



# Saskatoon Skys



Saskatoon Skies is a publication of the Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

VOL #24 ISSUE 11

## Minutes of the October Executive Meeting

7:00 PM, Oct 17, 1994

Room B-10, Health Sciences Building, U of S Campus

Present: Richard Huziak, Scott Alexander, Sandy Ferguson, Gord Garty, Al Hartridge, Garry Brett, David Cornish, Jim Young

1. Meeting called to order 7:03 PM.
2. Telescope Committee Report - Neilsen Institute has been approached to complete telescope. Huziak.
3. New dome has been delivered by Robert and Joyce Brummond:
  - a. Motion to pay Mr. Brummond \$175US for gas for delivering the dome
  - b. Motion to pay Percy H. Davis \$92.13 for customs/duty/GST.
4. Observatory repairs still required: door knob, dome leak, Eetook. Second observatory needs to be set up and winterized.
5. Observers Group report. Last OG meeting was a washout. Still need a reliable OG person and organized themes.
6. Temporary membership program is working well, but few on the list have joined so far. Members need to inform David Cornish of other potential members!
7. Elections discussed. Jim Young and Ed Kennedy reaffirmed.
8. Dr. Herzberg will be lecturing at the U of S Oct 18. Ed Kennedy suggests that the RASC should attend.
9. Insurance of \$274.00 must be paid. Motion to pay insurance.
10. Meeting adjourned 7:38 PM.

## Minutes of the October General Meeting 8:00PM, Oct 17, 1994

Room A-226, Health Sciences Building, U of S Campus

1. Meeting called to order 8:06 PM. Members and guests welcomed.
2. Promotional items for sale: BUG, Asteroid Charts, Kessier Album, Calendars, etc.
3. Dues are due - please pay up, or join if you are on the temporary list.
4. Motion to adopt September minutes as published in the newsletter.
5. Temporary membership program - members should contact David Cornish with any leads.
6. New dome has been delivered by Robert and Joyce Brummond.
7. Observatory repairs still required: door knob, dome leak, Eetook. Second observatory needs to be set up and winterized. A work bee has been set for Oct. 30/94.
8. Observers Group report. Last OG meeting was a washout. Still need a reliable OG person and organized themes. Refer to published dates in the newsletter and call Rick H for alternated dates.
9. Dr. Herzberg will be lecturing at the U of S Oct 18. Ed Kennedy suggests that the RASC should attend.
10. Lecturers/presenters wanted for General Meetings. Tentative programs are as follows: Nov. meeting will feature Eric Woolgar, an associate of Roger Penrose, on Relativity. Dec meeting will feature Daryl Teed, on Astrophotography.
11. Insurance for \$274.00 must be paid.

General Meeting con't.

12. The elections were held and below are the results.

Position	Nominated	Elected
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Honorary President.....	Ed Kennedy.....	Ed Kennedy (appointed)
Past President.....	Don Friesen.....	Don Friesen (inherited)
President.....	Richard Huziak.....	Richard Huziak (2nd year of term)
Vice President.....	Scott Alexander.....	Scott Alexander (2nd year of term)
Centre Representative....	Jim Young.....	Jim Young (3rd year of term)
Secretary.....	Bill Hydomako.....	Bill Hydomako
Treasurer.....	Mike Williams.....	Mike Williams
Activities Coordinator...	Sandy Ferguson.....	Sandy Ferguson
Newsletter Editor.....	Garry Brett.....	Garry Brett
Librarian.....	Jim Young.....	Jim Young
Membership/Promotion....	David Cornish.....	David Cornish
Councillor.....	Al Hartridge.....	Al Hartridge
Councillor.....	Marilyn Melby.....	Marilyn Melby

Tonights program:

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| - Autumn Observing                        | Sandy Ferguson |
| - Problems with Hypering Film             | Al Hartridge   |
| - RZ Cassiopeia - The Beginner's Variable | Rick Huziak    |

Meeting adjourned 9:23 PM.

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IN MEMORIUM - G. N. Patterson d. 1994

I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Gordon Nelson Patterson, a faithful member and builder of the Saskatoon Centre. Gordon died on Saturday, October 29, after a very long illness. It is sad that recent members in the Centre could not have known Gordon, as he was a driving force in the Centre for many years and was like a father to many of us. Older members will remember the regular Saturday night meetings in Gordon's basement where we learned everything there was to learn about astronomy. There we planned projects, discussed everything from photography to comets to wooden lenses. And Gordon always had yet another project for us to do or was busy giving classes to school kids on the basics of astrophotography. His wife Margaret would always come down at 'half-time' with a steaming pot of coffee and cake and cookies, which went down so well after an hour or so of guiding in Gordon's backyard observatory, long ago, when it was still dark at the edge of Saskatoon. Gordon was well known around the National scene as well, and within hours of his passing, condolences were already being received by e-mail from all corners of the RASC - Winnipeg, Quebec and elsewhere. Gordon will be greatly missed. A more detailed profile of Gordon's life and association with the Saskatoon Centre will appear in next month's issue.

