

SASKATOON

SKIES

Volume 22, Number 7

July/August, 1992

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Saskatoon Skies Information

Next month's deadline is Friday, August 28, 1992. Please have any submissions in to me by then in order to be included in the next issue. Saskatoon Skies is a monthly publication of the Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Submissions may be sent to one of the following:

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373-0137 (home)
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OR

Saskatoon Centre RASC
Box 317, Sub P.O. #6
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Submissions mailed to the Centre's address may not be retrieved in time for inclusion unless you tell me it's there.

Minutes of the Executive Meeting
 University of Saskatchewan Observatory
 June 10, 1992

Attendees: D. Friesen, A. Hartridge, E. Kennedy, M. Williams, R. Huziak, W. Hydomako

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Action</u>
155.	Meeting called to order 9:06 PM.	D. Friesen
156.	Discussion on item 7 of the Agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Society (fee increases).	R. Huziak
157.	Motion to oppose the fee increase as stated in article 7 of the agenda for the Annual General Assembly.	W. Hydomako
158.	A small increase of up to 5% may be an alternative.	M. Williams
159.	It was noted that there is little or no information about what the fee increase is required for.	M. Williams
160.	The Centre will draft a letter to be read to the General Assembly by Ed Kennedy. It will include: – a statement of opposition to the fee increase – the reasons why the Centre is opposed to the fee increase (e.g. loss of membership)	E. Kennedy
161.	The Journal of the RASC was discussed. An article from the Montreal Centre newsletter and a letter from the Halifax Centre were read to the executive.	R. Huziak
162.	Richard Huziak has volunteered to solicit and compile the views of the membership regarding the Journal of the RASC.	E. Kennedy
163.	The proposed new observatory for the 16" telescope was discussed.	R. Huziak
164.	Don Friesen will talk to Nelson Rystrom about the possible construction of a second dome at the Rystrom site.	R. Huziak
165.	The Centre needs input about what the new telescope is expected to do and what type of building to construct.	
166.	Meeting adjourned 11:45 PM.	W. Hydomako

Minutes of the Executive Meeting
 University of Saskatchewan Observatory
 June 15, 1992

Attendees: D. Friesen, A. Hartridge, M. Williams, R. Huziak, W. Hydomako,
 J. Wood, M. Wesolowski

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Action</u>
167.	Meeting called to order 7:04 PM.	D. Friesen
168.	Don Friesen has talked to Nelson Rystrom about the possibility of a new dome. Need to find out about possible tax increases if a second dome is added.	D. Friesen

169. Mike Williams read a draft copy of a letter on fee increases that will be sent to the National Council meeting. M. Williams
170. It was moved that the video "Buying and Setting Up Your First Telescope" be purchased. R. Huziak
M. Williams
171. The executive will take a poll at the General Meeting to determine how many copies of the "Beginning Observer's Guide" should be obtained. W. Hydomako
172. Room B-111 will not be available next year. Rick Huziak to investigate alternatives. R. Huziak
173. There will be a combined July/August newsletter. R. Huziak
174. The Centre needs a large, attention getting banner for public displays. Don Friesen will investigate the matter, as well as making up new signs for the star night. R. Huziak
175. It was suggested that responsibilities for specific activities be assigned to councillors (e.g., media, advertising). Rick Huziak will investigate and propose a new structure. R. Huziak
176. Meeting adjourned 7:58 PM. W. Hydomako

Minutes of the General Meeting
 Room B-111, Health Sciences Building
 University of Saskatchewan
 June 15, 1992

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Action</u>
177.	Meeting called to order 8:03 PM.	D. Friesen
178.	Discussion on the letter to be sent to the National Council on the fee increase.	M. Williams
179.	The "Beginning Observer's Handbook" was briefly discussed.	D. Friesen
180.	The guest speaker, Ingrid Benning, was introduced by Richard Huziak. She then spoke about the Space Club she is involved with at her school.	D. Friesen
181.	Members were reminded that the public star night would be the 24/25 July this year.	D. Friesen
182.	Meeting adjourned 9:10 PM.	

EDITOR'S NOTES

- 1) The issue of *Saskatoon Skies* you are holding is the only issue for the months of July and August. The next issue you get will be in early September.
- 2) Don't forget our annual star night at Diefenbaker Park in July. The dates have been set as Friday/Saturday, July 24/25, starting at dusk each night. If you have a telescope or binoculars and want to come out, you are most welcome. Even if you don't have a telescope, you are still invited to come out and have a look through the telescopes that will be there. A map showing the location of the observing site is located elsewhere in this issue.

