

Saskatoon Skies

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

Vol. 37
No. 10
October
2006



Waiting for the Sky to get Dark at Sleaford

While most of us have been complaining about lack of clear skies this summer, Jeff Swick and several others have been busy observing and photographing at Sleaford. See inside for some of the pictures taken there.

Photo by Jeff Swick



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Astrophotos Aplenty!

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
- 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 fax 306-659-2170.*

SASKATOON CENTRE'S MAIN OFFICERS:

President – Ron Waldron, 382-9428

Secretary – Al Hartridge, 373-0034

Vice-President – Garry Stone, 857-4707

Treasurer – Norma Jensen, 244-7360



BOTTLE DRIVE & CANADIAN TIRE \$

by Darrell Chatfield

We have collected \$185.10 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.

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

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

Oct 14	Sleaford Observatory Open House 7:30 p.m.	Jeff Swick	373-3902
Oct 16	RASC Executive Meeting - 6:30 p.m., 165 Physics, U of S.	Ron Waldron	382-9428
Oct 16	RASC General Meeting - 7:30 p.m., 165 Physics, U. of S	Ron Waldron	382-9428
Oct 20	Observers Group - 8:00 p.m., Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801
Oct 20-21	Orionid meteor shower (no moon)	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Nov 8	Transit of Mercury	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Nov 17	Observers Group - 8:00 p.m., Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801
Nov 20	RASC Executive Meeting - 6:30 p.m., 165 Physics, U of S.	Ron Waldron	382-9428
Nov 20	RASC General Meeting - 7:30 p.m., 165 Physics, U. of S	Ron Waldron	382-9428
Dec 13-14	Geminid meteor shower	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Dec 15	Observers Group - 8:00 p.m., Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801
Dec 18	RASC Executive Meeting - 6:30 p.m., 165 Physics, U of S.	Ron Waldron	382-9428
Dec 18	RASC General Meeting - 7:30 p.m., 165 Physics, U. of S	Ron Waldron	382-9428

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

by Al Hartridge

1. Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. Minutes of the meetings of June, 2006 and of Aug. 2006 approved. Moved by Les Dickson and seconded by Darrell Chatfield and carried.
3. Motion made by Rick Huziak that a nomination committee be formed for the upcoming elections. This was seconded by Jim Young and carried. The committee will consist of Les Dickson, Darrell Chatfield, and Ron Waldron.
4. Sleaford Open House: the date of Oct. 14th, 2006 was picked for this event.
5. Meade LX 200 16": Garry Stone will pick the telescope up in Toronto and transport it back to Saskatoon in his truck. The scope will be housed initially in the U of S roll-off observatory at Sleaford.
6. SSSP 2006-2009: Barb Wright stated that our club will be applying for the 2009 GA in combination with the star party. Many volunteers will be needed. Transportation from and to the Medicine Hat Airport will be needed, tours will be arranged, tent and telescope rental may be available. There will be vendors, security will be needed, and star walks will be arranged. The traditional song contest could be held at the amphitheater after the BBQ. Registration would have to be coordinated with National Office. A Wapiti committee would have to arrange meeting rooms, speakers, meals and BBQ and banquet.
7. Newsletter costs: at present 89cents per letter. Need to reduce weight by several grams to get a better rate on bulk delivery.
8. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

by Al Hartridge

1. Meeting called to order at 7:45 p.m.
2. Minutes of the June Meeting approved: moved by Mike Clancy, seconded by Les Dickson and carried.
3. Presentations:
 - Messier Certificates awarded to Mike Clancy and Les Dickson. Presented by Ron Waldron.
 - Ten year SSSP attendance award given to Graham Hartridge by Barb Wright.
4. SSSP 2006: Barb Wright said that there were 275 registrants this year. Club will apply to host the 2009 GA if members approve. Many volunteers will be needed to pull this off.
5. Events: Jeff Swick stated that the Sleaford Open House will take place on October 14th. Some advertising of this event will be attempted.
6. Fundraising: Darrell said that a number of stamp sheets have been sold. Canadian Tire money continues to be collected. Raffle tickets are now being distributed for sale.
7. Membership: Mike Clancy stated that there are presently 84 paid up members.
8. Newsletter: Tenho has set the deadline for September 25 for submission of articles etc.
9. Observing Group: Larry Scott has set this coming Friday and/or Saturday if necessary for the next Observers group session at Sleaford.
10. Talks:
 - Our new Meade 16" LX 200 Telescope - Ron Waldron
 - The Libyan Solar Eclipse - Dale Johnson
 - SSSP Highlights - any attendees with photos to share
11. Motion: That the Saskatoon Centre put forward a bid to host the General Assembly 2009 along with the SSSP, made by Barb Wright, seconded by Norma Jensen. Carried with one abstention.
12. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16
7:30 PM – ROOM 165, U OF S

