

Saskatoon Skies

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

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2007



Christmas Star

It's still a month before Christmas as I write this, but this picture of comet 17P/Holmes in the star cluster Melotte 20, on top of Alpha Persei (alias 33 Persei, Mirphak, Mirfak, Marfak, Algenib, etc.) reminded me so much of the Star of Bethlehem. Is this something like what the Wise Men followed? May this be our Christmas Card to you to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, peaceful New Year.

Photo by Tenho Tuomi



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Happy Holidays!

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

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

Dec 10	RASC General Meeting - Potluck Social - 6:30 p.m., 175 Physics, U of S.	Garry Stone	857-4707
Dec 13-14	Geminid meteor shower		
Dec 18	Mars closest approach		
Dec 23	Occultation/graze of Mars by the Moon - 7:30 p.m.		
Jan 4	Observers Group - 7:00 pm., Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801
Jan 21	RASC Executive Meeting - 6:30 pm., 175 Physics, U of S.	Garry Stone	857-4707
Jan 21	RASC General Meeting - 7:30 pm., 175 Physics, U of S.	Garry Stone	857-4707
Feb 1	Observers Group - 7:00 pm., Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801



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 2008	RASC	10	\$14.00	Binocular Highlights	G. Seronik	3	\$28.00
RASC 2007	RASC	3	\$5.00	Celestial Sampler	S. French	2	\$28.00
Skywatcher's 08	S. Shadick	10	\$18.00	Exploring the Sky by Day	T. Dickinson	4	\$9.50
Skywatcher's 07	S. Shadick	6	\$5.00	Exploring the Night Sky	T. Dickinson	13	\$9.50
Skywatcher's 06	S. Shadick	1	\$2.00	Summer Stargazing	T. Dickinson	5	\$18.00
Miscellaneous				Night Sky Atlas	R. Scagell	3	\$27.00
RASC Centennial Mug		2	\$5.00	Stargazing with a Telescope	R. Scagell	2	\$14.00
RASC Stickers, blue or white		lots	\$1.00	The Moon Observer's Guide	P. Grego	4	\$14.00
SSSP 2001 Pin (Summer Triangle)		13	\$2.00	The Sun Observer's Guide	T. Spence	3	\$14.00
SSSP 2002 Pin (Comet)		24	\$2.00	Stars	Zim, Baker & Chartrand	1	\$10.00
SSSP 2006 Pin (10)		46	\$4.00	Firefly Planisphere	Firefly	2	\$19.00
SSSP 2007 Pin (DSP)		35	\$5.00	Firefly Astronomy Dictionary	Firefly	2	\$14.00
Books				Night Sky Star Wheel	Sky Publishing	1	\$19.00
The Backyard Astronomer's Guide	Dickinson & Dyer	2	\$45.00	Patterns in the Sky	K. Hewitt-White	5	\$19.50
The Beginner's Observer's Guide	L. Enright	4	\$19.00	Scientific American Book of the Cosmos	D.H. Levy	1	\$48.00
Observer's Handbook 2006	RASC	5	\$10.00	Deep-Sky Wonders	W. Houston	2	\$24.50
Observer's Handbook 2005	RASC	1	\$5.00	Mars Observer's Guide	N. Bone	2	\$14.00
Isabelle Williamson Lunar Observing Program	RASC	7	\$10.00	Deep Sky Observer's Guide	N. Bone	1	\$14.00
Skyways – Astronomy Handbook for Teachers	M.L. Whitehorne	1	\$16.00	Practical Astronomy	S. Dunlop	4	\$14.00
Pocket Sky Atlas	R. Sinnott	3	\$27.00	Field Map of the Moon	Sky & Telescope	8	\$17.00
There Once was a Sky Full of Stars	B. Crelin, A. Ziner	12	\$22.00	Moon Map (laminated)	Sky & Telescope	7	\$10.00
Beautiful Universe	A.E. Morton	2	\$13.00	Lunar 100 Card (laminated)	C.A. Wood	1	\$10.00
Space 50 Years and Counting	Sky & Telescope	2	\$13.00	Messier Card (not laminated)	Sky & Telescope	9	\$5.00
				Messier Card (laminated)	Sky & Telescope	2	\$5.00
				Star Wheel	Sky & Telescope	2	\$20.00
				Saskatoon's Stone	Mysyk & Kulyk	10	\$3.00
				The Messier Objects	S.J. O'Meara	1	\$39.00

