

Saskatoon Skies

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

Vol. 34, No. 10

October 2003

A second bull (other than Taurus) once appeared in the sky, as shown in my copy of *Die Gestirne* from the year 1780. This defunct constellation is now a part of Ophiuchus. Modern day Aquila, and the sea-monsterish Delphinus can also be recognized. See Mike Clancy's article describing the Bull.



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**Saskatoon Centre
The Royal Astronomical
Society of Canada
P.O. Box 317, RPO University
Saskatoon, SK S7N 4J8**

Membership?

It's never too late to join!

Regular: \$52.00/year

Youth: \$27.50/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 2004**
- **The Journal of the RASC** (bimonthly)
- **SkyNews Magazine** (bimonthly)
- use of the Centre library
- discounts to **Sky & Telescope Magazine**
- discounts of Sky Publishing merchandise
- free, no-cost, no-obligation, 3-month temporary membership if you don't want to join right now!

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

U OF S OBSERVATORY



About this Newsletter...

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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 – preferred as plain unformatted ASCII text files without line breaks. Images sent by e-mail should be attached .EPSs, .TIFs or .JPGs (.GIFs also accepted). Send e-mail submissions to the editor at <huzaik@SEDSystems.ca>. Please send articles in "generic" formats with simple formatting – one tab at the beginning of paragraphs, one space after commas and periods. 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.



Bottle Drive & Canadian Tire \$

by Darrell Chatfield

Please remember our on-going bottle and now Canadian Tire money drive to fundraise for the Centre. Bring them to General meetings. I will collect them after the meeting concludes. If you cannot make it to the meeting but would like to contribute, please call me at 374-9278.

RASC Calendar of Events			
DATE (2003)	EVENT	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Oct. 7 – 31	Naked-eye geosynchronous satellites visible this month	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Oct. 16	Mini-star-night at Delisle School (can use help)	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Oct. 18	Sleaford Barbecue - CANCELLED	Les Dickson	249-1091
Oct. 18	Sleaford Observatory Public Star Night – 7:30 pm	Les Dickson	249-1091
Oct. 19	Supper with Alan Dyer – Mano's (8th Street) 5:30 p.m. RSVP, please	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Oct. 19	Observing at the Sleaford Observatory with Alan Dyer – dusk	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Oct. 20	U of S Physics Lecture Series – Alan Dyer, The Coming Transits of Venus , Physics Bldg, Room 103, 3:30 p.m.	Yannis Pahatourogloou	966-6383
Oct. 20	Executive Meeting – Room 8313, City Hospital, 6:30 p.m.	Les Dickson	249-1091
Oct. 20	General Meeting – Alan Dyer, The Coming Transits of Venus, Annual Elections - Room 8313, City Hospital, 7:30 p.m.	Les Dickson	249-1091
Oct. 21/ 22	Orionid Meteor Shower peak	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Nov. 1	Possible beta Cygni Meteor Shower	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Nov. 8	Total Eclipse of Moon	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Nov. 14/15	Star occulted by Saturn's Rings	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Nov. 17/18	Leonid Meteor Shower peak	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Nov. 17	General Meeting – program tbd - Room 8313, City Hospital, 7:30 p.m.	Les Dickson	249-1091
Dec. 13/14	Geminid Meteor Shower peak	Rick Huziak	665-3392
Dec. 15	General Meeting – program tbd - Room 8313, City Hospital, 7:30 p.m.	Les Dickson	249-1091



Monday, October 20/03 at 7:30 pm, Room 8313 City Hospital

Presenting:

The Coming Transits of Venus – by Alan Dyer

On June 8, 2004 skygazers will witness one of the rarest celestial events the sky has to offer, a passage of Venus across the face of the Sun. No one alive today has seen a transit of Venus – the last occurred in 1882. Past transits have launched a multitude of ships around the world, carrying expeditions that are the source of amazing stories of adventure and dedication to a scientific cause: in this case, measuring the precise distance from the Earth to the Sun. In his multimedia talk, Alan will provide some of the history of attempts to observe past transits of Venus and outline the viewing circumstances for the upcoming 2004 event.

