

Saskatoon Skies

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

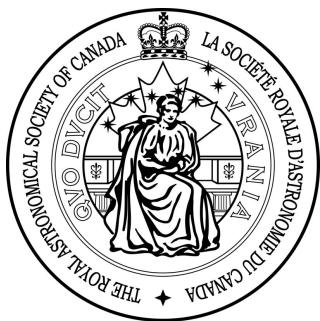
Vol. 43, No. 7/8

July/August 2012

Year End Potluck Wind-up at the Goodridge's



Members gathered at the home of Jim and Donna Goodrich's in Grasswood for a year end windup



Saskatoon Centre

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
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To view *Saskatoon Skies* in colour, see our Website:

<http://homepage.usask.ca/~ges125/rasc/newsletters.html>

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 – Jeff Swick, 373-3902
Secretary – Ron Waldron, 382-9428
Vice-President – James Gorkoff, 644-1343
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 Editors – Ron Waldron & Tenho Tuomi

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.

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

July 14	Observers Group – Dusk, Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801
July 20-21	Grasslands DSP West Block Star Party	Rick Huзиak	665-3392
July 27-28	Alberta Star-B-Q – Caroline, AB	http://calgary.rasc.ca/starbq.htm	
Aug 4	Prairie Night – Grasslands DSP West Block Star Party	Rick Huзиak	665-3392
Aug 11	Observers Group – Dusk, Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801
Aug 16-19	Saskatchewan Summer Star Party – Cypress Hills	http://www.usask.ca/rasc/starparty.html	
Sept 11-16	Northern Prairie Star Party – Black Nugget Lake, AB	http://edmontonrasc.com/public/npsd_rections.html	
Sept 14-16	Alberta Star Party – Starland Recreation Area, AB	http://calgary.rasc.ca/asp.htm	
Sept. 15	Observers Group – Dusk, Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	
Sept. 17	RASC Executive Meeting – 6:30 PM, 175 Physics, U of S	Jeff Swick	373-3902
Sept . 17	RASC General Meeting – 7:30 PM, 175 Physics, U of S	Jeff Swick	373-3902
Oct. 13	Observers Group – Dusk, Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801

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

Saskatchewan Summer Star Party

August 16-19 at Cypress Hills Provincial Park DSP

In 2001, Vance Petriew discovered a comet at the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party. In 2012, the comet returns to the skies! Vance is our Fr. Lucian Kemble Memorial Lecture speaker this year, talking about the original discovery and its return this year.

Register for this event now! Note: The SSSP Registrar will book all in-Meadows camping for SSSP 2012. The campground will appear to be FULL on the Provincial Book-a-site web page. Contact the Registrar to book camping, and read about the camping rules on our web page.

More information can be found at ...

SSSP'12 Star Party homepage <http://www.usask.ca/rasc/starparty.html>

Dark-Sky Preserve Declaration <http://www.usask.ca/rasc/sssp2012darksky.html>

August 16 - Under the Living Skies Public Lecture: Mike Clancy - Cypress Hills Provincial Park DSP amphitheatre. General public welcome. Free admission to the talk. Must pay provincial park entry fee. 7:00 pm

August 17 - Solar Observing - Cypress Hills Provincial Park Interpretive Centre lawn. 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - General public welcome. Free admission to observing, but must pay provincial park entry fee.

August 17 - Public Star Night - Cypress Hills Provincial Park DSP Dark-sky campground. 9:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. - General public welcome. Free admission to starnight. Must pay provincial park entry fee.

August 18 - 11th Anniversary of Discovery of Comet Petriew - discovered at Sask. Summer Star Party, 2001 at Cypress Hills Provincial Park. First return of the comet to the SSSP!

August 18 - Public Star Night - Cypress Hills Provincial Park DSP Dark-sky campground. 9:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. - General public welcome. Free admission to starnight. Must pay provincial park entry fee.

Message from the Incoming Editor

by Ron Waldron

It is quite the responsibility to be taking over this newsletter from Tenho after he has been doing such a fine job for almost 10 full years. I visited their home on July 16th to co-edit this edition with him. I got to see his observing site and of course his clamshell observatory. His wife Velma made us lunch while we worked on the newsletter.

