

NOVA



**Official* Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society
Volume 36 Number 2 March - April 2006**

***Please Note: This issue of Nova was written in December 2006**

The SLAS meeting minutes for January, February and March 2006 were never officially written.

What follows is a compilation of memories and notes from various people including Erik Hansen, John Houser, Lowell Lyon and Patrick Wiggins. It should not be considered comprehensive or complete as surely, with the passage of so much time, many details have been misremembered and/or forgotten.

Those who can add additional details are encouraged to contact the current Nova editor.

Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

Bross, Christopher
Conti, James
Malin, Ronald
Mettome, Dave
Poe, Kevin
Tackman, Gary
Warner, Kevin & Lola

Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Board Meeting for 24 January 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the downtown Salt Lake Community College building.

Karla Van Hemert is working on a new version of SLAS's New Members' booklet.

Lowell Lyon asked members to look over the club's constitution and suggest any changes.

Bill Kennedy will work on public lectures to be given at SPOC star parties.

The nominations of Bill Kennedy and Boyd McNeil to the SPOC Advisory Committee were confirmed by the board.

The continuation of reports on SLAS gatherings in Patrick Wiggins' email newsletter News was approved by a majority of the board.

General Meeting for 24 January 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the downtown Salt Lake Community College building.

Representatives of the Clark planetarium, the U of U Physics Department and the Astronomical League gave overviews of some of their programs.

Representatives of Bryce Canyon National Park outlined plans for this year's Bryce Canyon Astronomy Festival which will be held on 21 to 24 June.

SLAS's 2006 star party schedule was approved. It will be posted on the SLAS web site soon.

The 2006 dues structure was approved at \$2.50 for the General Fund, \$4.50 for Postage and Printing, \$2.00 for Entertainment, \$5.00 for Astronomical League, \$4.00 for Insurance and \$2.00 for Public Outreach for a total dues of \$20.00 per year.

Lowell outlined the speakers he has arranged for SLAS meetings this year. Those data will appear soon on the SLAS web site.

The budget was posted. It showed:

General Fund	\$ 8,132.01
Postage & Printing	73.15
Entertainment	251.12
Astronomical League	329.75
SPOC	4,776.23
H-Alpha	-15.50
Insurance	327.50
Total	\$13,874.26

Board Meeting for 28 February 2006

Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the downtown Salt Lake Community College building.

Karla Van Hemert gave an update on the upcoming season's school star parties.

Bill Kennedy suggested we have a way of documenting money and equipments donations to SLAS.

This year's Capitol Reef star party will be held on 25, 26 and 27 August. The group camp site has been reserved.

Lowell nominated Roger Butz to fill the position of club librarian and Lola Warner to be the new club historian. Both were approved by the board.

The design of the 2006 public star and Sun party flier was approved. Roger Butz was authorized to spend up to \$200.00 to have 15 reams of the fliers printed.

Roger Butz is working with Lowell Lyon to have porta-potties available at this year's SLAstroFest.

Roger said he spoke with the Heber Ranger District about using the Wolf Creek site for star parties and was told if 75 or more people participate a special use permit must be obtained. The permit takes up to 2 months to process. He also said camps at Wolf Creek must be at least 150 feet from the road.

Tom Sevcik talked about Astronomy Day plans. He said he plans to have the SLAS program on the south side of the SLC library and use the library auditorium for speakers.

Lowell said SLAS will give Clark planetarium two star parties at SPOC.

Lowell asked what the board thought about holding meetings in the community college building (they liked it). Lowell suggested SLAS hold a special star party at SPOC for the community college sometime this year.

Lowell announced that the next (March) SLAS meeting would be held at the University of Utah's North Physics building where professor "Ziggy" Peacock will present a physics demonstration suitable for families.

A letter from Siegfried Jachmann was presented in which he asked about SPOC being used for non-SLAS related media interviews.

General Meeting for 28 February 2006

Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the downtown Salt Lake Community College building.

Visitors and the SLAS board members were introduced.

Lowell said that SLAS would be cosponsoring, with the U of U, a special lecture about NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope at the U in April.

Dr. Stacy Palen from Weber State University's Ott Planetarium was the featured speaker. Her talk was entitled "Dark Energy, The Accelerating Universe and the Cosmological Constant: News from the January AAS Meeting".

Lowell noted the March Meeting would be a family fun physics evening at the University of Utah.

Don Colton said he'd be holding a Rap Session at his home with the theme "Getting the Most of Personal Observing."

Bill Kennedy said he was organizing public pre-star party talks for all star parties at SPOC this year.

A motion was made and passed to expend up to \$200.00 for this year's public star and Sun party fliers.

The budget was posted. It showed:

General Fund	\$ 8,102.80
Postage & Printing	76.49
Entertainment	285.12
Publicity	16.00
Astronomical League	414.75
SPOC	4,665.27
H-Alpha	-15.50
Insurance	391.00
Total	\$13,935.93

SLAstroFest is being planned for Wolf Creek the last weekend of July.

Lowell Lyon demonstrated the SLAS website.

Board Meeting for 28 March 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the U of U's North Physics building.

Planning for this year's Astronomy Day festivities is set.

SLAS has been getting many requests for star parties. Rather than set a limit on the number of parties, it was decided to only do as many as the Special Star Party Coordinator can find an adequate number of volunteers to staff. All requests for private star parties are to be funneled through the Special Star Party Coordinator.

