

Saskatoon Skies

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

Volume 56, Number 09

October 2025



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To view *Saskatoon Skies* digitally, see our website:

<https://saskatoon.rasc.ca/newsletters.html>

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MEMBERSHIP? JOIN TODAY!

Regular: \$111.00 /year

Youth: \$61.10 /year

Family: \$105.50 + \$42.90/additional adult + \$22.20/additional youth

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. Members are encouraged to renew early to avoid disruption in publications. Renew through the National Office at <http://www.rasc.ca/join>.

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
- borrow the Centre's projector to give astronomy outreach presentations - contact Les Dickson at astrochem@sasktel.net
- rent the Centre's Telescopes <https://saskatoon.rasc.ca/telescopes.html>
- use of the Centre library
- Journal of the RASC (electronic format)

SASKATOON CENTRE'S MAIN OFFICERS:

President - Brent Burlingham

Vice-President - John Takala

Secretary - Lorie Tedford

Treasurer - Les Dickson

National Council Rep - Joelle Sheard-Patrick

Canadian Tire money - Darrell Chatfield

If you cannot attend a meeting but would like to donate your old Canadian Tire money please to assist with club purchases, email Darrell at novachat@sasktel.net.

NEWSLETTER & U OF S OBSERVATORY INFO

Newsletter Editor - Colin Chatfield

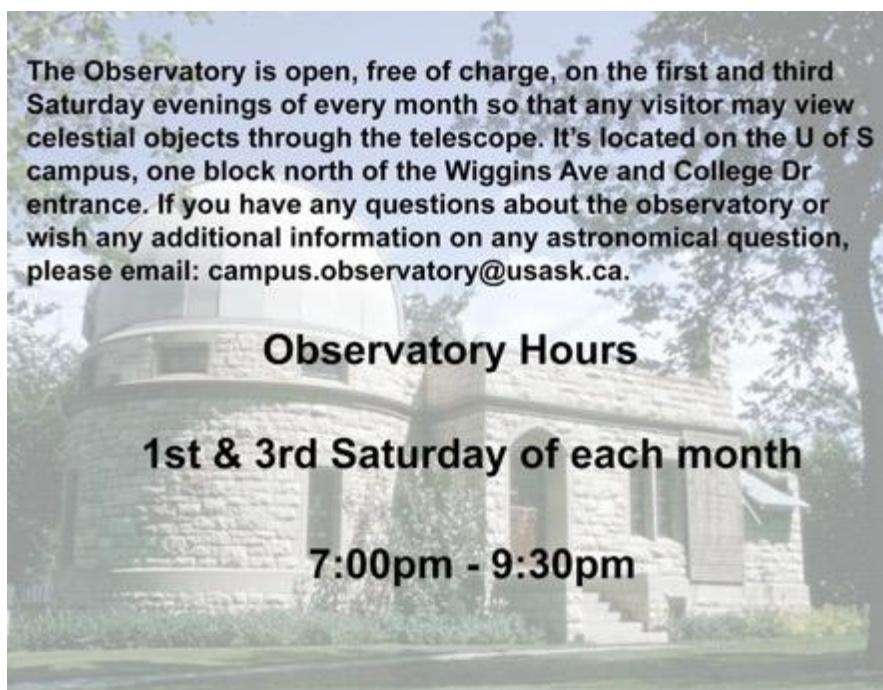
Copy & Collate - Les & Ellen Dickson

Labels & Temps - Mark de Jong

Web Posting/Content Editor - Tenho Tuomi/Andrew Kostiuk/Brent Burlingham

Saskatoon Skies is published monthly by the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC. Distribution is approximately 80 copies per issue. Saskatoon Skies welcomes unsolicited articles, sketches, photographs, cartoons, and other astronomy or space science material. Submissions should be sent by e-mail to the editor at colcha@gmail.com in MS Word or text format. Images (new or old): any format, less than 30MB, sent by e-mail as attached files. Send any articles of interest to the night sky or astronomy. **Deadline for submission of all articles for an upcoming issue is the first Friday of each month!**

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 indicated), provided that proper source credit is given. Saskatoon Skies accepts commercial advertising. Please email the editor at colcha@gmail.com for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items for free.



Hours subject to change, so check below for more info -

Website - <https://artsandscience.usask.ca/physics/facilities/observatory.php>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/usaskobservatory/>

RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS & MEETING INFO

Oct 18	Observer's Group - Sleaford Observatory	Nick Larsen
Oct 20	RASC Saskatoon Centre General Meeting	Brent Burlingham

Observer's group viewing starts at dusk at the Sleaford Observatory dark site. Get there early and set up for a great night of observing! Members and their guests only.

For a complete list of club events, please visit: <https://saskatoon.rasc.ca/activities.html>

October RASC General Meeting for all members and guests

Join us on October 20th, 2025, at 8:00PM (Executive meeting at 7:00pm)
Webinar (info below)

***Please note:** the meeting will be at the U of S Observatory at 108 Wiggins Ave (on the U of S Campus)*

7:00pm - **RASC Executive Meeting** (Members may attend the executive meeting as observers if they wish)

A Zoom registration link and phone-in numbers will be emailed to Members. After that, the procedure to register and join the meeting is the same as for the webinar (explained below).

NOTE: links to register to attend the webinar will be emailed out as well so we know who is planning to attend. After registering, an email invitation will be sent with a link to join via computer or a number to phone in. When joining via computer, participants will have to first download and install the Zoom app, if they have not done so already.