My thanks to Tenho and to others who have brought this newsletter to where it is today. I have always been impressed with the quality of the layout and the amount of information that it contains. I will do my best in the upcoming year to maintain that level of quality and commitment by our membership. Starting with the September newsletter, please submit your articles to rmwaldron@shaw.ca.

President's Message

by Jeff Swick

As I sit typing this sweltering in 32-degree heat, I'm anxious for August with its earlier sunset times and long comfortable nights of observing. In fact I recall last Septembers observing night out at Sleaford with a full house and sitting well after midnight with Aubrey looking up at the sky and still sweating and being thankful of no mosquitoes.

The SSSP committee has been very busy with last minute details of the star party and arranging the volunteer schedule. If you have time to donate, even if it's for only one task, it will mean one less task for somebody else.

Speaking of volunteers, Jim Goodrich has stepped up to be volunteer coordinator for our centers participation in the Saturday open house as the U of S observatory on Wiggins with our partners from the Physics dept.

Jim and his wife were also kind enough to invite our centre out to their acreage at Grasswood for our year-end windup bbq. If you haven't been out to Jims, make a point of going out this fall for some lunar observing. Details will follow in the fall.

I again want to say congratulations to Tenho on completing the Williamson Lunar Observing Program and getting his certificate from National. It seems everywhere I look; I find Tenhos handiwork, from the pages of Sky and

Telescope to addendum's to the Observers Handbook to Spaceweather.com. In fact, while on vacation up at Narrow Hills Provincial Park, my wife noticed Tenho and Mike Clancy's name in the handout they give you when you arrive. Tenho and Mike will be doing an astronomy program at the park.

After doing the spell check on this column I was amused to see that MS Word kept wanting to change Tenho's name to Ethos, the name of the top of the line eyepieces from Al Nagler and Televue - how fitting!

That's all for this month.... see you out at SSSP

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Minutes of the Executive Meeting, Monday, June 18th, 2012

by Ron Waldron

- The meeting began at 6:25 PM
- Approval of Minutes of May Executive Meeting. Moved by Les Dickson, seconded by Rick Huziak

Treasurer's Report – Norma Jensen (submitted)

-No cheque has arrived from National to support the transit speaker. We have spent \$1500 and anticipate national's help. On the fields, the centre made \$268 from sales.

Fundraising Report – Colin Chatfield – nil report

Sleaford Site Coordinator Report – Darrell Chatfield

-We need a safe alternative for mowers, blowers and other assorted tools – Darrel Chatfield will be asked to look into purchasing and constructing a secure shed for the site.

Events Coordinator Report – Barb Wright

-Partial Solar Eclipse in May at Diefenbaker Park drew crowds of approximately 250 people
-Transit of Venus in June at Diefenbaker Park drew crowds of approximately 400 people
-Jim Goodridge has invited members to a Year End Barbecue on Sunday, June 24th from 3:00 – 7:30 PM. The location is Middleton Road, south of Stonebridge on Clarence Avenue. The Centre will supply the burgers and buns. Members may bring another item plus their beverage. An e-mail with exact directions will be sent out beforehand.
-Mike Clancy has informed us that there are a number of seats available in September for the Star Train Tour if we wished to go as a group.
-Buffalo Pound Provincial Park (near Moose Jaw) is looking for someone to do Star Talks on weekends in July and August. They are looking for weekends but are flexible. Camping and park entry are paid for as well as an honorarium.

SSSP – Les Dickson

-Planning and other things are proceeding normally
-meetings are being held bi-weekly in Les's home on Thursday evenings.

Membership – Mark De Jong

-We currently have 69 members and a number of temporary members

Light Abatement – Rick Huziak

-Non-compliant lights have popped up at Cypress Hills so this is being dealt with
-The committee continues to try and change city behaviour with regard to lighting practices

Observing Coordinator Report – Larry Scott (submitted)

-There are puddles of water on the floor of the School Building at Sleaford combined with a very musty odor. It appears the floor is rotting out and no one should enter without proper breathing apparatus because of possible mould.
-Larry is taking a leave from mowing duties until about mid-August. Someone will need to cover from now until then.