Minutes of the Executive Meeting November 19, 2007

By Al Hartridge

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting as corrected. Moved by Ron Waldron, seconded by Tenho Tuomi and carried.
3. Motion: to buy three Sky Watcher dobsonian telescopes at \$345.00 each was made by Les Dickson, seconded by Ron Waldron and carried with Al Hartridge and Jim Young opposed.
4. Steak Night: will be held on November 28 at Mulberries Restaurant on Third Avenue starting at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m.
5. December Meeting will be held on December 10th. This will include a potluck supper.
6. Advertising Policy: for the Centre newsletter and the SSSP, had been passed by the executive of the Saskatoon Centre RASC at the October 15 meeting and left out of the minutes.
7. Queen Elizabeth community association is requesting an astronomy course (8-10 wk.) Starting in January through March. This will be a family event. Ron Waldron is agreeable to do this and already displayed a preliminary outline of the course. A motion was made by Tenho Tuomi in favor of the course and to accept Ron Waldron's offer to do it, with Ron to receive any compensation for the course, seconded by Les Dickson and carried.
8. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

SKY BUYS & MIRROR CELLS

The Saskatoon Centre's Swap and Sale Page!

FOR SALE: Televue 15mm Plossl eyepiece \$40, Celestron 10mm Plossl eyepiece \$20, Bushnell Binoculars - 7X50 Broadfield extra wide angle \$40 - Contact Ron Waldron 382-9428 or starmen@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: Meade LX90GPS scope and Meade DSI color camera, both for the rock bottom price of \$1,200. Bob Johnson bjohnson53@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: Intes MN56 telescope. Incredible optics, but could use an improved focuser. Found most of my Messiers with this one. It doesn't look new, because it's not. \$450.00.
gcharpentier@shaw.ca

Minutes of the General Meeting November 19, 2007

By Al Hartridge

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. Moved by Scott Alexander, seconded by Mike Clancy and carried.
3. Membership Committee: Mike Clancy stated that we have 81 regular members.
4. National Representative: Les Dickson stated that there was a Council Teleconference meeting coming up shortly.
5. Light Pollution: with the new government we may have to do some reteaching.
6. Fundraising coordinator: no applicants so far for this position. Darrell is applying to National for a \$750.00 grant which could help pay for the new dobsonian telescopes.
7. Updates to centre bylaws: the vote on this has been postponed until the January meeting. It will require the vote of at least one third of the membership (27 members) to pass the updates.
8. Steak Night: Barb Wright needs people to sign up now for this so she can give the approximate number of people attending to the restaurant.
9. Space summit in Calgary: attended by Dale Johnson. A number of interesting subjects were presented.
10. Next Meeting: will be held on DECEMBER 10 followed by a POTLUCK supper.
11. Presentations:
 - Al Hartridge – Astrophotography
 - Stan Shadick – The History of the Solar System
 - Kathleen Houston – The Horizon Effect
12. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10 6:30 PM ROOM 175, U OF S

*Non-members are welcome!
No admission.*

Our December 10 meeting is a
POTLUCK CHRISTMAS SOCIAL.

There will be no speakers or meeting, but bring your family and your favorite potluck dish for an evening of visiting and enjoying a meal. Everyone please come at 6:30 p.m. Coffee and apple cider will be provided, as well as paper plates and cutlery. There will be extension cords if you have a crockpot that needs to be plugged in. I have volunteers to help set up; help with clean up would be appreciated.



Note: There will be NO executive meeting this month

Canadian Space Summit - Calgary 2007

from <http://www.css.ca/summit2007/>

We would like to thank Dale Johnson for representing the Saskatoon Centre at the Canadian Space Summit in Calgary from November 16 to 18, 2007, and for giving us a report on it at our November meeting.

