

Saskatoon Skies

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

Vol. 39, No. 7/8

July/August 2008

Join Us At The Saskatchewan Summer Star Party August 28 - 31



Register Today!

It's the 12th anniversary of the SSSP! Save \$10 by registering before August 9, the early-bird cutoff date.

(Read more about SSSP on Page 6...)

Photo by Tenho Tuomi

<http://homepage.usask.ca/~ges125/rasc/starparty.html>



Saskatoon Centre

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MEMBERSHIP? IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN!

Regular: \$77.00 /year

Youth: \$41.00 /year

The Saskatoon Centre operates on a one-year revolving membership. You will be a member for the next 12 months no matter when in the year you join. If you do not want to join at this time, ask to get onto our FREE 3-month Temporary Membership list. You will receive regular mailings of our Saskatoon Skies newsletter and will be invited to participate in Centre activities. Members are encouraged to renew early to avoid disruption in publications. Renew through the membership coordinator, Mike Clancy, or renew through the National Office and let Mike know that you did!

Benefits of Membership in the Saskatoon Centre

- knowledgeable & friendly amateur astronomers
- use of the Sleaford Observatory
- use of the U of S Observatory (after training)
- Saskatoon Skies Newsletter
- Observer's Handbook
- The Journal of the RASC (electronic format)
- SkyNews Magazine (bimonthly)
- use of the Centre library
- rent the Centre's Telescopes
<http://homepage.usask.ca/ges125/rasc/telescopes.html>
- discounts to Sky & Telescope Magazine*
- free, no-cost, no-obligation, 3-month temporary membership if you don't want to join right now!

*New subscription or renewal of Sky & Telescope? Send new info or renewal notice, plus credit card # to Norma Jensen, 128 – 4th Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7H 1H8, or email her at njensen@scs.sk.ca.

U OF S OBSERVATORY

The U of S Observatory is open to the general public every Saturday of the year. Admission is free. The observatory is located on campus, one block north of the Wiggins Avenue and College Drive entrance. On clear nights, visitors may look through the vintage 6-inch and tour several displays. Current events are recorded on the Astronomy Information Line at 966-6429.

Observatory Hours:

January–February	7:30–9:30 pm
March	8:30–10:30 pm
April	9:30–11:30 pm
May–July	10:00–11:30 pm
August	9:30–11:30 pm
September	8:30–10:30 pm
October–December	7:30–9:30 pm

SASKATOON CENTRE'S MAIN OFFICERS:

President – Garry Stone, 857-4707
Secretary – Al Hartridge, 373-0034
Vice-President – Barb Wright, 249-1990
Treasurer – Norma Jensen, 244-7360

Bottle Drive & Canadian Tire \$

By Darrell Chatfield

If you cannot make it to a meeting but would like to contribute your Canadian Tire money please call me at 374-9278.

Newsletter Editors – Tenho Tuomi, Christine Kulyk

Copy & Collate – Les & Ellen Dickson

Labels & Temps – Mike Clancy

Web Posting – Gord Sarty

Saskatoon Skies is published monthly by the Saskatoon Centre of the RASC. Distribution is approximately 100 copies per issue. Saskatoon Skies welcomes unsolicited articles, sketches, photographs, cartoons, and other astronomy or space science articles. **Articles can be sent by mail in any format to the Centre's mailbox.** Submitted materials can be returned upon request. Submissions may also be sent by e-mail to the editor at clkulyk@sasktel.net – preferred as plain unformatted ASCII text files without line breaks. Images sent by e-mail should be attached files.

A separate by-mail subscription to Saskatoon Skies is available for \$15.00 per year. Saskatoon Skies is also posted on our Saskatoon Centre homepage as a pdf file and can be downloaded free-of-charge. Members may choose to receive the newsletter by regular mail or via the Internet. Articles may be reprinted from Saskatoon Skies without expressed permission (unless otherwise stated), but source credit is requested. DEADLINE for submissions is the 26th of each month. Saskatoon Skies accepts Commercial advertising. Please call the editor for rates. Members can advertise non-commercial items free of charge.

