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Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SLAS.Talk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/UtahStarParty>

<https://www.facebook.com/UtahSPOC>



SLASBROCHURE.pdf



SLAS.US

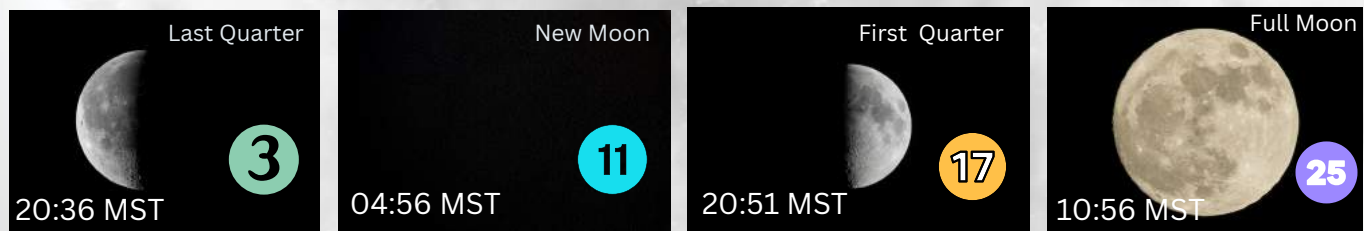


MOON PHASES

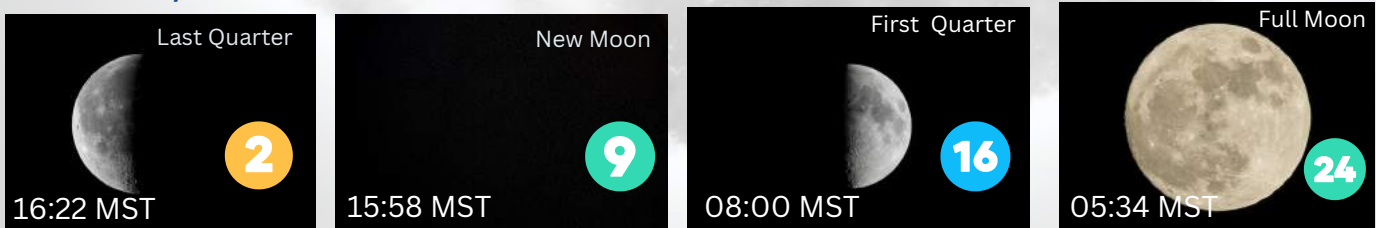
SOURCE: MOONPHASES.ORG

Utah, (Calculated Time Zone: America/Denver (MST), GMT-07:00)

January 2024



February 2024



What is Meant By Moon Age?

"The term "Moon age" typically refers to the number of days that have passed since the last New Moon. It is a way to describe where the Moon is in its lunar cycle.

For example, on the day of the New Moon, the Moon's age is 0 days because it's just beginning its cycle. Since the lunar cycle from New Moon to New Moon lasts 29.5 days, the 29-day-old Moon is the Moon one day before the New Moon."

(Source: Star Walk: starwalk.space)

SLAS OFFICERS

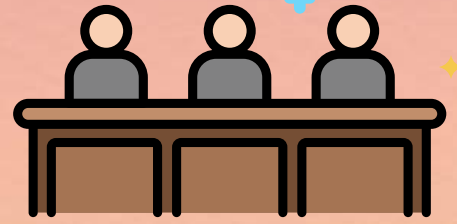
SLAS Board of Directors

President: Don Abernathy

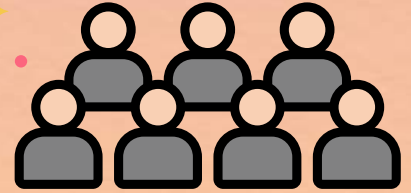
Vice President: Aleta Cox

Secretary/Treasurer: Krista Lemoine

Board Members at Large: Trevor Hebditch and Marlene Egger



Appointed Positions



Astronomical League Contact: Aleta Cox

Equipment Manager: Trevor Hebditch and Aleta Cox

Library Loaner Telescope Coordinator: Joan Carman

Historian: Patrick Wiggins

NASA Night Sky Ambassador: Krista Lemoine

Nova Newsletter Editor: Jenette Scott

Observatory Director: Jim Keane

Private Star Party Coordinator: Don Colton

Webmaster: Ken Warner

ZAP Grant Writer: Jim Keane



SPOC Advisory Committee

Chair: Jim Keane

Members: Don Abernathy, Bob Moore, Patrick Wiggins, Luke Moses, Jim Keane, John Drabik, Leslie Fowler, Bill Kennedy.

Members As Obser. Dir. Emeritus: Bruce Grim, Rodger Fry.



SPOC Telescope Instruction Coordinators

Bogdan Refractor: Marlene Egger

Ealing: Jim Keane

Grim: Rodger Fry

Clements: Leslie Fowler

Contact board: board@slas.us

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SLAS General Meeting Guest Speakers

January

Lowell Lyon



The co-chairman of ALCON 2011, Lowell Lyon of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society, was a tireless organizer of this year's event. Photo credit: David J. Eicher

Lowell Lyon will be our first guest speaker of the year, presenting at our January General Meeting. He has been an active member of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society since the early 1970s. He has been a SLAS President several times, during the many years he has been associated with the society. As a member of The Astronomical League, Lowell is the ASTROCON 2025 Chair. He will speak on the advantages and opportunities available to new members wishing to learn more about the league and its many programs.

February

Keryn Ross



Sizing Up Lunar Craters

Crater morphology (the features and shapes of the crater) is directly related to the size of the crater (and the impactor).

Come learn how to determine size on the Moon without a yardstick!