3) Our annual Perseid night has been set for Saturday evening, August 8 at the Rystrom Observatory. Okay, so it's a few days before the peak (Wednesday morning), but most of us have to work during the week. Enthusiastic observers may still come out for the rest of the week and observe. Unfortunately, this year we'll have to cope with a full moon which will reduce the number of meteors seen. There is an article in the August issue of *Sky and Telescope* magazine speculating that the strength of this year's shower may be the best yet. For those that are interested, the magazine can be found in the public library, and maybe the newsstands.

4) In a recent visit to the Rystrom observatory, I was reminded that the Rystrom's would prefer it if we phoned ahead first to announce that we were coming. It was likened to having someone walk into your backyard unannounced. I'm as guilty as anyone else of overlooking this courtesy; please remember in the future. The number to call is 955-2370, for Nelson or Gloria.

5) Our program of elementary school visits seems to have been fairly successful in this, our second year. I'm not quite sure how many visits have been made between Richard Huziak and myself (speaking for myself, the calendar I have on my computer seems to erase the entries at the end of the day, so I can't count them up). Most of the visits were to classes in the Grade 5-8 range, but I've also done a few with Grade 2-3 students as well. The latter groups resulted in my receiving 2 "thank you" posters, as well as booklets of "thank you" notes from the students. Those of you who are parents with children in this age group will understand when I say that some of the spelling in these notes is quite...original.

In addition to classroom visits, we have also done a number of star nights for school groups who are camping out. Most of these were at Brightwater, a camp located near the Beaver Creek Conservation Area. The last star night of the year was at Redberry Lake, in mid-June. This one was the most memorable because of the poor circumstances (just past full moon, practically the longest day of the year), even though the sky was clear. It was also memorable for the fact that I was dealing with over a hundred students. Fortunately, the teachers sent them out in groups of about a dozen or so. All they got to see was Jupiter, but a few students who lingered also got to see Albireo (the blue-gold double in Cygnus).

I expect that this program will continue next year. We have a tray of slides available which gets passed on to whoever needs it. If you are interested in participating in this program, contact the editor for additional information.

6) On the last page you will find a copy of a poster advertizing this year's star night. You are encouraged to remove it (or copy the page) and post it wherever you can get permission to — many neighborhood stores have a place to pin up posters advertising local activities. Don't be shy about asking — the worst they can do is say no.

THE JUNE 14 LUNAR ECLIPSE

Mike Wesolowski

Sunday, June 14, 1992, at sunset. The sky is partly cloudy, especially towards the south. A big decision has to be made — to go to bed, or to stay awake in the hope that some portion of this evening's partial lunar eclipse will be visible. Optimism wins out — I haven't observed a lunar eclipse in years (it's probably safe to say I've observed more solar eclipses (all partial, except for one) than lunar eclipses).

This particular evening, I accepted Al Hartridge's published invitation to observe from his property south of the city. Before the evening finished, Richard Huziak, Jim Young and Done Friesen had joined us.

Because of clouds towards the south, we were unable to see the moon until about 10:30 at which time we could see a strangely shaped glow in the clouds. At this time we migrated towards his observatory (which houses a Celestron-14) to get our camera set up. Al's observatory is actually set on top of a small building with a flat roof - I set up my camera outside of the actual observatory on the roof of the building the observatory was located on.

As the evening progressed, the moon gradually cleared the clouds near the horizon (the moon itself never did get very high that night, as it was located as far south of the celestial equator as it was going to get that month). I started taking pictures as soon as I could see the round shape of the moon with a "bite" taken out of it - even if I couldn't see details clearly, I wanted to record how the moon looked as it passed through the Earth's shadow. Just at maximum eclipse, the moon was behind a tree (a very tall tree) from where I was positioned - I had to move the camera east about fifteen feet (to the other corner of the roof I was standing on) in order to take unobstructed pictures.

I had brought a roll of 36 frames and shot them all. Soon after using up my film, I left for home (just before the end of the umbral phase). I'd seen what I wanted to see and was satisfied, if a bit tired. It was disappointing that the clouds obscured the first part of the eclipse, but that seems to be the way things go in Saskatoon.

I received a bigger shock when I had the film processed. I was told the film was blank! I wasn't quite sure how this could be since I was sure the film was advancing properly. I didn't look at the processed film (which was unmounted) for a couple of days, and discovered that the film wasn't actually blank but underexposed. Evidently, the clouds during the early part of the eclipse had dimmed the moon's light so much that there was no image at all. Later pictures showed the moon in eclipse quite well. At the time of this writing though, I still haven't mounted the slides. I'll get around to it soon though.

RICK'S BAG OF NOTES

Richard Huziak

A New Eetook Back in Service

After a few months of part time refurbishing, we are pleased to announce that a new, and better Eetook is back at the Rystrom Observatory. Mainly under the direction of Bill Hydomako, the 12.5" Dobsonian underwent fairly extensive repairs and upgrades including a new 2" / 1-1/4" eyepiece holder, optical cleaning, reblackening of the tube interior, a blackout around the eyepiece holder for fewer reflections at the eyepiece, tube rotation to more conveniently place the eyepiece holder, and rework of the mirror cell to allow quicker and more reliable alignment. This rework resulted in moving the main mirror forward by 1.5", so a 3-kilogram weight had to be added to the rear of the tube to re-establish balance.

