

NOVA



Official Newsletter of the [Salt Lake Astronomical Society](#)
Volume 36 Number 3 May - June 2006

Astronomy Day is Coming to Utah May 6th



Several members of the Utah astronomical community look on as Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. signs the Utah Astronomy Day declaration on 27 April 2006. Additional images are on the governor's [web site](#).

Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members

Francis Afghan
J David Baxter
Paul Cherry
Glenn Goodrich
Raylene Lyon
Andrew Pratt
Rocky and Cindy Robello
Grant Sorenson

SLAS To Need New Home (Again)

The venue where SLAS has held its recent meetings is no longer available. As is reported in the minutes below a temporary venue has been found but that will only last until the fall. Come October SLAS will again be homeless.

If you know of a venue that will comfortably seat ~100 people, has handicap access and is preferably free, please contact SLAS president [Lowell Lyon](#) as soon as possible.

Scopes Seek Foster Homes

SLAS Loaner Scope Curator [Rob Oliver](#) reports that 4 of SLAS's loaner telescopes are sitting unused in storage. If you have been a member of SLAS for at least 30 days you can borrow the scopes at no charge and use them for at least a couple of weeks (and usually much longer).

A list of SLAS's loaner scopes can be found in the [Membership Benefits](#) section of the SLAS web site. Contact Rob if you'd like to check out a scope.

SPOC Classes

Training continues on all three of the telescopes at the club's observatory complex ([SPOC](#)). Level 1 (beginning) classes can be scheduled on the [Bogdan Refractor](#) and [Ealing Reflector](#). Level 2 (advanced) classes can be scheduled for all three scopes, including the [Grim Reflector](#).

Contact [Patrick Wiggins](#) for level 1 classes and [Mark Bloomenthal](#) for level 2 classes.

Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Board Meeting for April 25, 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the downtown SLCC building at 6:35 pm.

SLAS VP Tom Sevcik reported that he, Ann House and Erik Hansen continue to work on Astronomy Day preparations.

Following hearty thanks for long suffering Tom Sevcik for 5 years as Nova editor, the board passed the newsletter duties back to Patrick Wiggins (he has held the position many times before).

Patrick outlined planned changes to the newsletter. Future hard copy (paper) issues will be shorter, include only SLAS related information, pictures (if any) will be scanned black and white, hard copy issues will only be mailed to those who have requested them. The on-line version will contain color photos, may contain more text and will be posted to the web before the hard copies are mailed.

Lowell Lyon announced that the [Harmons grocery store chain](#) has donated another \$1,000 to SLAS. The donation was facilitated by Harmons' Kevin Bushnell.

Last month's discussion about limiting the number of non-public star parties SLAS conducts was continued. No limit was set but SLAS will not commit to any star party the Special Star Party Coordinator can not find adequate help for.

SLAS's May through September 2006 meetings will be held in the [Salt Lake County Government Center](#), 2001 S. State Street. We will be meeting in the North Building on the 1st floor where the Salt Lake County Council meets. Look for the room with the large glass windows. There is plenty of free parking in the parking terraces on the east side of the complex. Lowell noted that the new meeting location was made possible thanks to the efforts of Clark Planetarium Director Seth Jarvis.

The only location being offered so far for the meetings after that will charge about \$100 per meeting for the use of the facility. Lowell asked that everyone start looking for a new meeting location and report any possibilities to him.

Bruce Grim will submit a SPOC operating budget to the board.

Lowell noted that there is quite a bit of money in the SLAS treasury and wondered aloud what some of it could be spent on. Those with ideas were asked to contact [Lowell](#).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

General Meeting for April 25, 2006

SLAS Pres. Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the downtown SLCC building at 7:35 pm.

Lowell introduced the evening's guest speaker, long time SLAS member and co-founder (with his wife) of [ScopeCraft, Inc.](#), Jerry Foote. Jerry showed pictures of his and wife Cindy's Vermillion Cliffs Observatory complex in Kanab, Utah and outlined their work with cataclysmic variable stars and exoplanet transits.

Jerry stressed how amateurs can use relatively modest equipment to produce professional quality research. It was a very interesting talk which continued after the meeting at "Advanced Training" after the meeting.

SLAS board member Karla Van Hemert will have the new SLAS New Member Booklets available soon. They will be available on line and in hard copy format.

Speakers for SLAS's May meeting will cover an introduction to summer observing and the June meeting will be about spectroscopy and defraction gratings.

The budget report was posted. It showed:

General Fund	7,949.84
Postage and Printing	224.69
Entertainment	373.12
Astronomical League	634.75
SPOC	4,353.33
Outreach	98.00
Insurance	107.50
Total	\$13,741.23

SLAS's May through September meetings will be held in the [Salt Lake County Government Center](#). A new permanent home is being sought (see details in Board Meeting minutes above).