Keryn Ross
BYU Geological Sciences

Keryn Ross is an adjunct professor and K-12 Outreach Coordinator at BYU's Dept of Geological Sciences. Keryn studied geology and volcanology at BYU, receiving her master's degree in 2015. She loves studying gemstones, volcanoes, and the moon. Geology of the Planets is one of her favorite classes to teach. Keryn lives in Lindon with her husband, kids, and six chickens.

SAVE THE DATE!



ALCON IS GOING TO KANSAS CITY FOR

STARS AND ALL THAT JAZZ!

JULY 17-20, 2024

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
FIELD TRIPS
VENDORS



REGISTRATION INFO COMING SOON! CHECK ASKC.ORG

NEAFTM

33rd Annual
NORTHEAST
ASTRONOMY
FORUM
& SPACE EXPO



THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST SPECTACULAR ASTRONOMY & SPACE EXPO

April 20-21, 2024



Member and Non-Member Events
2024 Speakers confirmed so far- Gerry Griffin - Apollo Flight Director + Felix Schlang - Space news reporter. Host of What About It!?
More Speakers to Be Announced

90,000 SF OF SHOWROOM FLOOR PLUS WORLD CLASS SPEAKERS, 2 THEATERS, PRO/AM WORKSHOPS, PLANETARIUM SHOWS, SOLAR VIEWING, BEGINNERS CLASSES, HUGE RAFFLE, AMAZING DOOR PRIZES, KIDS ACTIVITIES AND MUCH MORE



Rockland Community College
New York

SLAS EVENTS PAGE

STAY TUNED FOR THE SLAS SUN, SPOC,
AND LIBRARY STAR PARTY SCHEDULE.

General Meeting Information

BOARD MEETINGS ARE FOR SLAS BOARD MEMBERS AND ARE OPEN TO ANY MEMBER OF SLAS TO ATTEND. PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY BOARD MEMBERS MAY VOTE AT BOARD MEETINGS. BOARD MEETINGS TAKE PLACE ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:30 PM LOCATED AT THE DENNY'S RESTAURANT ON 1701 WEST NORTH TEMPLE STREET SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84116 (WE MEET IN THE BACK MEETING ROOM)

GENERAL MEETINGS FOR SLAS MEMBERS TAKE PLACE ON THE 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DECEMBER WHEN THE SOLSTICE PARTY AT THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER TAKES THE PLACE OF THE GENERAL MEETING) AT 7:30 PM LOCATED AT ROOM TB104, RAMPTON TECHNOLOGY BUILDING, SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE REDWOOD ROAD CAMPUS PARKING IS ACROSS THE STREET TO THE NORTH OF THE BUILDING IN PARKING LOT 'R'. GENERAL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

- **Jan. 10**-Board Meeting
- **Jan. 17**-General Meeting
- **Feb. TBD [this date lands on Valentine's Day]** - Board Meeting
- **Feb. 21**-General Meeting

See the above info for places and times for meetings and the webpage: slas.us for more information.

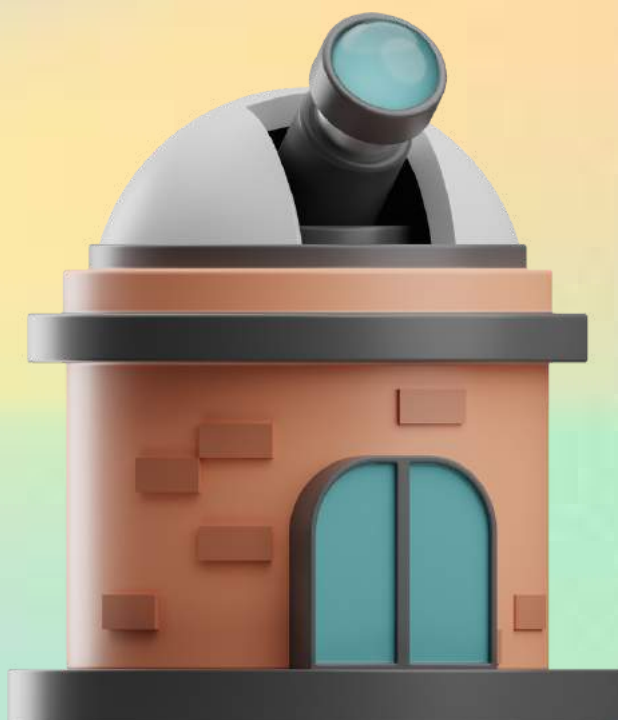
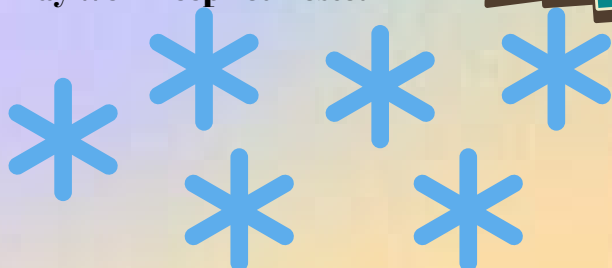
PLEASE NOTE: Zoom is no longer available for these meetings unless the guest speaker is joining us virtually.

Closed

Until

SPRING 2024

April or May We'll Keep You Posted



WATCH FOR THE

2024 SCHEDULE IN THE MARCH/APRIL

2024 NOVA PUBLICATION



Say Hello to Our New

Members!



Sarah Allred
Paul Ashby
David Daniel
Panagiotis Karanikas
Sarah Kenney
Stan Koch
Steven Rummler
Brianna Shill
Linda Sorensen
Dallin Soukup
Arnold Tran



At SLAS, we are observational astronomers who:

Promote astronomy

Encourage public education and interest

Coordinate activities with professional research

Featured Astronomical Object

NGC 891 - The Silver Sliver



(Credit: Astronomy in Edinborough)

The Silver Sliver Galaxy also known as the "Outer Limits Galaxy" was featured in the ending credits of the 1960s television series "The Outer Limits."

This adorable galaxy lies in the constellation Andromeda and is roughly 30 million light-years away from Earth.