About Alan Dyer. Alan Dyer is a writer and producer of science programs for the Calgary Science Centre's Discovery Dome theatre. He is one of Canada's best known astronomy writers and currently serves as associate editor of SkyNews magazine, Canada's magazine of stargazing. He also serves as a contributing editor to Sky and Telescope magazine and to the annual RASC Observer's Handbook. He has chased total solar eclipses on every continent, and has co-authored two best selling guidebooks for amateur astronomers, The Backyard Astronomer's Guide, and Advanced Skywatching. He is a frequent guest expert on CBC Newsworld and Canada AM, and on local TV and radio in Alberta.

Annual Election of the Executive Members

October is the time when the new Executive members are elected. Come and exercise your vote!

A Final Note... *by Les Dickson, Out-going President, Saskatoon Centre*

This upcoming General Meeting marks the end of my second term as President, and now I must say goodbye. I have enjoyed my time as President, but now I must step aside and let someone else take over the reins.

We have done much over the last four years: getting the Sleaford Site up and operating, signing our Partnership Agreement with the University for joint use of the site, and running four very successful Saskatchewan Summer Star Parties, just to name a few. Much of our successes have been due to the hard work of those volunteers who have given of their time and effort to make our Centre work. Some are on the Executive, and some are those who just come out and help where ever they are needed. As President, I may have been seen as major part of those accomplishments, but really, I have only been the front-man for the those volunteers who

have given much of their time and effort to make our Centre what it is today. Without the efforts of people like you, this Centre would not exist, and I thank you for the opportunity to work with all of you.

Without the efforts of people like you, this Centre would not exist...

A major challenge in the next few years will be to bring new, enthusiastic people into our Executive. Many of the current members have been doing one job or another on the Executive for many years. They work so that

you can enjoy the benefits of the RASC and the Centre. I hope that some of you who have sat on the sidelines will come forward and volunteer for an Executive position. New blood, new ideas and fresh enthusiasm are always welcome.

Thanks again to everyone who have helped me over the last four years. It has been fun.

Membership Renewal News – a Slight Correction

Last month, I suggested that you could send your membership payment in to Mike Clancy, the Membership Coordinator. Indeed, you can do this if you'd like. However, any membership issues have been completely cleared up on the National end, and it therefore becomes just as easy to send your renewals directly to the National Office in Toronto. The National Office Adminsitrator, Bonnie Bird, will immediately process your application, and Mike will hear of your renewal by e-mail in the monthly summaries Bonnie sends. If you are paying by cheque, make it out the "RASC" (not "RASC Saskatoon"), since the cheques will be forwarded directly to National. Paying directly to National also allows you to exercise the credit card options. Remember that you get only two notices, so please be prompt with the renewal. Any membership problems, though, can be directed to Mike Clancy, who can answer your questions.

Our club runs on members – so if you know of someone interested in astronomy, let us know so we can sign them up as Temporary Members.

SKY BUYS & MIRROR CELLS

The Saskatoon Centre's Swap and Sale Page!

For Sale: *Astronomy 2002*, by Robert Burnham – colour sky charts, planet information, etc. – \$15.00.

35mm Bausch & Lomb Plossl eyepiece, fully coated. Excellent shape, in original box with dust caps – \$80.00. Call Darrell at 374-9278.

For Sale: RASC Royal Centenary coffee mugs. Pick yours up at the next General Meeting – \$9 each

For Sale: Millennium Star Atlas, 3-volume set – \$200; **REALSKY CD's** – \$200. Call Dale Jeffrey at (306) 223-4447 or dalejeffrey@sk.sympatico.ca

For Sale: 24mm Speers-Waler 1.25" eyepiece – \$90.00. BNIB. Call Bill Hydomako at 384-4781.

REMEMBER...

YOU CAN SIGN UP TO GET THIS NEWSLETTER ON THE INTERNET instead of waiting for snail-mail.
Current electronic subscribers save us over \$320/year in mailing costs.