Presenting

"Alberta Bound Astronomy"

- Rick Huziak will give a summary of the 2006 Alberta Star-BQ, Northern Prairie Starfest and the Beaver Hills Dark-Sky Declaration



*Note: New location for the meeting!
There will be an executive meeting at 6:30 p.m!*

SKY BUYS & MIRROR CELLS

The Saskatoon Centre's Swap and Sale Page!

For Loan to Members: Slide set for talks on general astronomy and light pollution. You can borrow this set any time you want to give a talk to your favourite group. Contact Rick Huziak at 665-3392.

For Sale: MEADE DSI CAMERA,
Regular price is \$349.99, I will sell for \$170.00
Contact Bob Johnson at 306-955-4618.

For Sale: ALUMINUM CASE,
13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ " d (35 x 46 x 16cm), with dividers
for tools, no foam insert. \$25 or best offer. Contact
Les Dickson, 249-1091 or dicksonl@sasktel.net.



Ellen Dickson found this ad put out by Home Depot, showing that approved dark sky lamps are now available locally.



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

<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	# Avail	<i>Price</i>
Calendars			
RASC 2007	RASC	19	\$14.00
Night Watcher	S. Schadick	1	\$18.00
Books			
The Backyard Astronomer's Guide	Dickinson & Dyer	2	\$45.00
Exploring the Sky by Day	T. Dickinson	2	\$9.50
Exploring the Night Sky	T. Dickinson	3	\$9.50
Night Watch	T. Dickinson	2	\$33.00
Summer Stargazing	T. Dickinson	2	\$18.00
Night Sky Atlas	R. Scagell	3	\$27.00
Stargazing with a Telescope	R. Scagell	2	\$14.00
The Moon Observer's Guide	P. Grego	2	\$14.00
Firefly Astronomy Dictionary	Firefly	3	\$14.00
Firefly Planisphere	Firefly	1	\$19.00
Isabelle Williamson Lunar Observing Program	RASC	8	\$10.00
Mars Observer's Guide	N. Bone	2	\$14.00
Deep Sky Observer's Guide	N. Bone	2	\$14.00
Practical Astronomy	S. Dunlop	2	\$14.00
Skyways – Astronomy Handbook for Teachers	M.L. Whitehorne	2	\$20.00
The Beginner's Observer's Guide	L. Enright	3	\$19.00
Observer's Handbook 2006	RASC	4	16.00
Saskatoon's Stone	W.K. Mysyk & C.L. Kulyk	8	\$3.00
Miscellaneous			
RASC Centennial Mug		2	\$5.00
RASC Stickers, blue or white		lots	\$1.00
SSSP 2001 Pin (Summer Triangle)		29	\$2.00
SSSP 2002 Pin (Comet)		17	\$2.00
SSSP 2006 Pin (10)		17	\$5.00

The Word is Getting Out

Richard Huziak added, "Home Depot has been promoting IDA-approved lighting for over a year now. Note the (almost invisible, but resident) IDA / dark skies approved logos & actual text as part of the advertising. The IDA worked with both lighting manufacturers (to certify on the packaging) and with Home Depot (to promote the sales and awareness). This does not mean that Home Depot has stopped selling polluting lights, but at least there is a visible option now"

Sleaford Open House!

by Ron Waldron

This is an opportunity for our members to "strut their stuff" at the Sleaford Observing Site. Once a year we open the doors to the general public and offer dark sky observing at its finest. This year, the date is Saturday, October 14th beginning at 7:30 PM. Bring your telescope and/or binoculars and offer your knowledge and expertise to all who come.