Other

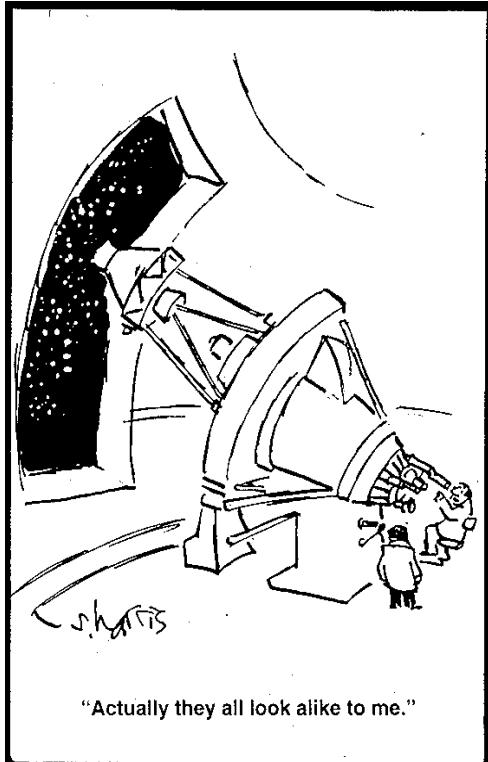
-Stan Shadick has informed us that the observatory floor is being waxed so all materials in the Centre's library will have to be moved off of the floor by July 1st. He also indicated that his astronomy guide budget has been cut and he would welcome weekly tour guides from the Centre to help the U of S students open the observatory to the public for a 2 hour period. Contact Stan at the U of S if you are interested.

- Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM

Minutes of the General Meeting, June 18th, 2012

by Ron Waldron

- the meeting began at 7:40 PM
- approval of minutes of May General Meeting – Moved by Ellen Dickson, seconded by Kirk
- **Committee Reports** (see minutes of the Executive meeting)
- Jim Gorkoff presented the Isabel Williams Lunar Observing Certificate to Tenho Tuomi
- Presentation “*Exoplanets with a Small Telescope*” was given by Stan Shadick
- the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM



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SKY BUYS & MIRROR CELLS

The Saskatoon Centre's Swap and Sale Page

FOR SALE: One 7x50 Newtonian-view straight-through spotter c/w dovetail mount. (No scope-side dovetail, though). \$40 obo. Contact Rick Huziak 665-3392. Proceeds to the RASC.

Introducing the Speakers for SSSP 2012

By Les Dickson, Chair of the SSSP 2012 Organizing Committee

On behalf of the SSSP Organizing Committee, I want to invite you to come to this year's Saskatchewan Summer Star Party, August 16 to 19, at the Cypress Hills Inter-Provincial Park and Dark-Sky Preserve. This year features the return of Comet Petriew to our skies after two orbits and 11 years since its discovery by Vance Petriew in 2001.

In the May issue of *Saskatoon Skies*, Rick Huziak provided an excellent introduction the this year's star party events and organization, so this article will highlight our slate of speakers.

Our featured speaker giving the *Fr. Lucian Kemble Memorial Lecture* is Vance Petriew. Vance is an amateur astronomer whose life long interest in astronomy started when he was 5 years old. He joined the RASC 25 years ago as a member of the Saskatoon Centre while attending the University of Saskatchewan and is now a member of the RASC - Regina Centre. His passion for astronomy has led him to many accomplishments over the years. He's been Astronomy Club President multiple times, he's been written about in many publications including 11 scientific papers, he has made over 150,000 variable star observations, he was instrumental in getting the Dark-Sky Preserve started in Cypress Hills and he has won many awards including the RASC Ken Chilton Prize, the AAVSO Director's Award and the Edgar Wilson Award. Vance will give a retrospective of his comet discovery in a presentation he has titled **!!KCAB SI WEIRTEP TEMOC** - "You're going the wrong way!": Learn why making mistakes can sometimes be a dream come true. Join Vance Petriew as he weaves a comet's tale giving you the opportunity to experience the impact one little comet can have.