THE BULL OF PONIATKOWSKY: AN INTERESTING ASTERISM

by Mike Clancy

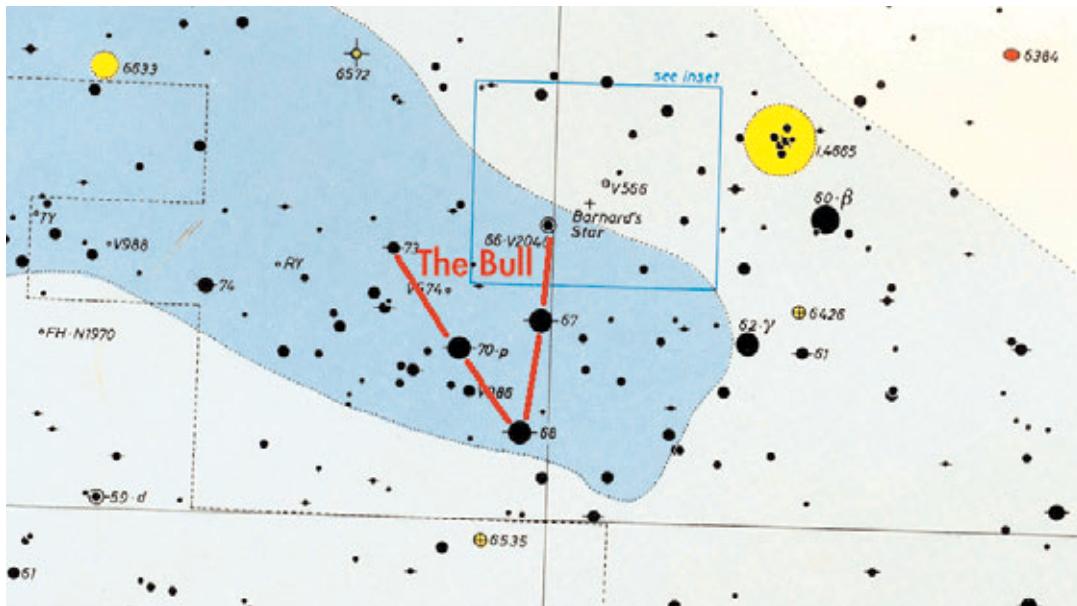
F

irst off, this is not a constellation all by itself; it is simply a sub-grouping of smaller stars off the shoulder of a larger, somewhat dim constellation, Ophiuchus. The asterism known as the Hyades (the Horns of Taurus) are well known and recorded by many observers as Melotte 25. It is a much larger and brighter asterism than the Bull, which has no merit on one of the observer's lists as it isn't a Messier object, nor is it listed as a New General Catalogue (NGC) object. It is, however, something of an oddball and therefore fits in with the often-times odd hobby of star-gazing. What the Hyades are to the fall and winter skies, so is the Bull to spring and summer's stargazers; a guide-post. Besides, if nothing else The Bull gives you a reason to try and differentiate among the stars of the large and rather nondescript constellation Ophiuchus!

So; where is this asterism? (look, just for brevities' sake, I'm going to call this "The Bull" from now on). You'll find it on chart 15 of *Tirion's Sky Atlas 2000*, with the bottom "point" of The Bull's horns met at 68 Ophiuchi, 18hr 02 min and +01°. This star is about magnitude 4, as are the two other stars forming the basal triangle. These are quite evident from my backyard although one needs dark skies or binoculars to see 66 Ophiuchi (magnitude ~5) and 73 Ophiuchi (magnitude ~5.7), the stars forming the ends of The Bull's horns. Found them yet? Look, buddy, if I can see them from my backyard, it had better be daylight or cloudy where you are!

