

# Saskatoon Skies

The Newsletter of the Saskatoon Centre of the 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](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

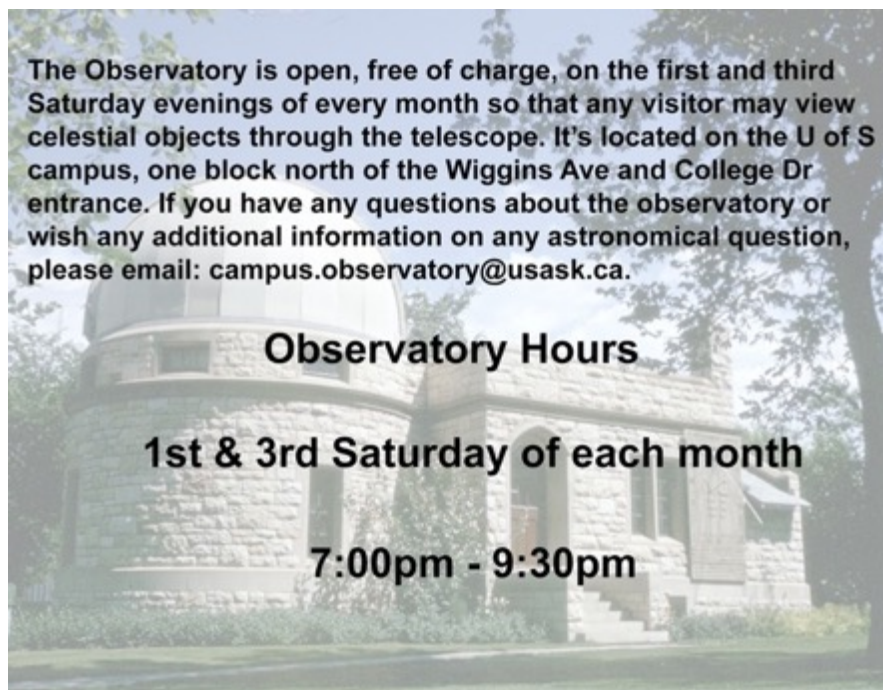
**Copy & Collate** - Les & Ellen Dickson

**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

<b>June 13</b>	<b>Observer's Group</b>	Nick Larsen
<b>June 15</b>	<b>RASC Saskatoon Centre General Meeting</b>	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>

## June RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests

**Join us on June 15th, 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 - "Observing guides for novice and advanced Amateurs" - Jeff Swick**

## 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

**Tracking mount for sale:** Sky-Watcher Star Adventurer Pro tracking mount. This unit has been used twice. Includes too many accessories to list, but will include a tripod, backpack, batteries, illuminated reticle for polar scope, ball head, wedge mount, extension, and so on. Price is \$350, but is OBO. Everything shown in the photo is included, plus a tripod. If interested, contact Colin Chatfield at [colcha@gmail.com](mailto:colcha@gmail.com) or 306-717-6682.



## 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.



# MINUTES OF MAY MEETINGS

Lorie Tedford

## **Minutes of the Monthly Executive Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre Monday, May 18th, 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.

**Attending:** Les Dickson, Brent Burlingham, Darrell Chatfield, John Takala, Yannis Pahatouroglou, Lisa Caldwell

1. **Call to order** 7:04 pm - John Takala (President and Chair)
2. **Call for additional announcements/items** to add to the agenda - Calgary Centre Presentation, Outreach Event, Additional Items from Les Dickson.
3. **Approval of the April meeting minutes** as circulated in the May meeting invite and newsletter. Moved by Brent Burlingham, seconded by Les Dickson, 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 \$29,438.25
    - ii. SSSP account balance \$10,891.10
    - iii. Term deposit balance \$2,445.1
    - iv. Sold the snowblower for \$2,750.
    - v. Purchased telescopes for the rental program \$2,189.44. Ready for rental for members to use.
    - vi. Motion made by Les Dickson to pay the insurance policy for \$400.
  - c. **Fundraising** - Verity Moore-Wright - none at present
  - d. **National Council Rep** - Joelle Sheard-Patrick - none at present
  - e. **Activities Coordinator** - Joelle Sheard-Patrick - none at present
  - f. **Sleaford Updates** - Darrell Chatfield

- i. The RM was given the go ahead to do the first cut of grass when it isn't wet at the site.
- ii. Anyone interested in helping in yard maintenance contact Darrell Chatfield.
- iii. Potentially need to go into the roll off to maintain the weeds again this year.
- iv. A security camera is needed for the Sleaford Site.

g. **Media Coordinator** - Jeff Swick - none at present

h. **SSSP 2026 Update** - John Takala

- i. Program planning is going well
- ii. There are only 7 sites left for camping. Registration is open and going well.

