

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
- 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

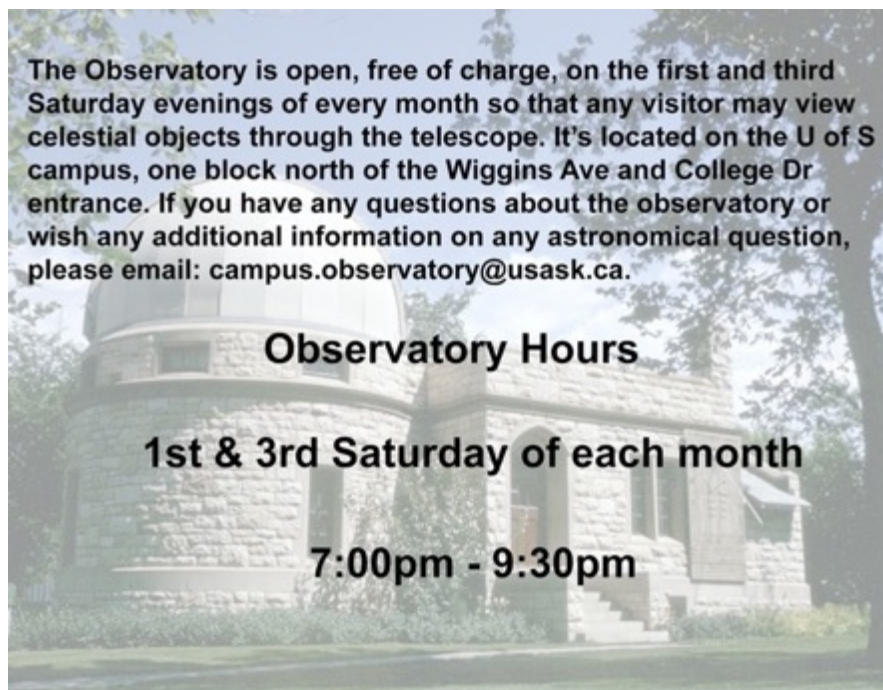
Copy & Collate - Les & Ellen Dickson

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

Aug 11-16	Saskatchewan Summer Star Party	Cypress Hills
Sept 12	Observer's Group	Nick Larsen
Sept 21	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>

September RASC General Meeting

for all members and guests

Join us on September 21st, 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 -**

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

- Celestron CPC DELUXE 9.25 HD COMPUTERIZED TELESCOPE. This is the same scope that was installed on the International Space Station by Chris Hatfield. I use it primarily for my public outreach programs but its weight and my age are not as compatible as they used to be. Minor scratches on the OTA tube. Two of the plastic hinges on the tripod spreader broke and were repaired with metal. All original accessories included plus a Celestron Lithium battery pack, homemade bahtinov focusing mask and solar filter. Click the link for specs: https://www.celestron.com/products/cpc-deluxe-925-hd-computerized-telescope?_pos=5&_sid=01d5eaa6b&_ss=r&_fid=c3292a283

New MSRP \$\$6253. Currently backordered at Ontario Telescopes for \$5279. My used unit offered for \$2200. Call/text Tim 306-880-0720 or tim@timkip.com.



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 JUNE MEETINGS

Lorie Tedford

Minutes of the Monthly Executive Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre Monday, June 15th, 2026 - 7:00 pm Hybrid: Online & In-person U of S Observatory

Attending: Les Dickson, Brent Burlingham, Darrell Chatfield, John Takala, Yannis Pahatouroglou, Lisa Caldwell, Joelle Sheard-Patrick, Nick Larsen, Jeff Swick, Rick Huziak