It is a part of the NGC 1023 Galaxy Cluster which is part of the Virgo Super Cluster which is part of the local group that our Milky Way Galaxy lies in. It also lies near the Abell 347 Galaxy Cluster. This galaxy sits near perfect edge on to Earth. It is an unbarred spiral galaxy that looks to have a lot of star activity going on such as star birthing and supernovas.

This galaxy was discovered by Royal Astronomer William Herschel on October 6, 1784.

Books

To cozy up with this winter when the clouds roll in.



Pour yourself a warm cup of cocoa, grab your favorite snuggle blanket, and grab one of these cozy books for those cloudy winter nights.

CHECK YOUR LOCAL BOOKSTORE, LIBRARY, OR ONLINE SHOP TO FIND THESE TITLES TO PASS THE TIME ON THOSE CLOUDY WINTER NIGHTS

Winter is the time for stories, tales, and cozy conversations around the fire.

- 1.) ***Star Mentor: Hands-On Projects and Lessons in Observational Astronomy for Beginners***
Author: Daniel E. Barth
Publisher: Springer; 1st ed. 2022 edition (2022)
- 2.) ***Constellations: The Story of Space Told Through the 88 Known Star Patterns in the Night Sky***
Author: Govert Schilling
Cartographer: Wil Tirion
Publisher: Black Dog & Leventhal (2019)
- 3.) ***Missions To Mars***
Author: Larry S. Crumpler
Publisher: Harper Design (2021)
- 4.) ***The Mysteries of the Universe***
Author: Will Gater
Publisher: DK Children (2020)
- 5.) ***Exploring the Cosmos with James Webb: The Next Generation Space Telescope***
Author: Steeven Cadel
Publisher: Independently Published (2023)
- 6.) ***Hubble Legacy: 30 Years of Discoveries and Images***
Author: Jim Bell
Publisher: Union Square & Co.; Illustrated edition (2020)
- 7.) ***Under Alien Skies: A Sightseer's Guide to the Universe***
Author: Philip Plait PhD
Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company (2023)
- 8.) ***Your Guide to the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse***
Author: Michael Bakich
Publisher: Kalmbach Media (2022)
- 9.) ***A Brief History of Black Holes: And why nearly everything you know about them is wrong***
Author: Dr. Becky Smethurst
Publisher: Pan (2023)
- 10.) ***An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth: What Going to Space Taught Me About Ingenuity, Determination, and Being Prepared for Anything***
Author: Col. Chris Hadfield
Publisher: Back Bay Books; Reprint edition (2015)

Volunteers Still Needed for Astrocon 2025!



ASTROCON 2025 will be held June 25-28, 2025, under the spectacularly dark skies of Bryce Canyon National Park in southern Utah.

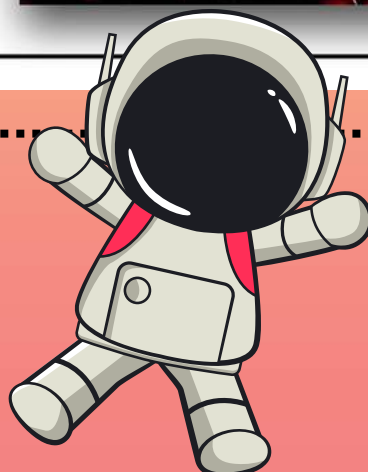
The venue will be at Ruby's Inn and Convention Center a few miles from the park entrance. A special area a few miles east of the convention center will be available for evening viewing plus astrophotography/digital imaging workshops.

The convention's goal is to teach how to enhance one's personal viewing experiences through workshops and evening viewing plus opportunities to learn astrophotographic skills. As we are still in the planning stage, we welcome your input as to how daytime and/or evening presentations and workshops can best achieve these goals. Ideas that our committee is considering include:

- Setting up your own personal observing program (including Astronomical League Observing Programs to consider)
- Observing tips including clothing to wear, how best to use your own eyes, equipment ideas
- Using star charts (digital and paper)
- Creation of observing lists for difference types of objects
- Understanding eyepiece selection
- Using filters for visual and photographic work
- Sketching workshop
- Observing log workshop – starting and keeping your own journal
- Astrophotography/Digital Imaging workshops (novice and advanced)

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to assist with a presentation and/or a workshop. We are starting our planning early, as we learned from ASTROCON 2017 at Casper Wyoming, held during the total solar eclipse, that advance planning is particularly important for this type of event. We look forward to hearing from you.

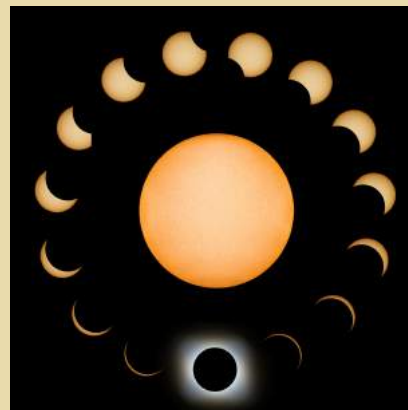
Lowell Lyon
ASTROCON 2025 Chair
801-699-7283
bolide@sisna.com





Total eclipse of the Sun April 8, 2024

The path of the April 8th total solar eclipse across North America. Credit: Michael Zeiler



Eclipse Safety Scan Me



Or click the link below

<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/eclipses/safety/>



How to Safely View a Solar Eclipse

The Sun's UV radiation can permanently damage your eyes. Never look directly into the Sun, not even for a few seconds! To safely view a solar eclipse, you can either project or filter the Sun's rays.

Method 1) Projecting the Sun's Light

A projector allows you to view the Sun without looking at it directly. It is easy to make using common household items.



Method 2) Filtering the Sun's Light

If you prefer viewing the Sun directly, use eclipse glasses or other approved solar filters. Cracks or scratches can make filters unsafe to use, so always make sure that they are intact!