So, what use is The Bull? Well, it's a signpost to several deep space objects that can be found in the area. The top-most star in the right horn is 66 Oph (magnitude 5 or so), and less than a half-degree away is Barnard's Star, made famous in "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" as a place to go after your planet has been destroyed, and more recently as the probable site for a Jupiter-like planet orbiting that dim orange star. (It is magnitude 9.5 and about 5.9 light years away from here so the brightness is somewhat relative). One degree above Cebalrai is IC 4665, a rather pretty open cluster. About 3 degrees below Cebalrai is Collinder 350, another open cluster, and almost halfway between the two objects is NGC 6426, a somewhat dim globular cluster. The left horn of The Bull points towards two other objects, NGC 6633 located roughly 18hr 30 min and +07° and IC 4756 (roughly 18hr 40 min and +06°). If you use both your imagination and a bit of geometric license, you can use the left horn as a line marker extending south towards M14, a magnitude 7.6 globular cluster situated at 17hr 35 min and -03.5°.

The final questions are: Who was Poniatkowski, and how did The Bull get its name? Well, he was an obscure Polish astronomer, probably a monk, who made this asterism's connection. He turned to a fellow monk, pointed the cluster out and said "This will make me famous!" Squinting into space, his myopic fellow replied "What a load of bull!" The rest, as they say, is history! By the way, part of this paragraph is true and part is intended as humor; I'll let you decide which is which.



The Bull is part of modern-day Ophiuchus. This illustration is from *Sky Atlas 2000*, Chart 15, copyright Sky Publishing Corp.

NORTHERN LIGHTS OPTICS

by Doug Miller, Northern Lights Optics

I am a former member of the Saskatoon Centre and spent many hours walking around a barrel (alternating with Rick Huziak) to grind and polish the 16" centre telescope. With an education in physics and an interest in optics, I started looking into the telescope optical designs in *Sky & Telescope*. At the same time, I went to work for SED Systems and was responsible for the optics of several space instruments. My interest in optical design snowballed and I purchased ZEMAX-EE, a professional quality optical design software package.

Over the years, I designed many optical systems including several for Saskatoon RASC members. In particular, I designed an 8" f/15 Catadioptric telescope for RH and a "Celestron beater" for another member. Neither telescope has been built yet.

About 3 years ago, decided to offer my optical design services to the ATM community as a sideline and set up a WEB site. I have designed several interesting telescopes in that time. There are two designs that are particularly interesting.

An Italian astrophotographer asked me to design a 10" f/5 astrograph, similar to the Takahashi Epsilon 250. The design was a challenge, but was successful and resulted

in Newtonian configuration with a 4-element focal plane corrector. It is a diffraction limited photographic system covering a 60 mm square film from 380 nm to 700 nm. This system is currently being built.

I am currently working on a 1.05 m f/16 Nasmyth Cassegrain for an American customer. The design was complicated by the requirement that the secondary be kept spherical to reduce costs. The final design has a three element focal plane corrector and a 50 mm diffraction limited field suitable for CCD imagery. This design is currently being built.

If you are interested in building a high performance telescope, contact me. I would be happy to help design it.

Doug Miller

Northern Lights Optics

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Saskatoon, SK

CANADA S7H 0W2

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(306) 477-1727 (fax)

optics@minerals.sk.ca

www.minerals.sk.ca/atm_design/optical_design.html

THE SLEAFORD OPEN HOUSE OCTOBER 18

Our annual open house at the Sleaford Observatory goes October 18th, rain or shine. Members who are participating should show up by 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. to get set up. The general public will be arriving shortly thereafter. We expect several hundred participants, so bring your scope to help out! This event lets us show off our great facilities to the Colonsay community, and as I said – they will come no matter what the weather! Note that **the barbecue that was planned before the open house has been CANCELLED** since the next evening we will have a supper for Alan Dyer.

THE SLEAFORD OBSERVATORY

by Richard Huziak

We needed to do only minor maintenance this year, and we managed to do this with a small, but enthusiastic crew. Improvements and fix-ups at the site include scraping, priming and painting the main deck and Rystrom deck, building safety railing on the Rystrom deck and Warm-up Shelter ramp, replacing rotting brick molding and placing a drip cap on the toilet room door, painting all door frames, replacing weather stripping on the Warm-up door, cutting the grass around the buildings and placing a new spotter on the 12.5" Eetook telescope. I'd like to thank Bill and Marianne Hydomako for doing the bulk of the work.