The *Under Living Skies Public Lecture* is being given by Mike Clancy. Mike is a recently-retired 33 year veteran of the Civil Service, spending most of that as a microbiologist. With his wife Anna, they spent their child-rearing years touring the province camping and exploring, which is where his interest in astronomy

arose as well as the telling of stories. From these tours developed a keen desire to see every one of Saskatchewan's parks, an interest that became their best-selling book "Discover Saskatchewan: A User's Guide to Saskatchewan Parks". Since retiring he has taken up writing about Saskatchewan full-time and plans to have three new books out in the next few years. Mike is a member of the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC. In a talk titled **Stories and Stars**, Mike will deliver an entertaining mixture of story-telling and astronomy, mixing the "Creation of Sam McGee" and 'The Shooting of Dan McGrew" with "what's out tonight" and tips for observing the Moon. He will round out the program with "The Grammyphone at Fond-du-Lac" and "Swamp with Hatty." Mike is a master story-teller and his presentations are not to be missed!

Appearing for the first time at SSSP is Terry Trees. He comes to us from New Kensington, Pennsylvania. Terry has degrees in Science and Education, including a Doctorate in Educational Administration. Terry has served as an Adjunct Professor of Astronomy and Physical Sciences for a Pittsburgh, PA, area university where he taught courses in astronomy, environmental sciences and information technology, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Terry is a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, the Kiski Astronomers and the Oil Region Astronomical Society. He has served in various officer positions in several of these organizations. Terry's talk is titled **Observing the Solar System's Minor Moons**. He will discuss the techniques and equipment he has used to so far tally 22 observed moons and what additional ones might still be attainable.

We appreciate Jack Milliken coming back this year to give an encore **Sketching Workshop** which proved very popular last year. Jack has been a member of the Calgary Centre of the RASC for 10 years and is currently the chair of the Centre Observing Group. He is an avid starhopper and has completed the RASC Explore the Universe, Messier, and Finest NGC observing certificate programs and sketched all the



objects required in each program. He has started work on the Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Certificate program and is sketching those requirements as well.

The **Binocular Star Walk** this year is being given by Saskatoon's own Ron Waldron. Ron has been an amateur astronomer for over 45 years! His knowledge of the night sky comes from his extensive personal observing sessions over the years but also from his 36

years of teaching elementary school students inside the STARLAB portable planetarium. He has served in many positions with the Saskatoon Centre including serving twice as President.

We thank and appreciate all of our speakers. We encourage you all to come out and take in all of these fine presentations.

Report on National Council Meeting NC 122

By Rick Huziak

Held on 29th June 2012, 9:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
2012 RASC General Assembly, Edmonton Alberta

The meeting was attended by 29 executive committee members and centre representatives, and three observers from the Edmonton Centre. This report summarizes the items that are of the most interest to the Saskatoon Centre. For complete minutes, see the *NC122 Minutes* in the *Council Reports* section of the National web page.

Secretary James Edgar: the Public Speaker Program is very successful with eight Centres that have used the program and 7 Centres applying this year.

Executive Director Deborah Thompson: The National membership has increased (only) by 40 members this year; up 1%. 24,000 solar glasses were sent to Centres for the eclipse and Venus transit. The RASC has a national group home and auto insurance provider through First Durham Insurance & Finance that provide substantial savings. The value of membership benefits, if the total of benefits are used, exceeds the cost of RASC membership.

Outgoing President Mary Lou Whitehorne: Membership turnover per year is about 20%; about 20% leave the RASC and 20% new members sign up. This is very large turnover rate, and an effort on retaining members needs to be apriority at the Centre level. Dave Lane mentions that outreach activities may get members, but the difficulty is in retaining them at the Centre level afterward.

Secretary James Edgar: The process of National Bylaw reformation were discussed at the meeting, voted on for basic acceptance, and must be fully in place by October 2014 in order to meet the requirements of the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* (CNCA). To meet the timeline,

acceptance of the new national *Articles of Continuance* and *Bylaw* of the RASC must be accepted by all members at the 2013 General Assembly. The new structure of the RASC will abandon the current National Council / Centre Representative model (currently not compliant with *any* existing law) and will become an elected Board of Directors with a National Advisory Council. Voting will most likely be conducted by electronic ballot by all members of the RASC for the Board. The Board then determines yearly within themselves who the Executive Officers of the RASC will be. There will be separate *Articles of Continuance*, *Bylaw*, and policy manuals for the RASC, Board and Advisory Council. Guidance documents for Centres will become available after this General Assembly and will create their own models based on Provincial legislation, but consistent with National RASC direction. The structure chosen by National does not have to be reflected by Centres. The National *Bylaw* and *Articles* were accepted *in-principle* at this meeting,

National Observing Coordinator Chris Beckett: Over 50,000 people took advantage in viewing the transit of Venus due to RASC outreach. The RASC effort required four committees to work together to create the web pages and resources and this forms a good model for future public outreach programs.