8:15pm - **Main Program -**

"What's Up This Month?" - Colin Chatfield

"Astronomy Rig Improvements and Updates" - Jeff Swick will show simple, but effective ways he has improved his rig.

BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

All books are in either new, or like new condition. Retail price in brackets. Please email at novachat@sasktel.net or text/call 306-222-0515 if you want a particular book or to make arrangements. All books being sold by Darrell Chatfield.

"Deep-Sky Observers Handbook"	Volume 1-5	Enslow-Lutterworth	\$40.00
"International Encyclopedia of Astronomy"	1987	Patrick Moore	Color \$10.00
"Backyard Astronomers Guide"	T. Dickinson & Alan Dyer	2008	Color \$25.00
"Atlas of Deep Sky Splendors"	1978	H. Verhenberg	B & W \$22.00
"Amateur Astronomers Catalog of 500 Deep Sky Objects"	Vol 1	1980	B & W
R. Morales			\$15.00
"Observing the Constellations"	1989	J. Sanford	Color charts \$10.00

Please email me if you want to see any items - novachat@sasktel.net. Darrell Chatfield

- 2 - **1.25" rack and pinion focusers** for refractor type telescopes. Brand new. Never used. Inset diameter is 57mm. Heavy duty type with metal knurled knobs. All have boxes. \$20.00 each.

- **Original Celestron orange tube C5" scope** with tangent arm. Fork arms. SCOPE ONLY. No tripod or wedge. 5 x 30 finder, 1.25" visual back, diagonal, eyepiece, lens cap, metal case. Was used as a spotter scope. Not a mark on the tube. Clean looking. \$250.00

1	1.25" eyepiece extender - 3" long	\$20.00
1	1.25" Celestron off axis guider c/w 12.5mm ep. Can be illuminated. New.	\$45.00
1	Celestron 1.25" reticle. Can be illuminated	\$20.00
1	3.5" long 1.25" tele-extender	\$20.00
3	1.25" visual backs new	\$10.00 each
1	1.25" to 0.965" visual back	\$10.00
1	Camera to visual back adapter	Lightly used \$10.00
1	Threaded visual back to 16mm male threads camera adapter	\$10.00

- Original orange tube Celestron finder. 10 x 40mm. 304mm (12") long. Comes with bracket meant for a C8" telescope but would fit other scopes. Not a mark on these items. \$65.00

- 6" primary mirror in a 3-point adjustable mirror cell. Some mirror spots. Nice condition. \$85.00 (came from the following tube).

- 7" diameter x 48" long aluminum Newtonian style tube. Ivory exterior with blackened interior. Also has a focuser. Finder bracket supplied as is. There may be some packing tape on the outside that needs to be removed. \$75.00



The lunar eclipse shot at f6.3 ½ second, iso 10,000 with my Canon R5 and 60-600mm lens at 600mm. Taken by Tammy Vallee on September 7, 2025 in Helsinki, Finland.



*Picture of aurora October 1, 2025.
Taken by Tenho Tuomi.*



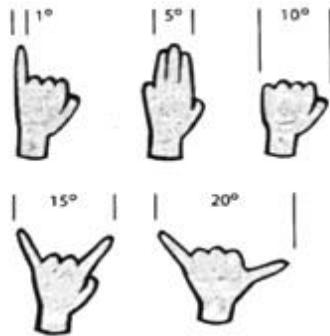
Picture of comet C/2025 A6 (Lemmon) which was hard to find in the aurora (single 30 second exposure).
Taken by Tenho Tuomi

OCTOBER NIGHT SKY EVENTS AND INFO

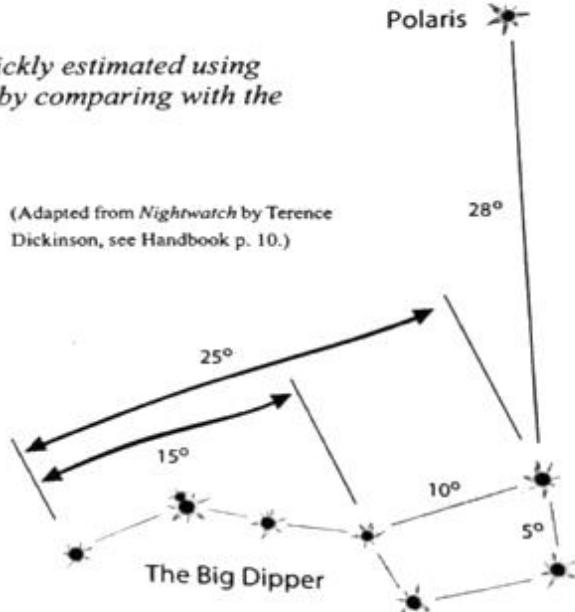
Images on the next few pages used, with permission, from the 2024/25 Observer's Handbook. It can be obtained by joining the RASC here <http://rasc.ca/join> or ordered from <https://secure.rasc.ca/store>.

