

NOVA



Official Newsletter of the [Salt Lake Astronomical Society](#)
Volume 36 Number 4 July - August 2006

Special Rainbow Welcomes OAS



A quadruple rainbow welcomed members of the Ogden Astronomical Society for a first ever OAS Night at SPOC, held on 19 May

SPOC Hosts Special Guest



Optician John Gregory examines the Grim Scope at SPOC on 15 June

Optician John Gregory Visits SPOC

Famed optician John Gregory (inventor of the Gregory-Maksutov optical design) was in Salt Lake recently on business and contacted the club about visiting SPOC.

The short notice meant only a few SLAS members could be contacted and even fewer could attend but those that did reported Mr. Gregory was a fascinating guest and that they'd all had a great time.

Pictures of the visit are temporarily at the following URL but have been submitted to the SLAS web site for possible permanent inclusion there.

<http://utahastro.info/temp/JOHNGREGORYATSPOC.HTML>

Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

Timothy Holt, Tom Howells, Layne Pantone and Shane Scott

Help Wanted for Snowbird Star Party

The Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired has asked SLAS to provide a star party at Snowbird the evening of 17 July. SLAS members will be fed and SLAS will receive a \$500 donation. [Additional details](#) are on the SLAS web site. Contact Karla Van Hemert at icstars@xmission.com.

SLAS Has a New Home

SLAS president Lowell Lyon reports "It is confirmed now that SLAS will hold its general meetings on the campus of the University of Utah in the Engineering/Mines Classroom Building (EMCB), Room 105 beginning with the October general meeting and continuing on into 2007 as long as needed."

Lowell added that SLAS will continue to meet in the Salt Lake County Government Center through the September meeting.

For additional information see the 27 June Board of Directors meeting minutes below.

New Meeting Night for SLAS?

Now that SLAS will have a new home there have been informal discussions about possibly moving the monthly meeting nights back to a bit earlier in the month. For many years SLAS met on the 3rd Thursday of each month and that was one of the dates suggested for future meetings.

Part of the reasoning behind such a move would be to go back to allowing at least a week from the meeting night until when the few paper copies of the newsletter that are still being mailed out are mailed. With the current schedule that window narrows to as little as a few hours.

If you have feelings about moving the meeting date please contact president [Lyon](#).

Free Scopes

SLAS has several scopes available for free, long term loan to SLAS members. Details at http://slas.us/membership_benefits.htm.

2006 SLAS New Member Handbook Posted

Thanks to some first rate work by SLAS Board Member-At-Large Karla van Hemert the 2006 version of the SLAS New Member Handbook is finished. It's temporarily located at the following URL until it can get posted to the SLAS web site.

Kudos to Karla for a job well done.

<http://utahastro.info/slas/NEWMEM2006.PDF>

Come to the 2006 Salt Lake Astronomical Society SLAstrofest

What is it? An event designed to help us enjoy our hobby even more! There will be daytime lectures/presentations followed by evening star gazing where you can practice what you've learned during the day.

When is it? Friday, July 28th and Saturday, July 29th, 2006. Stargazing will take place both nights weather permitting. Speakers will be on Saturday regardless of the weather. The Star-B-Que group dinner/activity will be held Saturday evening.

Where is it? Wolf Creek observing area off Utah highway 35 east of Woodland in the Uinta Mountains. 10,000 foot elevation; DARK SKY!! At the summit of highway 35, exit at the Wolf Creek Campground. Follow the dirt road to your right 2.5 miles to the camping/observing area. The road is suitable for 2-wheel drive passenger vehicles. Directional signs will be posted. For maps go to <http://homepage.mac.com/dlbennett/PhotoAlbum4.html> and click on WC Fields1.jpg and WC Fields2.jpg.

Who is speaking? John Zeigler (All about Telescopes), Bill Cowles (Solar Observing), Mike Mike Murray (Observing the Messier Objects), Don Colton (How to Collimate a Newtonian), David Bennett (Observing Galaxies and Galaxy Clusters) and Joan Carman (Magnitudes and Double Stars) and maybe others.