LIGHT POLLUTION ABATEMENT
WEBSITE AT:
www.rass.sk.ca/lpc/lpc.htm

RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 8	Observers Group - 9:00 pm, Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801
Aug 2 – 10	Mt.Kobau Star Party , Osoyoos, BC	http://www.mksp.ca/	
Aug 12	Noctilucent Cloud watch season ends	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Aug 28 – 31	Saskatchewan Summer Star Party (12 th Annual), Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park	http://homepage.usask.ca/~ges125/rasc/starparty.html - Barb Wright	249-1990
Aug 31	Beaver Hills Dark-sky Preserve Reunion , Elk Island Nat. Park, AB	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Sep 2 – 7	Northern Prairie Starfest , Black Nugget Lake, Toffield, AB	http://www.edmontonrasc.com/nps.html	
Sep 5 – 7	Spruce Woods Star Party, Spruce Woods Prov. Park, Carberry, MB	http://winnipeg.rasc.ca/sprucewoods/	
Sep 15	RASC Executive Meeting - 6:30 pm, 175 Physics, U of S.	Garry Stone	857-4707
Sep 15	RASC General Meeting - 7:30 pm, 175 Physics, U of S.	Garry Stone	857-4707
Sep 25 – 28	Alberta Star Party , Starland Recreation Area Campground, Drumheller, AB	http://www.calgary.rasc.ca/asp2008.htm	
Sep 26	Observers Group - 7:30 pm, Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801
Oct 24	Observers Group - 7:00 pm, Sleaford Observatory	Larry Scott	934-5801
Oct 20	RASC Executive Meeting - 6:30 pm, 175 Physics, U of S.	Garry Stone	857-4707
Oct 20	RASC General Meeting - 7:30 pm, 175 Physics, U of S.	Garry Stone	857-4707

Minutes of the Executive Meeting June 16, 2008

by Al Hartridge

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Approval of the previous minutes: Moved by Tenho Tuomi, seconded by Barb Wright, and carried.
3. National Council Report: Our rep Les Dickson will attend the General Assembly in Toronto and will have a report after that.
4. Building Committee: Rick, Darrell, Les, and Dale will organize a meeting in the near future.
5. Newsletter: Christine Kulyk was nominated as Co-Editor of *Saskatoon Skies* by Tenho Tuomi, seconded by Jim Young, and carried.
6. International Year of Astronomy: Letter from James Hesser, Canadian coordinator for the IYA, commending the RASC for its planned IYA projects. National RASC has committed \$30,000 for IYA projects. National Office is also requesting donations from Centres for additional funding. Moved by Barb Wright: that the Saskatoon Centre donate \$100 to the RASC National Office for IYA projects; seconded by Les Dickson, and carried.
7. CFCR is a community-based radio station. Jeff Swick talked about the possibility of volunteering a 30-second spot on a regular basis. However, this could cost our Centre \$500 per year.
8. Observers Group: Larry Scott noted the next session would be on July 4. Also noted that the lawnmower at the Sleaford site needs to be tuned. He will check with Bill, who may have a carburetor kit.
9. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Minutes of the General Meeting June 16, 2008

by Al Hartridge

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm.
2. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting: Moved by Tenho Tuomi, seconded by Brent Burlingham, and carried.
3. Events Committee: Jeff Swick reported a good turnout for Astronomy Day at the Civic Centre on Friday evening and at the Farmer's Market on Saturday. Rick's light-pollution display received a lot of attention.
4. Observers Group: Larry Scott noted that the next session was slated for July 4.
5. Membership: Mike Clancy reported a total of 85 members at present. He said problems with access to National website are finally solved.
6. Newsletter: Christine Kulyk has been voted in as Co-Editor of *Saskatoon Skies*. Former Co-Editor Ken Maher is moving down East.
7. Light-Pollution Abatement: Rick Huziak stated that things are going very well. Legal counsel says we have a good case against Casino lighting. Please go to REPAS website and fill out form to send in support of light-pollution abatement.
8. SSSP: More than 50 people registered at this point in time.
9. Presentation: "Tunguska & Other Great Hits: Impact Astronomy" by Christine Kulyk.
10. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