If you would like to invite friends or family and are concerned that they would never find their way to the site, we offer a guided caravan from the Field House parking lot which will leave at 7:00 PM.

We hope to see you and your friends there.

Astrophotography Explosion

by Tenho Tuomi

We have a new Astrophotography explosion among our members thanks to modern digital cameras and a catalyst of new enthusiastic members.



*Norma Jensen through a filter.
Photo by Jeff Swick*

Jeff Swick has already been contributing pictures to the



*Through the 10" SkyWatcher Dobsonian..
Photo by Ron Waldron*

Saskatoon Skies newsletter, and to the rasctoon web site <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rasctoon/> for some time.

Ron Waldron had taken some good pictures with his Fujifilm S5100 digital camera through his telescopes but recently he had an adapter ring made by Garry Stone to make it easier, and he said he is

"really enjoying the adapter - it is fun taking photos of the moon". Here are some of the results from August 10th using 19mm Antares W-70 eyepiece.



*Through the 80mm refractor.
Photo by Ron Waldron*

http://web.mac.com/mike_schmidt/). He brought his skills to astrophotography by taking this picture of M31 as his first picture at Sleaford on August 18.

He wrote, "For a mount I used the old converted C8 mount at Sleaford. The longest exposures I could get at 300 mm tho without trailing were about 45-60 seconds. I stacked 8 frames. Equipment is a Canon 20D SLR, Canon 70-200 2.8L IS lens, and the Canon 1.4X Extender II to get 280mm @ f/4. Shot at f/6.3, at ISO 1600. I would sure like a better tracking mount to try it on tho."

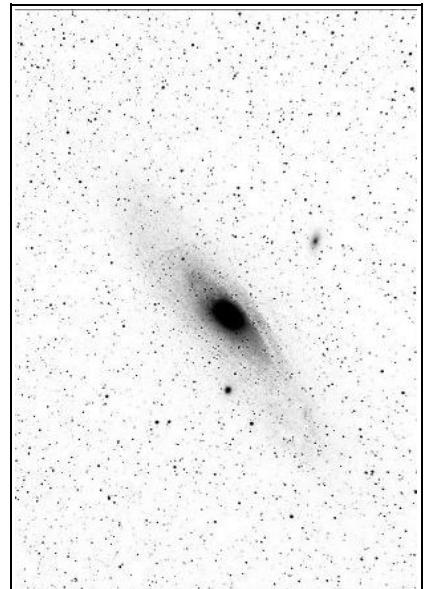
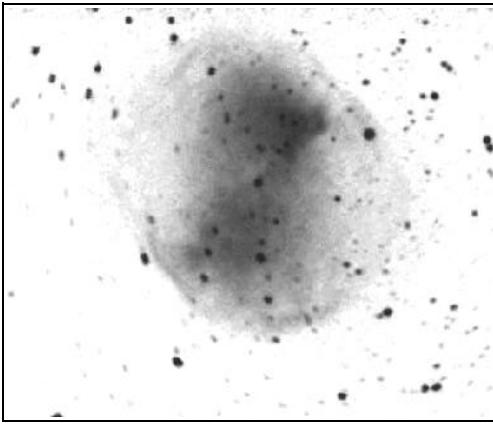


Photo by Mike Schmidt

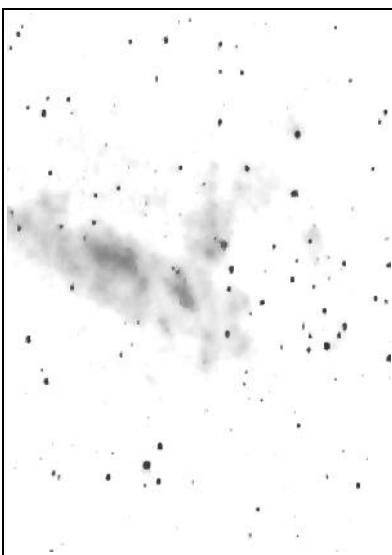
Mike Schmidt was an accomplished photographer before he joined the Centre (See his website, blog section,



M27 Dumbbell Nebula. Photo by Bob Johnson

Sky Imager for his astrophotographs.