Any special events? Show & Tell (just like you remember.) Anyone attending can bring an astronomy related item – good or bad – and show and tell about it. Also, the unofficial card game of amateur astronomers, "Spaced Out" will be available to experience throughout SLAstrofest.

Any amenities? The camping/observing area will have portable outhouses provided by the club for the convenience of families.

What should I bring? Please bring your own camping equipment and water. If you have a free standing canopy, please bring that as well.

What is the schedule?

Friday, July 28th

Arrive at the camping/observing area at your convenience Friday afternoon. You are responsible for your own meals on Friday. Stargazing will begin at dusk.

Saturday, July 29th

Sleep in from the night before!!

9:00 AM - Noon -- Lectures/presentations

Noon - 1:30 PM -- Bring and prepare your own lunch

1:30 PM - 5:25 PM -- Lectures/presentations

6:30 PM - Dusk -- Star-B-Que group dinner/activity

Dusk until ?? -- Stargazing

If you are interested in participating, please contact Joan Carman at 801.943.4192 or Lowell Lyon at 801.942.8735. For food assignments please contact Josephine Grahn at 801.277.1479.

SLAS Seeks Laptop

SLAS's current lap top (used primarily for presentations at meetings) is showing it's age and needs to be replaced with one that can play CDs and DVDs and has a USB port. SLAS president Lowell Lyon wonders if anyone has one they'd like to donate.

If you have a laptop you'd like to donate, please contact Lowell at bolide@sisna.com.

SPOC Update

Work continues on the Refractor House. A bulletin board is now in place, baseboard has been installed and arachnophobes will be delighted to learn access to the "Photon Shield" has been improved. See images 34 through 37 at <http://www.trilobyte.net/paw/slas/REFRACTORHOUSE04.HTML> .

Much has also been done to the RH's exterior. The hedge has been planted and "weed proofed" and the sign (classy looking and made of cast bronze) bearing the official name of the observatory has been installed. See images 3 through 13 at <http://www.trilobyte.net/paw/slas/REFRACTORHOUSE05.HTML> .

Siegfried Jachmann and Ken Harris are working on a permanent plaque honoring late SLAS member Andy Bogdan, for whom the 200 mm Brandt/Clark refractor has been named. The plaque will be attached to the refractor's pier.

An official grand opening of the Refractor House and dedication of the "Andy" refractor is being planned for once Andy's plaque is in place.

SPOC Ealing and Grim Scope Training Report

By [Mark Bloomenthal](#)

THE GRIM SCOPE

Grim Scope training got underway fairly late last season after training the Grim Scope instructors. Since that time the following club members have graduated the Grim Scope class and are now certified Grim telescope operators:

Roger Butz, Wayne Clarke, Richard Curtis, James Dye, Quintin Foster, Erik Hansen, Ann House, Bill Kennedy, Ed Kort, Mark Waegner and Mike Wilson.

Congratulations to all.

We have additional students close to passing their Grim Scope exams and other students currently enrolled in Grim Scope classes.

Grim Scope training has proved to be fairly time intensive (both for students and instructors). We currently have no plans to offer additional Grim Scope classes this year after training for the students currently enrolled is complete. However, that may change further into the season – stay tuned.

EALING LEVEL 2

Congratulations to Bob Byard, Fletcher Gross, Chuck Hards and Sean O'Leary who recently passed the Ealing Level 2 class and are now certified Ealing telescope operators.

NOTE

Enrollment in an Ealing Level 2 class requires that you have taken and passed both the Ealing Level 1 class and the 200mm Bogdan Refractor Level 1 and Level 2 classes.

Enrollment in a Grim Scope class requires that you have taken and passed the Ealing Level 2 class.