1. **Call to order:** 7:04 pm - John Takala (President and Chair)
2. **Call for additional announcements/items** to add to the agenda - Discussion about rental scopes.
3. **Approval of the May meeting minutes** as circulated in the June meeting invite and newsletter. Moved by Les Dickson, seconded by Darrell Chatfield, carried.
4. **Announcements from the chair** - Tim Yaworski donated \$125 from the Meewasin Event to the Club. Thank you, Tim.
5. **Reports from the Executive Council:**
 - a. **President's Report** - John Takala - none at present
 - b. **Financial Report** - Les Dickson
 - i. Several deposits this month from Star party registration and member registrations.
 - c. **Fundraising** - Verity Moore-Wright - none at present
 - d. **National Council Rep** - Joelle Sheard-Patrick - none at present
 - e. **Activities Coordinator** - Joelle Sheard-Patrick
 - i. Observe the Moon Night is June 19th and September 19th.
 - ii. 2nd Annual Dark Sky Event in Batoche National Historical Site in September.
 - iii. Discussed the potential of hosting an event with Meewasin for the fall observe the moon event.
 - f. **Sleaford Updates** - Darrell Chatfield
 - i. The RM did not cut the grass for the last observing night due to the rainfall and labour shortage.

- ii. Anyone interested in helping in yard maintenance contact Darrell Chatfield as the weeds and grass will need to be maintained.
- iii. A security camera is needed for the Sleaford Site

g. Media Coordinator - Jeff Swick

- i. Going to coordinate with Joelle Sheard-Patrick to advertise the events being put on by the RASC.
- ii. Discussed the idea of hosting a mini Sleaford Star Party in September.

h. SSSP 2026 Update - Rick Huziak

- i. Speakers are lined up, new trivia activity being introduced for Saturday.
- ii. Registration is open and going well. All campsites are full except for a few in the Dark Sky Meadows. The extra hotel rooms and camp sites have been released back to the park.

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.

7. New Business

a. Rental Scopes

- i. 2 of 3 Dobsonians are rented out at the moment.
- ii. There are 3 smart scopes available for members to rent.

b. Library Outreach - Joelle Sheard Patrick

- i. Discussed for a future meeting to host a meeting at a library branch and have a telescope session outside.

c. Replacement Telescope Parts - Darrell Chatfield

- i. Sourced parts for the scopes. Motion made by Darrell Chatfield to purchase \$900 of telescope accessories to replace the accessories lost for the rental scopes. Seconded by Brent Burlingham, carried.
- ii. Yannis Pahatouroglou is sourcing a metal cabinet that will be able to lock up telescope accessory boxes.

d. Aurora Cam - John Takala.

- i. There is an aurora camera up and running in Saskatchewan already. This camera is not uploaded to the national network.
- ii. To get it onto the network, someone will have to reach out to the owner of this camera to see if there is interest in connecting to the national network. Waiting for a response from Tammy Valley.

e. **WI-FI at Sleaford** - Yannis Pahatouroglou

- i. Presented a plan to add WI-FI to the Sleaford site including the equipment needed, expenses, etc.

Motion to adjourn. Moved by John Takala, **seconded** by Jeff Swick. **Carried.**

**Minutes of the Monthly Executive Meeting of the RASC Saskatoon Centre
Monday, June 15th, 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:** 8:23 pm - John Takala
3. **Call for additional items** or changes to the agenda - none at present
4. **Call out to new members/guests:** None
5. **Adoption of the May General meeting minutes** as circulated in the June meeting invite and newsletter. **Moved** by Jeff Swick, **seconded** by Lisa Caldwell. **Carried.**
6. **Executive Meeting Summary** - John Takala
7. **Open Positions**
 - a. Treasurer
 - b. Telescope Rental Coordinator
8. **Program**
 - a. Observing guides for the novice and advanced amateur - Jeff Swick
9. **Call to adjourn** - 9:05 pm. **Moved** by Les Dickson, **seconded** by Darrell Chatfield. **Carried.**

SLEAFORD REPORTS

Darrell Chatfield

June 20th report

Phase 1 -

Lorie and I had the opportunity to go to Sleaford on Friday, June 20, to get the grass cut for the first time this season (we usually have the RM do the first one, but they don't have a person to run their mower for now).

After we arrived there around 1:30pm, we dropped the riding mower deck, installed the 3 blades, and reinstalled the deck (we installed the blades on 2 of our walk behind mowers also). Since the mower started up fine, Lorie grabbed one of the weed trimmers and started doing around the buildings.

I drove the riding mower out of the shed, engaged the mower deck switch, and behold....it did not engage the blades! So I tried a few things to no avail. I then backed up the mower into the shed, and used the self- propelled mower instead.

