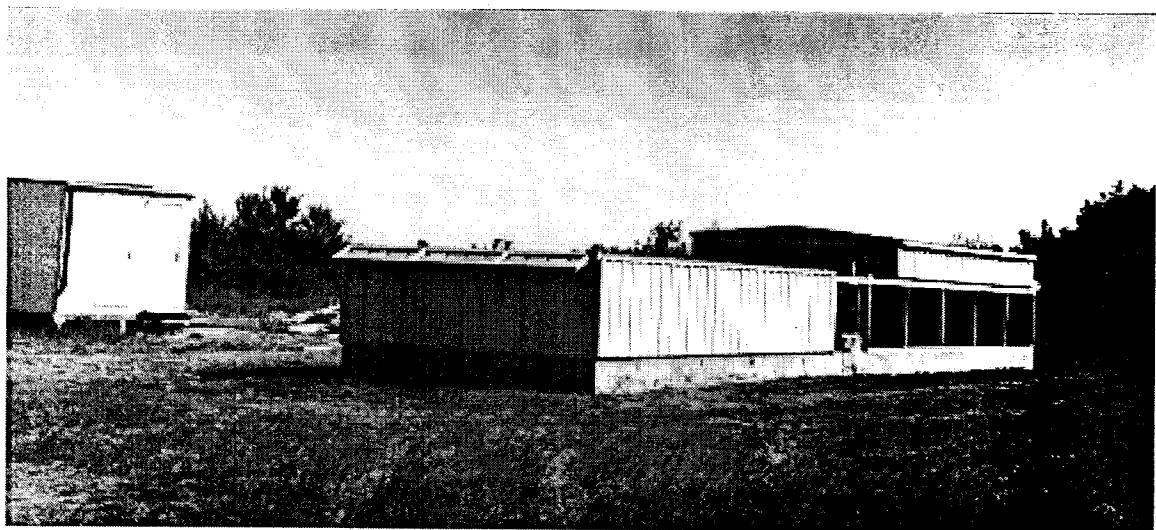


Saskatoon

Skies

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

Volume 29, Number 9
September 1998



The University has now installed the roll-off building at the Sleaford Observatory. This building is an all-metal construction, fabricated in Clavet, then moved to the site. Once the wooden floor and electrical wiring are completed, the building will be furnished with two 8-inch catadioptrics, a C-14 and a beautiful 5" Zeiss refractor.

RASC Calendar Happenings

RASC Calendar Happenings			
Sep 21	First RASC General Meeting of Fall - 7:30 pm	1395 Keele St., Etobicoke, ON M3J 1Z4	574-1262
Sep 25 or 26	Annual Fall Public Star night at Beaver Creek	Sandy Ferguson	961-3184
Oct 9	Junior Astronomers Meeting at S. Ferguson's - 7:30 pm	Sandy Ferguson	931-3184
Oct 16-18	Edmonton Astronomy Workshop (see inside)	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Oct 21-22	Orionid Meteor shower peak	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Nov 1	Possible Meteor Burst watch near beta Cygni	Rick Huziak	665-3392

GET A BETTER START FOR LESS BUILD YOUR OWN SCOPE WITH STARGAZER STEVE

You'll see more with this exceptional long-focus scope that you've made yourself in a day! Follow the video to success!

"...an ideal project for a parent and child to work on together
...I felt a tremendous sense of discovery."
- Scott Barrie in Nov/Dec'97 Sky News

"...exquisite craftsmanship... a great school science project...
...veterans will have fun with it too."
- Glenn Chaple in Dec/97 Astronomy

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Website <http://www2.icsys.ca/stargazer>

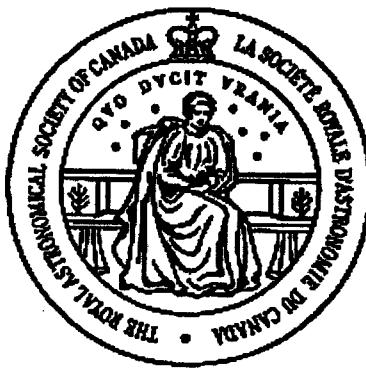


Stargazer Steve

Saskatoon Centre

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
P.O. Box 317, RPO University
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 4J8
URL: <http://maya.usask.ca/~rasc/rasc.html>
E-mail: huziak@SEDSystems.ca
Telephone: (306) 665-3392

