

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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To view *Saskatoon Skies* digitally, see our website:
<https://saskatoon.rasc.ca/newsletters.html>

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MEMBERSHIP? JOIN TODAY!

Regular: \$121.00 /year

Youth: \$71.10 /year

Family: \$115.50 + \$41.00/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
- 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.

NEWSLETTER & U OF S OBSERVATORY INFO

Newsletter Editor - Colin Chatfield

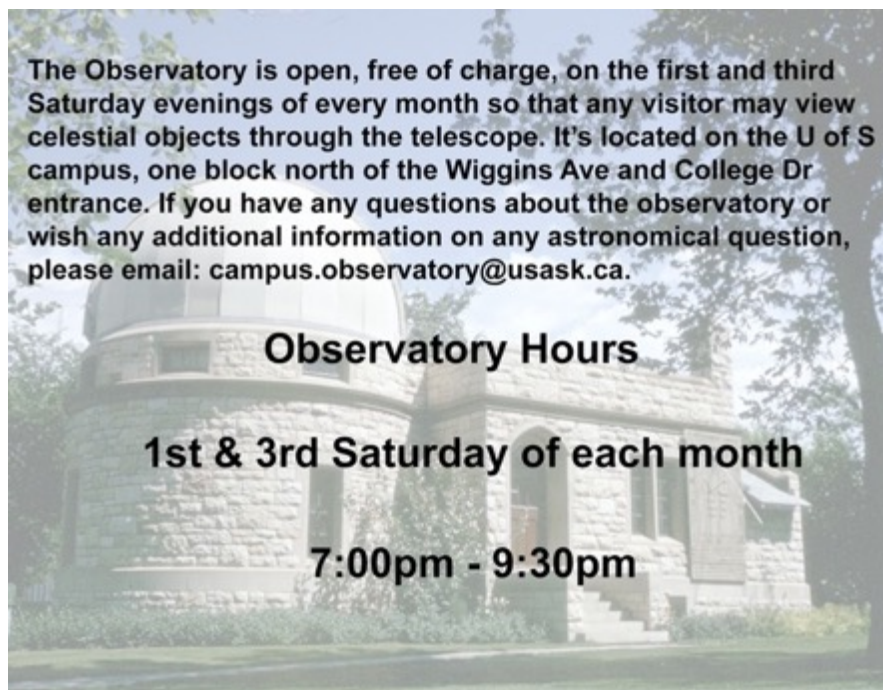
Copy & Collate - Les & Ellen Dickson

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 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 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

May 16	Observer's Group	Nick Larsen
May 18	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>

May RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests

Join us on May 18th, 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 -**



*The brightest comet this year so far was C/2025 R3 (PANSTARRS) which was discovered September 8 last year. It was low in the east in the morning and behind the barn from my observatory. I was able to get pictures of it from March 27 to April 14. On April 25 it passed between the sun and earth and is now visible only from the southern hemisphere. This picture was taken April 14th when it was magnitude 4.
Photo by Tenho Tuomi.*

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 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

Telescope for sale: Celestron 1100 EdgeHD on CGX mount. Includes 3 counterweights, finder scope, t-adaptor, dovetail bar, dew cap/lens shade. Excellent telescope in very good condition. New price on this equipment is over \$10,000. Asking \$6500.

Orion auto-guider for sale including Orion 80 short tube OTA with guide scope rings, and ring mounting bar and Starshoot auto-guider - \$400.

Contact Kevin Fenwick at k.fenwick@sasktel.net for more information.

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.

SPRING ASTRONOMY DAY

Photos by Jeff Swick

Spring Astronomy Day, Saturday April 25th - Space Storytimes/Stargazing at SPL







MINUTES OF APRIL MEETINGS

Lorie Tedford

**Minutes of the Monthly Executive Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre
Monday, Mar 16th, 2026 - 7:00 pm Hybrid: Online & In-person U of S Observatory**

Attending: Joelle Sheard-Patrick, Les Dickson, Brent Burlingham, Darrell Chatfield, John Takala, Yannis Pahatouroglou, Nick Larson.