We ended up cutting about ¼ of all the grass, mainly a strip up to the shed, and in between the warm up and U. of S. roll-off, and East of that. Lorie was using a 2nd walk behind by this time, but the starter pull cord on that got stuck, so we had to retire that unit.

Anyways, despite all the setbacks, we (mostly Lorie) got a fair bit of grass cut and trimmed. By mid-afternoon I ended up with an AFIB episode, so I had to take it easy quite a few times.

So many thanks to Lorie for all the great help. Now I have to figure out how to fix the riding mower, so research is my new homework!

Darrell Chatfield - Sleaford Coordinator, with Lorie Tedford



June 26th report

Phase 2 -

Well, here we are at Sleaford again in the afternoon with the idea of getting the riding mower blades to work. Les agreed to come and help me, with John Takala arriving later.

We installed a new deck switch which needed replacing anyways. However, that did not allow the blades to work. We tried a few other things, but to no avail. So I had the idea to ask an area farmer if he had a mower that could do the job, and he did. The RM is still short personnel.

Jim Lawrence came out with his Grandson Cowen to cut the rest of the grass out there. It was a great sunny day for this to happen and It didn't take too long for this job to be done. In the meantime, Les was on a walk behind, and John used a weed trimmer to finish the buildings, and do the inside of the U. of S. roll-off. He could not do the weeds in the area where the roof rolls off, since they were too thick. The other ones were easier to do (I sprayed what weeds I could there).

So we were all done in about 4 hours. I am so thankful to have the grass cut before the pending rain for the next 4 days.

Now since the riding mower blades are still not working, the farmer offered to take it on his trailer into Colonsay and take it to a local garage that will try to figure out the issue. So I was really humbled by this action, since it might save us from bringing it back to Saskatoon for work. As of this writing, (June 30) I haven't heard from the farmer or garage yet.

Thanks again to Les, John, Jim, and Cowen for their fine work at our site.



July 16th report

Phase 3 -

Les Dickson and I went out to Sleaford on this day to mow the grass and trim around the buildings. It was very hot that day, but we got it done.

John Takala also arrived around 1:30pm, and did a fantastic job of digging out the weeds in the U. of S. roll-off compound, particularly in the roof area. Les helped by throwing them over the fence, and I helped with moving them to the East side of the property.

Just before we left, I was also able to spray the whole compound area with round-up to help keep the weeds down.

And as of this writing, we will be having the mower part installed by the mechanic in Colonsay, so we should be able to cut our own grass from now on, as long as the repair goes well.

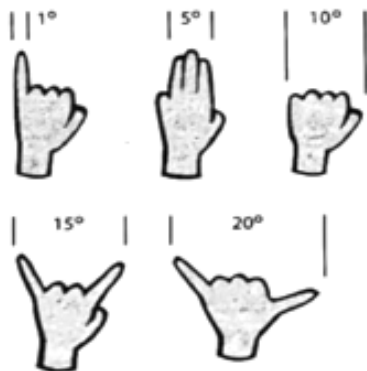
My thanks to Les and John for their fine help. (In a passing note, we found only 1 tick all the times we have been out there. I spied it crawling up our outside shed wall!)

AUGUST NIGHT SKY EVENTS AND INFO

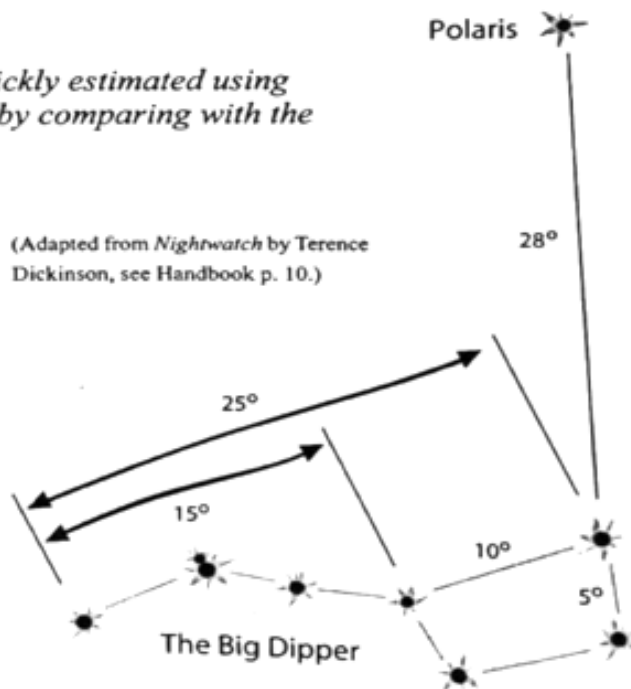
Images on the next few pages used, with permission, from the 2025/26 Observer's Handbook. It can be obtained by joining the RASC here <http://rasc.ca/join> or ordered from <https://secure.rasc.ca/store>.