On August 19 he wrote "Sleaford was a lot of fun, nice meeting the 'interim' Larry Scott, and Jeff and Lubos. I will post a few of the pics I managed to get there with the poor alignment due the fact that I bumped the scope a few times, cause my eyes weren't dark adapted thanks to my mini moon computer. Sorry for that, I'll be getting a red Gel. I like to thank Bill for coming out and showing us the big scope. You should have seen the look on Bill's face when I said, 'it's not a go-to?' I haven't hunted for objects for a couple of years, and finding anything but M57 or M13, well you can forget it.

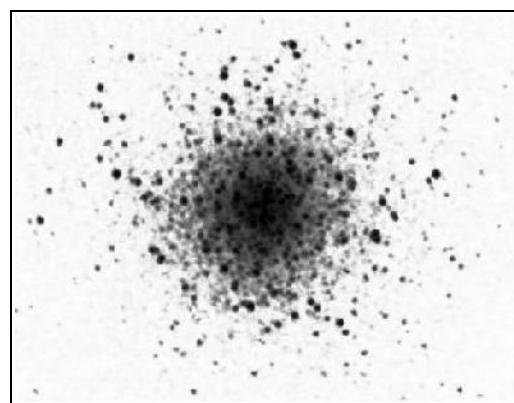


M17 Swan Nebula. Photo by Bob Johnson

Bob Johnson
has a 10"
Celestron
Starhopper
Dobsonian and
a PST
Coronado
solar scope,
but he used a
Celestron
NexStar 8i
scope and a
Meade Deep

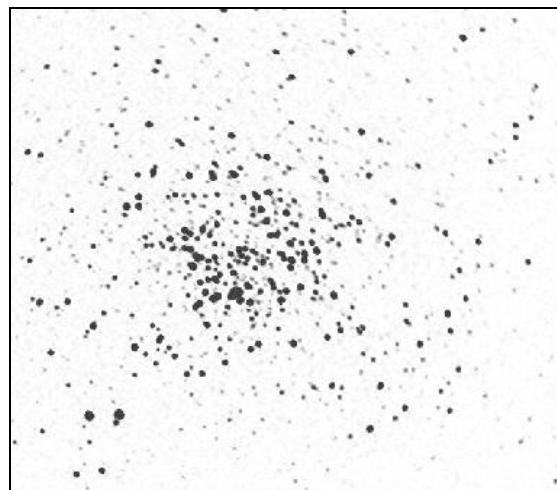


September 6, active regions 10908 and smaller 10907. Used my NexStar 8i with a 6.3 focal reducer and a white light solar filter. Photo by Bob Johnson



M13 Hercules star cluster, 50 exposures @ 5.7 sec each, 6.3 focal reducer. Photo by Bob Johnson

oh its the wild pack of coyotes, they usually send one on in and astro dog goes to meet them. And I'm thinking to myself, what if astro dog doesn't get to them before they get to me and my chips, then I thought no.. I'm thinking werewolves, I think coyotes are okay. When the moon came up it was over, yes it was even brighter then my laptop and homemade useless red flashlight. Thanks again to everybody for the experience."



M11 open cluster. Photo by Bob Johnson

OOPS!

The following photo credits were missing from the September issue:

Cover photo -- by George Charpentier
Page 5 -- top photos by Jeff Swick,
bottom one by Tenho Tuomi
Page 6 -- photo by Jeff Swick
Page 7 -- photos by author
Page 9 -- photos by Jeff Swick

Activities Coordinator Report

by Jeff Swick

This has to be one of my favorite times of year astronomically speaking. With the darkness coming earlier it means more quality observing time and some still very pleasant temperatures. It also gives me pause to reflect (pardon the pun....I do have a Newt after all) on the events of the summer.

SSSP....what a blast and the team that worked so hard to put it together deserve great accolades. I look forward to getting back to Cypress Hills next year and I know the planning will be starting soon. I also look forward to having more time to assist this year, in fact I've already signed up for some jobs at the Meadows. Keep your eyes open for news of the committees in the upcoming weeks.

Also reflecting on past summers celestial highlights I found the Lagoon Nebula while at SSSP...I must have stayed there on my chair for a half an hour in silence just observing it. My second highlight was out at Sleaford with Ron Waldron when he allowed me a peek through his 10 inch Dob with an OIII filter at the Veil Nebula. I've

often wondered about the benefits of those particular filters and now I'm sold....Santa better bring one or I'll have to spring for one myself.