HANDY SKY MEASURES

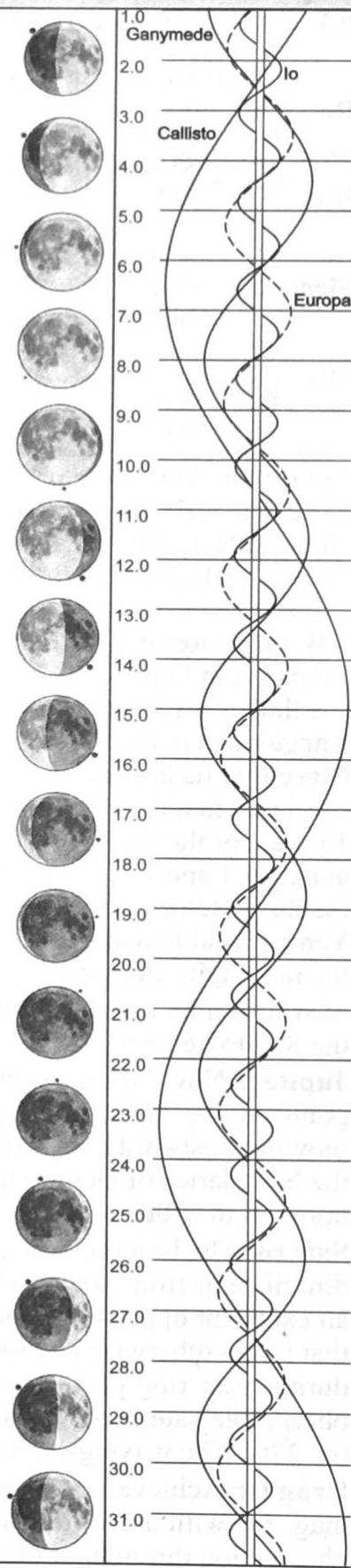
Angular measure in the sky can be quickly estimated using the fingers of an outstretched arm, or by comparing with the star separations in the Big Dipper.

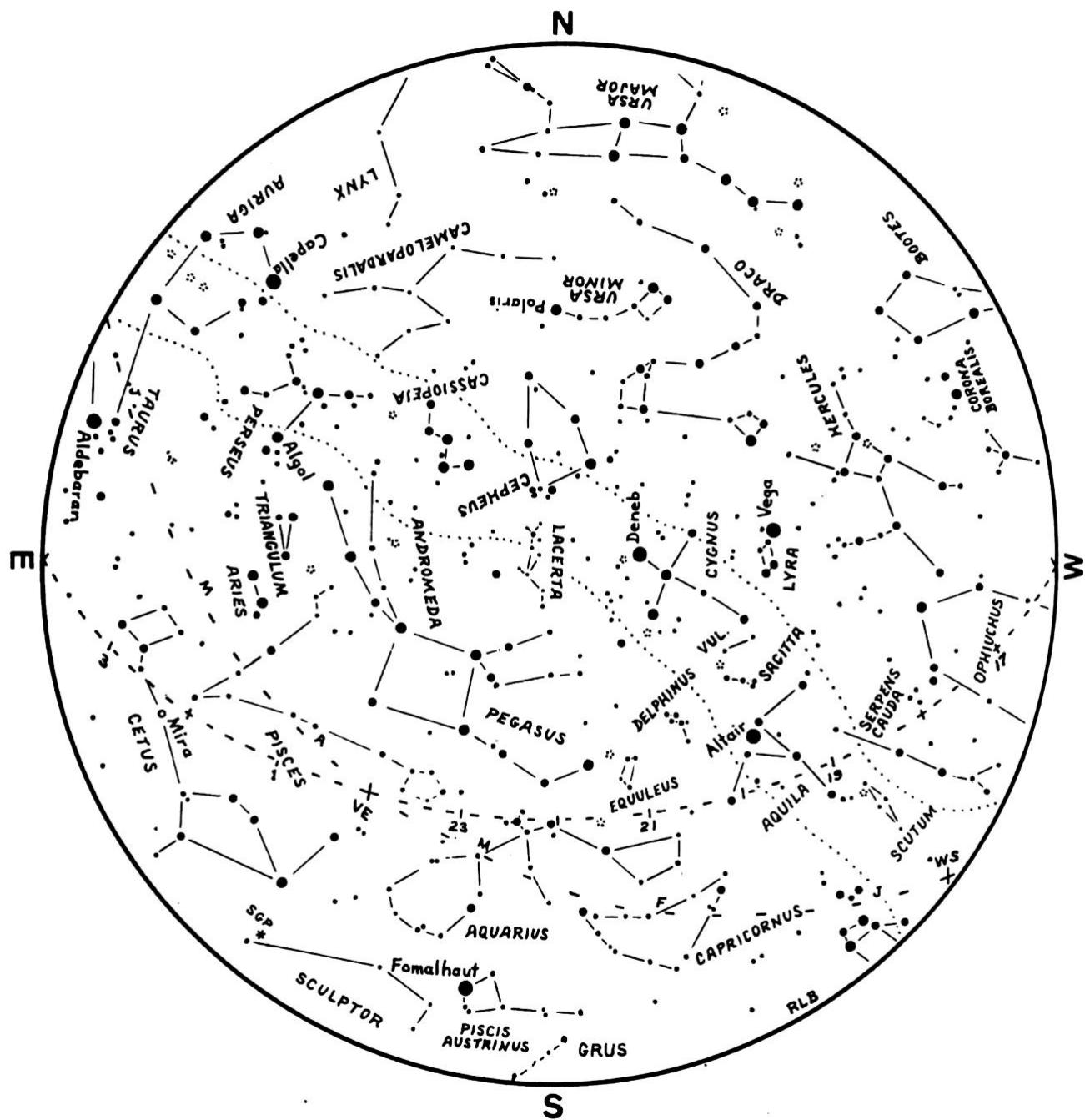


(Adapted from *Nightwatch* by Terence Dickinson, see Handbook p. 10.)