New, Improved Website for NASA Images

NASA and the Internet Archive, a nonprofit digital library based in San Francisco, have launched the most comprehensive compilation ever of NASA's vast collection of photographs, historic film, and video. Located at <http://www.nasaimages.org>, the Internet site combines for the first time 21 major NASA imagery collections into a single, searchable online resource.

The Website launch is the first step in a five-year partnership that will add millions of images and thousands of hours of video and audio content, with enhanced search and viewing capabilities and new user features, on a continuing basis.

BOOKS FOR SALE by Bruce Brandell

All items will be available at our next meeting or call 249-1119, or email breeves@sasktel.net

Title	Author	#	Price	Mars Observer's Guide	N. Bone	2	\$14.00
RASC 2007	RASC	3	\$5.00	Deep Sky Observer's Guide	N. Bone	1	\$14.00
Skywatcher's 08	S. Shadick	2	\$12.00	Stars	Zim Baker &	1	\$10.00
Skywatcher's 07	S. Shadick	6	\$5.00	Exploring the Night Sky	T. Dickinson	11	\$9.50
Skywatcher's 06	S. Shadick	1	\$2.00	Exploring the Sky by Day	T. Dickinson	10	\$9.50
				Patterns in the Sky	K. Hewitt-White	4	\$16.00
Books							
The Backyard Astronomer's Guide	Dickinson & Dyer	2	\$40.00	Pocket Sky Atlas	R. Sinnott	2	\$24.50
The Beginner's Observer's Guide	L. Enright	3	\$19.00	Binocular Highlights	G. Seronik	2	\$20.00
Observer's Handbook 2006	RASC	5	\$5.00	Night Sky Star Wheel	Sky & Telescope	1	\$15.00
Observer's Handbook 2005	RASC	1	\$2.00	S & T Star Wheel	Sky & Telescope	1	\$19.00
Practical Astronomy	S. Dunlop	3	\$14.00	Messier Card (unlaminated)	Sky & Telescope	9	\$5.00
Summer Stargazing	T. Dickinson	5	\$18.00	Deep Sky Wonders	W. Houston	2	\$24.50
Celestial Sampler	S. French	2	\$26.00	The Messier Objects	S.J. O'Mearn	1	\$39.00
Firefly Astronomy Dictionary	Firefly	3	\$14.00	Scientific American Book of the	D.H. Levy	1	\$48.00
Firefly Planisphere	Firefly	1	\$19.00	Cosmos			
Night Sky Atlas	R. Scagell	3	\$24.00	Skyways-Astronomy	M.L. Whitehome	1	\$16.00
Stargazing with a Telescope	R. Scagell	2	\$14.00	Handbook for Teachers	W.K. Mysyk & C. Kulyk	10	\$3.00
Beautiful Universe	Sky & Telescope	2	\$12.00	Saskatoon's Stone			
There Once was a Sky Full of Stars	Crelin & Ziner	2	\$20.00	On the Moon	P. Moore	2	\$27.00
Space 50 Years and Counting	Sky & Telescope	2	\$13.00	On Mars	P. Moore	1	\$25.00
The Moon Observer's Guide	P. Grego	4	\$14.00	Seeing in the Dark	T. Ferris	2	\$17.00
Isabelle Williamson Lunar Observing Program	RASC	7	\$10.00	Miscellaneous			
The Sun Observer's Guide	T. Spence	3	\$14.00	RASC Centennial Mug	RASC	2	\$5.00
Moon Map (laminated)	Sky & Telescope	7	\$6.50	RASC Stickers, blue or white	RASC		\$1.00
Field Map of the Moon	Sky & Telescope	8	\$12.50	SSSP 2001 Pin (Summer Triangle)		13	\$2.00
Lunar 100 Card	Sky & Telescope	1	\$10.00	SSSP 2002 Pin (Comet Petriew)		24	\$2.00
				SSSP 2006 Pin (10th)		46	\$4.00
				SSSP 2007 Pin (DSP)		35	\$5.00