Richard Huziak

Letter from the Editor.

As this is my very first newsletter since being guided into the position let me officially introduce myself and tell you a little about myself. My name is Garry Brett and I have been living in the fair city of Saskatoon since 1990 with my wife and son. I have been involved in the club officially since February of 1994. I had my first contact with the club through Rick back in 1990 when he took me out to the dark site for a tour.

I am just a beginner in the viewing part of astronomy as I have spent all of my time building scopes rather than looking through them. In fact I have spent so little time viewing that the only thing I can find with any certainty is the Earth and I am just about sure where the moon is. Rick Huziak will attest to the fact that I have several scopes sitting in my basement in various stages of construction. I am proud of the fact that one of the scopes I have built will be appearing in an issue of Astronomy magazine at some time in the near future. I spent months writing the article for them and I have been waiting for over a year for it to appear. In a phone conversation with Robert Burnham last year he told me sometime late '94 early '95. My article will be shortened and combined with some other things. That's about all there is to tell about me. I hope that everyone will be patient with me as I learn the ins and outs of producing our newsletter. It will be awhile before the letter will ever approach the quality it had with Gordon Sarty as editor. We all extend a thank-you for the dedication you showed in producing our newsletter Gordon and I hope that I can call on you once in awhile for some advice or help.

Speaking of calling on people I want help from everyone in our club. If you look back at all of our newsletters just about all of the articles are from the same people, and I think we should all help them out alittle. I am hoping that everyone on the executive will submit an article or two. I also want to hear from some of the general members, especially the new ones, on the types of articles you would like to see. I also want you to send me articles or call me with an idea for an article any time you want. This is our newsletter and the more people contribute to it the better it will get. I have enclosed a questionnaire at the end of the letter and I ask that ALL MEMBERS please fill it out and get it back to me as soon as possible. Your response will help me put out a newsletter that will appeal to everyone and have a little something for everyone.

A couple of ideas that I am thinking about is tapping into the vast pools of knowledge that we have in our club with regards to viewing, building, photography, computers ...just to mention a few. I would like to have a computer corner and tap into the knowledge of Jim Young and also develop a software library. I would also like to have a photographers corner and use the expertise of Al Hartridge and perhaps get him to give a seminar on different aspects of astrophotography. I am hoping to perhaps get Dr. Kennedy to share some of his historical knowledge in an article every month. I could go on for pages but I think you get the idea of what I want to do.

I welcome any suggestions so call me at 384-1807 anytime up till 10.00pm.....Garry Brett

Editors Memo:

If the Newsletter seems a little unorganized it isn't your immagination. I was rushing around trying to put everything together 1/2 hour before I had to drop this off to get photocopied. I promise that next issue will be better. Please remember that if you want to submit an article (and I encourage you to do so) the deadline is the 1st of each month.

Thanks.....Garry

The President's Message and other Ramblings

Richard Huziak

There is always a lot to information to pass along to members. I try to do much of this at the General Meetings, but only about 40% of members can attend for one reason or another. So I will try to keep everyone up to date with an occasional President's Message et al. So here goes:

Scott McGibney - In case you're missing a lawn chair, it's in the warm up shelter at the Rystrom Observatory. You left it there during one of our Jupiter Collision marathons.

And before we get really serious, my 5-year old daughter came to me one day and said "Daddy, I learned all the planets in school today. They are Mercury, Venus, earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Pluto and Ukuleleus" .....Not bad! I was impressed.

Anyway, new members may not be aware that getting a key for Rystrom Observatory is not that hard. All you have to do is be a member in good standing (pay your dues), have a short training period with an experienced member (generally two observing sessions); then pay a 5 dollar key fee, which covers the cost of getting a key cut. Thereafter the observatory is free for you to use on a first-come-first serve basis anytime (provided you phone ahead to the Rystrom's). A voluntary \$5.00 fee can be paid yearly to retain your key in the next years. This money goes toward general upkeep of the observatory. We love to see members using our facilities!

Extended members - give me a sign!! You guys out there in Aneroid, Yorkton, Swift Current and elsewhere, please write in to the Centre and let us know what more we can do for you. Just getting the publications and newsletter is not enough as far as we are concerned. Make us do more for you! Suggestions are welcome. I know you can't attend the meetings and starnights, but feel free to contribute articles to the newsletter and sent in pictures. We'll publish them. You may also convince us to do a starnight in your area if you try hard enough or at least mail out brochures and other stuff generally available at our meetings!