This event was hosted by the Canadian Space Society, and

was explicitly dedicated to helping Canadian space interest groups develop a wider understanding of the diverse space exploration and development projects that are being conducted across the country and to foster collaborative connections between these groups.

Of Veterans, Riders, Comets, and Messiers

by Mike Clancy

So, what do these three things have in common? Precious little as it turns out, except that after the glorious Rider victory on Remembrance Day I was so pumped up about the game that I couldn't rest after seeing my guests off so I wandered out onto the deck to check out comet Holmes and thus began another phase to a truly remarkable night! The temperature was about 7C with very little wind and no moon - nearly perfect conditions!

The skies were so clear I could make out all the stars of Ursa Minor by naked eye as well as dimly perceive the Andromeda Galaxy. This would be a great night for casual observing so I dug out my 114EQ Newtonian and began with some great views of the comet. Using the 5mm X-Cell eyepiece I could discern the core and mantle of the comet, filling as it did most of the field of view. From there I used my 28mm Plossl for a wider look at the beautiful Mirfak star field then at the Perseus Double Cluster.

By now Mars attracted my attention although the views of the Red Planet weren't as good as the nearest approach a few years back. The view of the Pleiades (M45) seemed to show a faint nebulosity, something I don't see very often; this view was doubtless enhanced by a particularly fine night. I then checked through the Hyades, particularly the area around Aldebaran. While looking for M1 (I never did find it, drat the luck) I found the open star cluster NGC1647 in Taurus. Swinging back up to the Great Square of Pegasus I soon found the Andromeda Galaxy and her two companions, together making up M31, M32, and M110, down from which is the more difficult (at least it is for me) M33 in Triangulum.

By now Orion was peeking over the trees to the East of my



Comet Holmes, November 3 Photo by Tenho Tuomi

deck, and I had a fine view of the Orion Nebula (M42 and M43) sweeping across my field of view with the 10mm Plossl eyepiece; always a favorite even if I do have to put up with winter to see it early in the evening! While observing in the area, I chanced across Collinder 69 a small chain of 5 stars in a tiny bowl, with two larger perimeter stars shepherding 3 smaller brethren in an interesting pattern near the star Meissa. Gemini, a nearby constellation, showed me both M35 and the Collinder 89 star cluster. Cr89 isn't as nice

as the Messier but it can be easily found between Tejat Posterior and Tejat Minor (Propus), the two "foot" stars of the Castor side of Gemini, both used to landmark M35. By now I wanted to review Holmes and after enjoying that fine sight I found M103 near the star Ruchbach in Cassiopeia. I then picked out all three Auriga clusters, M36, M37, and M38. I then tried my luck with the usually-elusive M81 (Bode's Galaxy) and M82 (Cigar Galaxy) pairing in Ursa Major, finding them in the first try this time (usually I chase around in the area for a while first!)

With this observation I ended a very productive couple of hours. I'd seen some old favorites, found some new things, and marveled once again at the stunning beauty of the heavens. I'd seen my son parade in the Remembrance Day Service, cheered the Riders to victory, and spent some time with the heavens; life is indeed good!

**SEASON'S GREETINGS
AND WARMEST WISHES
TO YOU AND YOURS!**

Observer's Group Notes

by Larry Scott

As my witty prose was tossed last month due to space constraints I'm going to make up for it this month. We got shut out by clouds for the Observers Group on October 12th and the November 2nd date was attended by me, myself and I. That's the entire report. I will however ramble on about some other things.

I did get out to Sleaford for some observing on October 9th and found some members, a guest, and a herd of students at the site. It's always nice to get out and find the site being used. Also managed to get out with Norma on the 18th to find some clear skies about 80 km west of Saskatoon. The forecast for Sleaford that night was not very good, but a little research showed better skies to the west. Sometimes you just have to go looking for those clear skies.

Sandwiched in between those two nights was the Sleaford Open House on October 13th. Rain till 10:00 that morning turned to clear skies by suppertime. Speaking of supper, thanks to everyone for their contributions. I was still eating Bruce's brownies after the crowd left. And what a good crowd. It was very satisfying to have that kind of turnout



Great food and good cooks at the afternoon BBQ at the Sleaford Open House.



