

# Saskatoon Skies

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

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Royal Astronomical Society of Canada  
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INSTAGRAM: [@RASCYXE](#)

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](mailto: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** - John Takala

**Vice-President** - Nick Larsen

**Secretary** - Lorie Tedford

**Treasurer** - OPEN (Les Dickson to fill in until filled)

**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](mailto:novachat@sasktel.net).

## NEWSLETTER & U OF S OBSERVATORY INFO

**Newsletter Editor** - Colin Chatfield

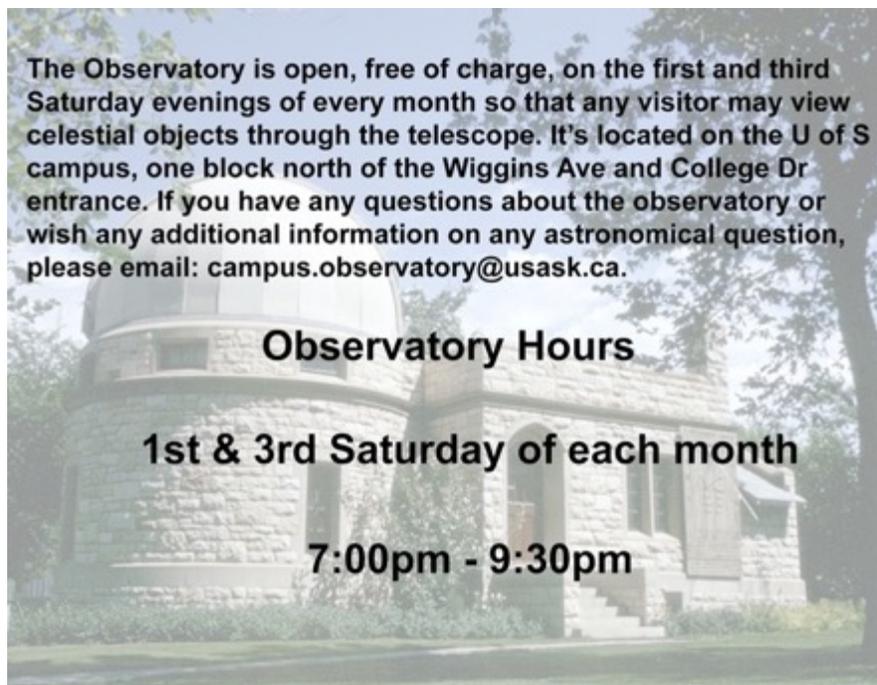
**Copy & Collate** - Les & Ellen Dickson

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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/community/observatory.php>

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

# RASC CALENDAR OF EVENTS & MEETING INFO

Jan 17	Observer's Group - Sleaford Observatory	Nick Larsen
Jan 19	RASC Saskatoon Centre General Meeting	John Takala

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>

## January RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests

**Join us on January 19th, 2026, 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 -**  
**“Harry Potter Universe”** - Ron Waldron

This digital presentation explores the Harry Potter universe and how astronomy plays into the names of the characters and activities at the Hogwarts School of Magic.