## 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](mailto:sk_centre@rasc.ca).

## 7. New Business

a. **Eye Pieces for Rental Scopes**

- i. Les Dickson donated two eyepieces for the rental telescope program valued at \$60.

b. **Replacement parts for rental telescopes** - Darrell Chatfield

- i. Need to replace the missing equipment for the rental scope telescopes.
- ii. Discussed the possibility of locking up the accessories in the room at the Observatory.
- iii. Darrell Chatfield will be looking into costs and an itemized list of parts to replace.

c. **Aurora Cam** - John Takala

- i. There were a few options found online. The issues presented include weather proofing and costs.
- ii. Need to find a combination of lens, camera and set up that would be ideal for Sleaford.
- iii. Yannis Pahatouoglou is going to reach out to a vendor for equipment options.
- iv. Potential fundraising opportunity.

d. **Batoche National Historic Site** - Lorie Tedford

- i. 2nd Annual Dark Sky Event potentially for September 19, 2026.
- ii. The Saskatoon Centre has been invited to attend. Tim Yaworski hosted a workshop last year and there was a good group of people in attendance.

e. **Wi-Fi at Sleaford** - Yannis Pahatouoglou

- i. Discussed options to put Wi-Fi in and around the warm up shelter at Sleaford.

- ii. Yannis Pahatouroglou will put together a list to present at the next meeting.

**Motion to adjourn. Moved by John Takala, seconded by Les Dickson. Carried.**

**Minutes of the Monthly Executive Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre  
Monday, May 18th, 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
4. **Call out to new members/guests:** Guests from Beginner Telescope Workshop
5. **Adoption of the April General meeting minutes** as circulated in the May meeting invite and newsletter. Moved by Ron Waldron, seconded by Brent Burlingham . Carried.
6. **Executive Meeting Summary** - John Takala
7. **Open Positions**
  - a. Treasurer
  - b. Telescope Rental Coordinator
8. **Program**
  - a. Informal Telescope Instruction Session from Ron Waldron's Beginner Workshop.
9. **Call to adjourn** - 8:35pm. Moved by John Takala, seconded by Les Dickson. Carried.



Above photo: John and Brent

Right photo: Tim Yaworski

Photos were taken at the Meewasin dark sky event hosted by Tim



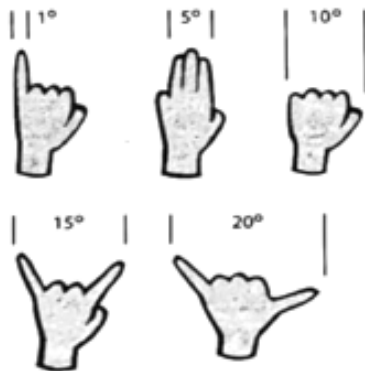
## JUNE NIGHT SKY EVENTS AND INFO

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>.

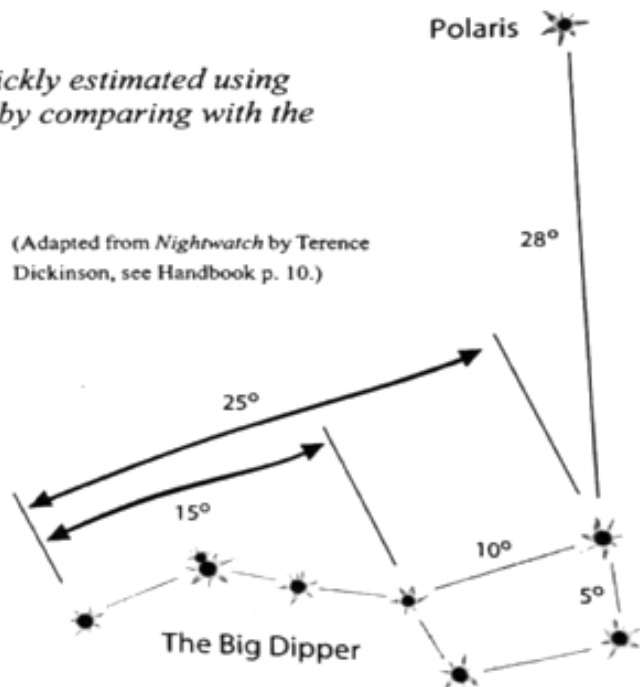


### HANDY SKY MEASURES

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.)