Time (UT)				OCTOBER EVENTS	Jupiter's Satellites	
	d	h	m		West	East
Wed.	1	17	25	Algol at minimum		
		22		Pluto 0.05° N of Moon, occultation ¹		
Thu.	2			Venus at perihelion		
		13		Ceres at opposition		
Fri.	3					
Sat.	4	6	49	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
		14	14	Algol at minimum		
Sun.	5	9	20	Moon at ascending node		
Mon.	6	1	17	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
		3		Saturn 4° S of Moon		
Tue.	7	3	48	full Moon		
		11	03	Algol at minimum		
		19	46	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
Wed.	8	13		Moon at perigee (359 819 km)		
Thu.	9					
Fri.	10			Mercury at aphelion		
		6		Moon 0.9° N of Pleiades (M45)		
		7	52	Algol at minimum		
Sat.	11	8	42	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
Sun.	12					
Mon.	13	3	11	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
		4	41	Algol at minimum		
		18	13	last quarter		
		22		Jupiter 4° S of Moon		
Tue.	14	21	39	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
Wed.	15	0		Moon 1.9° N of Beehive (M44)		
Thu.	16	1	30	Algol at minimum		
		18		Regulus 1.2° S of Moon, occultation²		
Fri.	17					
Sat.	18	4	34	Moon at descending node		
		10	42	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
		13	07	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
		22	19	Algol at minimum		
Sun.	19			Zodiacal light vis. in N lat. in E before morning twilight for next two weeks		
		22		Venus 4° N of Moon		
Mon.	20	6	24	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
Tue.	21	6		Mercury 2° S of Mars		
		12		Orionid meteors peak		
		12	25	new Moon (lunation 1272)		
		19	08	Algol at minimum		
Wed.	22	00	01	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
Thu.	23	13		Mars 5° N of Moon		
		16		Mercury 2° N of Moon		
Fri.	24			Venus at greatest heliocentric lat. N		
		0		Moon at apogee (406 444 km)		
		15	57	Algol at minimum		
Sat.	25	1		Antares 0.5° N of Moon, occultation³		
		13	18	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
Sun.	26					
Mon.	27	12	46	Algol at minimum		
Tue.	28					
Wed.	29	2	35	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
		7		Pluto 0.1° S of Moon, occultation ⁴		
		16	21	first quarter		
		22		Mercury greatest elongation E (24°)		
Thu.	30	9	35	Algol at minimum		
Fri.	31			Mercury at greatest heliocentric lat. S		





REIMBURSEMENT FOR CENTRE EXPENSES

The Centre has a reimbursement procedure on submission of expense claims. A writeable pdf claim form can be found on the Centre webpage under the Executive tab. The expense form **must** be submitted *along with original receipts* to the Treasurer within 30 days of the transaction. All expenditures must be preapproved by the Executive or be within allocated budgets.

Please contact the Treasurer with any inquiries.

OBSERVE THE MOON

Tim Yaworski

Saturday, Oct 4th was International Observe The Moon night. Seven club members were out that night with a variety of telescopes to share views of the waxing gibbous moon at W. W. Ashley Park in Saskatoon. Approximately 50 people came by and enjoyed the view between the clouds.



A CROSSROAD FOR SSSP - WE NEED YOU

Rick Huziak

The Saskatchewan Summer Star Party has just concluded its 28th and one-half season. (SSSP organized for one-half of a year until COVID caused us to cancel that year.) For the 28.5 years, Les Dickson, Ellen Dickson, George Charpentier and I organized every year. For much of that time, Barb Wright assisted in organizing the star party until her retirement and move to Victoria, then Calgary. Andrew Kostiuk designed our web page and has supported us for much of this time. Due to necessity, Barb helped us out this year by running the barbecue on fairly short notice. A few years ago, Darrell Chatfield (door prize coordinator) left the committee. And for the last few years, Joelle Sheard-Patrick, Greg Fusick and Brent Harrold (barbecue) have capably filled committee positions. Joelle has handled Kids programming and servery sales and Greg has been the Volunteer Coordinator, organizing about 50 volunteers utilized during the star party. I have handled Registration, Park liaison and camping bookings. Les and I have alternated as SSSP Chair for the last several years.

From the Regina Centre, Vance Petriew and Pierre Schierle have been long-term organizers. A dozen Regina Centre member volunteers help run the two public star nights and the solar observing session at the SSSP, and Jennifer Petriew and Joelle run the SSSP Kids program each year.

After the 2025 SSSP, Les and Ellen Dickson, and Brent Harrold have announced their retirement. We certainly thank them for their great efforts to keep SSSP running for all of those years. But now, we have some critical positions to fill and some decisions to make for 2026.

What we require are new committee volunteers to fill these critical positions. Les and Ellen have been handling Resort room bookings, Waptiti (meeting room) bookings, speaker/clinic recruitment, accommodation and contracts, long-term reservations, programming and banquet scheduling. Brent has been handling door prize solicitation and barbecue preparation and service.

SSSP attracts over 300 participants, continues to grow and has a reputation for a well-organized, fun and informative star party. The star party takes several hundred hours, 18 committee meetings and 3000 emails to organize. In effect, we are organizing a full-up conference for 300 participants each year. Cypress Hills Inter-provincial Park also considers SSSP as an important part of their outreach program for their Dark-sky Preserve designation.