## 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](mailto: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

- **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

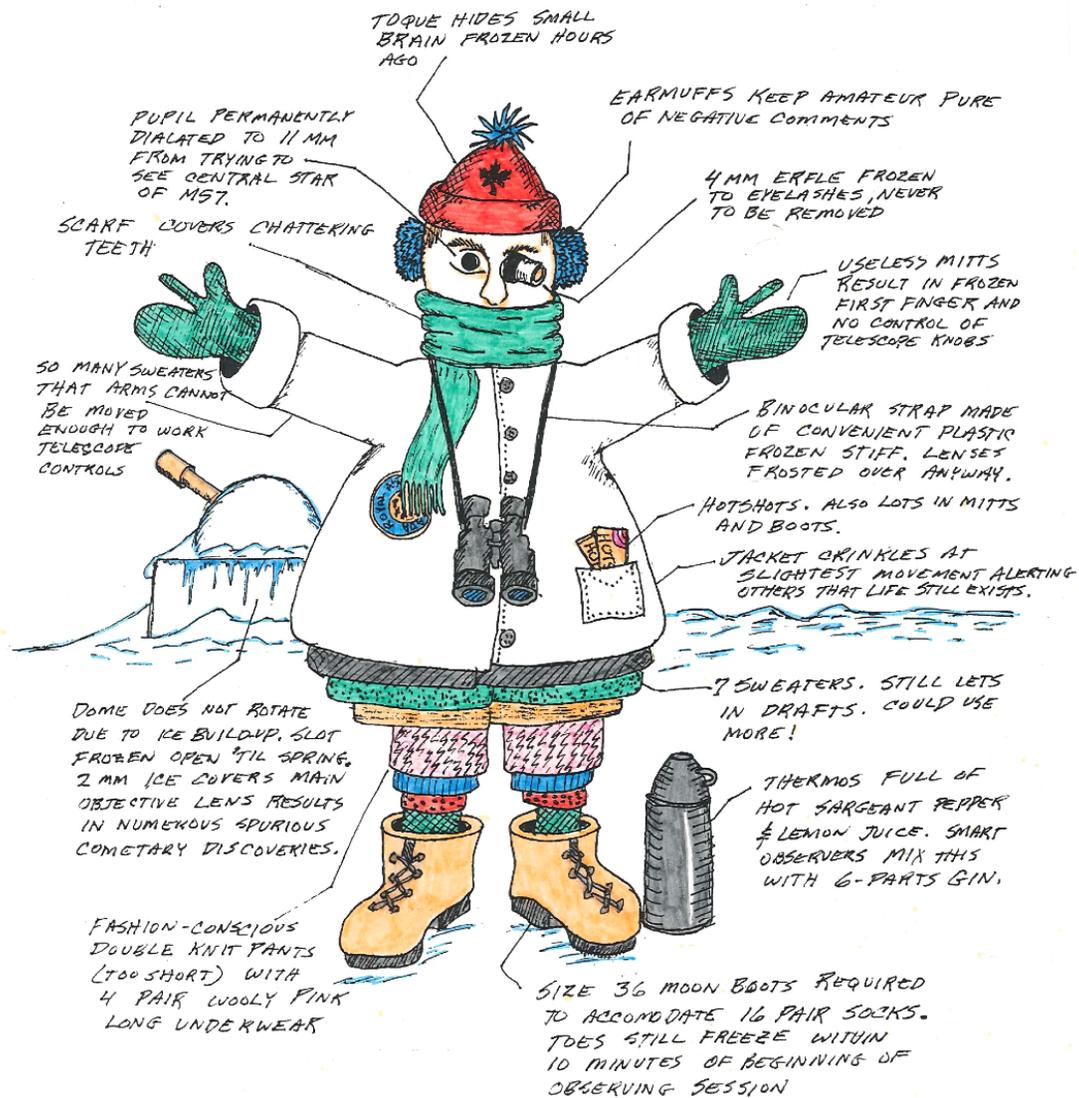
- 6" primary mirror in a 3- point adjustable mirror cell. Some mirror spots. Nice condition. \$85.00 (came from the following tube).

- 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

We thought this was an appropriate representation of the typical Canadian Astronomer's winter gear, given the weather we have had a while ago. This was done by Rick Huziak many years ago, but still applies to this day. Hope the club enjoys this. (Published with permission). There will be a Canadian Summer version coming out when the season arrives! Darrell Chatfield

# THE CANADIAN ASTRONOMER

## BAD WEATHER VERSION\*



(\* CANADIAN WEATHER CONSISTS OF SUMMER FOLLOWED BY 50 WEEKS OF COLD WEATHER \*)

RICHARD HUZIAK © 1989

# 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>

**NOTE:** The club's 3 new smart scopes have now arrived. RASC Saskatoon now owns one SeeStar s50 and two Dwarf 3's. They will soon be available to loan out to club members, and for use at future outreach events. We will be discussing the logistics at the next meeting so stay tuned for more details.

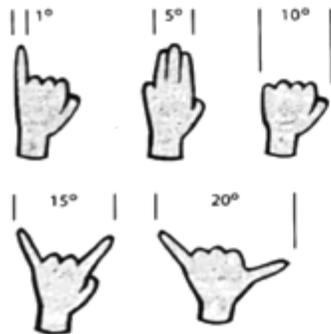
## JANUARY NIGHT SKY EVENTS AND INFO

Images on the next few pages used, with permission, from the 2025/26 Observer's Handbook. It can be obtained by joining the RASC here <http://rasc.ca/join> or ordered from <https://secure.rasc.ca/store>.