Newsletter Editor - Richard Huziak
Copy, Collate, Stuff - Sandy Ferguson



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Saskatoon Skies is published monthly by the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC. Distribution is approximately 135 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. 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 UUEncoded or as attached .GIFs. Send e-mail submissions to the editor at huziak@SEDSystems.ca. Submitted materials can be returned upon request. A separate subscription to ***Saskatoon Skies*** is available for \$12.50 per year. Articles may be reprinted from ***Saskatoon Skies*** without expressed permission (except where otherwise stated), but source credit is requested. **DEADLINE** for submissions is the 1st of each month. ***Saskatoon Skies*** accepts commercial advertising. Please call the editor for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items free of charge.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Erich Keser

It's been quite a Summer! Our Saskatchewan Summer Star Party '98 was even bigger and better than SSSP'97 with more people, more programmed activities and even more clear nights. Alongside preparing for SSSP, we also did a great job of raising money though the incredible support for our first ever raffle, and even managed to continue work on our new observatory site. While all this was going on, Rick, Sandy, Brian, Kirt and others managed to maintain an ambitious program of presentations and starnights.

SSSP'98 drew 267 registrants. This reflected the strong support of the Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton Centres, and of astronomy groups in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge and Brandon. It also demonstrated a continued ability of SSSP to draw out and serve the interests of newcomers to astronomy. People like our own Sandy Ferguson and Rick Huziak, as well as dear colleagues like Fr. Lucian Kemble and Murray Paulson again demonstrated their great talent for communicating their fascination with the skies to beginners. This very much included spouses and significant others, family members and (formerly) long suffering friends.

Our big astronomy raffle culminated in the draw on Saturday night at SSSP. Thanks, for this wonderful project which has shown us that we can raise money, must go first and foremost to David Cornish, who came up with the idea, got the great prizes, and did such an effective job of organizing sales that we sold EVERY LAST TICKET, and also to Garry Brett, who helped get the idea of the ground. We should also be very thankful to the donors: *Motion Picture & Sound*, artist *Glenn Scrimshaw*, *The Royal Oak Gallery*, *Bausch & Lomb* and *Firefly Books*. Most important of all, thanks should also go to each and every member and supporter who sold - or bought - tickets. The raffle raised over \$3600 for the development of our new Sleaford Site, and David further organized a Silent Auction and which raised another \$600. Donations here included another print by Scrimshaw, beautiful astrophotos by Murray Paulson and Al Hartridge, three unique stuffed dinosaurs by Barbara Ellis, and computer software.

This money will be put to good use. The Site Committee has managed to start repairing our dome and to prepare for its move from the Rystrom farm to our new Sleaford site - even as the University has installed its first building, an impressive 70 foot long steel roll-off roof observatory, which will accommodate four telescopes. The foundation has also been laid for expansion of our Warmup Shelter and the construction of an enclosure for a modern and sanitary chemical toilet. Your help may well be needed. You are also very welcome to come out and observe. Our wonderful new Sleaford Site is getting better and better, as our facilities are becoming more extensive and comfortable. Call Darrell (374-9278) if you want to help, or to stargaze, and Rick (665-3392) if you just want to stargaze. One of the very best times of year for observing is just starting.

Monday September 21st, at ***7:30 PM***, our monthly meetings are starting again, and there is good news here, too! Note the time. In response to many of your wishes, the Executive has decided do meet on a separate night, so that General Meetings can start and end earlier to make it easier for our increasing family and youth membership to participate. After a brief summary of any business to come later, meetings will start with popular presentations about astronomy and observing, Centre activities, and feature many more outside speakers. Centre business will be dealt with as concisely as possible after our usual coffee and donut break. Our decision was partly based on the practice of other big RASC Centres because with all your help and participation, that is just what we are becoming. Come out on Monday, at 7:30 PM for a gala audio-visual presentation on the exciting things we've done over the Summer...and to get a handle on the great things we'll this coming year.

The Sask. Summer Star Party at Cypress Hills, July 24-26, 1998

by Darrell Chatfield

The observing at this year's star party proved to be most enjoyable, with clear skies for all three nights. Some of the participants had come already on Wednesday and Thursday of that week, and the viewing was good on those nights also. Even though the sky does not get very dark in July, people were still impressed with what they saw.

Most of the Saskatoon contingency of star gazers had set up at the South end of the Meadows site, which proved to be very active with members of other centers and some public participants. On Friday evening, things got going around 10:30 p.m. It was clear until later on, when the Northern Lights decided to erupt. However, people like myself, Rick, Scott, Brian, the Dicksons, Al, Bob and Sandy entertained a lot of people with our various telescopes and binoculars. I think we all enjoy sharing our knowledge and the sky with those eager to learn. A lot of questions were fielded, with hopefully all the right answers returned! This evening ended around 4 a.m. for a few of us. One highlight for me was finding NGC 6286, a 10th. magnitude planetary in Cygnus. This is also known as the Blinking Planetary. Once word got around, it soon became a "hot" object for viewing.