The Planets this Month, October 2003

by Murray D. Paulson, Edmonton Centre



Wasn't Mars glorious? 25 arc seconds doesn't sound like much, but when the Red Planet makes it to the max, it is spectacular. I spent altogether too much time photographing Mars instead of looking at it, but I will be able to look at the images whenever I want. I have included a few of the good ones for this month's article.

The month of September started off well with a couple of nights of incredible seeing, but it wasn't repeated until the very end of the month. For the most part the atmosphere has delivered up nights of mostly mediocre-to-bad seeing. Over the month of September we watched as Mars's south polar cap shrank in size. In late July it was the most obvious part of the planet, a massive white cap. Now you have to look carefully to see what remains of it. Also look at the north polar region and you may see the North Polar Hood. Mars has become an evening object and with that, it has dimmed down quite a bit. By mid-October it shines at magnitude -1.7 and the disk has shrunk to 17.7". Mars now looks quite a bit smaller in the eyepiece and has become obviously gibbous. It is showing a 92% phase at mid-month, and in one month's time will have shrunk in size and phase to 12.77" and 88% phase. At this point Mars has continued its decline to magnitude -0.8. It now sits twice as far away from us as it was at opposition, a couple of warm months ago. Despite the small size, Mars is still worth watching, since it now has started its climb up the ecliptic and as it crosses the meridian, it sits 28 degrees above the horizon. Remember, Mars at an aphelic opposition is only 13" at maximum!

What's up tonight?

During the next month, the major feature(s) facing Earth at 10 pm local time are...

Oct. 11 Mare Erythraeum & Margaritifer Sinus

Oct. 18 Syrtis Major

- Oct. 25 Mare Cimmerium and Sirenum
- Nov. 1 Solis Lacus and Mare Sirenum
- Nov. 8 Mare Erythraeum & Solis Lacus
- Nov. 15 Sinus Meridiani

Mercury will pass half a degree above the sun on October 25th and then returns to the evening sky, where it will remain invisible chasing Venus down the ecliptic. On the

25th, it sits behind the sun and would show a 4.6" disk if you checked it out. If you want to see either of these two planets, you must hunt them down in the daytime with a scope. The ecliptic is angled too close to the horizon to allow them to show in the twilight glare. They will both show an almost full disk, with Venus being the brighter of the two. Mercury shines at magnitude -0.9 and has a 4.7" disk in early November and Venus shines at Magnitude -3.9 and has a 10.6" disk. Venus is quite easy to chase down in a daytime scope, Mercury is a little more work.