WARNING:
Do not use these!



Never use the following materials as eye protection when viewing the Sun:

- Telescopes, binoculars, or cameras without specialized Sun filters.
- Sunglasses of any kind, even if you wear multiple pairs.
- Color film.
- Medical X-ray film.
- Smoked glass.
- Floppy disks.



2023 & 2024 Eclipse Events

in
Kerrville, TX

Join us for an unforgettable astronomical experience as we witness both an annular and total solar eclipse right here in the heart of Texas. Pack your RV and gear up for an adventure-filled weekend of boondock camping where nature and wonder collide!

Don't miss out on this rare celestial event combined with Texas hospitality. Reserve your spot today and prepare for an out-of-this-world adventure!

for more info call 830-367-4769



Astronomical Events

January and February 2024

Source: [Sea and Sky](#)



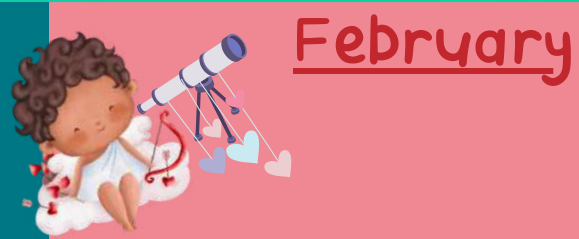
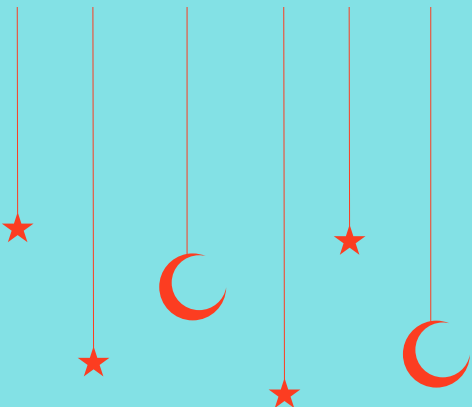
January 3 and 4 - Quadrantids Meteor Shower. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Bootes but can appear anywhere in the sky.

January 11 - New Moon.

January 12 - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation.

January 25 - Full Moon.

January 27 - Mercury close to Mars (AM)



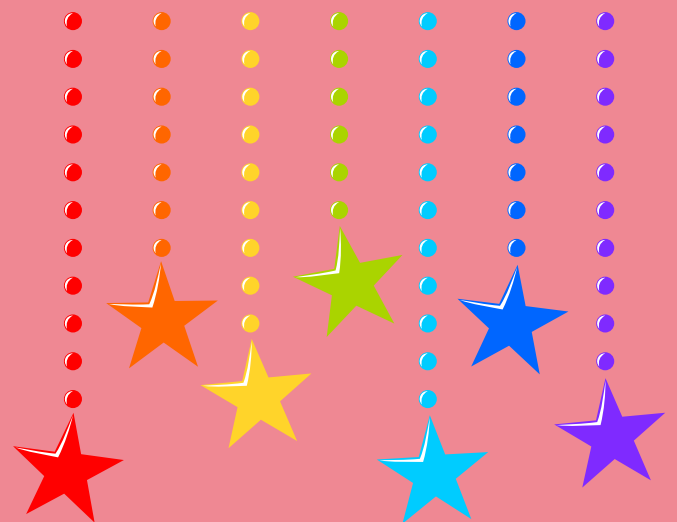
February 7 - Waning crescent moon close to Venus (AM)

February 9 - New Moon.

February 14 - Waxing crescent moon close to Jupiter (PM)

February 22 - Venus close to Mars (AM)

February 24 - Full Moon.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Our amazing Marlene Egger is our school outreach for SLAS. She has several school star party events scheduled for this fall that need SLAS member volunteer astronomers. Due to the nature of this work dealing with minors, SLAS is about keeping their safety in mind. Therefore, details about when, where, and time cannot be posted in this public publication. Please reach out to Marlene by email at marleneegger@gmail.com if you are willing to volunteer for details.



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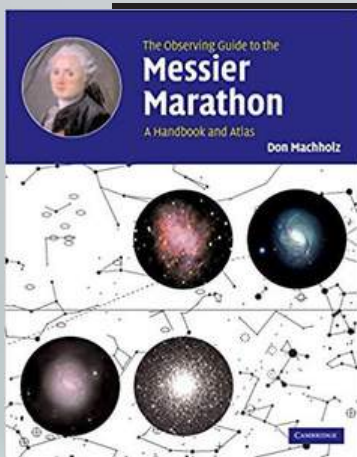
What is a Messier Marathon?

- Special time of year when all 109-110 Messier objects are visible during the same night, and an individual or group of astronomers attempt to find all (or most) on that New Moon night (or closest weekend).
- Between March and April. Between +40 North and -20 South Latitude.
- Not the longest night (late Dec) 12 hrs 45 min (5:30PM-6:15AM), but March would be better than April.
- John Kirchhoff normally sets up a March Messier Marathon at Lake Hudson for all the local clubs – Working together with a group makes it more enjoyable and team support keeps you going.

So who is this Messier person?



- ☆ Charles Messier (1730 – 1817)
- ☆ A French astronomer and the Greatest Comet hunter of his time
- ☆ Influenced by a bright comet in 1744, Messier left home at the age of 21 to pursue his dreams
- ☆ Messier was credited with the discovery/recovery of 13 comets during his career
- ☆ Messier occasionally came across objects that looked like comets, but were not. He published 3 catalogues describing 103 deep sky objects



Planning for a Messier Marathon

- ☆ Pick a time and place
- ☆ Prepare equipment checklist
 - Telescope / Binoculars
 - Eyepieces
 - Red Light
 - Charts
 - Food / Drinks
 - Table / Chair
 - Sleeping Bag
 - Alarm Clock
 - Warm Clothes
 - Batteries
- ☆ Plan to arrive at the Marathon site and set up equipment before sunset

Messier Marathon
March 8, 9, 10



[Click here for the Astronomical League Messier Marathon Program](#)



HELP!