Rick had brought his home-built 10" telescope to test out for the first time at the star party, and was happy to report that it worked very well. It worked so well that he trundled it around to Murray Paulson's site to be challenged by Jones 1, a planetary nebula in Pegasus. He then went on to Bruce McCurdy's site, telescope in tow, to enjoy the views in each others' scope. (I also think he squeezed in a side trip to Paul Campbell's site.)

Saturday evening started later, because of all the activities in the hall. We all got viewing around 11:30 p.m. The sky was clear, with a few Northern Lights again appearing later on. However, many people were again impressed with the sights. Jupiter proved to be very bright and clear. Saturn was also visible, although quite low in the sky. I had heard that Lucien was trying again to find Pluto this year, but did not have much success. David Cornish was helping Helen Dean and friends around the sky, and I was able to show them some Messier highlights. I was also very glad to meet an older couple who had come from Prince George, BC, just to attend our star party. They were impressed with the views in my 10" Meade, remarking how it is nice to see objects as they really are, and not all enhanced and digitized as seen in the magazines.

Sunday night proved to be warm and clear, and somewhat darker. Bob, the Dicksons, and David were still impressing various people with various objects. A couple from Calgary, although not club members, set up their Celestron telescope with the group, enjoying the friendship. Jupiter was again excellent, along with the Messier and NGC objects. I was camped next to Dale Jeffrey's home-built observing trailer, which was very well thought-out. We were trading views, along with Claude Grimard from Winnipeg, who visited us for a while. Half way through the evening, a somewhat older truck and trailer pulled into one of the north campsites, coughing and sputtering to get there. Soon, there was a very bright, white light from a lantern they had set up. Now this was very annoying to us observers, but thanks to Ellen Dickson and Whendi Jeffrey, they were able to convince the campers to extinguish the light, in exchange for views through the telescopes. This proved to be a very good bit of PR work. Thanks girls! All in all, everyone came away with good feelings of having shared the sky, and maybe even learned something. It is well worth traveling to Cypress Hills for the views. I hope to see you there next year.

Cypress Stats by Rick Huziak

In my humble opinion, the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park went off pretty well, with clear skies throughout the official 3 day party and as a bonus, clear skies for a few days before and after (for the early arrivers and late stragglers). We did, however, experience some sky degradation due to persistent aurora, mostly earlier in the week and also due to light haze smoke from BC and US forest fires. However, Saturday's sky was pretty darn good, with those Sgr and Oph dark nebulae becoming visible to the naked eye. We had 267 registered star party goers (up from 197 last year).

Excellent talks were given by John Mirtle (astrophoto extravaganza!), the youth astronomers group headed by Whendi Jeffrey, Murray Paulson, John Leppert (great eclipse video!), Don Hladiuk, Don MacKinnon, Charles Zsoka and others. Fr. Luke also was presented with the Millennium Star Atlas in recognition of his service to amateur astronomy in Canada over the last half century. (He blushed! - and maybe for the first time ever - was speechless!) The Regina Centre also put on an excellent public star night at Lookout Point, with 150 or more campers attending.

We are already working on some problems that we had in order to make the SSSP better next year, such as the very hot meeting hall (we will be moving to the air conditioned resort banquet room), and the white light problem in the Meadows (which can be resolved with the park's help).

Ellen Dickson reports the following statistics on SSSP'98: 267 people attended. 164 adults & 50 children were fed by our caterer, Jim Saville. We sold 70 or so T-shirts.

Amazing Things in the Sky: Seeing MIR and the Shuttle by Ellen Dickson

On Monday, June 8, 1998, Les and I stepped out on our south-facing balcony. We had just came out for a quick look at the sky. The moon was up and clear. We saw a star or two but what surprised us was this: between 22:26 - 22:28 hrs we saw two fairly bright moving objects in the same orbit. They were slightly separated - (this separation grew as time went on). They were heading in a SE direction. Since we just heard about MIR and the space shuttle Discovery, I suggested to Les (after he thought that they were aircraft), that was what we were seeing. Naturally, I ran in and got the binocs, while Les watched their direction and speed. With the binocs, it was clear that these were not aircraft (no red, green flashing lights), but MIR & the Shuttle shortly after the parting of the ways. It was totally amazing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th - 7:30 p.m.