Aug 30, 01:43



Sept 4, 01:05



Sept 4, 23:20



Sept 14, 23:50

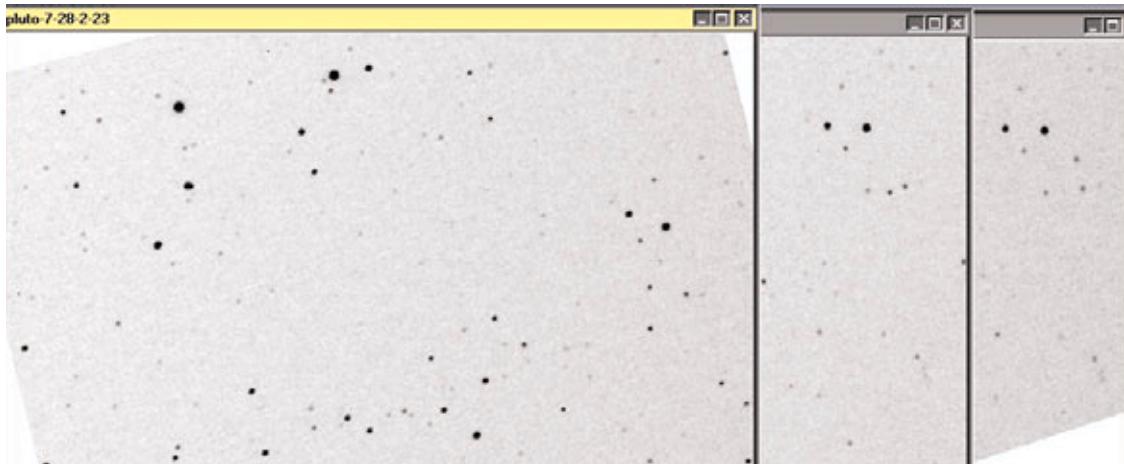


Sept 30, 23:59

Jupiter will accompany you on your morning drive to work, rising at 4 am. It will show you a 32" disk and it shines at magnitude -1.8. The orbital inclination has lifted enough that we will no longer see mutual events between the Jovian moons. By mid-November, Jupiter rises at 1:30 a.m. and will be a target for the new moon window at the dark site. It will shine at magnitude -2.0 and will show a disk of 34.5" at this time.

Saturn rises at 11:30 p.m. and shows a 17.8" disk in the eyepiece. It shines at magnitude 0.0 and will brighten up only slightly over the next month. The ring plane will start to tip back down this year, but it will be a slow change that we should be able to see some change over this apparition. Be aware that there will be a stellar transit through Saturn's ring system next month on the morning of November 15. Mark your calendar, and I will have more on it next month.

Pluto is long gone, but here is a comparison shot of the same field over a one-week period taken at the Mt. Kobau Star Party. It is amazing what a CCD camera can do in a 15 second exposure. I will leave it to the reader to find Pluto in the image.



A Visit with Alan Dyer

Alan Dyer will be spending a few days in Saskatoon. While he is here, we will attempt to entertain him in typical Saskatoon fashion. We are trying to put together a tour of the Canadian Light Source (CLS) facility for Alan's visit. However, details are not available at the time of printing this newsletter. If a tour will be available on Sunday afternoon, October 19, we will confirm this to members by email, and provide a tour start time.

On Sunday, October 19, at 5:30 p.m., we will have a supper in Alan's honour at **Mano's Restaurant** on 8th Street. This will be followed by an observing session out at the **Sleaford Observatory** at dusk.

Alan will be speaking twice while here; both talks will be the same – **The Upcoming Transits of Venus**. The first talk will take place at 3:30 p.m. at the University of Saskatchewan in 103 Physics. Admission is free. RASC members who cannot attend the evening talk are welcome to attend this afternoon talk. Alan then gives the same talk at 7:30 p.m. at our General Meeting in Room 8313 of the City Hospital.

The October Elections

October is election month. Elections are by nomination and show of hands, so do your duty to the club and get yourself nominated for an Executive position. All positions are open this year though some people have been nominated at the September meeting (but not yet voted in). No experience is necessary – just the will to help out with running the Centre. All voting will occur at the October General Meeting. A list of positions and those nominated can be found in the General Meeting minutes for September, elsewhere in this newsletter.

Some Recent Star Parties

by Tenho Tuomi <tuomi@sk.sympatico.ca> & Richard Huziak

On October 3rd, we hosted a "Mars and Stars" party for the Lucky Lake community. We invited people over to see the stars and have lunch. Nineteen showed up, plus Garry and Myrna, who brought their C-8 to help with the viewing. We had four telescopes set up. The night was perfect; warm and clear skies. Mars' polar ice cap showed up nicely. The first-quarter moon did not seem to interfere with the viewing of many other objects.

In the meantime, the Saskatoon group entertained Colonsay School's grades 7/8 and 10 classes on October 1st and 2nd at the Sleaford Observatory. Over the two nights, we gave a slide show, site tour and viewed the stars the best we could, despite marginally clear skies. One highlight was being able to awe the kids by "predicting" the passage of the ISS, which, thankfully, did indeed appear on time both nights. We had a total of about 50 kids and 15 teachers and parents. I'd like to thank Bill Hydomako, Jim Young and Les and Ellen Dickson for helping out with the tour.

On the second night, we also helped introduce the new Astronomy 212 lab students to the site, by showing them the sky and the site. It was their first visit to Sleaford, with their lab demonstrator, Tyrone Klassen.