Photos by Rick Huziak

for the evening. The rain resulted in some pretty high humidity and fogging of lenses occasionally, but laser pointers sure work great under those conditions.

Our dark sky period for December runs until the 15th. Don't forget about the Geminid meteor shower which peaks on December 13th and 14th under moonless skies. Dark skies will return from December 29th till January 12th.

For those of you that got out to see comet 17P/Holmes, congratulations. I find comets to be one of the most interesting of night sky phenomena. Unlike many deep-sky objects, comets can undergo rapid transformations. Quite often new comets grace our skies with their spectacular

presence. One resource I've found useful for keeping up with comets is an internet link at (<http://aerith.net/>) which is updated weekly by Seiichi Yoshida. There's lots of information here but the two links I use the most are "Weekly Information about Bright Comets" and "Visual Comets in the Future - North".

See you at Sleaford.

Sleaford Maintenance Report

by Darrell Chatfield, novachat@sasktel.net

Hello everyone: Here is what I got done last Sunday (Oct. 21/07) at Sleaford. I thought that the general membership would like to know what has been fixed at our site.

1. Cut back top tread on the schoolhouse East landing. It was projecting too far, causing improper egress down the steps. Painted exposed edge.
2. Painted 4" white strip on 3 schoolhouse South concrete steps.
3. Pulled up 4' x 8' plywood and 2x4 "covering" on East side of warm-up shelter. Leveled dirt underneath it. Placed it North of shelter laying in the embankment out of the way.
4. Installed thumb-turn with proper screws to inside bathroom door deadbolt.
5. Painted exposed edge of first stair tread to warm-up shelter where the corner was broken off previously.

Painted exposed wood around bathroom door brickmold due to peeling, etc.

6. Lubricated all outside lockset keyways with graphite (U. of S. roll-off door included)

I was glad to get a lot of small things done while the weather was somewhat nice. If you know of anything that needs to be repaired at Sleaford, please e-mail me and I will keep a running list for when I go out next time. I know about the main shelter door not latching properly all the time due to the door/building shifting, so I will fix that when I can. The deadbolt still works, of course. I re-rolled our yellow extension cord that was in one of the lockers. I will supply a cord caddy later on to keep it neat.

Thanks.

The Planets This Month, December 2007

by Murray D. Paulson, Edmonton Centre

So, did you get out to see Mercury last month? Too many late nights with the lovely comet Holmes made deficit my early mornings.

This month **Mercury** swings back toward the sun passing through Scorpius on it's way there. On December 17th, Mercury passes just a little over 1 degree below the sun. Its 99% illuminated 4.6" disk shines at magnitude -1.1, but is too close to the sun for comfort. I seem to recall tales from Bruce McCurdy of following Mercury as close to the sun as he dared. Remember that white canes and Astronomy do not mix! Be very cautious if you chase a planet near the sun, and make sure the scope can not accidentally be bumped so that the sun can shine through an unfiltered aperture! From the 18th of this month onward, Mercury settles into the evening sky and will reach a more favorable evening apparition in late January. More on that next month.

Venus, the beacon of dawn, starts off December at magnitude -4.2 and in the eyepiece is a slightly gibbous 17" "first quarter". Its elongation with the sun is 43 degrees, and this will decline as the month progresses to 37 degrees by the first week of January. Venus will shrink in size over the month, and on December 17th, it will be exactly the same size as the planet Mars, 15.85". By month's end, Venus will shine at magnitude -4.0 and will subtend 14.65" in diameter.

This month we have **Mars** arriving at opposition the night before Christmas, and what a prize. Mars is as high in the northern sky as it can get, right where the seeing is the best. It will be a nice show! We also get a bonus occultation the night before opposition, on the 23rd. I am going to have to uncharacteristically wrap up Christmas presents well before hand so I can head out to watch the graze. But back to the facts! At the beginning of the month, Mars shines at magnitude -1.3 in Gemini just above M 35. It will show you a 15.4" disk in the eyepiece. It rises at 5:20 p.m. and does not set until 11 am the next morning! It is only below the horizon for a little more than 6 hours. This is great for observing, and you can get in a significant part of a Mars rotation in one evening.