JR. ASTRONOMERS/YOUTH GROUP NEW SEASON! The new year has started for the Centre's two youth groups. BOTH JR. ASTRONOMERS AND YOUTH GROUP will be meeting at SANDY FERGUSON'S PLACE --Apt. 11, 238 Main St. This will basically be an evening to get sorted out, register, etc. and hopefully we will have a chance to peek at some sky stuff through the young people's new 4-1/4" "Stargazer Steve" reflector. Punch and cookies will be served (and coffee/tea for the parents!). This year, the fee remains at \$22.50 per child (or group of children from one family), plus an additional materials charge of \$10.00 per child. Please contact Sandy at 931-3184 for further information.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th (RAIN DATE, SAT. SEPT. 26th) -

DUSK PUBLIC STARNIGHT: BEAVER CREEK CONSERVATION AREA . The Centre's final public starnight of the season will be held. Everyone is welcome and the evening will be advertised in the local media. Please call BRIAN FRIESEN at 384-2963 or SANDY FERGUSON at 931-3184 if you can bring your scope, or even if you can't. We always need members to interact with the public. Beaver Creek is also advertising in their Monthly Newsletter, so we expect a good crowd.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH - 7:30 P.M.

JR. ASTRONOMERS' MONTHLY MEETING - Sandy's Place at 11-238 Main St. **DRESS WARMLY!!** It's getting cool at night!! Highlights: fall constellations and myths (amongst lots of other things) and observing through the new 'scope!. Sandy: 931-3184.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD - 7:30 P.M.

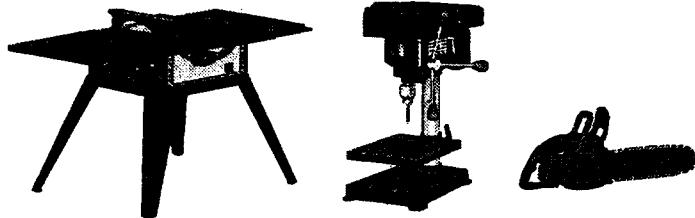
YOUTH GROUP MONTHLY MEETING - Sandy's Place at 11-238 Main St. Highlights: fall constellations & Messier Objects; learning to use the new scope; and observing! **DRESS WARMLY!!** Sandy: 931-3184.

Shekinah, Waldheim and Rostern Starnights Past and Future

by Dale Jeffrey <dale.jeffrey@sk.sympatico.ca>

Camp Shekinah's star night on August 29th, with Saskatoon's Mount Royal Mennonite Church, went very well, with over 40 keen observers peering through my C8's eyepiece. We received a nice thank you from the retreat facility's management and a cheque towards our observatory fund of \$25.00. On August 31 another starnight was conducted for a youth group in Waldheim (led by prospective RASC member Marvin Froese) and comprised about 15 youthful stargazers and my C8.

Finally, on September 24th, the Rostern Elementary School will be our host as I, and hopefully Rick and Sandy Ferguson and any other interested and available members give an open-to-the-public half-day astronomy presentation followed by an observing session open for the entire town and heavily promoted by the local schools and the newspaper. The school kids will be learning and rehearsing Whendi's play that our youth performed at SSSP'98, "*The Joy of Wonder*", and it will be presented during the afternoon seminar. This will hopefully incorporate also a peek through Rick's solar telescope, and any RASC members who would like the opportunity to show the heavens to Rostern!



The Astronomy Workshop

October 16 - 18, 1998

This year's Astronomy Workshop is to be held at St. John's School. The committee decided that this was the best place available for the workshop, and I think they made a wonderful decision. We will have all the modern amenities such as heat and running water, all under one roof. Basically, this is a school for boys, and this year's workshop just happens to coincide with a time that the boys are not in school and are off on vacation. That means we get the whole school to ourselves. We get to control the lighting and we get the use of their facilities. Speakers will be able to address everyone with room to spare in the cafeteria (where all of our meals are planned as well). Additionally we are, again, planning the popular astronomy potpourri, where you get to decide what subjects you want to discuss/hear discussed.

The rooms are dormitory style with hot showers for everyone. Please note that while we will be using the rooms while the students are away, we cannot use their bedding material. Please ensure you bring your own sleeping bags, pillows, toiletries, stuffed animals, etc. We will remind you of what to bring and the rules of the location, with your registration.

We also get access to an old football field where the telescopes can be set up for observing. We also are allowed the luxury of driving our cars onto this field so that we can set up our telescopes right next to our cars. Located about an hours drive from Edmonton, we are situated in the river valley, effectively blocking us from any light source. There are also lots of trails for hiking and day use. Because of the proximity to the city and the efforts of our workshop committee, we have also reduced the price. If you register before October 5, 1998, the price will be \$60.00 per person. After October 5, 1998, the price increases to \$70.00 per person.