**Need Some Help with Your
Telescope? Get Friendly, Expert
Help with
SLAS Member, Max Byerly!**

Telescope Repairs and Maintenance:

Do you ever find yourself needing help with your telescope? Maybe something isn't working, right? Maybe you can't figure out how to get it properly collimated or aligned with the sky. Has it broken down and needs a fix? I'm here to help!

I'm Max and I've been helping people get back under the night sky for over a decade. I moved to SLC a few years ago, and have tried to be active when my work schedule lets me come to events and star parties.

I enjoy helping people with the night sky and their equipment. I know a lot from the basics all the way to imaging faint targets with a telescope. I'm quite experienced in particular with Meade, Celestron, iOptron, and Orion/Skywatcher equipment, but that doesn't mean I can't help if you have something outside of that. I've repaired and fixed many mounts cleaned many telescopes and mirrors, and regreased and tuned several Goto systems. Just know that when something happens or if you're not comfortable tackling something, reach out to me and let's see what I can do for you!

Contact: maxbyerly@icloud.com



Pssst! Need a Telescope?



Do you want to use a telescope, but don't have the space for one, or the money for one? There are a couple of options for borrowing a telescope. One is from our Salt Lake County Libraries and the other is if you join SLAS, you can borrow a telescope as part of membership benefits.



To reserve Telescopes, please call Customer Service 801.943.4636 or stop by your local branch and talk with a librarian.



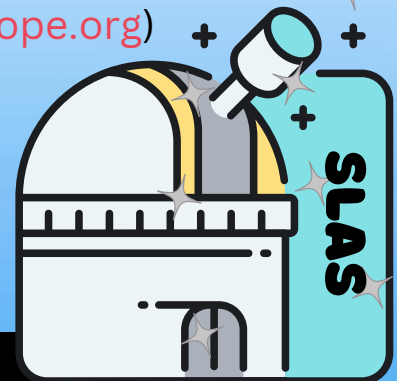
Telescopes THE SALT LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

The County Library is lending a limited number of Orion StarBlast Telescopes at each branch. The County Library's telescope lending program is made possible through a partnership with the Salt Lake Astronomical Society. Follow the safety rules and don't look at the sun! Enjoy this STEM experience.

- Telescopes are located at all libraries for check out, subject to availability
- Only 1 telescope per library card
- The Telescope and all peripheral materials (fanny pack, eyepiece, rubber eye guard, lens covers, view finder, books, head gear, brush pen, instructions, batteries, and base) must be returned together in the condition in which they were checked out and on the same day in which the Telescope is returned

To see all participating libraries in the telescope loaner program in Utah, click on this link: Utah (librarytelescope.org)

These are the telescopes available to borrow through SLAS. This program is for members only and can be obtained through slasloanequipment@gmail.com



- (4) 8" Dobsonian telescopes
- (2) 6" Dobsonian telescopes
- (4) C-8 telescopes
- (1) 4" Criterion SCT
- H-Alpha Solar Telescope, tripod, mount and misc. accessories.



Astronomer / Space Spotlight



zineolfe.weebly.com

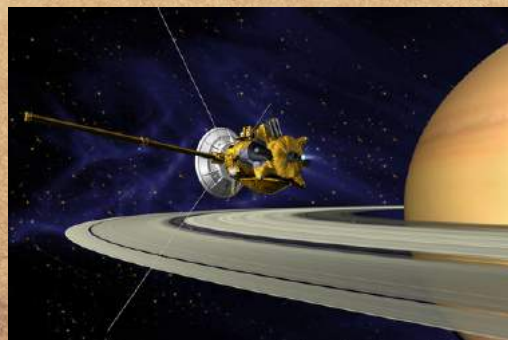


Giovanni Domenico Cassini

Giovanni Domenico Cassini, also known as Jean-Dominique Cassini, was born June 8, 1625, in Italy. He would eventually travel to France and become a citizen there. He was a true polymath who helped push astronomy forward and correctly explain what was happening in the heavens.

Cassini's early studies dealt with the Sun. "In San Petronio, Bologna, Cassini convinced church officials to create an improved sundial meridian line at the San Petronio Basilica, moving the pinhole gnomon that projected the Sun's image up into the church's vaults 66.8 meters (219 ft) away from the meridian inscribed in the floor. The much larger image of the Sun's disk projected by the camera obscura effect allowed him to measure the change in diameter of the Sun's disk over the year as the Earth moved toward and then away from the Sun. He concluded the changes in size he measured were consistent with Johannes Kepler's 1609 heliocentric theory, where the Earth was moving around the Sun in an elliptical orbit instead of the Ptolemaic system where the Sun orbited the Earth in an eccentric orbit." (New York Times)

Cassini would eventually branch out. He would accurately measure how big France is, discover the gap in the rings of Saturn, and even discover some of the moons of Saturn. "He was the first to observe the shadows of Jupiter's satellites as they passed between that planet and the Sun. His observation of spots on the surface of the planet allowed him to measure Jupiter's rotational period. In 1666, after similar observations of Mars, he found the value of 24 hours 40 minutes for Mars's rotational period; it is now given as 24 hours 37 minutes 22.66 seconds. Two years later he compiled a table of the positions of Jupiter's satellites that was used in 1675 by the Danish astronomer Ole Rømer to establish that the speed of light is finite. (Britanica) In addition, he wrote several memoirs on flood control, and he experimented extensively in applied hydraulics." He was the first to document the zodiac lights and explain correctly what was caused them.