Charging for special star parties was discussed but while there was general agreement that charging is ok, no formal pricing structure was established.

Roger Butz delivered the 2006 SLAS public star and Sun party schedules.

Whether or not SLAS wants to continue publishing a newsletter will be discussed later.

General Meeting for 28 March 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the U of U's North Physics building.

The U of U's Dr. Lynn Higgs announced the Physics Department is expanding to the Physics and Astronomy Department and that the U will soon be offering a B.S. in Astronomy.

Dr. Higgs said the U is looking to install a large robotic telescope in a dark sky site in southern Utah. The scope would be available to SLAS members both remotely and in person. He hopes there will be star parties at the remote site.

The meeting was held in a large auditorium style classroom which Dr. Higgs said he would make available to SLAS for monthly meetings at no charge.

The legendary professor Zigmund "Ziggy" Peacock then wowed the audience with several lively physics experiments. Some were loud. Some were flashy. And some were downright destructive to their hapless (inanimate) targets. But every one elicited loud "ooohs", "aaaahs" and applause from the audience.

No one slept through this physics lesson.

SLAS president Lowell Lyon outdid himself by arranging for a meeting that was so anticipated that the 200+ seat auditorium was filled to overflowing. Way to go Lowell!

The budget was posted. It showed:

General Fund	\$ 7,925.05
Postage & Printing	153.69
Entertainment	341.12
Publicity	68.00
Astronomical League	554.75
SPOC	4,341.09
Insurance	44.00
Total	\$13,412.56

2006 SLAS Board of Directors

President	Lowell Lyon	801.942.8735	bolide@sisna.com
Meetings			
Vice President	Tom Sevcik	801.262.6557	sfvlts@hotmail.com
Publicity & Public Relations			
Secretary-Treasurer	Erik Hansen	801.253.2201	ehansen@networld.com
Membership Dues & Renewals			
Board Member at Large	Karla van Hemert	801.280.1847	icstars@xmission.com
School & Special Star Parties			
Board Member at Large	Bill Kennedy	801.964.6199	bkennedy@cusa.com
Public Outreach Director			

2006 Appointed Positions

Astronomical League Contact (ALCOR)	Erik Hansen	801.253.2201	ehansen@networld.com
Dark Sky Committee Chair	Scott Crosby	801.295.5798	
Historian	Lola Warner	435.830.9036	princesslolaanne@yahoo.com
Librarian	Roger Butz	435.830.4684	dutchbutz@yahoo.com
Loaner Telescope Curator	Rob Oliver		firststar@comcast.net
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Ann House	801.671.8447	ann@annhouse.org
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Tom Sevcik	801.262.6557	sfvlts@hotmail.com
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Observatory Director	Bruce Grim	435.882.5237	bgrim@erda.net
Observatory Training Director	Mark Bloomenthal	801.261.2567	markbloomenthal@yahoo.com
Private Star Party Coordinator	Don Colton	801.571.9757	dcoltonsp@earthlink.net
Solar Scope Curator	Ron Ford	801.969.3666	ronford@xmission.com
SPOC Advisory Committee Chair	Ron Ford	801.969.3666	ronford@xmission.com
Webmasters	Ken & Kathleen Warner		webmaster@slas.us

The NOVA is a publication of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society, a non-profit organization. The bimonthly newsletter contains minutes of the Board and General Meetings, Board member names and phone numbers, activities, reports, calendars and new member information. It also announces special events and dates such as speakers, field trips and conventions. The NOVA may contain advertising of equipment for sale, etc., by its members. The editor of the NOVA is appointed by the Board and may serve until replaced or resignation. The editor may be a Board member, and publication of the NOVA lies within the responsibility of the Vice President. Members are encouraged to contribute articles and participate in its publication. If you wish to help, please contact the Vice President, a Board member or the NOVA editor. The deadline for submitting articles or items of interest related to amateur astronomy is usually the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Events Calendar

March 2006

- 27 Board Meeting 6:35 p.m. U of U's North Physics building.
- 27 General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. U of U's North Physics building.

April 2006

- 07 Public Star Party at Harmons in Midvale, 7800 S., 700 E.
- 08 Public Star Party at SPOC
- 14 Special lecture 7:30 p.m. R. K. Wilson, Project Manager, NASA/JPL Spitzer Space Telescope. University of Utah's Skaggs Biology Building Auditorium.
- 15 Public Sun Party at Winchester Park, 1200 W. 6400 S., 10:00 a.m. - noon
- 22 Public Star Party at SPOC
- 25 Board Meeting 6:35 p.m. Salt Lake Community College downtown location, 115 So. Main St.
- 25 General Meeting 7:30 p.m. Salt Lake Community College downtown location, 115 So. Main St.

May 2006

- 05 Public Star Party at Harmons in Taylorsville, 5454 S. Redwood Road
- 06 Astronomy Day at Library Square, Clark planetarium and SPOC (Details)
- 13 Public Sun Party at Winchester Park, 1200 W. 6400 S., 10:00 a.m. - noon
- 20 Public Star Party at SPOC
- 23 Board Meeting 6:35 p.m. Salt Lake County Council Chambers, Salt Lake County Government Center north building, 2001 S. State Street.
- 23 General Meeting 7:30 p.m. Salt Lake County Council Chambers, Salt Lake County Government Center north building, 2001 S. State Street.
- 26-27 Public Star Party at Great Basin National Park, Nevada



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