If you are interested in going, please fill out the registration form (or a copy), and send it to us.

- Paul Campbell

**George Moores Astronomical Workshop
October 16 - 18, 1998
Registration Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ RASC Member? Y N Centre: _____

Specialized Diets: _____

- The George Moores Astronomical Workshop is being held at the St John's School of Alberta. Accommodations are in separate rooms, each containing 4 to 6 beds. All facilities are in one building for the classrooms, cafeteria and sleeping quarters. Attendees are expected to bring a sleeping bag, blankets, bed sheets, pillows, etc.

The observing site is located approximately ½ km away from the lodging area, to provide a dark site. Please restrict the use of white lights as much as possible.

The cost for this event is \$60.00 per person before October 5, 1998, or \$70.00 per person after October 5, 1998. This includes all meals and accommodations. Please send and make all cheques payable to:

RASC Edmonton Centre

Inquiries

c/o Sharon Tansey

Paul Campbell

32 Windsor Cres.

• Ad. Campbell
333 South Ridge

St Albert

**600 South
Edmonton**

Ph-433-1516

E-mail: scopodr@connect.sohu.com

A Web Award for the Centre. by Gord Sarty

Links2Go Awards wrote:

"Congratulations! Your page: <<http://maya.usask.ca/~sarty/rasc/rasc.html>> has been selected to receive a Links2Go Key Resource award in the Canadian Astronomy topic. The Links2Go Key Resource award is both exclusive and objective. Fewer than one page in one thousand will ever be selected for inclusion. Further, unlike most awards that rely on the subjective opinion of "experts," many of whom have only looked at tens or hundreds of thousands of pages in bestowing their awards, the Links2Go Key Resource award is completely objective and is based on an analysis of millions of web pages. During the course of our analysis, we identify which links are most representative of each of the thousands of topics in Links2Go, based on how actual page authors, like yourself, index and organize links on their pages. In fact, the Key Resource award is so exclusive, even we don't qualify for it (yet ;)!"

Please visit: >> http://www.links2go.com/award/Canadian_Astronomy to find out more about this award, and to download graphics if you wish to display this award on your page.

Once again, congratulations on your award!

Links2Go Awards <awards@links2go.com> .

Cool, eh!

MIAC Presents a Saskatchewan Meteorite Certificate in Hodgeville by Rick Huziak, MIAC Associate Member

The presentation of the Finder's Certificate to Waldemar (Wally) A. Senft for the Hodgeville meteorite went off quite well on Sunday, August 30th. Martin Beech (Univ. of Regina) and I, on behalf of the **Meteorites and Impacts Advisory Committee of the Canadian Space Agency**, took turns hosting the ceremony. We were helped out immensely by Terry Senft, who gave us a wonderful introduction. The ceremony was held at the Hodgeville (Saskatchewan) Museum, and was attended by Wally's family and about 50 community friends! (Would we have received a turnout like that in any big city?!). For the ceremony, Terry Senft did an excellent job with the introduction and history of the meteorite, Martin did a more general explanation of meteorites and fireballs, and I did the presentation of the framed certificate. We also had the local media there - a reporter from Swift Current, and one from the local paper, so printed media articles should follow. After the formal ceremony, a 45-minute question/answer period followed with many very interesting questions from the audience. I was pleased that the community was so keen and enthusiastic! I also passed out a piece of the Canyon Diablo meteorite and a tektite that I have for them to hold, since we didn't have the actual Hodgeville meteorite there. The community was 'tickled pink' by this presentation.