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.



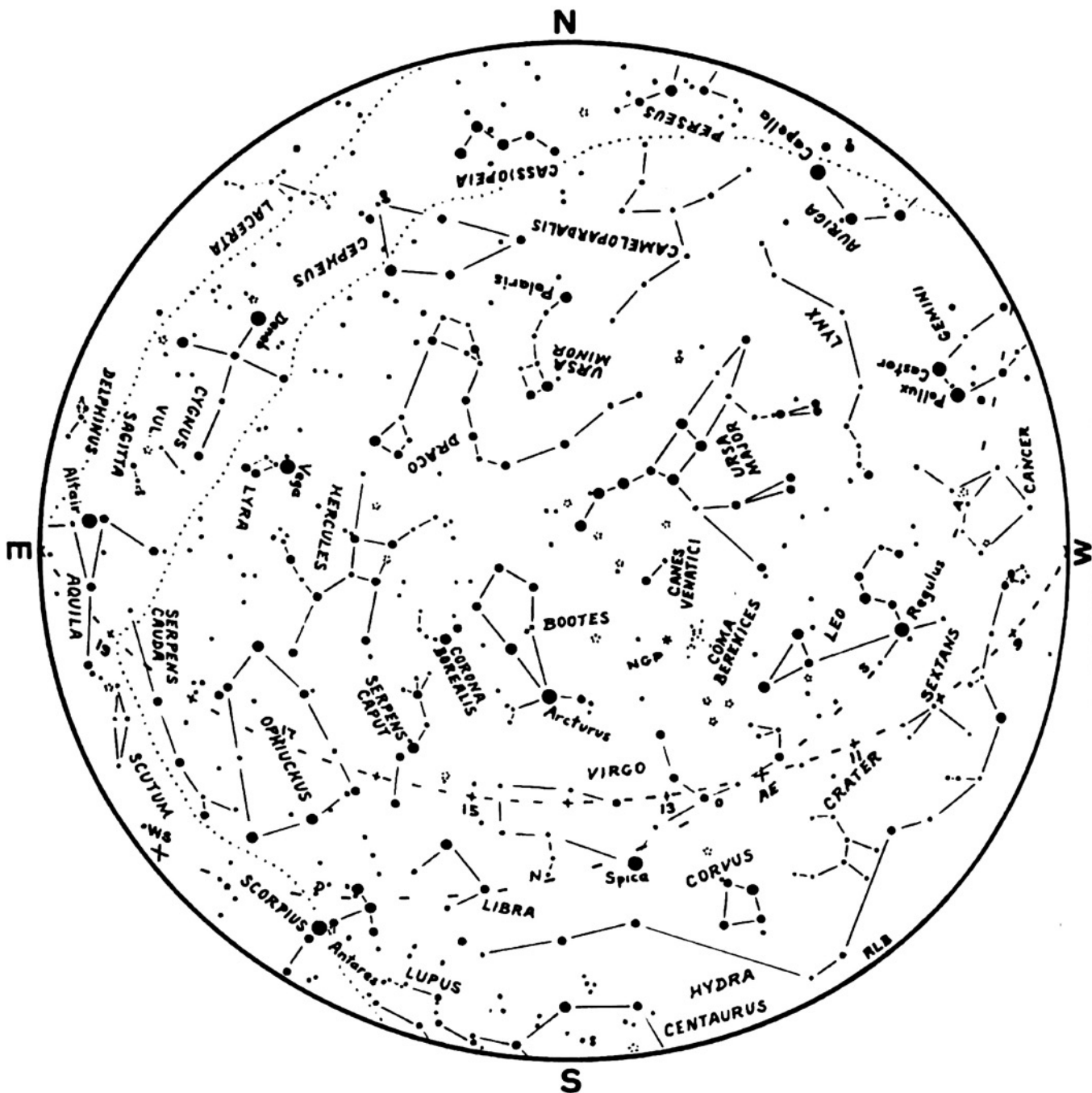
(Adapted from *Nightwatch* by Terence Dickinson, see Handbook p. 10.)