- 1. Call to order 7:00 pm - John Takala (President and Chair)**
- 2. Call for additional announcements/items to add to the agenda - none.**
- 3. Approval of the March Executive meeting minutes** as circulated in the meeting invite and March newsletter. Moved by Darrell Chatfield, seconded by John Takala, carried.
- 4. Announcements from the chair - None at present.**

5. Reports from the Executive Council:

- a. President's Report - John Takala - none at present.
- b. Financial Report - Les Dickson
 - i. General account balance \$29,920.83
 - ii. SSSP account balance \$15,794.70
 - iii. Term deposit balance \$2,445.11
 - iv. TOTAL \$48,160.64
 - v. About \$4,700 taken in since SSSP registration opened on April 16
 - vi. Appears that about 30 people have taken out or renewed memberships since the New Year
- c. Fundraising - Verity Moore-Wright - none at present.
- d. National Council Rep - Joelle Sheard-Patrick
 - i. GA Meeting taking place virtually on May 3rd.
- e. Activities Coordinator - Joelle Sheard-Patrick
 - i. Saturday, April 25th, Astronomy event hosted at JS Wood.
- f. Sleaford Updates - Darrell Chatfield
 - i. The RM wasn't able to clear the snow for the observing night.
 - ii. Conducted maintenance on the push mower.
 - iii. Yannis Pahatouroglou will look into security cameras for Sleaford.
- g. Media Coordinator - Jeff Swick
 - i. A letter has been drafted for sending out to media outlets.
 - ii. Possible monthly email for events.
- h. SSSP 2026 Update - Rick Huziak
 - i. Camping opening day went really well with ~110/112 sites books.
 - ii. Early registration ends in July.
 - iii. If there is any interest in volunteering, reach out to Rick Huziak at rickhuziak@shaw.ca.

6. Old Business

- a. The Treasurer and Telescope Rental Coordinator positions are still open. If anyone is interested, please contact John Takala or email sk_centre@rasc.ca.
- b. Smart scopes for Rental Program - Joelle Sheard-Patrick
 - i. Smart scopes are ready for members to rent. There are new rental forms.
- c. Library Outreach - Joelle Sheard-Patrick

- i. The library is all set up with a scope to rent out and a STEM kit available. Thanks to Joelle Sheard-Patrick for getting this program up and running.

7. New Business

- a. Web Site Revision - Jeff Smith.
 - i. A proposal for a new site was made. It was composed under the assumption that the info needed already existed. Jeff Smith is looking to meet with a few members to gather more information to put into the site.
 - ii. Need to brainstorm information that is wanting to be advertised based on who the target audience is.
- b. Beginning Astronomy Workshop - Ron Waldron.
 - i. Workshop being held at the U. of S observatory on Friday, May 1 at 7:30 pm. and Saturday, May 9 at 7:30 pm.
 - ii. Contact Ron if interested.

Motion to adjourn. Moved by Brent Burlingham, **seconded** by Yannis Pahatouroglou. **Carried.**

Minutes of the Monthly Executive Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre Monday, Mar 16th, 2026 - 7:00 pm Hybrid: Online & In-person U of S Observatory

- 1. Sharing/Networking Time 8:00-8:15 pm**
- 2. Call to order:** 8:20 pm - John Takala
- 3. Call for additional items** or changes to the agenda. None
- 4. Call out to new members/guests:** Sierra.
- 5. Adoption of the March General meeting minutes** as circulated in the meeting invite and April newsletter. Moved by Brent Burlingham, seconded by Les Dickson. Carried.
- 6. Executive Meeting Summary** - John Takala
- 7. Open Positions**
 - a. Treasurer
 - b. Telescope Rental Coordinator
 - c. Aurora Cam at Sleaford
 - i. Daryl Janzen has an internet connection, just needs a camera to use and a way to keep it out of the elements.

8. Program

- a. "Assembling a telescope system for visual, remote and automated observing" - Yannis Papatouoglou

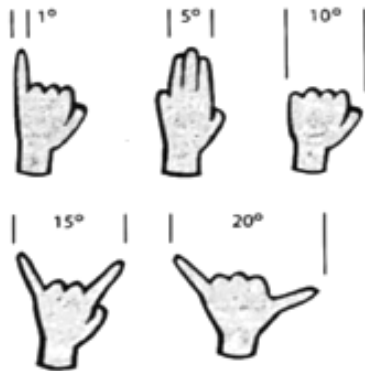
9. Call to adjourn - 9:34 pm moved by Brent Burlingham, seconded by John Takala. Carried.