THANKS

I'd like to thank all the SPOC instructors for donating their time (and lots of it) and doing such a superb job:

Chris Clark, Bruce Grim, Guy Malmborg, Rob Oliver, Dale Wilson, Patrick Wiggins

I'd like to thank all of the Grim Scope graduates for their willingness to assist in the training of new Grim Scope students.

SPOC [Bogdan Refractor](#) Training Report

Data provided by [Bruce Grim](#)

The following SLAS members have recently completed training on the club's Bogdan Refractor:

Mark Bloomenthal, Roger Butz, Robert Byard, Wayne Clarke, Richard Curtis, Mike Davis, James Dye, Kurt Fisher, Quintin Foster, Fletcher Gross, Chuck Hards, Ken Harris, John Houser, Dave Hubert, Siegfried Jachmann, Bill Kennedy, Boyd McNeal, Sean O'Leary, Steve Peterson, Nancy Stephanz, Martin Van Hemert and Dale Wilson.

SPOC Classes

Training continues on the [Ealing Reflector](#) at the club's observatory complex ([SPOC](#)). To enroll in a Level 1 (beginning) class contact [Patrick Wiggins](#). To enroll in a level 2 (advanced) class contact [Mark Bloomenthal](#).

Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Board Meeting for 23 May 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the Salt Lake County Council Chambers at 6:39 pm.

Tom Sevcik continues work on the SLAS brochure. Tom added that he is having continued computer problems but when they are fixed he will send the minutes of the January, February and March meetings to the new newsletter editor for publication.

Astronomy Day certificates of appreciation will be presented at next month's General Meeting

Bill Kennedy reported that [The Leonardo](#) is excited about the possibility of working with SLAS.

A new position called the New Member Development Coordinator was created and Bob Moore was appointed to the position. The position entails recruiting and working with new SLAS members.

Karla Van Hemert displayed the newly finished New Member Booklets. New members will be given a choice of receiving a paper copy of the booklet or reading it on the SLAS web site.

Lowell said he will be meeting with rangers from Bryce Canyon on 24 June about the possibility of holding a regional Astronomical League convention at Bryce. He added that all SLAS members were welcome to attend the meeting.

Lowell reported that former SLAS member Robert Harbrecht is selling a number of telescopes, including three white light solar scopes, for only \$50 each. Patrick Wiggins will investigate the club acquiring one of the solar scopes for the loaner scope program.

The club needs a copy of the latest version of MS Office. The board will check into prices.

SLAS can only meet in the current venue until September. An anonymous donor has offered to pay for a meeting site for the October and November meetings. The December Solstice festival will be held in the Lutheran church SLAS used to meet in. But after that a new meeting venue will need to be found. Possible meeting sites should be reported to Lowell.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

General Meeting for 23 May 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the Salt Lake County Council Chambers at 7:32 pm.

Mike Murray outlined the many observing programs the Astronomical League has to offer its members.

Dave Bernson discussed many deep sky objects currently disappearing in our western evening skies and suggested everyone have a look before they slip into the Sun's glare. Don Colton used astronomical software and a digital projector to display images illustrating Dave's talk.

Lowell announced that SLASTROFEST 2006 and the annual Star-B-Que will be held on 28 & 29 July at Wolf Creek. While the event's lectures and demonstrations are geared toward new members, all SLAS members are encourage to attend. Joan Carman showed pictures taken at SLASTROFEST 2004.

Lowell said that Karla Van Hemert had completed the revised version of the club's New Members Booklet and that new members will be given the choice of receiving a paper copy of the booklet or reading the information on the SLAS web site. Sample copies of the booklet were passed around.

Lowell went over the schedule of upcoming star parties and noted that training on the club's Ealing reflector at SPOC is still available.

Patrick Wiggins announced that an observatory clean up had been scheduled for the following evening.

Rob Oliver will remain in charge of the club's loaner scope program but Patrick Wiggins offered to store some of the scopes when they are not on loan.

Lowell reported that he will be meeting with rangers from Bryce Canyon on 24 June about the possibility of holding an Astronomical League regional convention in the park.