Mars maxes out in size on December 18th at 15.90" but at opposition is 15.79". [Not that you would notice.] We would expect Mars to be largest at opposition but we must consider the motion of the two planets with respect to each other. Mars is moving away from us in its orbit toward aphelion, as the Earth is moving away from Mars, toward perihelion, which is on January 3rd. The net effect is that we are slightly farther away at opposition than a week earlier. At opposition Mars shines at Magnitude -1.6, and

Syrtus Major will be facing us. To see what is up on Mars tonight, see the included table. As for observing, I have a more extensive article in the RASC Journal on observing Mars, so I will not go into details of scopes or observing here.

Table of visible features:

Week of Prominent features on disk at around 11 p.m. local time

December 5	Solus Lacus, Mare Cimmerium
December 12	Sinus Meridiani, Aurora Sinus - Nilacus Lacus & Mare Acidalium
December 19	Syrtus Major, Sinus Meridiani
December 26	Syrtus Major, Mare Tyrrhenum
January 2	Mare Tyrrhenum, Mare Cimmerium

Back to the grazes... Yes, if you are on the line between Creston B.C. - High River Alberta, and just west of North Battleford Saskatchewan, you get to see a Graze event. North of this line Mars is occulted, and south of it you will observe a miss. The event takes place at roughly 1:50 UT on December 24th (see table), or 18:50 local time on December 23rd. I have included is a table of some of the local circumstances for the event.

Place	Mars Occultation / Graze		
	Ingress	mid event	Egress
Castlegar	1:46:25	1:53:12	2:00:06
Calgary	1:49:13	1:55:43	2:02:18
Graze! 70 km South of Calgary (mid event)			1:54:51
Graze 90 km East of Calgary (mid event)			1:55:47
Graze 50 km NW of Battleford Sask (mid event)		1:59:02	
Edmonton	1:47:28	1:59:22	2:11:28

Note: All times UT Date is December 24 UT

Jupiter is in conjunction with the sun on December 22nd and will hide in the sun's glare until some time late in January. On the date of the conjunction, Jupiter and the sun pass between the Lagoon and the Trifid nebula. No, they will not get enhanced with an OIII filter!

Saturn rises just after 11 p.m. and sits just below the constellation of Leo at the beginning of the month. It shines at magnitude 0.7 and the planet is now just over 18" in diameter. In the eyepiece, you will be immediately struck by the shallow inclination of the rings, 6.6 degrees. By the end of the month, Saturn will expand to 19" and will brighten to magnitude +0.6. It now rises at 9:30 p.m., and sits at 19 degrees by midnight. Hope you get to watch a few planets over the holidays!

Advertising Policy for the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party and the RASC Saskatoon Centre Newsletter



In the excitement of the outburst of comet Holmes, the other comet of October was almost forgotten. Comet C/2007 F1 LONEOS made a brief appearance low to the

Northwest in the evening twilight for about a week in the middle of October. This picture was taken on the 21st with a Rebel XT and an 8-inch Newtonian. Photo by Tenho Tuomi

registration procedure - i.e. normal participants at normal price for the star party. You may in turn sell & conduct normal business within the Meadows campground, (but cannot solicit elsewhere in the park). The SSSP is not responsible for any of their costs

The aim of the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC is to promote amateur astronomy in its many forms. Finding a reputable astronomy dealer is an important step for most people in choosing and maintaining the proper equipment, for their specified tasks.

We at the Saskatoon Centre welcome astronomy (and related) dealers in forming a lasting partnership with us in providing such services to our members. Because we are a small group (less than 100), the very best way to do this is to become a Vendor at our annual Star Party held every August in Cypress Hills. At this event you, the dealer, have the potential to reach nearly 300 astronomy enthusiasts just looking to buy something.

The following information is provided for those who are interested in becoming a vendor at the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party.