Editor's Corner

by Christine Kulyk

This issue includes a fine report by Les Dickson and Barb Wright about the 2008 RASC General Assembly that was held recently in Toronto. I wasn't able to go to that event, unfortunately, but reading their report brings back many fond memories of the ten GAs that I have attended in past years, hosted by several different Centres, including Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, London, Toronto, Windsor, and Kingston. That's why I'm especially glad that next year's GA will be held right here in Saskatchewan, hosted by our own Saskatoon Centre, in August 2009.

Our 2009 GA Organizing Committee (headed by Barb Wright) is hard at work making sure this will be a great event. To make it even more special, the Saskatchewan GA is going to be held at Cypress Hills in conjunction with the SSSP, combining all the traditional features of an RASC General Assembly with the added attraction of a Star Party! If that were not enough, we also get to celebrate the 2009 International Year of Astronomy at our GA, adding its own wealth of inspiration and resources to the event.

Inspiration and resources are, indeed, a great part of what the annual RASC General Assembly is all about. It's a chance to meet face-to-face with fellow RASCals from across the country or even farther afield, to share news about our observing projects and education activities, to develop friendships and working relationships that can fuel future projects and ideas.

At the business meetings, you can see firsthand how decisions are made at the National level, and be a part of the process yourself by attending and voting at the Annual General Meeting. The AGM is also a great chance to hear firsthand accounts from hardworking National committee Chairs about what's been accomplished on your behalf over the past year.

Each GA includes its own mix of terrific talks, with lots of opportunities for RASC members to present their own projects and learn about the latest developments on both the amateur and professional astronomy fronts. Examples of program items I can recall from past years have included everything from a multimedia

presentation with live musical accompaniment to a hands-on telescope-making workshop and the chance to chat with astronomers at the forefront of exciting discoveries.

All of these "stellar" program components are binary companions to the equally important socializing and networking opportunities, typically topped off by the annual Banquet including awards and prizes, good food, and good company. At the 2009 Saskatchewan GA, you'll have a chance to enjoy all of the traditional GA activities, plus even more: stargazing under the magnificent skies of Cypress Hills.

Details will begin appearing soon on the Saskatoon Centre Website, so you'll have plenty of time to plan to get into the action. There'll be loads of volunteer opportunities between now and August 2009, as well as details about presenting your own talk or display at the GA, and of course early-bird registration information.

Hosting a General Assembly always brings renewed energy and inspiration to the host Centre in the year leading up to the event, often with a boost in membership and the onset of projects that continue far beyond the GA itself. Let's all get in on the act!



On midsummer's night a short but intense aurora made a surprise visit.

Photo by Tenho Tuomi

An Invitation to the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party 2008

August 28 - 31

by Rick Huziak

Join us at the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park & Dark-Sky Preserve for a fun event with excellent viewing and great company. Speakers include Alan Whitman (a prominent star usually seen at the Mt. Kobau Star Party), Alan Dyer, Scott Young, and our own Ron Waldron. Under-the-stars clinics will be given by Al Whitman and Murray Paulson. We have a Thursday wiener roast, public lecture, Friday night talks, the swap table, and much more. The park also offers many things to do during the daytime for the entire family.

Special plans are in the works for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the site of the future Cypress Hills Park observatory on

Friday afternoon, with representatives of the Friends of the Park and the Government of Saskatchewan in attendance.

For registration details, see

<http://homepage.usask.ca/~ges125/rasc/starparty.html>

There are still some hotel rooms left; let the resort know you are with the Star Party when you reserve. As always, there is lots of room to camp in the Meadows.