The budget report was posted. It showed:

General Fund	\$ 8,693.24
SPOC	4,346.51
Entertainment	399.12
Publicity	124.00
Astronomical League	694.75
Insurance	159.50
Postage and Printing	283.19
Total	\$14,704.81

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Board Meeting for 27 June 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the Salt Lake County Government Center room 2003 at 6:35 pm.

Bob Moore officially accepted the newly created position of New Member Development Director. Bob will be in charge of getting the word out about SLAS and recruiting new members. Bob said he'd like to hear from members with ideas about how he might accomplish his job. He can be contacted at bmoore@commercecrg.com.

Karla Van Hemert reported that SLAS has been asked to provide a star party at Snowbird the evening of Monday, 17 July. Some scopes will be set up at the lodge and some will be at the top of the tram. Dinner will be provided before the event, snacks and drinks during the event and SLAS will receive a \$500 donation. The donation will be made even if the weather cancels the event. [Additional details](#) are on the SLAS web site. Those wish to help should contact Karla at icstars@xmission.com.

Lowell announced that, at the invitation of the [University of Utah Physics Department](#), he, Erik Hansen and Joan Carman, escorted by the U of U's Paolo Gondolo recently toured a number of sites on the U of U campus. He said they eventually chose room 105 of the Engineering/Mines Classroom Building as the future permanent location for SLAS meetings beginning with the October general meeting.

The location has easy access, lots of free evening parking, seats 200 and has all the latest in A/V equipment. And, better still, the room is available to SLAS for as long as needed at no charge.

Patrick Wiggins noted that the loaner scopes are not being checked out. Discussion of what to do about the problem was put off until later. Bob Moore said he'd try to come up with some ideas.

Erik Hansen said he'd check with new members as they join to see if they'd prefer to download the SLAS New Members Handbook from the web or receive a printed copy.

There was much discussion about lifetime non-voting, honorary memberships that were promised to 3 of SPOC's largest benefactors some years ago. The one concern expressed came from Siegfried Jachmann who said the club's constitution did not permit such memberships.

When asked by Siegfried, Patrick Wiggins (who donated most of the money to build SPOC's new Refractor House and donated the telescope it houses) said he had never sought and would not accept a lifetime membership in return for his donations.

No decision was reached so the subject was tabled. Regardless of how the promised memberships are eventually handled, all agreed the 3 promised memberships need to be honored.

Siegfried said he had picked up a solar scope for SLAS's Loaner Solar Scope program.

Dale Wilson suggested the club should come up with a way of making the SPOC telescope operators easily identifiable to the public on public nights. Ideas like lanyards, flashing buttons and distinctive clothing were discussed. Dale is going to come up with a proposal for the board and said he would welcome input from the membership. Dale can be contacted at 435.882.4936.

There was a big laugh when Karla played her cell phone's ring tone which was the voice of Star Trek's Mr. Warf growling, "Captain, Incoming Message".

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

General Meeting for 27 June 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the Salt Lake County Council Chambers at 7:33 pm. There were 58 people in attendance.

Lowell passed around sign up sheets for the upcoming SLASfest and Capitol Reef star party.

SUU's Brent Sorensen presented a talk on astronomical spectroscopy with prisms and defraction gratings. At the end of his talk Brent donated a book about noted space artist Chesley Bonestell and a 6" mirror blank to SLAS.

Lowell outlined plans for this year's SLASfest and Capitol Reef star party.

Lowell then talked about the upcoming special star party at Snowbird, the status of the SLAS New Member Handbook, Bob Moore's acceptance of his new position, Dale Wilson's ideas about distinctive attire for telescope operators at SPOC and SLAS's new home. For details on these items see the board meeting minutes above.