But our committee has been stretched thin for the last few years, and with the retirement of three of our organizers, we are at a crossroads and need to make some decisions before the start of 2026.

The bottom line is that we need new committee members to join, step up and help out. We would like to fill the following committee positions, both because they are vacant and that they would reduce the workload for current committee members:

Speaker Coordinator/Program Scheduler – finds and books speakers and clinicians, handles speaker contracts and plans the program flow for the three speaker sessions.

Resort Accommodation & Banquet Coordinator – reserves meeting space, room block reservations and coordinates with the Resort on meeting room set-up and the banquet menu and service.

Barbecue Coordinator – coordinates with the Community Centre for room booking, barbecue and kitchen use, plans and orders food, organizes barbecue cooking and serving crew and centre clean-up.

SSSP Treasurer – SSSP accounting goes through over 300 sometimes complex transactions to accept registrations, deal with Square fees, speaker payments, resort and banquet costs, sales, Centre splits, etc. Finances are separated from Centre accounts, but in the end, the SSSP Treasurer creates SSSP balance sheets and supplies the Saskatoon Centre Treasurer with a few summary lines for the annual income statement requirements.

Redlight Café Coordinator – SSSP runs a redlight café for 4 hours each night. The coordinator plans the menu, buys the menu and trains the volunteers who run the café.

Door-prize Coordinator – solicits door prizes from SSSP vendors and other businesses or donors who would like to supply door prizes.

We have a few different SSSP models that we can use, and we may have to look at options if we do not have a full committee.

1. SSSP continues as-is – This option relies on us filling most of the above positions from RASC Saskatoon or RASC Regina members. Traditionally, most event organization has been done by Saskatoon, with Regina handling some planning, T-shirts and public events. Including a greater percentage of Regina members may result in a different split of profits from the star party. Currently, the Saskatoon Center benefits by receiving $\frac{3}{4}$ of the net profits and Regina 1/4.
2. SSSP splits from the Centres and becomes an independent organization and continues to organize that star party, thus could entertain organizers from anywhere

we could find them. This would require SSSP to reorganize, obtain their own insurance and terms of operation and assume their own risk. A few years ago, Centre and SSSP accounts were distinctly split to allow semi-autonomous operation or handle such an eventuality as a split from the Centres. Currently SSSP does not owe Saskatoon or Regina any outstanding loans other than finishing the current 2025 profits split.

3. Change SSSP to another operating format that does not require as much organization. This might occur if we do not find enough committee members to run all current programs, or if a new committee would like to dramatically change SSSP's format.
4. SSSP shuts down. This is not a desired outcome since the star party is very popular, and continuation is desired.

For 2026, current remaining committee members (Joelle, Greg, Andrew, George, Vance, Pierre and I) are happy to continue, I believe, and I am happy to Chair the committee if desired. And we are happy to mentor new committee members and provide training. But the decision on how we are going to organize 2026 needs to be clear by the end of 2025. By January 2026, we are deep into planning since we have to have a webpage up and running and enough organization that we can open star party camping and registration when Sask Parks opens provincial camping in mid-April 2026.

So, why volunteer for the committee? Organizing the SSSP is fun and rewarding. But also, it would be nice to spread the effort and benefit around a bit more. It also continues the tradition of SSSP toward its 29th year. That is somewhat special and something to be proud of! If you'd like to become an SSSP Committee member, please fire me an email or give me a call to discuss.

Rick Huziak
rickhuziak@shaw.ca 306-280-1899



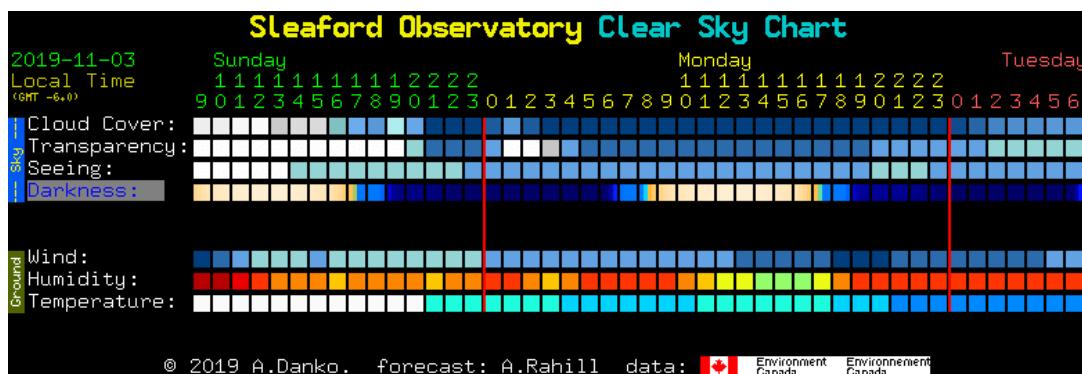
The fall equinox this year saw a windfall of Aurora opportunities. This iPhone selfie by Tim Yaworski was one example of four straight nights of the dancing lights that messed up everyone's deep sky imaging that week.

CLEAR SKY AND WEATHER INFO

To find clear skies, visit the Clear Dark Sky website -

<https://www.cleardarksky.com/csk/>

Once there, one can enter your location to find clear skies. The chart will appear as follows:



Environment Canada provides weather information for astronomy -

www.weather.gc.ca/astro



Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee -

<http://myotherlife.net/slpac/>



www.darksky.org

TELESCOPES FOR RENT

Jeff Swick

Saskatoon Centre has made its telescopes available for rent to RASC members on a monthly basis. We have three Sky-Watcher 8 inch Dobsonian telescopes, each with a kit of eyepieces and Antares 8x50 right angle finder scopes. Also we have one Telrad Reflex Sight.

