

SASKATOON SKIES

Volume 24, Number 8

August, 1993

Because of problems in getting the newsletter photocopied on time for an affordable cost this month, we are printing a very short newsletter.

In July, Al Hartridge, Jim Young and myself repaired the Rystrom Observatory's dome with a layer of fiberglass. The messy job is just about done with the retrofitting of the slot door still needing to be done. This will be completed very soon with the result of an observatory that will stay dry inside when it rains. That's the good news. The bad news is that we have no money. The Centre has spent \$250 for the work already but at least \$250 more is required in donations to cover the entire cost. If you can afford to donate any money at all to our Centre, we desperately need it. All donations are tax deductible. If you make a donation of \$10 or more we will give you a free copy of Saskatoon Centre's *Asteroid Finder Charts* covering the remainder of 1993.

The Starnite at Diefenbaker Park went quite well (except for mosquitoes) with both nights giving us good skies. More information on how the starnite went will be in next months newsletter.

Please see the other side of this sheet for important Centre news for the month of August.

Saskatoon Skies Information

Next months deadline is Saturday, September 4, 1993. Please have any submissions in to me by then in order to be included in the next issue. Submissions may be in typewritten form or on a floppy diskette (3.5 or 5 inch size and formatted for MSDOS) preferably as ASCII files. Electronic submissions are preferred as it saves me some typing. Mail or bring your submissions to:

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ANNUAL PERSEID STARNITE

This years Perseid Starnite will be held at Percy Crosthwaite's place on the evening of August 11. His place is located on the main road to Pike Lake, a few miles before the Pike Lake Park. A small RASC sign or two will mark his driveway. If you need explicit instructions on how to find this spot please phone the editor or Allan Hartridge at 373-0034.

The Perseids have been predicted to peak at 4:30 p.m. CST with a possibility of thousands of meteors per hour at that time. If this turns out to be true, it would pay to get out to the site as early as possible. The Moon will be 2 days past Last Quarter and a bit of a nuisance in the early morning, but it will still be worth observing then.

Bring a reclining lawn chair and maybe a sleeping bag (to keep warm) if you can. The best way to watch a meteor shower is simply to lie back and look up. Bring a pad and paper if you want to count meteors as well. And don't forget your bug spray!

MROP UPDATE

I would like to thank Dr. Ian Halliday of the National Research Council for providing us with topographic maps for six MROP sites (Holdfast, Ridgedale, Middle Lake, Craik, Coleville and Allan). Dr. Halliday has indicated the probable fall area for each meteorite so that we have a defined target to search.

I hope to arrange for a local geology professor to present a lecture on meteorites in the upcoming year.

Mark Zalcik of the Edmonton Centre is still actively searching MROP sites and is interested in our endeavors.

Kim Mysyk

SS CYGNI RETURNS TO NORMAL

Last month it was mentioned (in the Editor's Notes) that the behavior of the dwarf nova SS Cygni had become very strange. The star has subsequently returned to its normal quiescence behavior and is presently sitting at about 12th magnitude. AAVSO has noted (in *AAVSO Alert Notice 173*) that SS Cygni has only behaved in this strange manner a few times since its discovery in 1896.

Gord Sarty

RING NEBULA M57 as recorded by an amateur CCD camera. This image was posted to the internet by Pine Mountain Observatory, Oregon, USA. M57 was one of the many objects viewed at the Diefenbaker Public Starnite this year. The image here gives a very close approximation to what M57 looked like in Scott Alexander's 14.5 inch telescope.