The November 8th Lunar Eclipse

The second total lunar eclipse of the year happens on November 8th. Details are available in the Handbook. Currently, the Centre has not decided what we will do for this eclipse; this may be discussed at the October General Meeting. Possible events could be observing at the Sleaford Observatory, or holding a formal or informal starnight in Saskatoon. Members with ideas are encouraged to express these at the next meeting.

Minutes of the EXECUTIVE MEETING

Sept. 15, 2003, 6:30pm – Room 8313, City Hospital

Recorded by Al Hartridge, Secretary

- 1 Additions to the agenda and approval of the revised agenda. Moved by Mike Clancy and seconded by Jim Young and carried.
- 2 Approval of minutes of the Executive meeting of May 12th, 2003.
- 3 Telescope available from the U of S will go to Dale Jeffrey.
- 4 Visit by Alan Dyer in October. The cost of transportation may be split with the U of S Physics dept. Moved by Jim Young and seconded by Ellen Dickson and carried that we pick up the \$260.00, less what the Physics dept. might contribute for the transportation cost. Carried.
- 5 Sleaford Open House will be held on October 18th. Members are welcome to show up early for a barbecue. Bring your own food.
- 6 Brightwater and school talks: Rick Huziak wants to cut back and would like someone else to take over.
- 7 Youth Program will only go if someone is willing to do it.
- 8 Family Membership: the constitution may have to be changed to allow this.
- 9 Nominations for new Executive positions: will take at the General Meeting.
- 10 Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Membership List for 2003

Enclosed with this issue is the RASC Saskatoon 2003 Membership List. It is provided as a supplement – sent in hard copy to those who receive the mailed newsletter, and sent as a separate file for those who get the electronic newsletter. We have decided not to make this list part of the newsletter and not post it on the web, so that your names do not get added to the spam universe!

Sandy Ferguson - Minorly corrected!

The living and mailing addresses I provided last month are corrected here:

Send snailmail letters:

Sandy Ferguson, Box 343, Stirling, Ontario K0K 3E0

Visit Sandy at:

Apt. 1 – 30 West Front Street, Stirling, ON

Phone: (613) 395-4070

Email address: ferguson15@hotmail.com

(Box 343 is a post office box, not at the apartment.)

Minutes of the GENERAL MEETING

Sept. 15, 2003, 7:30pm – Room 8313, City Hospital

Recorded by Al Hartridge, Secretary

- 1 Approval of the revised agenda. Moved by Scott Alexander and seconded by Mike Clancy.
- 2 Approval of the minutes of June General Meeting. Moved by Ellen Dickson and seconded by Scott Alexander and carried.
- 3 Visit of Alan Dyer in October: U of S Physics dept. will pay travel expenses. He will speak at Room 103, Physics dept. at 3:30 p.m. and will talk at our General Meeting in the evening.
- 4 Sleaford Open House will be held on October 18th at 7:30 p.m. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come and barbecue at 4:30 p.m. prior to the open house. Bring your own food. We will supply the barbeques.
- 5 Brightwater and school talks: Rick is planning to cut away back and needs a replacement. Ron Waldron would be interested in taking over but not at Rick's present pace. Les Dickson might also be able to fill in now and then.
- 6 Youth Program: Mike Clancy will contact people on the list to see if there is a need to carry on with this group.
- 7 SSSP fiscal close out: please talk to Barb if you have any bills etc. so she can close the finances.
- 8 Family Memberships: last spring we voted in the Associate Membership. This may require changes to the bylaws or the constitution.
- 9 Nominations for the Executive positions: Les moved positions open for nomination, seconded by Scott Alexander and carried.
 - Bill Hydomako nominated for Sleaford coordinator
 - Ellen Dickson for Library
 - Vice President - Darrell Chatfield
 - Fundraising - Darrell Chatfield
 - Newsletter - Rick Huziak
 - Membership - Mike Clancy
 - Barb Young - Treasurer
 - President - no nomination
 - Secretary - Al Hartridge
 - Centre Rep - no nomination
 - SSSP coordinator - Les willing to stand
 - Councillors - Scott Alexander, Gord Sarty, Brian Friesen, Gary Stone, Graham Hartridge, Jim Young, Ron Waldron.
- 10 Membership report: 74 members at present. Five of these are youth members, 64 are regular members, 4 are life members.
- 11 Treasures report: present balance \$19,375.91
- 12 Sleaford report: some maintenance and construction this fall was carried out. More is required. Toilet door has to be replaced.
- 13 Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