Volunteers are still needed to help with the many tasks that need to be done during the Star Party, so sign up soon!

Observer's Group Notes

by Larry Scott

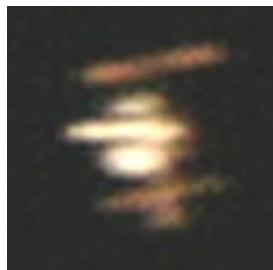


Wrong again! After all my dire predictions concerning mosquitoes, there weren't any. We had the July Observers Group session on the 5th, and it was awesome. (Originally scheduled for Friday the 4th, we had to postpone due to weather conditions.) It turned out clear and comfortable with very good transparency after the previous day's rainfall. There was a fairly healthy breeze which kept the very few insects around at bay. The good weather brought out five members and a guest for the evening, so we fired up the 16".

As mentioned last month, we'll be back out to Sleaford on August 8. At the end of August, we will have moonless observing nights from August 26 until about September 8. Hopefully everyone reading this will be

making the trek to SSSP August 28 to 31. As the dark-sky period continues into the next weekend, I'm hoping to be back at Sleaford September 5 and/or 6. September's Observers Group is scheduled for the 26th.

If you're looking for more equipment reviews, try <http://www.excelsis.com/1.0/catalog.php?categoryid=6>. Lots of reviews, weighted according to the experience of the reviewer.



See you at Sleaford (or SSSP)!

Photo of the ISS taken by Garry Stone on July 24 at 22:14, using a C-8 at 162x, for 1/100 sec at f/3.2

Cypress Hills Vineyard & Winery

by Mike Clancy



Enjoying the winery delights at Cypress Hills
Photo by Mike Clancy

While you're enjoying the Saskatchewan Summer Star Party at Cypress Hills, a special welcome awaits you at the only working vineyard on the Prairies. The Cypress Hills Vineyard & Winery is located just 21 kilometres southwest of Maple Creek, on the highway to Fort Walsh and the West Block of the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park.

Your hosts at the Vineyard, Marty and Marie Bohnet, will be delighted to provide samples of their craft wines in their spacious visitors' centre and gift shop. You might want to consider having lunch on the deck or in the gift shop. The menu is relatively short, but the prices are quite reasonable and the food quality is a real plus, not to mention that the food arrives quickly as well!

If you've an afternoon to spare, might I suggest you spend it on their deck breathing in the clear subalpine air and marvelling at the wondrous landscaping they've created in their gardens, particularly the meditation fountain cheerfully gurgling in the background. To simply sit and enjoy the sun while sipping their marvellous Rhubarb Blend (a light white wine which I

thought very reminiscent of a first-growth Chardonnay), light straw in colour and soft on the palate.

They are open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Tuesday through Saturday, and 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Sunday. While they can accommodate individuals without the need for reservations, it would be wise to make prior arrangements if several carloads of thirsty patrons intend to drop by all at once; call them at 306-662-4100.

View their entire selection of craft wines (all of which are available for tasting and sale at their facility) on their Website at <http://cypresshillswinery.com>. See you there!

The advertisement features several telescope models and accessories:

- Celestron CPC and NexStar SE always in stock
- Celestron Ultima (SkyMaster)
8 x 56 - \$229.95
9 x 63 - \$199.95
- Orion StarShoot Space Imager II \$599.95
- William Optics 110 Megrez Holiday Package includes 2" Diagonal and 28mm UWAN eyepiece \$1649.95 - Now \$1599.95
- Tele Vue Ethos 13mm - \$629.95
8mm Ethos - \$579.95
- Sky-Watcher MAK180mm ED PRO & HEQ6 PRO \$1999.95 with GPS
- Celestron 130 SLT \$439.95

All-Star Telescope
31020 Hwy. 2A, Didsbury, AB
1-866-310-8844
www.All-StarTelescope.com
Visit our display at SSSP - Free delivery to SSSP on telescopes and accessories ordered (and in stock)

