kathleen Houston		84
Norma Jensen	Up!	80
Margo Miller		77
Wade Selvig		75
Garry Stone		57
Ellen Dickson		30
Jeff Swick		24
Barb Wright		23
Brian Friesen		15

Bruce Brandell

5

Anna Clancy

24

FINEST NGC CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

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

Larry Scott	110
Scott Alexander	97
Bill Hydomako	55
Sandy Ferguson	23
Mike Oosterlaken	20
George Charpentier	12
Ken Maher	8
Mike Clancy	7

Chatfield BINOCULAR

CERTIFICATE (35 Objects):

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

Brent Gratias	36
Mike Oosterlaken	32

EXPLORE the UNIVERSE

Certified for Certificate:

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

HERSCHEL 400 CLUB

Certified at 400 Objects:

D.Jeffrey, R.Huziak, D.Chatfield

Gord Sarty	251
Tenho Tuomi	222
Scott Alexander	117
Mike Oosterlaken	68
Sandy Ferguson	18

HERSCHEL 400-II CLUB

Certified at 400 Objects:

Darrell Chatfield	290
Richard Huziak	211

The Messier & Finest NGC lists can be found in the Observer's Handbook. The Explore the Universe list is available on the National web site. The Herschel 400 list is available at the web site listed below. The Binocular List will be available at each general meeting or can be mailed out on request to distant members.



On-line Messier and Finest NGC lists, charts and logbooks - check out:

<http://www.rasc.ca/observe.htm>

On-line Herschel 400 List - check out the official site at:

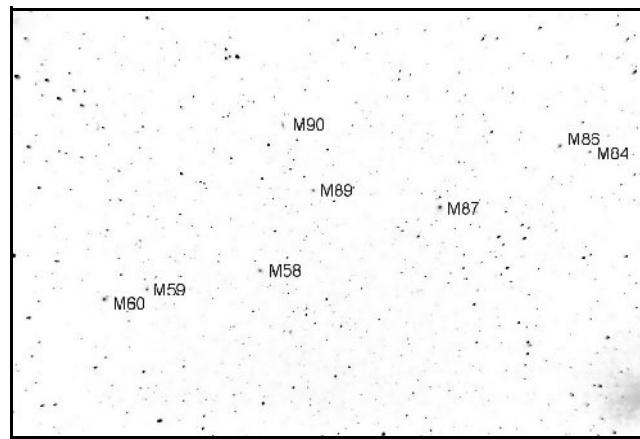
<http://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/herschel/hers400.html>



30mm Department Store Telescope lives on
by Tenho Tuomi

My first scope 30mm refractor has gone through many changes, from eyepiece transplants, to being a finderscope for my 8-inch Newtonian. Its latest metamorphosis has been to turn itself into a 210mm telephoto lens (336mm equivalent in 35mm cameras).

Here is a picture that I took through it of the Virgo galaxies.



The Saskatoon & Regina RASC Centres present:
Saskatchewan Summer Star Party 2007
at the Cypress Hills Inter-provincial Park
and Dark-Sky Preserve
August 9 to 12

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9 - tentative

15:00-17:00 Early bird registration opens - Meadows Campground

17:00-18:30 BBQ - Amphitheatre

21:30 SSSP Viewing - Meadows Campground

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10 - tentative

13:00-16:30 Registration - Meadows Campground

13:00 "Astronomy This Weekend for Beginners" - Rick. Huziak - open to public - Wapiti Room

14:00 "Stargate Mauna Kea" - Dr. Luc Simard - open to public - Wapiti Room

18:00-19:00 Registration - Wapiti Room

19:00-21:00 Short presentations - Wapiti Room

21:30 SSSP Viewing - Meadows Campground

22:00 Public starnight viewing - Tennis Courts

22:30 Observing Workshop - Meadows Campground

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11 - tentative

10:00-11:00 Registration - Meadows Campground

11:00 Swap Table - Meadows Campground

Cypress Park Resort Inn – Wapiti Room

12:30-13:00 Final Registration

13:00 Afternoon Speakers - tbd

15:00 Social Break

15:30 **Lucien Kemble Memorial Lecture**

"Reaching Across Time and Space with the Thirty-Metre Telescope" - Dr. Luc Simard

16:30 Astrophotography awards and door prize draw
Afternoon wrap-up and invitation to SSSP 2008 Group photo

18:00 Evening Banquet

Meadows Campground

20:00 Unveil Your 'Scopes Walk-around Social

21:30 SSSP Viewing - Meadows Campground

22:00 Public starnight viewing - Tennis Courts

22:30 Observing Workshop - Meadows Campground

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12 - tentative

Free time for park activities

21:30 Stragglers Evening Viewing – Meadows

For more information contact SSSP 2007 Registrars and mail registrations to:

Kathleen Houston and Jeff Swick

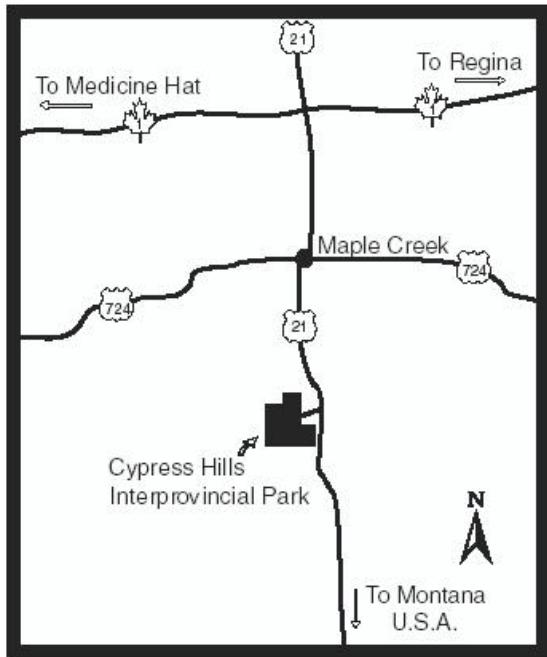
SSSP 2007 Registrars

2118 Coy Avenue

Saskatoon, SK S7M 0J2

tel: (306) 373-3902, e-mail: sssp.sk@sasktel.net

**Visit our web site regularly for updated information:
<http://www.usask.ca/psychology/sarty/rasc/starparty.html>**



Cypress Hills General Information

Park entrance fee: \$7 a day / \$17 for 3 days. Camping and campfires are extra. The SSSP is held in the Meadows Campground where most participants camp and observe. All sites in the Meadows (except for 15 reserve-a-sites) are rush sites that are available only on arrival. These cannot be pre-booked. Electrical hookup fees in the Meadows: \$18 a day. Other campgrounds nearby include Terrace and Rainbow campgrounds. For camping info call (306) 662-5484. See our website for further details.

Cypress Park Resort Inn rates: (306) 662-4477

email: resort.office@cypressresortinn.com

A block of rooms (for Thursday, Friday & Saturday) have been reserved for Star Party attendees. When reserving please indicate you are with the Star Party. No guarantee. Book early! **Other locations for lodging** (out of the Park): Spring Valley Guest Ranch (306) 295-4124, Sorensen's B&B (306) 662-3377

SSSP 2007 General Information

Come join over 250 enthusiastic explorers of the skies from across Western Canada & North America for the August new moon. Experience the high altitude and dark skies that characterizes Cypress Hills. Mingle with the experienced and novice amateur astronomers and find first hand the camaraderie only SSSP can offer. The days are informative and the nights prime for observing.

SSSP 2007 Fr. Kemble Memorial Lecturer

Dr. Luc Simard, National Research Council of Canada, is this year's **Father Lucian Kemble Memorial Lecturer**. His appearance at SSSP is made possible through the generous support of the Canadian Astronomical Society/Societe' Canadienne d'Astronomie WESTAR lectureship program. He will talk about the science that will be done with the 30-metre telescope, and reviewing its engineering. He will also discuss plans for a bank of powerful lasers used during imaging. We will enjoy hearing about the role Canada plays in this cutting edge project.

SSSP 2007 REGISTRATION

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

RASC Centre / Club Affiliation: _____

What observing equipment do you expect to bring
(binoculars, telescopes, etc.)? This will be printed
on the 'Scopes walk-about' handout.

Total # of persons attending: _____

Please list names of all attendees as you would like
them shown on the nametags:

Adults:

Children (ages):
_____ (____)
_____ (____)
_____ (____)

Would you like to participate in the Friday night informal
presentations (5 to 15 minutes)?

____ Yes ____ No

Topic: _____

Equipment required: _____

For registration postmarked by July 13, 2007:

____ Single(s) @ \$20 = _____

____ Couples @ \$30 = _____

____ Family @ \$40 = _____

Late registration (after July 13 & at Star Party)

Add \$10.00 per category = _____

Thursday BBQ Tickets: ____ @ \$ 5 = _____

Dinner Banquet Tickets:

____ Adult(s) 12 yrs + @ \$23 = _____

____ Children 4-11yrs @ \$12 = _____

____ under 4 yrs old eat free = ____ \$0 _____

SSSP 2007 pins ____ @ \$ 5 = _____

SSSP 2007 Shirts (mark sizes/quantity in grid)

Size	T-Shirt @\$17	Golf shirt @\$30	Bunnyhug @\$40
Adult Small			
Adult Med			
Adult Large			
Adult XL			
Adult XXL			
Adult XXXL			
Youth S 6-9			
Youth M 10-12			
Youth L 14-16			
Total			

Total Shirt Sales = _____

On-site availability of shirts and banquet dinner tickets not
guaranteed if not requested and paid for in advance. The on-site
order price for the shirts are: \$27.00 for T-shirts, \$40.00 for Golf
shirts and \$50.00 for bunnyhugs. Golf shirts not available in youth
sizes.

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make cheque payable to:
RASC Saskatoon Centre

Mail completed registration form and cheque to:

Kathleen Houston and Jeff Swick
SSSP 2007 Registrars
2118 Coy Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0J2