My biggest personal accomplishment this year was photographing two of Bernard's Dark Nebula' around Altair without a telescope.

Autumn unfortunately also means that the Space Ritual Astrophysical Observatory and

Beer Garden (also known as the garage) will soon be winding down operations for the season.

Saturday afternoons spent observing the sun and pouring over charts and books doing astronomy on the computer and of course now in the autumn there is football on both Sat and Sunday afternoons....woo hoo!

Activities will pick up at Sleaford and I'd like to give our "interim" observers group co-coordinator a pat on the back. Larry Scott is a busy person and sometimes it's hard to find the time but Larry has a way of doing just that. If you feel that you might like to give Larry a hand as an assistant feel free to shoot him an email.

Other club activities this year are possible participation at the hobby show as well as Astronomy Day in the spring. The Messier Marathon and various other activities are out at Sleaford.

Darrel Chatfield's fundraising committee will, I'm sure, be planning a couple of Gastronomy events and don't forget to buy yourself some tickets on the handmade quilt that will be drawn for down the road. In fact be sure and pick yourself up a book of tickets or two for your co-workers etc. Remember that all these monies will assist in our goal of building the home for our new Meade 'scope

Also don't forget to sign up to the Saskatoon Centers Yahoo list at:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/rascstoon/>

This is a closed group to protect from Spam so you will have to sign up and will be approved for membership after I get confirmation from Mike Clancy confirming membership in our center. Remember to include your name instead of just an email so I know who "CrazyMoon@yahoo.ca" really is (for example). It will speed up the approval process if I don't have to track you down.

Well, as you're reading this, I'm toolin' around the Bluegrass state on business and am thinking of you all at the Open House at Sleaford and wishing I could be there with you, but as it is, at this writing I won't see many of you till the November meeting at the Physics Building. Remember that the October meeting has been moved across the hall.

Centre's New 16" Telescope Arrives

Photos by Garry Stone



LX 200 loaded at the E.C. Carr Astronomical Observatory at Thornbury



LX-200 and pier safely as far as my place.

The Planets This Month, October 2006

by Murray D. Paulson, Edmonton Centre

At the beginning of the summer, I was decrying **Pluto's** demotion as the most distant planet in the solar system with the new discoveries in the great beyond. Then August rolled in with the IAU passing judgment on Clyde's hard won prize. I will always regard Pluto as number 9 thank you. I missed it this year at Kobau obscured with the persistent low lying layer of smoke. I have one more chance at the ASP or the Northern Prairie Starfest. Stay tuned... (but don't hold yer breath!)

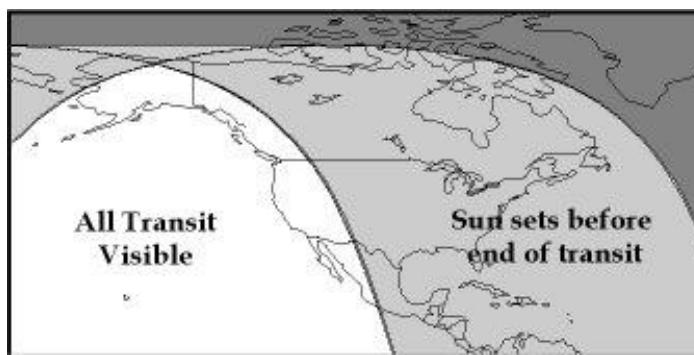
October starts off with **Mercury** coming around from the far side of the sun. On October 16th, Mercury is at greatest eastern elongation with the sun but it is a very unfavorable elongation. At this time of year, Mercury sits almost 3 degrees below a very shallow fall ecliptic. Mercury sits 24.8 degrees from the sun, but as a result of this configuration, it sets only 23 minutes after the sun! Go look for its 69% illuminated disk in the daytime. It shines at magnitude 0.0 and will show you a 6.7" slightly gibbous disk. Dichotomy occurs quite a few days later, on October 21st when it shows a ½ phase and subtends 7.34". And with a speed that always surprises me, it will swing back toward the sun a sit in spectacular inferior conjunction on November 8th.