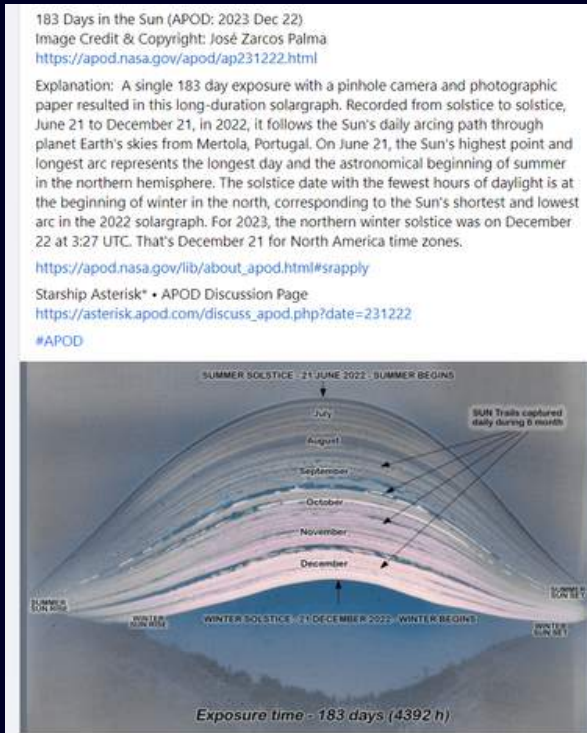


Giovanni Cassini

- 1625-1712
- Calculated the distance to Mars
- Born in Italy, French Citizen and astronomer
- Co-discoverer of the Great Red Spot on Jupiter and also studied the motion of Jupiter's atmosphere
- discovered four satellites of Saturn and the gap in Saturn's rings now known as "Cassini's division"



Solargraphy



Credit: NASA APOD

Adapted from the Instructables website: [Link](#)

Solargraphy is the art of long-exposure photography that captures the sun's trail as it moves across the sky.

This type of solargraphy uses a pinhole camera. Any pinhole camera will work, and it is easy to make one yourself out of a soda can.

NOTE: This activity requires adult assistance!

What You' ll Need

Tools:

- Can opener (Shelby P-38 or Shelby P-51 works well if you have them)
- Glass head quilter's pin
- Scissors
- Knife
- ruler
- Computer with scanner

Materials:

- 2 soda cans (one of the cans needs to be at least 16 oz. The 19.2 oz. can is best. The second soda can, can be 12 oz or larger).
- Electrical tape
- Aluminum Foil
- Water Proof Gaffers (Duct) or T-Rex Tape
- Zip ties
- 5 x 7 Photopaper (not for the printer. That will not work) Find here: [Adorama](#) or here: [Amazon](#)



Building the Camera



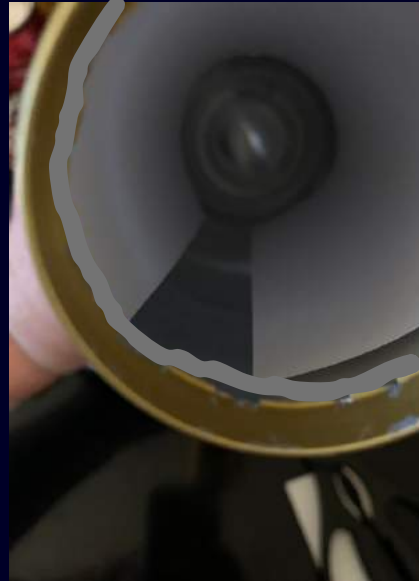
Cut the top off both your empty soda cans using the can opener. You might need the help of scissors or a knife to help remove the top and clean up ragged edges.



Wash the inside of your cans with dish soap and warm water to remove soda residue. Let your cans dry thoroughly. Once the cans are dry, take the taller can, and with a ruler measure about halfway up the can can make a little dot with a marker. Take the quilter's pin and poke a hole through the side of the can where you made your marker dot. The pinhole should be about 0.2mm to 0.3mm in diameter.

The other can you have cut the top off of will be the lid. You should be able to press the lid onto the body easily with little pressure.

Loading the Camera



Place a piece of electrical tape over the pinhole placed on the side of the can. This is your shutter. Now load your photo paper into your can with the pinhole. This does not have to be done in a dark room, but it should be a fairly dark room, but a little light isn't going to hurt the paper if you work quickly.

Gently roll up the photo paper, glossy side in, and insert it into the can. Align the paper so that it is not covering up the pinhole. Use a few pieces of electrical tape to secure the paper to the inside of the can.

Place the can you are using for a lid over the open end of the pinhole can and tape up the seam with a couple of wraps of waterproof Gaffer (Duct) or T-Rex tape. To keep water from pooling in the top of the lid can, place some aluminum foil over the top creating a flat surface, and tape it in place with the waterproof tape.

Placing the Camera

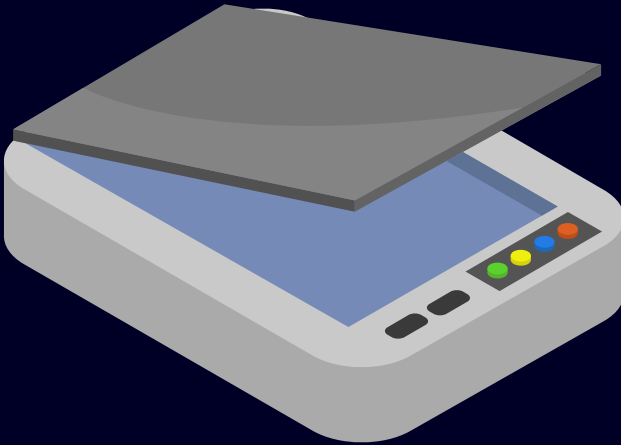


Once you have your cameras loaded, light-tight, and waterproofed, you need to figure out where you are going to place them. Ideally, you want to have a clear view of the sun as it moves across the sky. Face the pinhole to the south. There are a few things to consider before placing your cameras. In today's world, people are easily alarmed by cylindrical objects taped to buildings, lampposts, etc. Writing "Pinhole camera" on it doesn't stop people from removing it. Placing the camera on your property is best. However, you want to keep it hidden and out of reach of curious trespassers. Unfortunately, these days tend to not leave things on other people's property alone either.