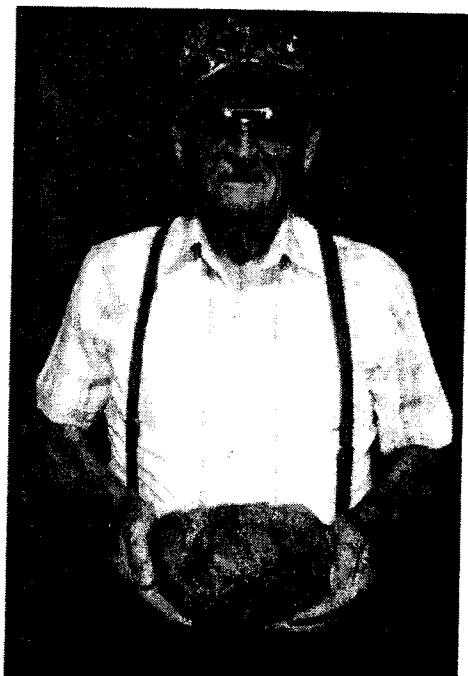
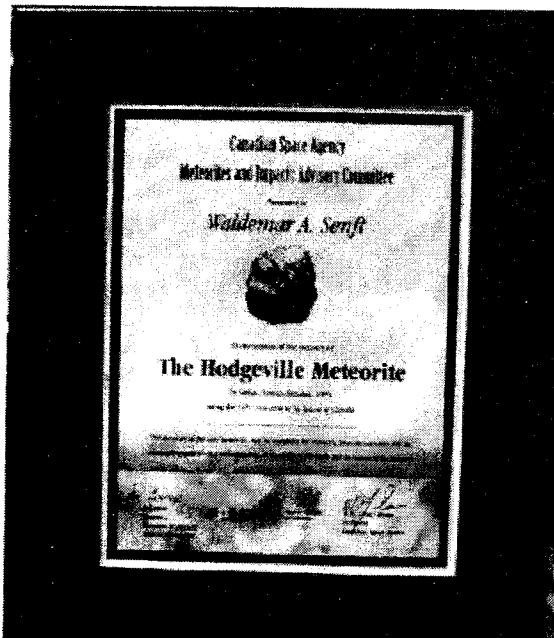
Mr. Senft found the Hodgeville meteorite on his farm some time before 1994 and had it in his possession for several years prior to its identification. After the publicity around the Saint Robert, Quebec meteorite, which fell in 1994, Mr. Senft sent a small piece of the stone to the National Research Council

Geological Survey of Canada (Dr. Richard Herd) for identification. The piece was difficult to identify and at first was not believed to be a meteorite. In 1996 Mr. Senft sent another piece to the United States, and there it was positively identified, and was subsequently acquired by a private collector. However, the National Meteorite Collection of Canada made arrangements to repurchase the meteorite (partly in trade for other meteorites) and now has the original meteorite back in its possession. Scientific study of this meteorite will begin shortly.

The original meteorite weighs 7 kilograms and measures 22 x 16 x 12 cm. Part of the surface retains the black *fusion crust* where the meteorite was scorched by its fiery passage through the atmosphere. The inside is grey and looks like fine concrete. The meteorite is identified as an ordinary "chondrite". Chondrites are composed of material that is 'primordial', dating from the time that the solar system was just forming. The meteorite was formed from small spherical chemical grains (chondrules) and metallic particles which filled the solar system at the time. The grains conglomerated into larger rocks, several kilometers in diameters, which were then broken into smaller fragments through collisions with other asteroids. Since these meteorites represent the original, mostly unprocessed material of the solar system, they are of great interest to scientists. The Hodgeville meteorite is thus several billion years old. It is unknown how long it has been resting on the earth. It could be only a few years, or maybe decades.

Following the Q/A period, we were treated to a nice lunch. And during lunch, we also were treated to a few more stones brought to us for identification. Unfortunately, the 2 stones were *meteorwrongs* - one, a piece of ironstone (common mistake), and the second, a very large (14-inch) nodule of chert. There is a third rock that the owner couldn't find - that one sounds promising from the description. He promises to find it and send it in for meteorite ID.

For those of you that have never been to Hodgeville, it is located 210 km W of Regina, 307 km S of Saskatoon, and 71 km E of Swift Current.



Sky Buys and Mirror Sells

Wanted: Binoculars 10x70 or 11x80 - Please call Brent Gratias at 653-2657 or e-mail <thunderb@home.com>.

For Sale: Tasco Model 11TR 4-1/2" aperture, 900 mm f.l. Newtonian telescope. Comes with 20 & 4 mm eyepieces, 2x barlow, moon filter. Equatorial mount and tripod. Call Gerald at 244-9918

For Sale - Celestron 6" f/8 Starhopper Newtonian telescope. Brand new. Comes with eyepieces, Dobsonian mount, finder. Asking \$600. For sale by Bob Crow - call Erich Keser for details at 374-4262.

Wanted: Donations of building materials for the Sleaford Observatory site. We'll take miscellaneous 2x4's, 2x6's, 4x4's etc, plywood (even partial sheets), nails, screws, white paint, primer. Every little bit helps. I will arrange for pick up. Call Rick Huziak at 665-3392.