I encourage everyone in the Centre to participate in an event at least once this year. Please consider giving a presentation at a General Meeting (5 minutes to 1 hour) or just bring your scope and talk about it. Otherwise, we have a number of public events through the year that we need person-power at to take care of the displays and to talk astronomy. If you have any ideas about the Centre, also give me call anytime at 665-3392.

New members may be interested to know that the Saskatoon Centre can offer a reduced rate for subscription to Sky and Telescope magazine. If you would like to subscribe, contact me and I'll tell you exactly how to go about it. It costs just \$36.38 Can\$ per year. Also, if you will be renewing your subscription we can also offer the same discount. All books, atlas and products that Sky Publishing Corporation puts out are available at a percentage discount as well to Saskatoon members. X

Welcome to computer corner.

As this is a brand new addition to our newsletter I thought that I would start the ball rolling. Computers can and are a lot of fun to use in astronomy. If you have the right programs you can view the universe from the comfort of your own home. If you have a lot of money to spend you can buy telescopes that have built in computers that will give you a tour of the universe without you having to know the whereabouts of anything. If you really want to spend money you can fully automate a telescope and sit in your living room and view the universe from the comfort of your easy chair.

A lot of the astronomy programs can be out of the price reach of a lot of people, especially the younger members and as a result they miss out on some really great enjoyment and rainy day activity. I recently got back into computers and right away realized that all of the astronomy software I had accumulated from years before was really outdated but I could not afford to run out and buy more. So what did I do? I turned to computer bulletin boards. If you have even a basic computer and have a modem you can download some very up to date astronomy programs for free. Some of them do require a registration fee for the use of the software but this normally is only \$5.00 to \$30.00 dollars. These fees are very reasonable and the software is just as good as the software that you would buy in the store.

The try before you buy concept is an excellent way to try out some of the latest software on the market. At the end of this article is a list of the better BBS in town that have astronomy software or space pictures that a person can download. I have also included a few of the BBS set up by some of our fellow R.A.S.C. Most BBS require that you register and to do this you give your name, address, phone, date of birth and then you enter a password that you will use each time you log on. Once you are confirmed you can call up and have access to the BBS for a set amount of time. So grab your computer and have fun.....Editor.

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#### LIST OF BBS WITH ASTRONOMY SECTIONS

- 1) International: Saskatoons largest BBS. 384-7680, 384-7682
  - 2) Edmonton R.A.S.C.:.....1-403-489-4685
  - 3) Kingston R.A.S.C.:.....1-615-353-6495
  - 4) Canadian Space Society.....1-416-458-5901
  - 5) Deck #6 Windsor.....1-519-252-3052
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Note: The 1995 Observer's Handbooks have arrived. Please pick yours up at the November General Meeting if possible. x

## Two New Domes for the Saskatoon Centre by Rick Huziak

The late summer months bode well for the Saskatoon Centre's future. On August 31st, we moved the old G. N. Patterson observatory from Mike William's acreage near Grandora, to the Rystrom Observatory for winter storage. The dome is fairly good shape and one day can house another 8-inch telescope. It comes complete with a steel pier and wedge. I'd like to thank Ted Firman (who provided the moving truck), Scott McGibney, Bill Hydomako, Terry Prentiss, Mike Williams (and me), who all herniated themselves lifting the dome and building onto truck, and who suffered through almost 200 kilometers of traveling in the two trips required to move the observatory.

On October 11th, our long-awaited Minnesota dome also arrived. The dome was delivered by Robert and Joyce Brummond of Fargo, North Dakota. They made the trip up here just to deliver the dome and to see what other amateur astronomers look like. Bob is a member of the Fargo/Moorhead Astronomy Club and is retired from his professorship at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. The 14-foot aluminum dome cost us \$100 USD, plus \$92 Can\$ in customs fees, plus \$175 USD for transportation. This is a real deal! The dome is in winter storage at Al Hartridge's acreage. Al, Bob and I unloaded seemingly millions of pieces of the dome, which was broken down into individual gores (or are they tines, petals or segments?), plus bolts, plus rings, plus wheels, plus drive motors, plus.... ! Unfortunately, Bob and Joyce had to drive back to Regina the same day they arrived and couldn't spend much time with us.

Both observatories are destined for the new dark site which we plan to develop next year. As most members know, the Rystrom Observatory, though very convenient, has been suffering in recent years from increased light pollution, and the development of a new sight is a must. We are currently looking for a new, dark location. If any members know of a good sight, please let me know. Current prospects are Beaver Creek, Brightwater Camp, acreages on Highway 5 east, Valley Road (SW), Percy Crossthwaite's acreage, and University estate farms. We have not really pursued any of these strongly.