Taking in the Action at the RASC General Assembly 2008

by Les Dickson & Barb Wright



The Saskatoon Centre's display was produced by Barb Wright, Rick Huziak, Les Dickson, and Ellen Dickson

Photo by Les Dickson

Saskatoon Centre members Les Dickson (National Council Rep), Barb Wright (Vice-President and 2009 GA Committee Chair), and Ellen Dickson attended the 2008 General Assembly of the RASC held at York University in Toronto, Ontario, on June 27 to July 1, and hosted as a collaborative effort by three RASC Centres: Hamilton, Mississauga, and Toronto. The General Assembly (GA) of the RASC, held in rotating locations from year to year to give as many members as possible across the country a chance to attend, combines business meetings (the Annual General Meeting and National Council meetings) with scientific and social programs spread typically over a three-day weekend. In effect, an excuse for a big party!

Friday evening, the fun began (after a full day of National Council meetings) with a trip to Katz Deli for sandwiches, followed by an opportunity to browse through the Efstonscience SuperStore and Khan Scope Centre. Back at York University, there was an opening reception and tours of the York University Observatory. That evening also brought a first chance to look at Centre displays, including Saskatoon's display highlighting the SSSP, the 2009 GA, and light-pollution abatement activities in Saskatchewan. The display was the work of Barb Wright, Rick Huziak, Les Dickson, and Ellen Dickson, and it gave us the



Les Dickson and Barb Wright had the chance to chat with Terence Dickinson at the GA banquet

Photo by Ellen Dickson

chance to garner lots of signatures for our petition regarding the Dakota Dunes Casino lights.

Saturday afternoon, we were treated to an All-Star Game. The hosts definitely had fun with their theme of "Astronomy Night in Canada," with a rep-game of floorball (all the fun of hockey but no skates): first, second, and third periods being held on consecutive days over the weekend. Team captains Dave Lane for the Eastern All-Stars and Glenn Hawley for the Western All-Stars led the battle for astronomy supremacy. Despite a valiant effort by the West, the Astronomy Cup went to the Eastern All-Stars.

The Helen Sawyer Hogg speaker this year was Dr. Phil Plait, best known through his Bad Astronomy website <http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/badastronomy>. His lecture was aptly titled "Bad Astronomy," taking on bad astronomy in the media and movies, with special attention to movies with Bruce Willis in them. Phil also gave a keynote speech titled "Black Holes: Seven Ways They Can Kill You." Dr. Roberto Abraham, University of Toronto astrophysicist and holder of an NSERC Steacie Fellowship, talked about "Really Cool Stuff About the Future of Amateur Astronomy." Terence Dickinson, author of numerous astronomy books, was honoured for his many

contributions to amateur astronomy. He gave a speech looking back on his “50 Years of Amateur Astronomy and the RASC.”

A particular focus of the GA this year was the upcoming International Year of Astronomy 2009. We were introduced to Kim Breland, who will be coordinating Canadian IYA projects and partners involved in helping to bring off a memorable IYA. Jim Hesser, Canadian IYA Chair, gave an inspirational kickoff for IYA, and Remi Lacasse of the FAAQ (Fédération des Astronomes Amateurs du Québec) made a presentation about Quebec IYA activities. A panel discussion on IYA included Terence Dickinson, Remi Lacasse, David Lane, Kim Hay, Kim Breland, and Denis Grey.

Saturday night was a BBQ and members’ night, where Dr. Geoff Gaherty was presented with the Chant Medal. Sunday afternoon, we were all bussed to the spectacular Ontario Science Centre to tour the display Facing Mars, then on to the Mongolian Grill where we had a fabulous meal and celebrated the Hamilton Centre’s centennial. The Simon Newcomb Award and Ken Chilton Prizes were presented.