Those of you who use Eetook on a regular basis will notice much better performance of the eyepiece holder (no slipping), and greatly improved images, which are round and sharp.

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome new member Kim Mysyk to our Centre. Kim is a geologist by profession and has recently moved to Saskatoon. He is a life member of the RASC and has been a past member of the Toronto and Winnipeg Centres. Kim's address is:

Kim Mysyk, 410 Smoothstone Cres., Saskatoon, SK., S7J 4S9, telephone (306) 374-2485

Also note that Tim Sloboda has changed his name to Tim HARRISON. His address and phone number remain the same.

The New Observatory and the Future of the Rystrom Observatory

With the optics for the 16" telescope nearing completion, the question arises "What kind of observatory should we build, and where should we put it?" By talking to most members who use the Rystrom Observatory, it has been decided that we will build a conventional dome, probably mostly of fibreglass, with the bottom part of the building having ample room to spread out charts and equipment without having to trip over it. The location of the observatory would be where the old wagon currently is, just west of the existing dome.

This does bring up a point. In the 12 years since the construction of the observatory, light pollution from Saskatoon, only 4 kilometres away has increased substantially. So maybe it is time to consider moving the ENTIRE observatory to a new site. The Rystrom Observatory and warm-up shelter were designed to be moveable, should the need arise. Maybe we should seriously think of moving to darker skies. If anyone has any comments or suggestions, please forward them to me within the next month. Whether we stay or go, we still have to get moving on the construction of the new observatory, so we can have a facility before it snows. Current plans are to put Eetook into the dome until the 16" is finished. We also plan to build the entire observatory building with volunteer labour and donated materials, so if you can contribute 2x4's, 4x4's, sheeting, fibreglass cloth or resin, nails, screws, sweat, or ideas, please contact me as well. Let me know if you know of any land or sites that we could potentially get a hold of. The Telescope Committee is currently working on the layout of the building and will distribute a list of required materials as soon as we can.

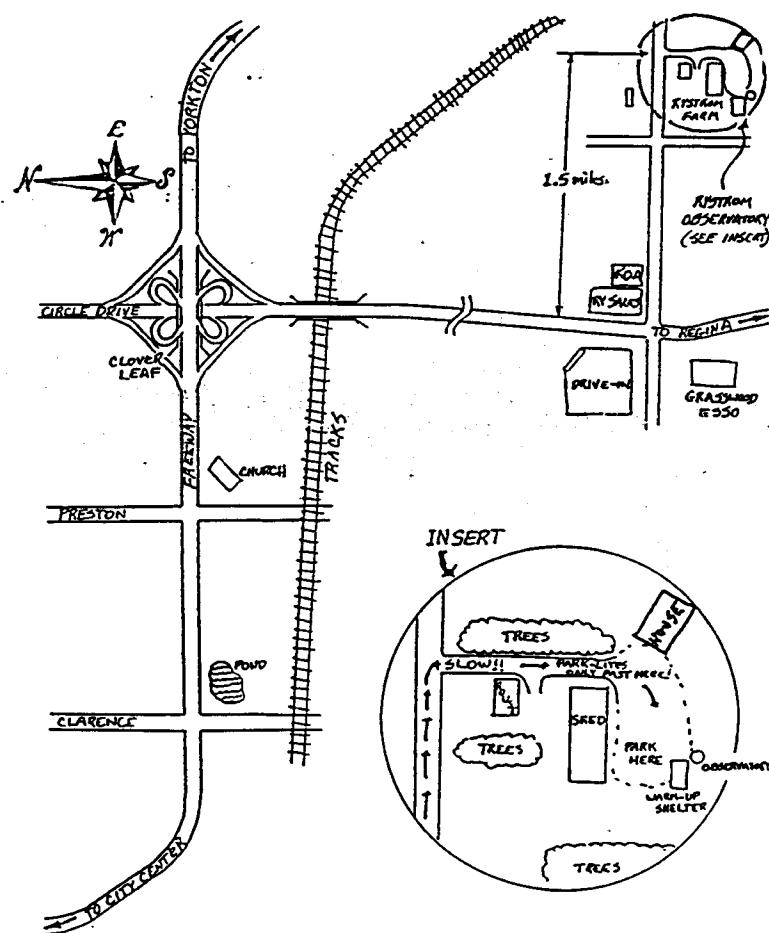
Membership Increase Drive

The membership of our Centre has been around 35 members for the last several years. When I joined the Centre in 1976, the membership was 75! I think that Saskatoon's population base could easily support a Centre of this size. But this depends on how hard we work. In the last year, Centre members have worked hard to get better programs, facilities and public exposure. But we haven't done much about membership. I think that is quite easy to increase our membership; simple get a friend to join! If everyone in the Centre brings in even one other member, we will DOUBLE our membership to 70! That's all it takes. Please work hard to encourage one person to join the RASC this summer or fall. More members means better programs, better resources, better ideas, and more things getting done.