Time (UT)		JUNE EVENTS	Jupiter's Satellites	
d	h m		West	East
Mon.	1 5	Moon at apogee (406 366 km)		1.0
Tue.	2 10 48	Algol at minimum		2.0
	22	Mercury 1.3° N of M35		3.0
Wed.	3 19	Juno stationary		4.0
Thu.	4			5.0
Fri.	5	Venus at greatest heliocentric lat. N		6.0
	7 37	Algol at minimum		7.0
Sat.	6 13 57	<b>Double Shadows on Jupiter</b>		8.0
Sun.	7 6 19	Moon at ascending node		9.0
Mon.	8 4 25	Algol at minimum		10.0
	10 00	<b>last quarter</b>		11.0
Tue.	9 12	<b>Venus 1.6° N of Jupiter</b>		12.0
Wed.	10 1 24	Double Shadows on Jupiter		13.0
Thu.	11 1 14	Algol at minimum		14.0
Fri.	12			15.0
Sat.	13 14	<b>Moon in Pleiades (M45)</b>		16.0
	22 03	Algol at minimum		17.0
Sun.	14 23	Moon at perigee (357 196 km) <b>Large tides</b>		18.0
Mon.	15 2 54	<b>new Moon (lunation 1280)</b>		19.0
	20	<b>Mercury greatest elongation E (25°)</b>		20.0
Tue.	16 18 52	Algol at minimum		21.0
	20	<b>Mercury 3° S of Moon</b>		22.0
Wed.	17 7	<b>Jupiter 3° S of Moon</b>		23.0
	20	<b>Venus 0.3° S of Moon, occultation<sup>1</sup></b>		24.0
Thu.	18 0	Moon 0.6° N of Beehive (M44)		25.0
Fri.	19 15	<b>Regulus 0.3° N of Moon, occultation<sup>2</sup></b>		26.0
	15 41	Algol at minimum		27.0
	17 57	Moon at descending node		28.0
	21	Venus 0.4° N of Beehive (M44)		29.0
Sat.	20			30.0
Sun.	21	Mercury at descending node		31.0
	8 25	<b>Solstice</b>		
	21 55	<b>first quarter</b>		
Mon.	22 12 30	Algol at minimum		
Tue.	23			
Wed.	24			
Thu.	25 9 19	Algol at minimum		
Fri.	26			
Sat.	27 15	<b>Antares 0.4° N of Moon, occultation<sup>3</sup></b>		
Sun.	28 6 08	Algol at minimum		
	7	Moon at apogee (406 265 km)		
Mon.	29 2	<b>Mercury stationary</b>		
	23 57	<b>full Moon</b>		
Tue.	30			

<sup>1</sup>Hawaii, USA (except Alaska), S half of Canada, Caribbean, NW S. America westernmost W.A.C.

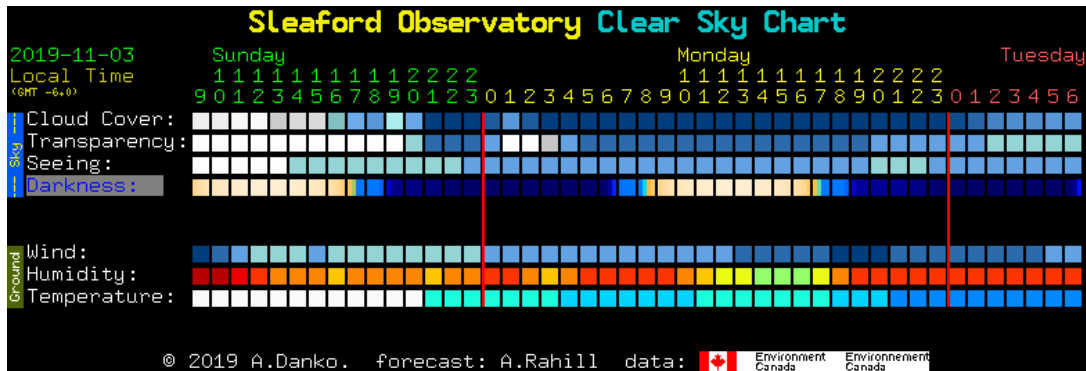


# CLEAR SKY AND WEATHER INFO

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)



*Attendees and volunteers at Ron Waldron's astronomy workshop*

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