The handbook describes the local circumstance for the transit, so make a plan to phone in sick on that Wednesday morning and get out somewhere to see this event. The initial contact will be at 12:12:40, MST according to Guide. The full transit lasts till 17:10:48 local time, which is 17 minutes after sunset. If you must really have the whole transit, you need to be somewhere west of here, and the figure 1 shows the areas that may be of interest. A secondary consideration for traveling to see the full transit is that November is one of our poorer months for clear weather. Have a back up plan in case the weather doesn't pan out. I am not going to miss this one. The next transit of Mercury is in 2016! I remember a Mercury transit in 1999 with just about the full province under dense early winter cloud, and the weather eventually broke down near Calgary. I had given up hope with the poor weather prospects, and gone to work. Alan Dyer reported a great event down in the

Calgary area. I missed it, but I will put in more effort this time.

What should you take to observe this event? Mercury will only be 10 arc seconds in diameter, so I recommend a medium to high power scope that you will feel comfortable using at 100 to 200 X and a solar filter. A quality 60 mm or larger refractor, or the portable 90 mm and larger Maks. No shaky mounts please! And if it tracks, all the better. Binoculars and a solar filter will show Mercury on the sun, but it will be small! I have copied a table of local circumstance from Fred Espenak's site, which gives the details of the transit for major locations.

Like many other planets, **Venus** is in close proximity to the sun this month, culminating with a superior conjunction of Venus with the sun on October 27th. You may wish to follow Venus as it closes on the sun, but be very very careful as a glance of an unfiltered sun may be your last. Always set up so that you can't accidentally bump the scope and get a blast of the sun. Venus will present a full 9.7" disk at the time and sit ¾ of a degree above the sun. To put it in perspective, Venus is on the far side of the sun, and it will be about the same apparent diameter as Mercury when it passes on the face of the sun in 12 days time



25th, Mars passes Venus on its way to the sun.

Jupiter is hanging in the sunset glare waiting its turn to pass the sun, and **Saturn** is finally making its way into the late night sky. **Saturn** rises just after midnight in early November. It will be a fine object to shut things down with in November observing nights at Blackfoot. **Uranus** is the only planet in a decent position for early evening observing, and it sits in Aquarius near Lambda Aquarii. Uranus shines at magnitude 5.8 and will show you a 3.6" disk in the eyepiece. The handbook has a detailed chart of its location.

Till next month, clear skies, and good luck on the transit.

Local Circumstances for Transit of Mercury of 2006 Nov 08

<i>Location</i>	<i>External Ingress h m s</i>	<i>Sun Alt °</i>	<i>Internal Ingress h m s</i>	<i>Sun Alt °</i>	<i>Greatest Transit h m s</i>	<i>Sun Alt °</i>	<i>Internal Egress h m s</i>	<i>Sun Alt °</i>	<i>External Egress h m s</i>	<i>Sun Alt °</i>
Alberta										
Calgary	19:12:39	22	19:14:32	22	21:41:05	16	--	-	--	-
Edmonton	19:12:39	20	19:14:32	20	21:41:06	13	--	-	--	-
Lethbridge	19:12:38	24	19:14:31	24	21:41:04	16	--	-	--	-
British Columbia										
Prince George	19:12:42	19	19:14:35	19	21:41:09	16	00:07:50	1	00:09:43	1
Vancouver	19:12:41	23	19:14:34	23	21:41:07	20	00:07:48	4	00:09:41	4
Victoria	19:12:41	24	19:14:34	24	21:41:07	21	00:07:47	4	00:09:40	4
Northwest Terr.										
Inuvik	19:12:44	4	19:14:37	4	21:41:16	4	--	-	--	-
Yellowknife	19:12:41	11	19:14:34	11	21:41:10	6	--	-	--	-
Saskatchewan										
Regina	19:12:36	23	19:14:28	23	21:41:02	12	--	-	--	-
Saskatoon	19:12:37	21	19:14:30	21	21:41:03	12	--	-	--	-
Yukon Territory										
Whitehorse	19:12:45	10	19:14:38	11	21:41:15	12	00:07:57	2	00:09:50	2

Eclipse map & predictions courtesy of Fred Espenak, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center