The budget report was posted. It showed:

General Fund	\$ 8,671.90
SPOC	3,762.64
Entertainment	419.12
Publicity	144.00
Astronomical League	744.70
Insurance	199.50
Postage and Printing	250.19
H-Alpha	14.50
Total	\$14,206.55

Next month's speaker will be Joan Carman who will speak about sky mythology. August's speaker will be Nall Morris who will speak about archaeoastronomy.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

For Sale: Dobsonian Solar Telescopes

Each feature a one-way glass filter and diagonal combo, a 2.5 inch unsilvered mirror (30 inch focal length), a Welder's lens #15, and a 15mm Kellner eyepiece. The trunnions are spring loaded so they preload the teflon bearings. Also included is a Sun Finder ... a pinhole you line up with a spot on the target card. These telescopes give a good view of sun spots. Price \$50 apiece or \$90 for two of them. Robert Harbrecht, 943-5459.

September/October Nova Deadline

Submissions for the next issue of Nova must be received by the [editor](#) by 15 August 2006.

Astronomical League Changes Dues Structure

By Robert L. Gent, President, Astronomical League

Your membership is critically important, and we greatly appreciate your membership in the League. Dues statements have been mailed to all member societies, and you will notice a big change. For the first time since the League was incorporated about 60 years ago, we do not require 100 percent of all members of an individual society to belong to the League. As long as 95 percent remain in the League the dues are the same, \$5 per person [per year]. But if the percentage drops below 95 percent, the dues are \$7.50 [per person per year].

SLAS Board of Directors

President	Lowell Lyon	801.942.8735	bolide@sisna.com
Meetings			
Vice President	Tom Sevcik	801.262.6557	sfvltts@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			

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	sfvltts@hotmail.com
New Member Development Coordinator	Bob Moore	801.580.0466	bmoore@commercecrg.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	dcoltonsprint@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 15th of February, April, June, August, October and December. The current NOVA editor is Patrick Wiggins, paw@wirelessbeehive.com, 435.882.1209.

How To Learn More About the Astronomical League

Amateur astronomers from across the country benefit from perusing the many pages of the Astronomical League's web site, <http://www.astroleague.org>. Naturally, this is the place to go if you're looking for information about upcoming events and League news. But there is so much more...

Want to learn all about one of the great League observing programs?
<http://www.astroleague.org/observing.html>

Do you know of a worthy candidate for one of the many League awards?
<http://www.astroleague.org/al/awards/awards.html>

Are you interested in buying a particular book about our fascinating hobby?
<http://www.astroleague.org/al/bookserv/bookserv.html>

There is even something to help your club function better.
<http://www.astroleague.org/al/socaid/socaidid.html>

Make the most of your Astronomical League membership! To find out more about what the Astronomical League offers you, why not log on to <http://www.astroleague.org> today?

Events Calendar

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
17 Special Star Party at Snowbird (details in article above)
25 Board Meeting 6:35 p.m. Salt Lake County Council Chambers, 2001 S. State Street.
25 General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Salt Lake County Council Chambers, 2001 S. State Street.
28 & 29 SLASTROFEST and Star-B-Que at Wolf Creek.

August 2006

04 Public Star Party at Harmons in Midvale, 7800 S. 700 E.
05 Public Star Party at SPOC
12 Public Sun Party at Winchester Park, 1200 W. 6400 S. 10:00 a.m. - noon
19 Public Star Party at SPOC
22 Board Meeting 6:35 p.m. Salt Lake County Council Chambers, 2001 S. State Street.
22 General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Salt Lake County Council Chambers, 2001 S. State Street.

September 2006

01 Public Star Party at Harmons Brickyard, 3200 S. 1300 E.
02 Public Star Party at SPOC
09 Public Sun Party at Winchester Park, 1200 W. 6400 S. 10:00 a.m. - noon
16 Public Star Party at SPOC
26 Board Meeting 6:35 p.m. Salt Lake County Council Chambers, 2001 S. State Street.
26 General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Salt Lake County Council Chambers, 2001 S. State Street.
29 Public Star Party at Harmons in Midvale, 7800 S. 700 E.
30 Public Star Party at SPOC

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