Green Laser Pointer Committee Chair Randall Rosenfeld: Moved (paraphrased) that the RASC join with Beyond IYA (BIYA) partners, CASCA and the FAAQ, to lobby the Federal government to provide a Ministerial Exemption for allowed use of green laser pointers for astronomical education and public outreach, as opposed to having Transport Canada

permission. (Note currently that it is not illegal to point a laser at the sky, but only at an aircraft.)

The 2013 General Assembly is in Thunder Bay, June 27 to July 1.

The 2014 General Assembly was voted to be held in Victoria. Victoria originally proposed June 26 to June 30, though these dates are under discussion since there is some discussion regarding whether or not consuming the Canada Day long week every year is appropriate. It is the Centre's 100th anniversary.

Chasing the Transit of Venus



The Transit of Venus on Tuesday, June 5 was preceded by much examining of Environment Canada weather forecasts and of the Saskatoon Clear Sky Clock. Neither looked very favorable for that day. The clearest place in Canada seemed to be Winnipeg and some plans were made for travelling East on Monday night or early Tuesday morning. However a clearing seemed to be developing in Eastern Alberta, so we decided go there since it was much closer. Also there seemed to some clearing toward Regina.

Norma Jensen and I met at Garry Stone's on noon Tuesday to make final plans. On checking the Clear Sky Clock, all forecasts for clearing close by seemed to have evaporated, and it was too late now for going to Manitoba. No place within driving distance seemed to be any better any more than where we were.



The sky remained cloud covered except toward the East. Finally at 2:30 pm we could not stand it any longer and we got in our cars and started chasing that

By Tenho Tuomi

hole to the East. We caught up to it in Kenaston and set up our telescopes on a vacant lot next to the highway just before first contact at 4:05 pm. We soon had people stopping to see what we were doing and eventually showed the transit of Venus to about 17 people including many children. The highlight was meeting Brad Owen, an active astronomer in Kenaston, who does much astronomy outreach in Kenaston. He brought with him his binoculars which he had set up to project an image of the sun and Venus.



By 4:45 pm clouds covered the sun again and we enjoyed the rest of the afternoon with the picnic that we had brought. We arrived back at Garry Stones by 6:15 pm and found that it was clear. Norma and Garry continued to observe the transit from there until 8 pm when it clouded over again. I continued to the Lucky Lake Library where I had left a Baader covered 80mm telescope. When I arrived there at 7:15 pm, I found that it had been clear there from 4:30 on, and was clear to sunset. About 14 people came to see the transit, and 5 more had been there earlier in the afternoon. Guess I should have stayed at home, but I would have missed first contact, and would have missed a nice adventure.

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	109
Norma Jensen	109
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! 11

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	58
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! 26

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	14

HERSCHEL 400-II CLUB

Darrell Chatfield	Done! 400
Rick Huziak	246

LEVY DEEP-SKY GEMS

Certified at 154 Objects:

Tenho Tuomi	147
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

Copies of the Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program Guide can be purchased at meetings.

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

Observers Group

by Larry Scott

The June 16th and July 14th Observers Group evenings were cancelled due to cloudy skies. Normally I'd be whining about the poor state of our skies. But as it only amounts to a few hours of bug-infested, almost dark sky I'm willing to let it go gracefully. I'm looking for better skies as the evenings grow longer.

The next Observers Group is scheduled for August 11th which coincides with the annual Perseid meteor shower. According to my informed sources sunset will

SASKATOON SKIES

be at 20:34 and a waning crescent moonrise at 00:43 on the 12th. The Moon shouldn't be much of a problem until later(3:00ish) depending on transparency. I am hoping for a good turn-out if the weather is fine. (Perhaps a pot-luck BBQ followed by stargazing and meteor watching?)

Hope everyone is having a good summer and will see all of you at SSSP 2012.

JULY / AUGUST 2012

10