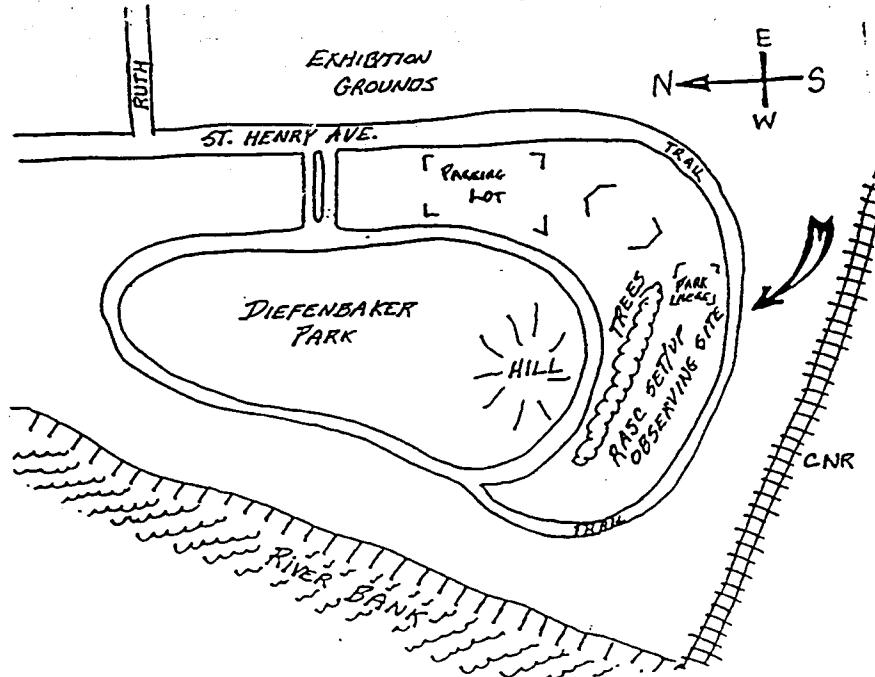
Ingrid Benning Speaks at the June General Meeting

Those of you who didn't attend the June General Meeting missed an excellent presentation by Ingrid Benning and seven of her students involved in the S.P.A.C.E. project. Ms. Benning provided an excellent slide and audio presentation on her NASA teachers' training and the present space shuttle simulator program in the Saskatoon public school system. It would have been nice to see a few more members out as the "crowd" of 17 ended up being about 50% RASC and 50% Benning delegation.

MAP TO RYSTROM OBSERVATORY



MAP TO DIEFENBAKER PARK OBSERVING SITE JULY 24/25, 1992



ASTRONOMY IN THE PARK

THE 17TH ANNUAL PUBLIC STAR NIGHT

IN DIEFENBAKER PARK

FRI. & SAT. JULY 24th - 25th, 1992

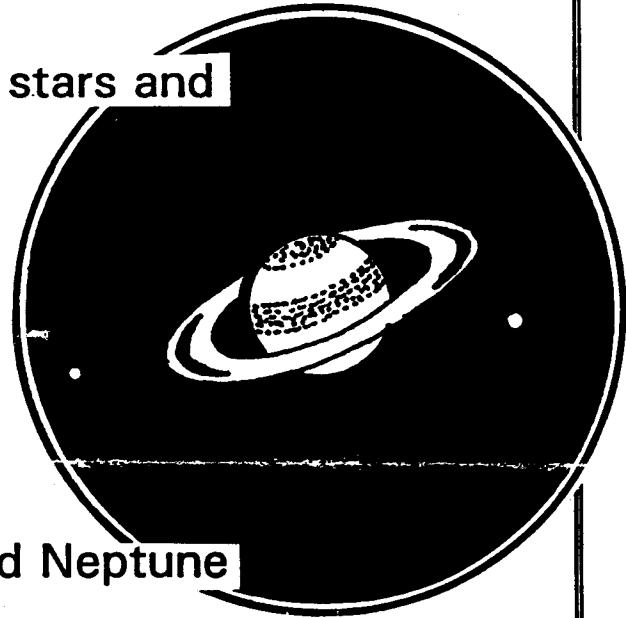
STARTS AT DUSK (ABOUT 10:00 P.M.)

FREE ADMISSION

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through
our great
TELESCOPES**

See Saturn, Uranus and Neptune



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