A large number of Astronomy books for sale, including *Norton's Star Atlas*, *Principles of Astronomy*, *Highlights of Astronomy*, *Les Constellations, Above and Beyond*, *Realm of the Universe*, *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Astronomy*, *The World Around Us*, *Atlas Béccvar Catalog*, and many more. They were 'garage saled' on Sept. 17, but there may be some left. Reasonable prices. - Call Lillia Wilcox at 373-7462



Mike Williams Retires from the RASC by Rick Huziak

After more than 15 years of service to the Saskatoon Centre as Treasurer, Mike Williams is 'retiring' and has resigned from the Saskatoon Centre. Mike states as his reasons, an ever growing home business work load and the need for more personal time. Unfortunately he has not had much time for astronomy over the last decade. We will sorely miss him. He has done an absolutely wonderful job for the Saskatoon Centre. The Treasurer duties will be picked up by Jim and Barbara Young.

Rick's Favourite Astronomy Web Sites - Corrections

OOPS. Silly keys on my keyboard make occasional misteaks. Corrected web addresses from last month!

<http://www.aavso.org/>

AAVSO Home Page - UPDATE - there are now over 1100 variable star charts can be downloaded!

<http://www2.gsoc.dlr.de/scripts/satvis/satvis.asp?Lat=52.167&Lng=106.7&Loc=Saskatoon&TZ=CST>

IRIDIUM satellite, MIR and other satellite predictions for Saskatoon views (please do not alter the location at this site - if you want another location, please save your own bookmark!)

The 1999 RASC Calendar is Now Available.

This edition features a larger size, 10 by 12.5 inches (8.5 by 11). Also, all photos are in colour, for the first time. The 1998 edition was the "Best Calendar" winner in the Ontario Printing and Imaging Association's annual competition. The same high quality has been retained in the new, larger, 1999 version. Copies will be available for sale beginning at the September meetings.

Roland Dechesne to Speak at the October General Meeting

Roland Dechesne <rolandd@cnrl.com> of the Calgary Centre writes: "I believe that I should have no problem speaking at your October meeting. The topic will be:

***** SMALL TELESCOPE SELECTION, MODIFICATION AND USE

Choosing a first telescope can be a daunting challenge for a beginning amateur astronomer. The wide range of styles, sizes, options, costs and, manufacturers can leave anyone with head-spinning choices. Knowing a little bit about the physics of optics allows the consumer to tell when the manufacturer has cut corners to save costs, or is even lying about the product (yes, it happens regularly in the small-telescope market).

What can inexpensive telescopes show of the night sky? Sometimes a small 'scope can be a real turn-off to astronomy, instead of a turn-on. Simple modifications can make most small telescopes more usable and we'll examine some easy changes that anyone can do.

I'll also talk a little about what's going on in our club - Youth Group, telescope for lend, observing projects, etc. and show some of the wide-angle photography I've been attempting."

Roland Dechesne has been interested in astronomy for 21 years and started out observing with binoculars and later with a 60 mm refractor which has been modified over the years. Current observing programs include sun spot sketches with the 60 mm refractor, galaxy-hunting with an 8 inch Schmidt-Cassegrain and piggy-back astrophotography. Roland teaches the advanced class of RASC Calgary Centre's youth group, and also is the Centre's public event coordinator and 2nd Vice President. He is also the President of the Calgary Science Network, which coordinates public science events, science workshops for teachers and scientist-in-the-classroom programs.

The Sleaford Page by Rick Huziak

Longitude: 105 deg 55' 13" +/- 13" W Latitude: 52 deg 05' 04" +/- 8" N

What can I say? It's getting there!! In the photos below - the building on it's foundations, and Yannis and Perry (both U of S) discuss building progress. Photos by Erich Keser.



The Messier, FNGC & H-400 Club

MESSIER CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

Rick Huziak, Gord Sarty, Scott Alexander, Sandy Ferguson, Dale Jeffrey, Darrell Chatfield

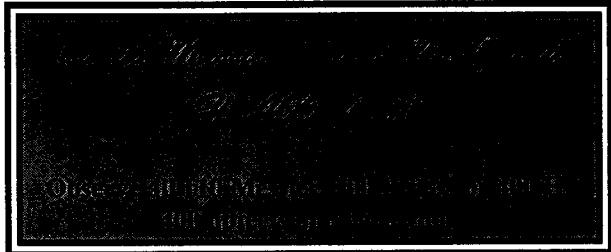
Bob Christie	94
Wade Selvig	57
Erich Keser	51
Tyler Cottenie	33
Stan Noble	28
Brian Friesen	15
Les & Ellen Dickson	still more than Terry!
Terry Nelson	11
Brent Gratias	11