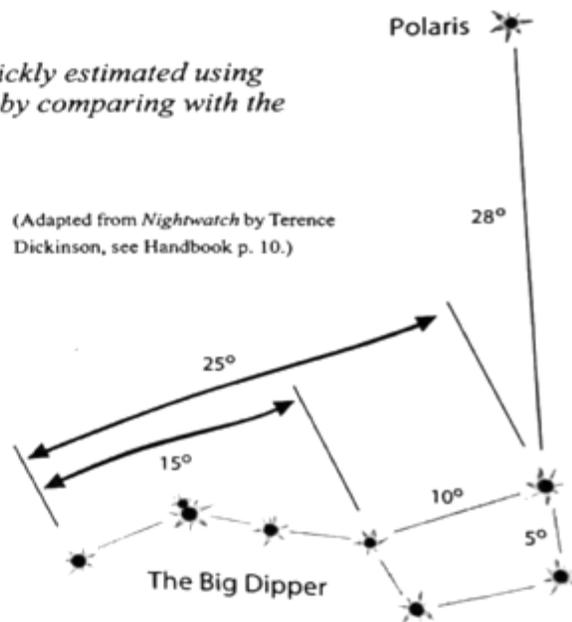


### HANDY SKY MEASURES

*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.*

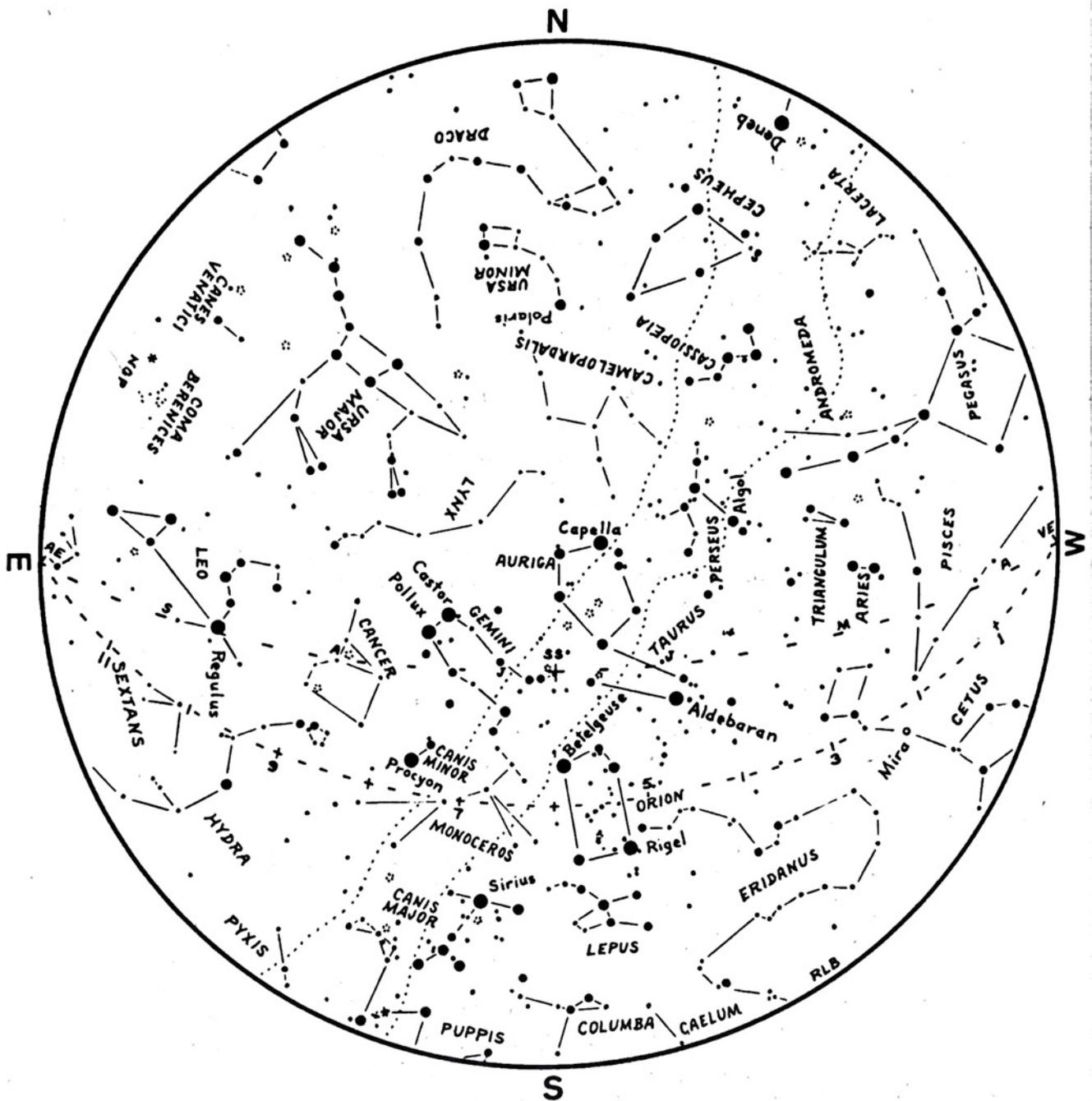


(Adapted from *Nightwatch* by Terence Dickinson, see Handbook p. 10.)