The closing banquet was Sunday evening on campus. There was a lovely tribute to Bonnie Bird, with present and past Society Presidents recognizing and thanking Bonnie for 11 years of work as Executive Secretary at the RASC National HQ and wishing her well on her retirement.

A special tribute to Bonnie Bird, looking forward to her retirement after 11 years as the RASC’s Executive Secretary. We love you, Bonnie!

Photo by Les Dickson



Following this, Les Dickson and Barb Wright presented the Saskatoon Centre’s invitation to RASC members from across Canada and the world to come to Saskatchewan in August 2009 for our GA/SSSP/IYA event at Cypress Hills. Our slideshow, played to the accompaniment of Connie Kaldor’s “Prairie Moon,” was well received by all. We thank Connie for her gracious permission to use her song, which sets the tone perfectly for our invitation to the 2009 GA in Saskatchewan, as our organizing efforts now kick into high gear!

National Council Meeting Report

by Les Dickson

A number of important decisions were made during the business meetings at the 2008 GA. Following is a summary of these decisions:

* By-Law Changes Required for Charities Regulation Compliance (Motion 2a of the “Essential Annual Report”) - A large part of the present National By-Law #1, sections 1.01 to 3.09, was replaced to bring the RASC into compliance with the new charities regulations. These changes were necessary because

certain prior practices of the RASC, particularly relating to certain transfers of funds from the national Society to Centres, were no longer compliant with Canadian law. The situation arose because the national Society is a registered charity while most of the Centres are not. The changes make it clear that the national Society is setting its own fees, Centres are free to set their own fees, and that the national Society is simply collecting fees on behalf of the Centres. The

changes were approved at the National Council meeting and ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

* Corrective Membership Fee Increase - Membership fees have to be increased to remove the Society's dependency on uncertain income from publications such as the *Observer's Handbook* and RASC Calendar and bring them in line with the actual costs of providing membership programs and services, which are currently estimated to be \$41.60. The new membership prices for Canadian members are: for Ordinary Members, \$67 (\$44 to National and \$23 to Centres); Youth Members \$41 (\$27.30 to National and \$13.70 to Centres). These changes were ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

* Change in the Scheduling of the Annual Meeting - The applicable portion of the by-laws was changed to allow for the Annual General Meeting to be held once each calendar year not more than 15 months after the previous Annual Meeting and in no case later than September 30 (rather than no later than June 30 of any

given year as the previous version of the by-laws required). This change was made, in part, to allow Saskatoon to hold the GA next year in August.

* *Observer's Handbook* - There will be no change to the pricing of the OH for 2009, except for the prices charged to Sky Publishing. The 1-4 unit price for the 2010 OH will be increased \$1 to \$26.95. A change was made in the timing of OH mailings for new members. A new member that joins the Society between November 1 and December 31 of a given year will receive the OH for the next calendar year. A new member joining between January 1 and January 31 of a given year will receive that calendar year's OH. The OH will be made available at a discounted price of \$9.95 to new members joining between February 1 and October 31 who do not want to wait until the fall for their first OH.

* RASC Calendar - The 1-4 unit price for the calendar will be \$16.95, \$2.00 less for members. The 5-9 unit price will be \$10.95, the 10-24 unit price will be \$9.95.

Combine Vacation with Education on this enrichment program

Transatlantic Crossings on the Queen Mary 2

November 15 – November 21, 2008

Cruise from South Hampton, England to New York

6 days cruising



While on board the Queen Mary 2, join Dr. Alastair G. Gunn in partnership with the Royal Astronomical Society in a wide range of events that will focus on the skies above. Enjoy the specially designed shows and lectures covering many topics – from the “Big Bang” theory to the nature of black holes. Evening Star Parties will be held on deck, during which RAS experts will discuss the history of the stars and constellations seen overhead. On this voyage, Dr. Alastair Gunn, professional astrophysicist, musician and author, will be onboard to discuss the extended atmospheres of active binary stars.

Please call Barb at Ixtapa Travel 306-664-3233 for more details