Make sure the camera cannot move around in the wind or when hit with rain or hail; less movement means better pictures! Attaching your camera to a rain spout, vent pipe, etc.. with a zip tie is the best way to keep the camera from moving.

Don't forget to remove the tape from the pinhole after you secure your camera! Now you wait. You can place your camera so it images from winter solstice to summer solstice. Or you can image from Perihelion to Aphelion. Or from equinox to equinox. It is up to you how long you leave your camera up.

Processing the Image



To collect your camera, tape over the pinhole, cut the zip tie, and remove your camera. Before opening your camera up, set up your scanner and your computer. Once this is done, open your camera by carefully removing the tape, and taking the photo paper out. This is now your negative. This can be done in a lit room.

DO NOT TRY TO DEVELOP OR FIX YOUR NEGATIVE

Developing the image will result in a completely black image.

Scan the image once using the best settings, more than one scan will ruin the original image. You can label the back of the image with the date and what time of year you imaged the solargraph then you can file it away in a light-proof folder or container.

In your image editing program, open up the scanned image and invert the colors, as well as flip the image horizontally. From here you can make the image black and white if you wish, apply a split tone, or edit it however you'd like! Have fun with it! Then you can print it out on printer photo paper or share in a file.

[Solargraphy video link](#)



If you want to watch a video explaining how to make the pinhole camera for solargraphy, you can scan the QR code or click the link above

BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST!

SciStarter: Science we can do together: (Sign up at: <https://scistarter.org/>): "SciStarter is a globally acclaimed, online citizen science hub where more than 3,000 projects, searchable by location, topic, age level, etc, have been registered by individual project leaders or imported through partnerships with federal governments, NGOs, and universities. As a research affiliate of NCSU and ASU, and a popular citizen science portal, SciStarter hosts an active community of close to 100,000 registered citizen scientists and millions of additional site visitors. Hundreds of citizen science projects use SciStarter's NSF-supported APIs to help citizen scientists earn credit for their participation in their SciStarter dashboard, across projects and platforms. These features enable SciStarter's partners (libraries, schools, museums, Girl Scouts, and more) to catalyze customized citizen science pathways and track and support the progress of their communities through SciStarter. SciStarter also supports researchers in managing projects, including best practices for engaging participant partners." Citizen Scientists are needed for projects in astronomy research.

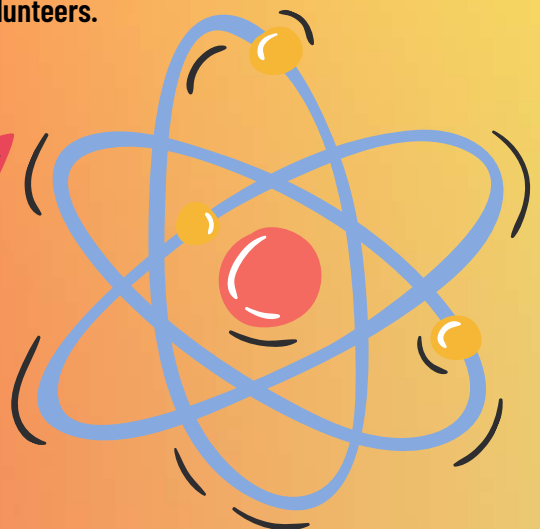
Zooniverse: People Powered Research: (Sign up at: <https://www.zooniverse.org/>): "The Zooniverse is the world's largest and most popular platform for people-powered research. This research is made possible by volunteers – more than a million people around the world who come together to assist professional researchers. Our goal is to enable research that would not be possible, or practical, otherwise. Zooniverse research results in new discoveries, datasets useful to the wider research community, and many publications. You don't need any specialized background, training, or expertise to participate in any Zooniverse projects. We make it easy for anyone to contribute to real academic research, on their own computer, at their own convenience." Citizen Scientists are needed for projects in astronomy research.

National Geographic: Citizen Science Opportunities for All Ages:

(Sign up at: <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/citizen-science-projects>): Search space, help NASA classify galaxies, measure night sky brightness, find age-appropriate projects, and teacher resources.

CitizenScience.gov: Helping Federal Agencies Accelerate Innovation Through Public Participation:

(Sign up at citizenscience.gov): "CitizenScience.gov is an official government website designed to accelerate the use of crowdsourcing and citizen science across the U.S. government. The site provides a portal to three key components: a catalog of federally supported citizen science projects, a toolkit to assist federal practitioners with designing and maintaining their projects, and a gateway to a community of hundreds of citizen science practitioners and coordinators across government as called for in the Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Act of 2016 (15 USC 3724). Through citizen science and crowdsourcing, the federal government and nongovernmental organizations can engage the American public in addressing societal needs and accelerating science, technology, and innovation." Many NASA projects have been listed that need volunteers.



SLAS Meeting Notes

Board Meeting November 2023

November 8, 2023

7:30 PM

Denny's – Redwood Rd & North Temple

Board Members in attendance: Don Abernathy, Tony Sarra, Krista Lemoine, Marlene Egger, and Jim Keane.

Other Members in Attendance: Patrick Wiggins, Aleta Cox, Alpine Stringham, and Trevor Hebditch.

President, Don Abernathy, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

SPOC Director, Jim Keane, gave an update on the Grim hand controllers. Only one can be repaired, and it is currently being fixed. He is winterizing SPOC this weekend. Leslie Fowler, Patrick Wiggins, and Trevor Hebditch will winterize the Refractor house.

Rodger Fry updated Don on the Jachmann Telescope. It is still a work in progress. The base will be brought to SPOC next month.