Visit the website for more info -
<https://saskatoon.rasc.ca/rent.html>



TIME TO GO, TIME FOR OTHERS

Les Dickson - Outgoing Treasurer

With the yearly elections for the Centre Executive coming up this month, I have decided that this is a good time to step back. I have served in an executive capacity in this Centre for most of my time as a member, over 25 years. I have served in most positions, including President (3 times), Representative to National Council and both acting and serving Treasurer. I have also served on the organizing committee for the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party (SSSP) for most of its 28-year history, as rotating Chairman, and co-ordinating the Resort, speakers, programming, pins and lately door-prizes. I regret none of it, and I have enjoyed serving to make your Centre and the star party a success. But it is time to let others step up and serve.

We need a new Treasurer. This is an important position, and we need someone with the experience or the willingness to learn to take this on. I will work with whomever is willing to do this for the Fall to get us ready to submit the required reports on our financial situation after the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, which ended September 30.

SSSP needs new people to help in the planning and organization of SSSP 2026. We need 5 people to fill the now vacant positions. If we cannot get enough people to help, we may have to rethink our ability to stage a star party for 2026. SSSP is the major fundraising and outreach event for your Centre, and it would be a shame to let it die due to indifference. Please help.

Your Centre can only function if members are willing to volunteer their time and efforts to make it work. In your Centre, like most volunteer organizations, most of the work is done by less than 20% of the members. I am hoping some of you will step up to help.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Joelle Sheard-Patrick

Minutes of the Monthly Executive Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre

Monday, Sept 15, 2025 - 7:00 pm Hybrid: Online & In-person: U of S Observatory

Attending: Brent Burlingham, Les Dickson, Joelle Sheard-Patrick, Darrell Chatfield, Nick Larsen, Lisa Caldwell, Bud

1. Call to order 7:10 pm – Brent Burlingham (President and Chair)

2. Approval of the Executive meeting minutes for June 2025 as printed in the July newsletter. Moved by Nick Larsen, seconded by Les Dickson, carried.

3. Call for additional announcements/items to add to the agenda.

Discuss Observe the Moon night

4. Announcements from the Chair – None to present

5. Old Business - Reports from the Executive Council

5.1 President's Report – Brent Burlingham

- Thanks to all involved for another successful SSSP – Les Dickson's report to follow. Thanks to Lorie Tedford, Joelle Sheard-Patrick, Nick Larsen, Les and Ellen Dickson, and Lisa Caldwell for their work setting up and working at our booth at the Broadway Street Fair on Sept. 6th. Thanks to Tim Yaworski for representing the club at the Batoche Dark Sky event on Sept. 20th.

5.2 National Council Rep – Joelle Sheard-Patrick

- The website is still being worked on.
- Economic factors and uncertainty are heavily impacting National's bottom line. Revenue has dropped. Membership numbers are down. National is asking centers to encourage membership and raise money for National through ideas such as selling RASC wares at outreach events and encourage donation. On the bright side, the De Minimus exemption will still apply to books and informational materials.
- There are no plans currently to increase membership fees
- The grace period for membership expiration ends on September 15th. Email reminders will be sent 60 days in advance.
- Training for Centre's Treasurers is Sept 18th. Email Jenna for alternate arrangements if you cannot attend.

5.3 Activities Coordinator – Joelle Sheard-Patrick

- International Observe the Moon Night is Saturday, October 24th. The club will join Tim Yaworski from 7-10 pm at WWW Ashley Park near JS Wood Library. Joelle will contact Tim.
- Astronomy Open House at Sleaford is cancelled again this year.
- Tim has a Dark Skies event planned for October 4th at Beaver Creek. The club will participate. Joelle will touch base with Tim for more information.
- Saturday September 20th, Tim is representing the club. He will perform a Sky Tour and offer a short presentation. Call out to members who can attend to help.
- Possible event for the International Astronomy Union's 100 Hours of Astronomy event October 2nd-5th. Coordinate with Tim.

5.4 Sleaford Update – Darrell Chatfield

The grass was cut and the inside of the fence surrounding the roll off building was weeded. Thanks to Darrell and Lorie. At the last visit the grass was too tall for the lawn mower to cut. The lawn mower will need some work done. Sell? Bring into town? The RM cut the grass.

6.0 Old Business

6.1 Introduction to Telescopes and Astronomy for Beginners Workshop to be presented by Ron Waldron delayed until January/February due to Ron's schedule and to allow for more time to advertise and determine interest. Will discuss at November meeting.

6.2 Regarding earlier discussion about Saturday/Sunday afternoon activities at the observatory and U of S student Astronomy Club and sponsorship – Joelle will touch base with Osebi to get updates.

7.0 New Business

We need to determine which positions will be filled, and which will be vacant in order to prepare for the elections (see enclosed list of current Executive and support positions). Note the retirement of Les Dickson as revolving SSSP Chair, and Ellen Dickson as SSSP support are critical positions to be filled.