Combination Saskatchewan Summer Star Party & General Assembly by Barb Wright



Swap table at SSSP. Photo by Tenho Tuomi

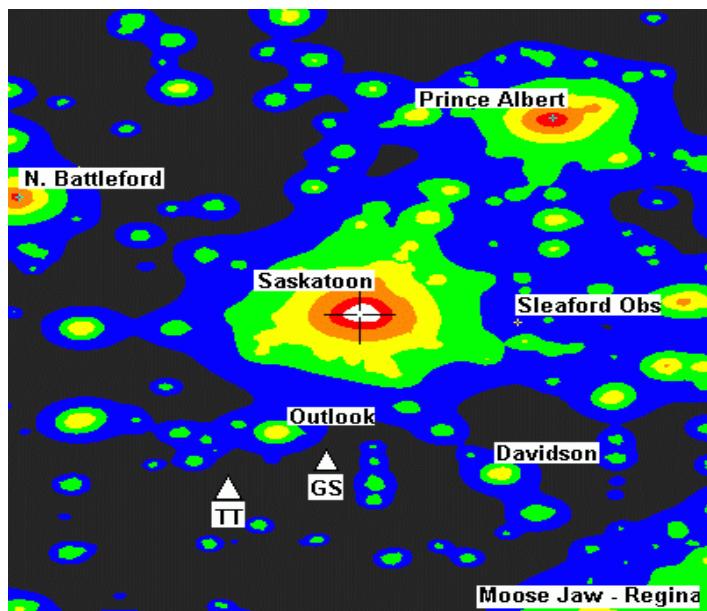
On Sunday morning of SSSP weekend at Cypress Hills, several people met together for the purpose of discussing a combination star party and General Assembly. Those at the meeting included: Scott Young (National President RASC), Garry Stone (Vice President RASC Saskatoon Centre), Barb Wright (Chair SSSP 2006), Les Dickson, Rick Huziak and Special events coordinator of Cypress Park Resort Inn.

The year 2009 is International Year Of Astronomy, so what could possibly be a better time for a G.A. in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park and Dark Sky Preserve! We discussed the challenges and the positive aspects of holding a combination star party and G.A., and decided it could definitely be done. Cypress Hills is a lovely vacation destination where families could plan a holiday around this event.

The idea was presented to the executive and the membership at the September meeting of RASC Saskatoon Centre. The membership is supportive and gave the go-

ahead to present an application to hold the 2009 G.A. The application would be made at the November council meeting, likely in the form of a slide presentation.

The next step will be to line up committees to plan events coordinating the traditions and expectations of both the General Assembly and SSSP. There are exciting, busy times ahead for Saskatoon Centre.



Light Pollution Map downloaded from Saskatoon Clear Sky Clock website, with labels added by Rick Huziak. The white triangles are the observatories of Tenho Tuomi and Garry Stone

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	107
Ken Maher	105
Brent Gratias	96
Mike Oosterlaken	93
Lorne Jensen	89
Kathleen Houston	83
Margo Miller	77
Wade Selvig	75
Norma Jensen	Up! 61
Garry Stone	57
Ellen Dickson	29
Jeff Swick	New! 24
Barb Wright	23
Brian Friesen	15
Bruce Brandell	5

FINEST NGC CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

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

Larry Scott	Done!	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

Certified at 35 Objects:

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

Brent Gratias	36
Mike Oosterlaken	32

Anna Clancy

24

EXPLORE the UNIVERSE

Certified for Certificate:

M.Clancy, T.Tuomi

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	Up! 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>



Many hours of hand work went into the making of this very fine looking quilt. Most of the work on the star was done on a treadle machine, for those of you who know about quilting. The side of this quilt is 85" x 101", which is large enough to fit a queen size bed! (value \$2500)

RASC RAFFLE

(Lic. # L06-0213)

by Darrell Chatfield

The RASC RAFFLE is now on, I will have ticket booklets at all the meetings from now until April/07. The other two prizes are a Viewsonic 19" flat screen monitor, and a Weitzel scratch art "Owl" print. The raffle is to raise money to house our new 16" Meade scope. Pick up your books of tickets today!

Ticket prices are: \$2.00 each, or three for \$5.00.

Draw Date: April 21, 2007 at Saskatoon, SK.

See our web page for more information:

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