The Messier, H-400 & H-400-II, FNGC, Binoc & EtU Club

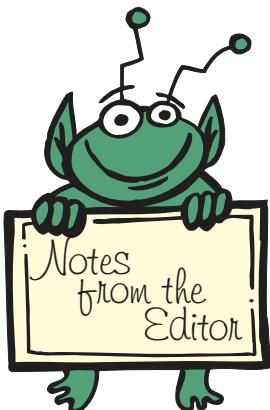
Join the Club! Observe all 110 Messier, 110 Finest NGC, 400 Herschel I or 400 Herschel II, Explore the Universe, or 35 Binocular objects and earn great OBSERVING CERTIFICATES!

MESSIER CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

*R. Huziak, G. Sarty, S. Alexander,
S. Ferguson, D. Jeffrey, D. Chatfield,
B. Christie, K. Noesgaard, M. Stephens,
B. Hydomako, T. Tuomi*

Mike Oosterlaken	93
George Charpentier	90
Lorne Jensen	84
Mike Clancy	81
Wade Selvig	75
Brent Burlingham	58
Brent Gratias	39
Les Dickson	28
Stan Noble	28
Tyrone Klassen	26
Kathleen Houston	20
Ellen Dickson	17
Brian Friesen	15



Good weather and a warm fall and earlier observing nights should prompt a rush of observing! If you'd like to go out to the Sleaford Observatory anytime, any night of the week, just give me a call! Our small group of observers know no bounds when it comes to observing the sky! If it's clear, we observe! With the earlier evenings, you can begin observing by 7:00 p.m. and get home by 11! Give me a call at 665-3392 and tell me you are coming out!

On-line Messier and Finest NGC Lists

For those who'd like electronic Messier or FNGC lists, check out the Edmonton Centre's version at:
<http://www.edmontonrasc.com/catalog.html>

FINEST NGC CLUB

Certified at 110 Objects:

*R. Huziak, D. Jeffrey, G. Sarty,
D. Chatfield*

Scott Alexander	97
Ken Noesgaard	24
Sandy Ferguson	23
Tenho Tuomi	NEW 21
Mike Oosterlaken	20
Bill Hydomako	20
Mike Clancy	4

Chatfield BINOCULAR CERTIFICATE

Certified at 35 Objects:

M. Stephens, T. Tuomi, M. Clancy

Mike Oosterlaken	32
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EXPLORE the UNIVERSE

Certified for Certificate:

M. Clancy

Tenho Tuomi	Applied Dun
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HERSCHEL 400 CLUB

Certified at 400 Objects:

D. Jeffrey, R. Huziak, D. Chatfield

Gord Sarty	251
Scott Alexander	102
Mike Oosterlaken	68
Ken Noesgaard	44
Sandy Ferguson	18

HERSCHEL 400-II CLUB

Certified at 400 Objects:

Richard Huziak	196
Darrell Chatfield	117

The Messier & Finest NGC lists can be found in the *Observer's Handbook*. The Explore the Universe list is available on the National web site. The Binocular list & Herschel 400 lists will be available at each general meeting or can be mailed out on request to distant members. Each month I'll be posting updates.

The National Deep Sky Observers Society (NDSOS)

by Scott Alexander

Do you like the deep sky, to be able to see galaxies, clusters of galaxies, faint nebulae and all of the objects beyond the solar system? Now is the time to join The National Deep Sky Observers Society (NDSOS), and get all of the benefits of membership in this society. Contact:

Alan Goldstein <deepspsky@insightbb.com> OR:
NDSOS, 1607 Washington Blvd., Louisville, KY,
40242-3539

Here is the web page:
<http://www.caknet.com/ndssos/ndssosindex.html>

Membership subscription costs \$32 Canadian per year.