Criteria for the new site are: lack of light pollution from Saskatoon or nearby settlements, a maximum of 1/2 hour drive from the city, winter access, security, a stable lease and a nearby location to run power from.

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## Public Viewing at the U of S Observatory

The U of S Observatory will be open to the public on Saturday evenings from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. from October through February. Observatory assistants will be present to answer questions about astronomy and to assist in viewing through the 6-inch telescope. For further information, call Stan Shadick at 966-6434. x

## BINOCULAR ASTRONOMY OBSERVING PROGRAM

A new naked eye and binocular observing program is being introduced this month. MPS Photographics in Scotia Centre Mall, has very kindly agreed to sponsor this program, in association with the Saskatoon Centre. Chris MacAulay of MPS is a Saskatoon Centre member and is interested in promoting the use of binoculars in observing, especially for beginners to astronomy. The Centre wishes to thank MPS for their generosity and assistance in the promotion of astronomy in our city. The program instructors will be Don Friesen and Sandy Ferguson, with Brian Friesen and Craig Reichert assisting.

The program will emphasize constellation recognition, locating and observing brighter deep sky objects, such as those in the Messier catalogue, observing techniques and generally getting comfortable with the sky. The opportunity also exists to observe other phenomena, such as aurorae and meteors. Guidance and suggestions will also be given in the purchase of observing accessories (star charts, books, etc.) and in binocular equipment. It is emphasised, however, that owning binoculars is not a pre-requisite for joining the program. Naked-eye observing will also be important.

The observing sessions will take place once a month at the Saskatoon Centre's Rystrom Observatory, on the same evening as we hold our observers' group meetings (usually the Saturday closest to new moon--however, it is always announced in Saskatoon Skies). Throughout the winter, the sessions will begin quite early (say around 7:00-7:30 p.m.), which will enable the binocular program members to indulge in an hour or so of instruction first, then stay on, if desired, to look through the Centre's telescopes and any others belonging to members set up that night. This gives everyone a chance to view through a variety of observing instruments of different sizes and design.

This program is being advertised outside the Saskatoon Centre, as MPS and the Centre would like to get as many people involved as possible, (with, of course the hope that newcomers would be interested in joining the Centre, when they see what we are up to). For non-members of the Centre there will be a charge of \$15.00 for the program, which includes a guidebook to the constellations and Messier charts. For Centre members the program is free, except for a \$8.00 charge, which covers the costs of the guidebook and Messier charts. A registration form is included below.

All participants are welcome to attend the Centre's monthly meetings in Room A-226 of the Health Sciences Building located on Campus, the third Monday of each month, at 8:00 p.m. For further information on the program please give me a call at 931-3184 or contact Don Friesen at 343-1136 or Rick Huziak at 665-3392.

Sandy Ferguson X

BINOCULAR ASTRONOMY OBSERVING PROGRAM

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

PHONE: (H) ..... (W) .....

(   ) RASC MEMBER (\$8.00)      (   ) NON-MEMBER (\$15.00)

SEND TO: RASC SASKATOON CENTRE      OR      GIVE TO ANY PROGRAM  
BOX 317, RPO UNIVERSITY                  INSTRUCTOR AT THE  
SASKATOON, SK S7N 4J8                  MONTHLY MEETINGS

The main presentation for November's General Meeting is entitled "General Relativity - Some Recent Developments" and will be given by Dr. Eric Woolgar of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Woolgar is originally from St. John's, Newfoundland, and received his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. He has been interested in both the mathematical and the experimental aspects of general relativity. His mathematical interests include the positive energy theorem and the topological censorship theorem. On the experimental side, he has been interested in data from the lunar laser ranging experiment of Apollo 11 and data from the Viking Mars probe and how these data relate to theories alternative to general relativity. Dr. Woolgar is also interested in the LIGO gravitational wave detection experiment.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Monday, November 21, 1994, 8:00PM  
Room A-226, Health Sciences Building  
U of S Campus

(New executive members - executive meeting is held in Room B-10 at 7:00PM)

Club questionnaire.

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.....Please fill out and mail back to me as soon as possible.....

- 1) How long have you been an active member in the club?
  
- 2) What type of articles would you like to see in the newsletter. Please give brief description (ie..I would like more info on comets).
  
- 3) Would you be willing to submit an article once in awhile?
  
- 4) Would you be willing to submit an article every month?
  
- 5) What type of viewing information would you like to see in the newsletter?
  
- 6) What would you like to see at our general meetings?
  
  
- 7) What areas would you be willing to help the club out in? (It could be construction, help out at Star parties, Mall shows, General meetings and so on. Just list some areas that you think you could help out in, fill in your name and mail back to me)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_