- Discussion of vacancies and preparation for upcoming elections.
- Les and Brent will form an elections committee.
- Note the retirement of Les and Ellen Dickson from the SSSP committee. A call out to members was made to consider joining this crucial committee

8.0 Motion to adjourn. 8:01 PM by Nick Larsen; Seconded by Jeff Swick, carried.

RASC SASKATOON CENTRE ELECTIONS

Brent Burlingham

NOTICE - AGM & ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Official Notice to the Members of the Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC).

Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers - To be held on October 20, 2025 starting at 8:15 pm at the U. of S. Observatory (108 Wiggins Ave., University of Saskatchewan Campus) and by Zoom video teleconference.

Election of Officers of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Saskatoon Centre Incorporated

Anyone in good standing with the Saskatoon Centre can be nominated for and run for a position as an Officer on the Executive Council. For more information, contact President Brent Burlingham or the Nominating Committee (that will be formed at the September General Meeting). More information on open positions and job descriptions is posted below.

Please note that the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will need to be filled in the Centre elections coming up this October.

Position	Incumbent	Status
President	Brent Burlingham	Open
Vice-President	John Takala	Open
Secretary	Lorie Tedford	Continuing
Treasurer	Les Dickson (acting)	Open
National Council Rep	Joelle Patrick-Sheard	Continuing
Activities Coord.	Joelle Patrick-Sheard	Continuing
Librarian/Archivist	Darrell Chatfield	Continuing
Meeting Room Coord.	Les Dickson	Continuing
Membership Coord.	Mark de Jong	?
Newsletter Editor	Colin Chatfield	Continuing

Observing Cert. Coord.	Darrell Chatfield	Continuing
Observing Group Coord.	Nick Larson	Open
Past President	Les Dickson	Brent Burlingham
Photographer	Colin Chatfield	Continuing
Photographer	George Charpentier	Continuing
Sleaford Maintenance Coord.	Darrell Chatfield	Continuing
Sleaford Joint Mgmt. Comm.	Darrell Chatfield	Continuing
Sleaford Joint Mgmt. Comm.	Yannis P.	Continuing
Social Media Coord.	Colin Chatfield	Open
Speaker Coord.	Jeff Swick	Continuing
SSSP Comm. Chair	Les Dickson	Open
Telescope Rental Coord.	Jeff Swick	Open
Website Content Editor	Tenho Tuomi	Continuing
Webmaster	Andrew Kostiuk	Continuing

List of RASC Saskatoon Centre Board of Directors

Director	George Charpentier	Continuing?
Director	Mark De Jong	Continuing?
Director	Yannis Pahatouroglou	Continuing?
Director	Norma Jensen	Open

Brief job descriptions for the Executive and Support positions on the Executive Council and for the Board of Directors.

(Source: Article by Rick Huziak, September 2022 newsletter, with edits and additions by Les Dickson)

National Executive Positions

President – Runs the Centre meetings and coordinates and directs the general affairs of the Centre guided by our Constitution and National norms. The President is generally the contact and spokesperson for the Centre, unless delegated.

Vice-President – Assistant to the President and assumes those duties in the absence of the President. This is expected to be a “grooming” or “learning” position and a step up to President in two years.

Secretary – Records the Minutes of the Executive and General meetings of the Centre, maintains the centre records, manages the Centre mailbox, maintains the document archive and writes the National Year-end Report.

Treasurer – Manages the financial affairs of the Centre, keeps the financial books, issues and receives payments, interfaces with the bank maintaining accounts and investments, interfaces with the Provincial Government for not-for-profit status registration, creates balance sheets, income statements and the year-end statement for the Centre and the Provincial Government. Maintains all records for insurance purposes such as premium payments, processing of all insurance claims, obtaining event certificates and all other documents pertaining to insurance. Maintains all records of the SSSP, all payments, invoices, and other documentation pertaining to the SSSP.

National Council Rep – Represents the Centre at the National Council meetings quarterly, either in person or virtually. Is expected to express Centre concerns to National and to relay National news to the Centre. In-person travel to the meetings and General Assembly (not fully required) is reimbursed.

Note that RASC National requires us to have a President, Secretary, Treasurer and National Council Rep to be in good standing with National.

Support Positions

Activities Coordinator – Plans, books and manages outreach activities of the Centre and reports those plans to the Executive for approval. Solicits help in conducting outreach activates and assures proper permitting and insurance is in place, as applicable.

Librarian/Archivist – Maintains the library of the RASC (located in the basement of the University Observatory.)

Meeting Room Coordinator – Assures the in-person meeting room (175 Physics) is booked for the monthly meetings. Sets up refreshments (coffee and snacks) and ensures supplies for such are maintained.

Membership Coordinator – Interfaces with National RASC to maintain the accurate listing of Centre Members and their status.

Newsletter Editor – Solicits articles and speaker/meeting information for the newsletter, edits and publishes the Saskatoon Skies newsletter on-line monthly from September

through June, and once or twice over the summer as requested. Arranges for upload of the newsletter to the Centre website.

Newsletter Printer/Mailer – Prints and mails those newsletters going to those members who request printed copies as well as copies to the Saskatoon Public Library System.

Observing Certificate Coordinator – Certifies that observers have completed the requirement of Observing Certificates and provides completion certificates for the observers, interfacing with National observing programs where required.

Observers Group Coordinator(s) – Can be one or two coordinators. – Arranges dates of Centre observing nights monthly and the fall Sleaford Open House. Generally, goes to the Sleaford Observatory to open and close up for observing nights and has traditionally arranged for snow removal and grass cutting as required, though these tasks can be delegated. Trains new Sleaford users and issues keys to Sleaford to qualified members.