MAY NIGHT SKY EVENTS AND INFO

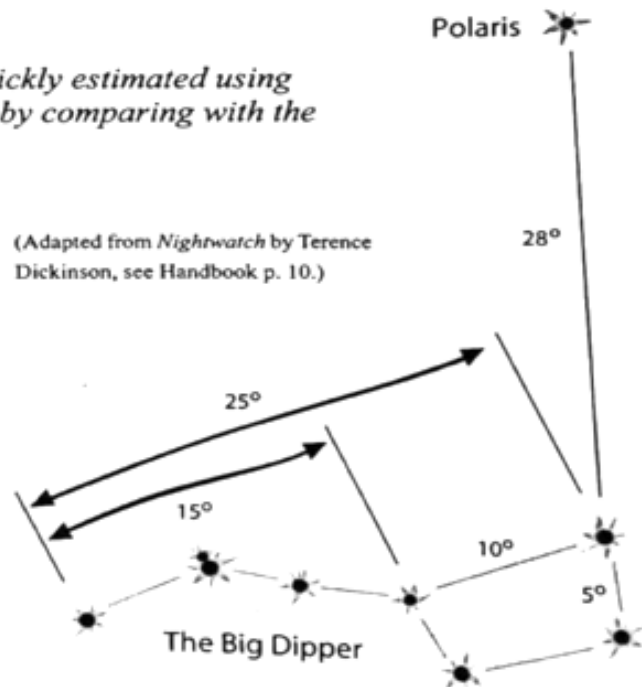
Images on the next few pages used, with permission, from the 2025/26 Observer's Handbook. It can be obtained by joining the RASC here <http://rasc.ca/join> or ordered from <https://secure.rasc.ca/store>.

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.

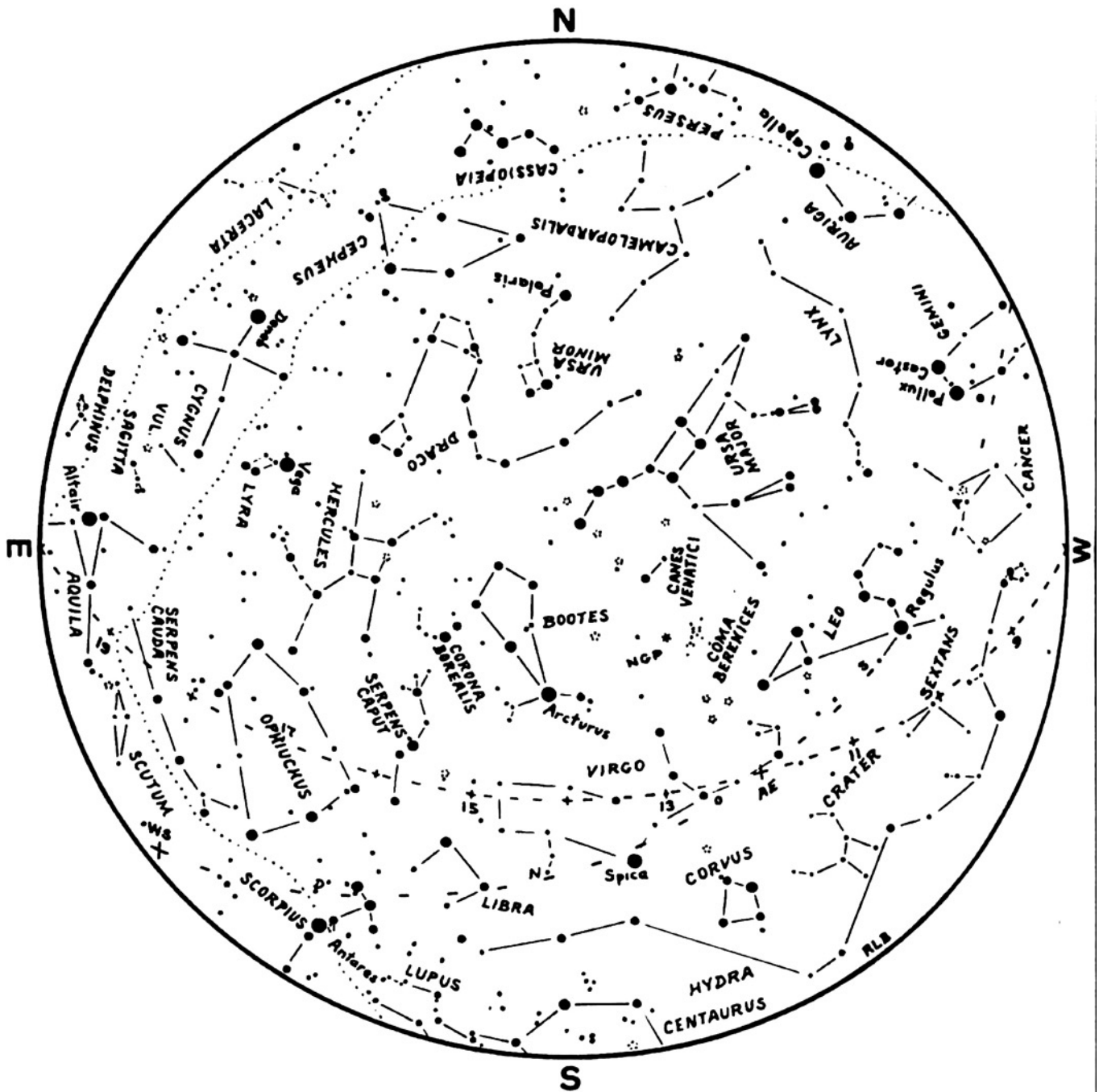


(Adapted from *Nightwatch* by Terence Dickinson, see Handbook p. 10.)