Vice President, Tony Sarra, updated the board on the website redesign. They are hoping to bring James in next week and are working on a day to meet. They will provide a link once they have a beta site up.

The board will need to create a budget for next year.

Marlene Egger has provided a link to the club inventory. Don has asked her to secure another backup file. Don thanked Marlene for putting it together. She also reported that the last school star party of the year has been canceled.

Jim gave an update on the budget vs actuals.

The general meeting at Evans and Sutherland will need a head count. Depending on the headcount will determine where everyone can sit. The count needs to be reported to Martin Ratcliffe by the 13th. We will conduct the business portion of the meeting at the beginning.

Don asked that board members provide an end-of-year report for the December meeting. He will also go over all the accomplishments of 2023.

The Solstice Party is next month on December 2nd. We have a standing reservation, and they have confirmed it with Patrick Wiggins. Tony will follow up.

Patrick noted that our website has links to former members' astrophotography pictures. The web team hasn't decided how to handle this yet.

Trevor Hebditch brought up disabled people looking through the telescopes at SLAS events. Jim reminded him about the ADA scope we currently have.

ALCor, Aleta Cox, asked if there will be time for award presentations at the General Meeting. Don said he would add some time at the beginning of the meeting to accommodate this.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

Krista Lemoine, SLAS Secretary/Treasurer

SLAS Meeting Notes

SLAS November 2023 General Meeting
6:00 PM

This was a private event for SLAS Members only
at Evans and Sutherland. Notes will be posted soon.

SLAS Meeting Notes

SLAS Board Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2023

7:30 PM

Denny's – Redwood Rd & North Temple

Board Members in attendance: Don Abernathy, Tony Sarra, Krista Lemoine, Marlene Egger, and Jim Keane.

Other Members in Attendance: Patrick Wiggins, Aleta Cox, Joan Carman, and Trevor Hebditch.

President, Don Abernathy, called the meeting to order at 7:29 PM.

Don welcomed everyone, especially Aleta Cox and Trevor Hebditch as upcoming 2024 board members. He also thanked Tony Sarra and Jim Keane for their service in 2022 and 2023.

ALCor, Aleta Cox, had nothing to report.

Don noted that several people met with Lowell Lyon at Evans and Sutherland about volunteering for ASTROCON 2025.

Joan Carman, LTTC, is reaching out to Weber and possibly Cache County about expanding the Library Telescope program. SPOC director, Jim Keane, reported the Grim hand controller is being repaired. The parts are backordered. He is hoping to have it fixed before opening SPOC in the spring. He is also working with Mike Clements to clean the floor in the Clement's building. He is looking to repair the roof over the Grim and the storage buildings. He has replaced the locks.

Vice President, Tony Sarra, reported James received payment for his work on the website. James has requested a high-resolution SLAS logo to use on the website. Tony has also been in contact with Paul Ricketts at the University of Utah about doing remote imaging. Jan 12th will be the first session. He asked the board to approve regularly scheduled sessions throughout 2024. This was approved by the board.

Don welcomes Aleta as the new Vice President. He asked her to check with Professor Barnes to make sure we can continue to use SLCC's auditorium for the 2024 general meetings.

Krista Lemoine reported that financials stayed within budget for 2023. She also requested a date be selected to go to the Bank of Utah to make the necessary changes for 2024.

Marlene Egger provided an end-of-year summary of her duties. Krista will provide a hard copy of the inventory.

Jim Keane and Tony Sarra have been officially retained to work on the website.

Trevor Hebditch was welcomed as an upcoming board member for 2024. Trevor created a proposal to start an educational fund to provide memberships for children interested in joining SLAS whose parents may not be able to afford membership dues. The board will review this and revisit it at the January meeting.

Aleta has created a preliminary calendar for SLAS events for 2024.

The Civil Air Patrol has contacted Don for another presentation in 2024.

Patrick Wiggins suggested moving the board meeting's start time to 7:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM. He also asked to discuss moving the Solstice Party to June. This will be discussed at the January board meeting.

Marlene suggested changing the dates of the opening of SPOC and the first public star party to be more consistent with the weather in the past 5 years. Joan suggested that we keep the current schedule. This has been moved to January for discussion.

Don went over the accomplishments of the year.

Telescope training procedures were discussed briefly. This will also be moved to the January meeting.

Joan requested the library star party schedule be finalized at the January meeting so the libraries can create their schedule.

Rodger Fry sent an update that the Big Sig mount is still with the fabricator.

The website overhaul is still in progress.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

Krista Lemoine, SLAS Secretary/Treasurer

SLAS Meeting Notes

SLAS General Meeting – December 2, 2023

7:30 PM MDT

This was the SLAS annual Winter Solstice Party at the Golden Corral Restaurant located at 665 E. Fort Union Blvd. Midvale, Utah.

Approximately 30 to 40 were in attendance.

Members paid for their dinner plates.

The night was spent socializing and several gift cards to local restaurants, books, moon globe eyepiece, moon phase pillow, personalized SLAS vehicle license plate frame, hot beverage mugs, and other astronomy-themed items were raffled off.

SLAS President Don Abernathy thanked Tony Serra for his work as Vice President and congratulated Aleta Cox on her winning the candidacy for the position of SLAS Vice President. Don also thanked Jim Keane for his work as one of the SLAS Board Members at Large and congratulated Trevor Hebditch on winning the candidacy for this position.

Don said that he was excited to start the 2024 astronomy events. He said that there are some very exciting things coming. One is the new website for SLAS. He explained that many things will be decided in the January 2024 Board Meeting and that the information will be published in the March/April 2024 Nova Newsletter.

Dinner ended at 9:00 PM

Notes taken and submitted by Jenette Scott, SLAS Nova Newsletter Editor
Subbing for Krista Lemoine, SLAS Secretary/Treasurer who couldn't make it due to illness.