SLAstrofest will be 28 & 29 July this year, at [Wolf Creek](#). Contact [Lowell Lyon](#) for details.

SLAS will be doing a star party 26-29 May this year at [Great Basin National Park](#). Contact [Kim Hyatt](#) for details.

This year's [Bryce Canyon/SLAS astronomy festival](#) at Bryce Canyon will be held 21-24 June. Contact [Don Colton](#) for details.

SLAS will be doing a star party a [Capitol Reef National Park](#) the last weekend in August. Contact [Lowell Lyon](#) for details.

Lowell reported David Early (formerly of David Early Tires) has donated a C-8 to SLAS which will be added to SLAS's stable of loaner scopes. It is a very early model GOTO.

[Harmons'](#) latest donation was announced (see Board Meeting minutes above). Lowell added that Harmons has offered to advertise SLAS star parties.

Tom outlined current plans for [Astronomy Day](#) on 6 May. Activities at Library Square will run from 11:00 am to 2:00 p.m. and are scheduled to include talks by astronauts [Garn](#)

and [Lind](#), Chris Scott will speak about Mars exploration, Bill Cowles about solar observing, Nate Goodman about sketching astronomical objects and Joan Carman on the history of astronomy. The U of U's Lynn Higgs will conduct physics demonstrations and Ann House will have craft activities for kids.

Activities at the Clark planetarium will run from 3:00 to 7:00 followed by a star party at SPOC.

Lowell said the Rap Session at Don Colton's home had gone well and asked others to host future sessions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

SLAS Board of Directors

President	Lowell Lyon	801.942.8735
Vice President	Tom Sevcik	801.262.6557
Secretary-Treasurer	Erik Hansen	801.253.2201
Board Member at Large	Karla van Hemert	801.280.1847
Board Member at Large	Bill Kennedy	801.964.6199

Appointed Positions

Astronomical League Contact	Erik Hansen	801.253.2201
Dark Sky Committee Chair	Scott Crosby	801.295.5798
Historian	Lola Warner	435.830.9036
Librarian	Roger Butz	435.830.4684
Loaner Telescope Curator	Rob Oliver	
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Ann House	801.671.8447
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Tom Sevcik	801.262.6557
Nova Newsletter Editor	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209
Observatory Director	Bruce Grim	435.882.5237
Observatory Training Director	Mark Bloomenthal	801.261.2567
Private Star Party Coordinator	Don Colton	801.571.9757
Solar Scope Curator	Ron Ford	801.969.3666
SPOC Advisory Committee Chair	Ron Ford	801.969.3666
Webmasters	Ken & Kathleen Warner	

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. 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 15th of February, April, June, August, October and December. Current NOVA editor is Patrick Wiggins, paw@wirelessbeehive.com, 435.882.1209.

July/August Nova Deadline

Submissions for the September/October issue of Nova must be received by the [editor](#) by 15 June 2006.

Check Out the Web Version

Are you reading the paper version of Nova? If you are and you have access to the internet be sure and check out Nova's on-line version with its higher quality images and features that can not be included in the paper version. Find it at [SLAS.US](#).

Events Calendar

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. County Council Chambers, [Salt Lake County Government Center](#) north building, 2001 S. State Street.
- 23 General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. 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

June 2006

- 02 Public Star Party at Harmons in Midvale, 7800 S., 700 E.
- 03 Public Star Party at [SPOC](#)
- 10 Public Sun Party at Winchester Park, 1200 W. 6400 S., 10:00 a.m. - noon
- 17 Public Star Party at [SPOC](#)
- 21-24 [Bryce Canyon Astronomy Festival](#) at Bryce Canyon, Utah
- 27 Board Meeting 6:35 p.m. County Council Chambers, [Salt Lake County Government Center](#) north building, 2001 S. State Street.
- 27 General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. County Council Chambers, Salt Lake County Government Center north building, 2001 S. State Street.
- 30 Public Star Party at Harmons in Kearns, 4874 W. 6200 S.

July 2006

- 01 Public Star Party at [SPOC](#)
- 08 Public Sun Party at Winchester Park, 1200 W. 6400 S., 10:00 a.m. - noon
- 15 Public Star Party at [SPOC](#)
- 25 Board Meeting 6:35 p.m. County Council Chambers, [Salt Lake County Government Center](#) north building, 2001 S. State Street.
- 25 General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. County Council Chambers, Salt Lake County Government Center north building, 2001 S. State Street.

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