RASC OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK 2024 – STANDARD EDITION

Time (UT)			JANUARY EVENTS		Jupiter's Satellites	
d	h	m			West	East
Thu.	1	11 32	Algol at minimum		1.0	
		22	Moon at perigee (360 348 km)		2.0	
Fri.	2				3.0	
Sat.	3	10 03	<b>full Moon</b>		3.0	
		17	Earth at perihelion (147 099 894 km)		4.0	
		22	Jupiter 4° S of Moon		4.0	
		22	<b>Quadrantid meteors peak</b>		5.0	
Sun.	4	8 21	Algol at minimum		6.0	
Mon.	5	2	Moon 1.3° N of Beehive (M44)		7.0	
Tue.	6		Mercury at aphelion		7.0	
		17	<b>Regulus 0.5° S of Moon, occultation<sup>1</sup></b>		8.0	
		17	Venus in superior conjunction		8.0	
Wed.	7	5 10	Algol at minimum		9.0	
		11 22	Moon at descending node		10.0	
Thu.	8				11.0	
Fri.	9	12	Mars in conjunction with the Sun		11.0	
Sat.	10	1 59	Algol at minimum		12.0	
		9	<b>Jupiter at opposition</b>		13.0	
		15 48	<b>last quarter</b>		13.0	
Sun.	11	1	Spica 1.7° N of Moon		14.0	
Mon.	12	22 48	Algol at minimum		15.0	
Tue.	13	21	Moon at apogee (405 438 km)		15.0	
Wed.	14	20	<b>Antares 0.6° N of Moon, occultation<sup>2</sup></b>		16.0	
Thu.	15	19 37	Algol at minimum		17.0	
Fri.	16				17.0	
Sat.	17				18.0	
Sun.	18	16 26	Algol at minimum		19.0	
		19 52	<b>new Moon (lunation 1275)</b>		19.0	
Mon.	19				20.0	
Tue.	20				21.0	
Wed.	21	13 15	Algol at minimum		21.0	
		16	Mercury in superior conjunction		22.0	
Thu.	22		Venus at aphelion		23.0	
		0 03	Moon at ascending node		23.0	
Fri.	23	13	Saturn 4° S of Moon		24.0	
Sat.	24	10 04	Algol at minimum		25.0	
Sun.	25				26.0	
Mon.	26		Mercury at greatest heliocentric lat. S		26.0	
		4 47	<b>first quarter</b>		27.0	
Tue.	27	6 53	Algol at minimum		27.0	
		22	<b>Moon in Pleiades (M45)</b>		28.0	
Wed.	28	20	Vesta in conjunction with the Sun		29.0	
		23	<b>Mercury 0.7° S of Venus</b>		29.0	
Thu.	29	22	Moon at perigee (365 871 km)		30.0	
Fri.	30	3 42	Algol at minimum		31.0	
Sat.	31	2	Jupiter 4° S of Moon		31.0	



## 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.

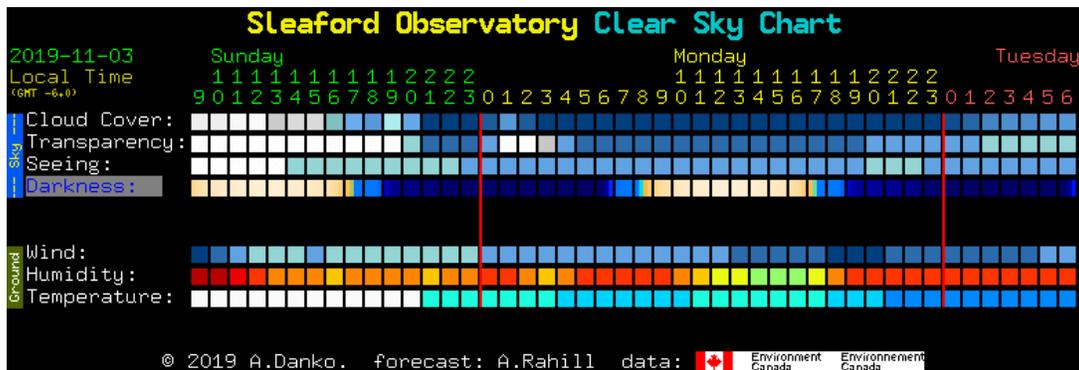
Please contact the Treasurer with any inquiries.

# 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](http://www.weather.gc.ca/astro)



Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee -

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



[www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)

# CHRISTMAS PARTY





Photos by Jeff Swick

## 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](http://rasc.ca/certificate-programs) for details and contact the RASC Observing Committee Chair at [rasc.ca/contact/observing](http://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](http://rasc.ca/astro-imaging-certificate)

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 Schlapkohl	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 Schlapkohl	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.astroloague.org/al/obsclubs/herschel/hers400.html>

Chatfield Binocular List is at: [https://saskatoon.rasc.ca/Chatfield\\_Binocular\\_List.pdf](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>