RASC OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK 2024 – STANDARD EDITION

Time (UT)			MAY EVENTS	Jupiter's Satellites	
d	h	m		West	East
Fri.	1	17 23	full Moon		
		21 49	Algol at minimum		
Sat.	2				
Sun.	3				
Mon.	4	3	Antares 0.5° N of Moon, occultation¹		
		18 38	Algol at minimum		
		23	Moon at apogee (405 839 km)		
Tue.	5				
Wed.	6	9	η -Aquariid meteors peak		
Thu.	7	15 27	Algol at minimum		
Fri.	8				
Sat.	9	0 45	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
		21 10	last quarter		
Sun.	10	12 16	Algol at minimum		
Mon.	11	4 36	Moon at ascending node		
Tue.	12				
Wed.	13		Mercury at ascending node		
		9 05	Algol at minimum		
Thu.	14	14	Mercury in superior conjunction		
Fri.	15		Venus at perihelion		
		1	Mars 5° S of Moon		
		3	Ceres in conjunction with the Sun		
Sat.	16	3 20	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
		5 54	Algol at minimum		
		20 01	new Moon (lunation 1279)		
Sun.	17	14	Moon at perigee (358075 km) Large tides		
Mon.	18		Mercury at perihelion		
Tue.	19	2	Venus 3° S of Moon		
		2 43	Algol at minimum		
Wed.	20	13	Jupiter 3° S of Moon		
Thu.	21	1	Venus 0.8° N of M35		
		15	Moon 0.8° N of Beehive (M44)		
		23 32	Algol at minimum		
Fri.	22	14	Uranus in conjunction with the Sun		
Sat.	23	5 55	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
		7	Regulus 0.1° N of Moon, occultation²		
		11 11	first quarter		
		15 26	Moon at descending node		
Sun.	24	20 21	Algol at minimum		
Mon.	25				
Tue.	26				
Wed.	27	15	Spica 1.9° N of Moon		
		17 10	Algol at minimum		
Thu.	28		Mercury at greatest heliocentric lat. N		
Fri.	29				
Sat.	30	9 56	Double Shadows on Jupiter		
		13 59	Algol at minimum		
Sun.	31	8 45	full Moon (smallest in 2026)		
		9	Antares 0.4° N of Moon, occultation³		



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.

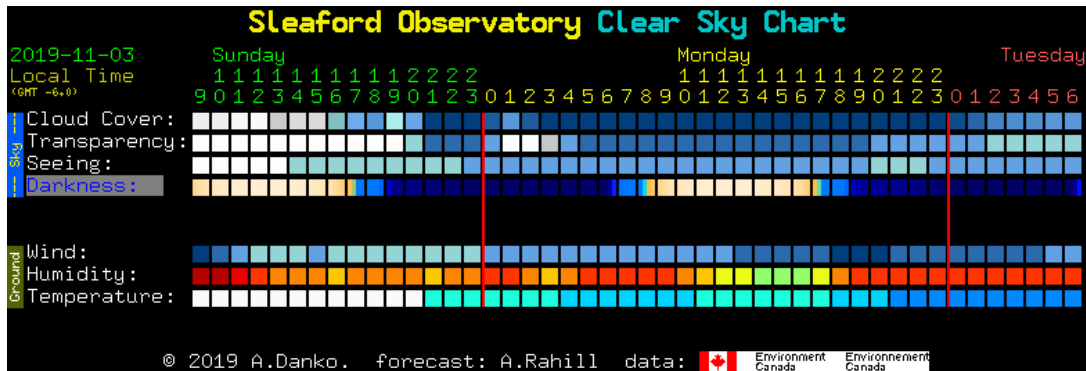
Please contact the Treasurer with any inquiries.

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



Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee -

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



www.darksky.org



Iris Nebula by Justin Lukan

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 for details and contact the RASC Observing Committee Chair at 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

RASC OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK 2023 – STANDARD EDITION

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>