

Saskatoon Skies

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

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January 2018



A wonderfully peaceful shot of the moon at sunrise by Tenho Tuomi on December 16th.
Taken at 160mm focal length.



Saskatoon Centre

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

<http://www.usask.ca/rasc/newsletter.html>

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MEMBERSHIP? JOIN TODAY!

Regular: \$85.00 /year

Youth: \$45.00 /year

Family: \$80/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. Members are encouraged to renew early to avoid disruption in publications. Renew through the National Office at <http://www.rasc.ca/join-us>

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
- Journal of the RASC (electronic format)
- SkyNews Magazine (bimonthly)
- borrow the Centre's Data Projector to give astronomy outreach presentations – contact Les Dickson at astrochem@sasktel.net
- rent the Centre's Telescopes <https://www.usask.ca/rasc/telescopes.html>
- discounts to Sky & Telescope Magazine*
- use of the Centre library

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 306-966-6429.

Observatory Hours:

January – February	7:30 – 9:30 pm
March	8:00 – 10:30 pm
April – August	9:15 – 11:45 pm
September	8:30 – 11:00 pm
October – December	7:00 – 9:30 pm

SASKATOON CENTRE'S MAIN OFFICERS:

President – Alan Duffy

Vice-President – **To be Filled**

Secretary – Marcel Müller-Goldkuhle

Treasurer – Norma Jensen

National Council Rep – Rob Shepard

Bottle Drive &
Canadian Tire \$
By Les Dickson

If you cannot attend a meeting but would like to donate your Canadian Tire money please email me at astrochem@sasktel.net

Newsletter Editor – Kris Ohnander

Copy & Collate – Les & Ellen Dickson

Labels & Temps – Mark de Jong

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 material. Submissions should be sent by e-mail to the editor at krisohn@gmail.com in msword or text format. Images: any format, less than 30MB, sent by e-mail as attached files. **Deadline for submission of all articles for an upcoming issue is the first Friday of the month!**

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

LIGHT POLLUTION
ABALEMENT
WEBSITE AT:
www.ras.sk.ca/lpc/lpc.htm

RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 15	RASC General Meeting	Alan Duffy
February 10	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
February 12	RASC General Meeting	Alan Duffy
March 10	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott
March 19	RASC General Meeting	Alan Duffy
April 7	Observers Group at Sleaford	Larry Scott

For a complete list of club events, please visit: <http://www.usask.ca/rasc/activities.html>

January RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests, Room 175 Physics Bldg
University of Saskatchewan, on

Monday, January 15th, 2018 at 8:00PM

Presented by Ron Waldron:

Norwegian Astronomy Above the Arctic Circle

Last October, Ron Waldron spent two weeks as a Road Scholar exclusive instructor aboard the Kong Harold Cruise ship. The cruise took him up the west coast of Norway from latitude 62 degrees north to latitude 71 degrees north of the Arctic Circle. While on board, he gave ten one hour lectures, four on the northern lights and six on astronomy.

Weather conditions both on the cruise path and on the sun were cooperative and eight clear nights were had to view and photograph the aurora. Ron will give a digitally illustrated talk on his trip along with a five minute video of the northern lights as captured by colleague Alan Dyer who was on another ship at the same time. Ron is scheduled to repeat the cruise this February and then travel to Churchill, Manitoba for three weeks in March to give a similar program.

Note: There will be an Executive Meeting at 7:00PM

RASC Saskatoon Centre Financial Report

October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017

	Current Year Sept 30, 2017	Previous Year Sept 30, 2016
Assets		
Total Cash	\$6,059.99	\$11,479.07
Term Deposits	\$17,060.74	\$16,939.98
Receivables	\$482.03	-
Raffle Fund	-	-
Equipment	\$28,063.20	\$25,453.03
Retail Inventory	\$181.00	\$225.00
Total Assets	<u>\$51,843.96</u>	<u>\$54,097.08</u>
Surplus (Deficit)		
Balance Forward	\$54,097.08	
Current Year Surplus (Deficit)	\$2,253.07	
Balance End of Year	<u>\$51,843.96</u>	
Total Liabilities and Surplus	<u>\$51,843.96</u>	<u>\$54,097.08</u>
Revenue		
Membership Fees	\$2,747.23	\$2,547.52
Public Education	-	-
Retail Sales	\$301.00	\$572.10
Donations	\$70.00	\$244.75
Fundraising		
Star Party	\$16,669.60	\$18,419.96
Dinners, Raffles, etc.	-	-
Telescope Rentals	\$390.00	\$210.00
Interest	\$122.08	\$253.63
Total Revenue for the Year	<u>\$20,299.91</u>	<u>\$22,247.96</u>

Expenses

Public Education	\$235.65	\$245.41
Taxes and Licences	-	-
Star Party	\$16,440.02	\$17,824.60
Utilities	\$568.97	\$1,189.60
Insurance	\$1,351.00	\$1,376.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$1,744.03	\$106.38
Office Supplies and Postage, Newsletter	\$519.36	\$885.08
Retail Sales	\$216.99	\$501.11
Depreciation	\$1,477.01	\$1,399.63
Total Expenses for the Year	<u>\$22,553.03</u>	<u>\$23,467.81</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	<u>\$2,253.12</u>	<u>\$1,219.85</u>

Observers Group – *Larry Scott*

2017 Year in Review - My research into last year's events organized by me show approximately a 40% success rate. The Messier Marathon in March was reasonably good, the Observer's Group in May had a spectacular auroral display, the Observer's Group in July was just OK, and the Open House in October was awesome given some weather issues we had to work around. Six other scheduled Observer's Group nights were cancelled due to cloudy conditions. Not great but it certainly leaves room for improvement in 2018. :)

Most recently we have been dealing with what has become a typical winter for us, really cold and clear skies or warmer with cloudy skies. While I've had a lack of telescope time this winter I have enjoyed visually observing the Jupiter and Mars conjunction while waiting for the bus in the morning.

Our next dark sky period graces us from February 3rd to 18th with an Observer's Group scheduled for February 10th. Given decent conditions this will be a good opportunity to track down the return of incredibly famous Comet 185P/Petriew.

Observing Clubs and Certificates

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

Ron Waldron	108
Wade Selvig	75
Marcel Müller-	54
Goldkuhle	
Wayne	43
Schlakohl	
Ellen Dickson	34
Graham	9
Hartridge	

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	13
Charpentier	

EXPLORE the UNIVERSE

Certified at 55 to 110 Objects:

T. Tuomi,

Wayne	55
Schlakohl	
Jim Goodridge	35

Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Certificate

Certified at 140 Objects:

T. Tuomi, N. Jensen

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	400
Chatfield	
Tenho Tuomi	378
Rick Huziak	246

LEVY DEEP-SKY GEMS

Certified at 154 Objects:

Tenho Tuomi	150
Darrell	70
Chatfield	



The Messier, Finest NGC and David Levy's Deep-Sky Gems lists can be found in the *Observer's Handbook*.

The Explore the Universe list is available on the National website.

On-line Messier and Finest NGC lists, charts and logbooks: <http://www.rasc.ca/observing>

On-line Herschel 400 List: <http://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/herschel/hers400.html>

Binocular List is at: https://www.usask.ca/rasc/Chatfield_Binocular_List.pdf

"Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program Guide:

<http://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/TWLOP2015.pdf>

Program details can be found at: <http://www.rasc.ca/williamson/index.shtml>