Vendors are welcome and we'd be delighted to see your product line. To participate, you are asked to follow the standard

(transportation, accommodation, living, etc). Vendors are responsible for their own arrangements, park entry and must pay standard camping fees (to the Park) and camp site power if needed if staying in the Meadows. The SSSP is not responsible for any merchandise loss or damage. As registered SSSP star party goers, all vendors are welcome to participate in all activities they have registered for.

If you would like to donate a door prize, this will be graciously accepted & will be accordingly acknowledged, though a door prize donation is not required and is at the discretion of the vendor. Vendors will receive a free 1/4-page ad in the star party handout literature or for \$25 can purchase a full-page ad (either choice gray-scale photocopied). Alternately, the SSSP will pre-package vendor-supplied product brochures in our registration folders for 25 cents per copy. Approximately 120 registration packages are handed out. Vendor must provide the ad or the product brochures at least 2 weeks prior to the star party.

In a further attempt to foster this on-going good will, all star party vendors will be entitled to 2 separate half-page ads (or equivalent - e.g. 4 1/4-page ads) in our monthly newsletter, over the coming year. These ads are at no additional cost. Our current newsletter circulation is approximately 80 copies, but these are highly targeted readers.

All ads are subject to approval by the executive, before inclusion in the newsletter. We will do our best to publish the ad in the month desired, but this is also subject to available space within the newsletter.

For those not wishing to be a vendor at the star party, astronomy related ads may still be purchased in the Saskatoon Skies for a rate of \$25.00 per 1/2 page, or \$15.00 per 1/4 page, payable to "RASC Saskatoon Centre". Again, subject to approval by executive and availability of space. These rates apply also to vendors who would like to purchase advertising beyond what is offered above.

Passed by the Executive of the Saskatoon Centre RASC,
October 15, 2007



I was able to take a picture of comet Holmes every night for an incredible two weeks from October 24 to November 6 as the comet grew from night to night. Photo by Tenho Tuomi

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	
<u>Brent Burlingham</u>	<u>109</u>
<u>Ken Maher</u>	<u>109</u>
<u>Ron Waldron</u>	<u>105</u>
<u>Norma Jensen</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>Donna May</u>	<u>97</u>
<u>Brent Gratias</u>	<u>96</u>
<u>Mike Oosterlaken</u>	<u>93</u>
<u>Lorne Jensen</u>	<u>89</u>
<u>Kathleen Houston</u>	<u>84</u>
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<u>Garry Stone</u>	<u>57</u>
<u>Ellen Dickson</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>Jeff Swick</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Barb Wright</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Brian Friesen</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Bruce Brandell</u>	<u>5</u>

Katelyn Metanczuk New! 4

FINEST NGC CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

<u>R.Huziak, D.Jeffrey, G.Sarty,</u>	
<u>D.Chatfield, T.Tuomi</u>	
<u>Larry Scott</u>	<u>110</u>
<u>Scott Alexander</u>	<u>97</u>
<u>Bill Hydomako</u>	<u>55</u>
<u>Sandy Ferguson</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Mike Oosterlaken</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>George Charpentier</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Ken Maher</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Mike Clancy</u>	<u>7</u>

Chatfield BINOCULAR

CERTIFICATE (35 Objects):

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

<u>Brent Gratias</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Mike Oosterlaken</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Anna Clancy</u>	<u>24</u>

EXPLORE the UNIVERSE

Certified for Certificate:

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

Katelyn Metanczuk New! 15

HERSCHEL 400 CLUB

Certified at 400 Objects:

D.Jeffrey, R.Huziak, D.Chatfield

<u>Gord Sarty</u>	<u>251</u>
<u>Tenho Tuomi</u>	<u>222</u>
<u>Scott Alexander</u>	<u>117</u>
<u>Mike Oosterlaken</u>	<u>68</u>
<u>Sandy Ferguson</u>	<u>18</u>

HERSCHEL 400-II CLUB

Certified at 400 Objects:

<u>Darrell Chatfield</u>	<u>304</u>
<u>Richard Huziak</u>	<u>211</u>

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>

Hampton Bay dark sky lamps that we bought from Home Depot. They come equipped with motion and photo sensors. In these shots, I have 60-watt incandescent bulbs in them.

Photo by Les Dickson



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