Past President – Inherited position after being President. Is an advisor to the President.

Photographer(s) – Takes photos as requested to document Centre activities, including the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party

Sleaford Maintenance Coordinators – Coordinates maintenance of the Sleaford buildings, equipment, and grounds to assure the site does not deteriorate faster than it should. Conducts repairs and maintenance as required but can also solicit help as required or arrange for contractors on approval.

Sleaford Joint Site Management Committee – Two representatives from the Centre and two representatives from the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics jointly manage the Sleaford site to the benefit of both parties according to the Memorandum of Agreement (2002). This committee meets at least once a year, more often as required.

Social Media Coordinator – Create content and maintains the Centre's Facebook & Instagram pages.

Speaker Coordinator – Solicits speakers for the Monthly General meetings for September through June. Speakers are announced in the Newsletter and Activities Page. Provides (external) speakers with compensation per the approved budget, as required.

SSSP Organizing Committee Chair – Coordinates the initiation, planning, execution & closing of the annual Saskatchewan Summer Star Party through the Organizing Committee that includes members of the Saskatoon and Regina Centres.

Telescope Rental Coordinators – Maintains the rental telescopes, loans the telescopes, and receives payment for the loaner telescope use.

Web Master – This position is in flux and requires discussion as many of the positions functions are covered by the Website Owner/Manager (below)

Website Owner/Manager – Maintains the Centre website and uploads content on demand.

Web Content Editor – Assures the content of the Centre website is current and accurate and uploads content changes or clarification on demand.

Board of Directors

Assures the Centre is operating within their Constitution and that this is being conducted with good intention and good faith. Provides guidance where required if of questions of operation and governance arise. The Board in theory appoints the Officers of the Centre but in practice does so based on the will of the membership of the Centre as expressed in the annual elections.

OBSERVING CERTIFICATES AND CLUBS

RASC OBSERVING PROGRAMS AND CERTIFICATES

The RASC offers four observing certificates for **members** who observe all objects in each of the following observing lists in this chapter:

- THE MESSIER CATALOGUE (p. 312)**
- THE FINEST NGC OBJECTS (p. 316),**
- THE DEEP-SKY CHALLENGE OBJECTS (p. 320),**
- DEEP-SKY GEMS (p. 322).**

See rasc.ca/certificate-programs for details and contact the RASC Observing Committee Chair at rasc.ca/contact/observing for further information.



The RASC also offers the **Explore the Universe Certificate** for novice observers (who do not have to be RASC members), the **Explore the Moon Certificate** for beginning members, and the **Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Certificate** and the **Double Stars Observing Certificate** for intermediate to advanced members. In addition, **Astroimaging certificates** are available for those members with a photographic bent. See rasc.ca/astro-imaging-certificate

RASC OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK 2023 – STANDARD EDITION

Join the Club! Observe all 110 Messier, 110 Finest NGC, 400 Herschel I or II, 140 Lunar, 154 Sky Gems or 35 Binocular objects, or Explore the Universe and earn great OBSERVING CERTIFICATES!

MESSIER CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

*R. Huziak, G. Sarty,
S. Alexander, S. Ferguson,
D. Chatfield, T. Tuomi, L.
Scott, G. Charpentier, B.
Johnson, L. Dickson,
B. Burlingham, Norma Jensen,
Donna-Lee May*

Ron Waldron	108
Brent Gratias	104
Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle	94
Wade Selvig	75
Wayne Schlakohl	43
Ellen Dickson	34
Graham Hartridge	9

CHATFIELD BINOCULAR CERTIFICATE

Certified at 35 to 40 Objects:

T. Tuomi, R. Huziak

Jim Goodridge	12
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FINEST NGC CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

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

Larry Scott	110
Scott Alexander	97
Norma Jensen	83
Sandy Ferguson	23
George Charpentier	13
Brent Burlingham	97

EXPLORE THE UNIVERSE

Certified at 55 to 110

Objects: *T. Tuomi, B. Gratias*

Wayne Schlakohl	55
Jim Goodridge	35

ISABEL WILLIAMSON

LUNAR OBSERVING CERTIFICATE

Certified at 140 Objects:

T. Tuomi, N. Jensen

EXPLORE THE MOON CERTIFICATE

T. Yaworski

Brent Gratias	37
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HERSCHEL 400 CLUB

Certified at 400 Objects:

*R. Huziak, D. Chatfield,
T. Tuomi*

Gordon Sarty	251
Scott Alexander	117
Larry Scott	45
Sandy Ferguson	18

HERSCHEL 400-II CLUB

Darrell Chatfield	400
Tenho Tuomi	378
Rick Huziak	246

LEVY DEEP-SKY GEMS

Certified at 154 Objects:

Tenho Tuomi	150
Darrell Chatfield	70

Messier, Finest NGC, and David Levy's Deep-Sky lists in the *Observer's Handbook*.

The Explore the Universe list is available here <http://www.rasc.ca/explore-universe>
Messier and Finest NGC lists, charts and logbooks: <https://www.rasc.ca/certificate-programs>

Herschel 400 List: <http://www.astroloegue.org/al/obsclubs/herschel/hers400.html>

Chatfield Binocular List is at: https://saskatoon.rasc.ca/Chatfield_Binocular_List.pdf

"Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program Guide" program details can be found at:

<https://www.rasc.ca/isabel-williamson-lunar-observing-program>