FINEST NGC CLUB

Richard Huziak (applying)	110
Gordon Sarty	50
Dale Jeffrey	40
Scott Alexander	30
Darrell Chatfield	18

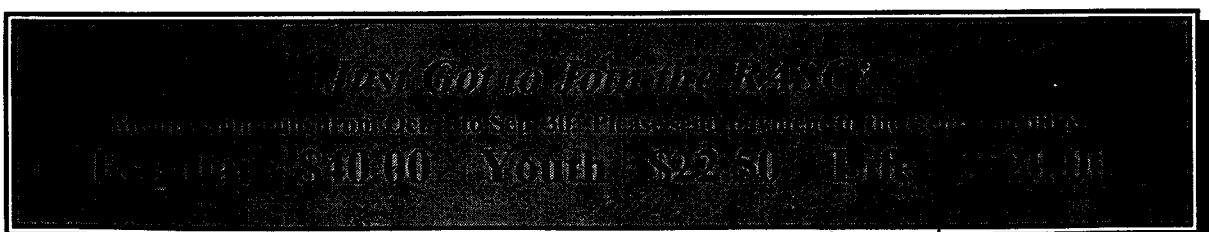
HERSCHEL 400 CLUB

Rick Huziak	314
Gord Sarty	some
Darrell Chatfield	beginning



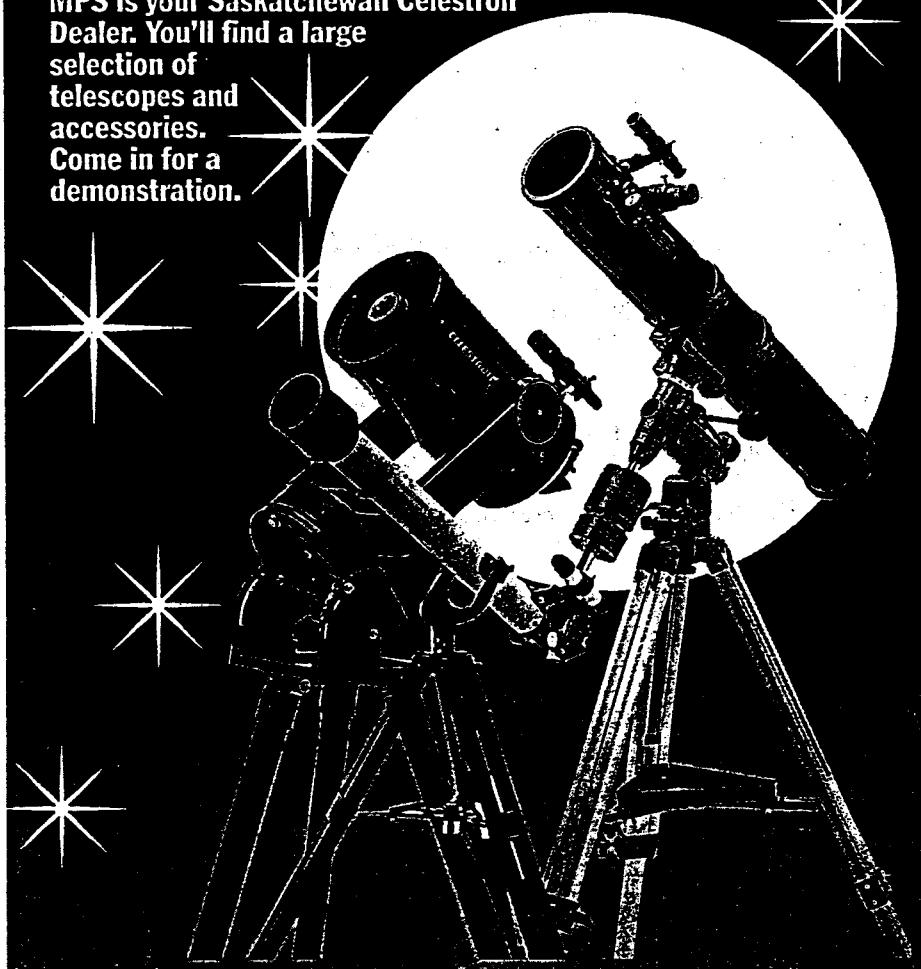
CERTIFICATE!

Now that many of us have complete our Messier Certificates, we've added the Finest NGC and Herschel 400 lists to our program. The lists can be found in the Observer's Handbook. Each month I'll be posting updates. E-mail in you new numbers! If your name is not on this list and you're observing the Messiers, FNGCs or H-400's, let me know & I'll add you



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