RASC OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK 2024 – STANDARD EDITION

Time (UT)			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	Europa
Thu.	4				5.0	
Fri.	5		Venus at greatest heliocentric lat. N		6.0	Io
		7 37	Algol at minimum		7.0	
Sat.	6	13 57	Double Shadows on Jupiter		8.0	
Sun.	7	6 19	Moon at ascending node		9.0	
Mon.	8	4 25	Algol at minimum		10.0	Ganymede
		10 00	last quarter		11.0	
Tue.	9	12	Venus 1.6° N of Jupiter		12.0	Callisto
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	Moon in Pleiades (M45)		16.0	
		22 03	Algol at minimum		17.0	
Sun.	14	23	Moon at perigee (357 196 km) Large tides		18.0	
Mon.	15	2 54	new Moon (lunation 1280)		19.0	
		20	Mercury greatest elongation E (25°)		20.0	
Tue.	16	18 52	Algol at minimum		21.0	
		20	Mercury 3° S of Moon		22.0	
Wed.	17	7	Jupiter 3° S of Moon		23.0	
		20	Venus 0.3° S of Moon, occultation¹		24.0	
Thu.	18	0	Moon 0.6° N of Beehive (M44)		25.0	
Fri.	19	15	Regulus 0.3° N of Moon, occultation²		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	Solstice			
		21 55	first quarter			
Mon.	22	12 30	Algol at minimum			
Tue.	23					
Wed.	24					
Thu.	25	9 19	Algol at minimum			
Fri.	26					
Sat.	27	15	Antares 0.4° N of Moon, occultation³			
Sun.	28	6 08	Algol at minimum			
		7	Moon at apogee (406 265 km)			
Mon.	29	2	Mercury stationary			
		23 57	full Moon			
Tue.	30					

¹Hawaii, USA (except Alaska), S half of Canada, Caribbean, NW S. America westernmost W.A.S.



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.

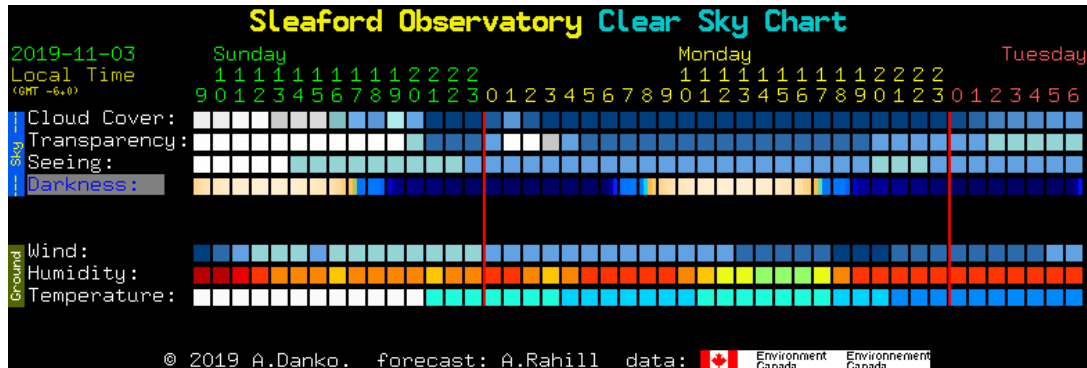
Please contact the Treasurer with any inquiries.

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

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

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

"Isabel Williamson Lunar Observing Program Guide" program details can be found at:
<https://www.rasc.ca/isabel-williamson-lunar-observing-program>