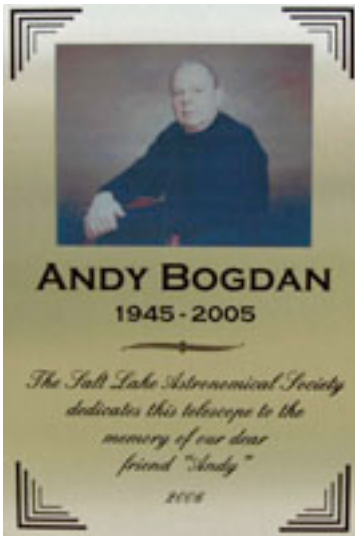


NOVA



Official Newsletter of the [Salt Lake Astronomical Society](#)
Volume 36 Number 5 September - October 2006



Plaque on the Newly Named Bogdan Refractor

Refractor House Opened, Refractor Named

The evening of Saturday, the 5th of August, a "mere" 29 years, 4 months and 17 days after the first observatory building at SPOC was dedicated, the third and most likely final SPOC observatory building was dedicated, named and officially opened. Moments later the new observatory's telescope was renamed in honor of late SLAS member Andy Bogdan.

First up was the "unsealing" of the observatory's door. In keeping with a theme of "Andy the Builder" the door had been taped shut with duct tape (what else?) and was unsealed by Patrick Wiggins using a construction worker's utility knife. Patrick, as primary donor for the building was given the honor of naming the building and so concluded his part of the ceremony by opening the door and naming the facility the Donna Pease Wiggins Refractor House in honor of his late mother.

Everyone moved inside (just as rain began to fall) and Andy's long time friend Ken Harris took over as MC and explained to much laughter that the drape over Andy's memorial plaque (a roulette wheel table cover) was inspired by Andy's love of gambling. Then, amidst a loud round of applause and with Andy's widow Cathy looking on, Ken removed the drape and revealed Andy's plaque. The plaque features a picture of Andy and text reading "Andy Bogdan 1945 - 2005 The Salt Lake Astronomical Society dedicates this telescope to the memory of our dear friend 'Andy' 2006".

See pictures of both ceremonies by going to <http://www.trilobyte.net/paw/slas/PW.HTML> and clicking on "Building Dedication & Official Opening" and "Refractor Dedicated and Renamed the Andrew "Andy" Bogdan Refractor".

Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

Ann & Craig Blanchard
Mark Hanning-Lee
Rick & Linda Kirkland
John Lundwall
Glen Stevens
Gary Thompson
Jason Watson

Thank You SPSA & BSA

In mid-August the Stansbury Park Service Agency provided and the Boy Scouts planted several trees along the south perimeter of the SPOC grounds. All at no cost to SLAS. It is hoped the new foliage will block any light pollution that might come from homes located to the south. See images 90 & 91 at <http://www.trilobyte.net/paw/slas/SPOC2BUILD08B.HTML>.

Thank You Kim Hyatt & Henriksen Butler Company

Thanks to a tip from Kim Hyatt SLAS recently received all the carpet needed to carpet the Refractor House. The donation, valued at \$504.00, came from the Hendriksen Butler Company in Salt Lake City. Thanks, guys!

See images 41-45 at <http://www.trilobyte.net/paw/slas/REFRACTORHOUSE04.HTML>.

SPOC Update

By Bruce Grim, SPOC director

1. The 32" optics have been cleaned as well as the mount.
2. Patrick Wiggins and I reorganized the storage room in the Refractor House.
3. After 2 of our padlocks on the gate were broken by vandals Jeff Terry agreed to leave the gates unlocked for the time being to see how it works out. The skateboarders like to pull their vehicles up to the skateboard pit so they can hear their stereos and so far have not ventured down on the SPOC site. If this works out it will be to our advantage not to have to deal with a lock on the gate.
4. Thanks to all of those who have been supporting the SPOC star parties - the last one on Stansbury Days went very well and the fireworks display, provided by the Stansbury Park Community Association, was very good.

Report From SLASStrofest

by Richard Tenney

It was a fun weekend (especially sleeping in the "new" camper I recently got deeper into debt for) in spite of the hit-and-miss weather up at Wolf Creek the nights of the 28th and 29th of July 2006.

The company was great, the scopes were big and varied, including Utah's biggest, Steve Dodd's 33-inch marvel and Ron Vanderhule's 25-inch. Most of the observing happened after midnight, and we even got a break in the clouds Saturday between 12:30 and 2:00 a.m. Binoviewers abounded, and some of the views were spectacular.

I've posted a few pics of Wolf Creek for those who haven't been up there to get an idea of how pretty the location is: <http://jove.prohosting.com/uvaa/rich/wolf.htm>

Many thanks to Lowell Lyon, Joan Carman, Josephine Grahn and others for planning a fun and worthwhile SLAS event!

Reminder: SLAS Has a New Home

A reminder that SLAS's September Board and General meetings are to be the last in the Salt Lake County Government Center.

Beginning in October SLAS will hold its meetings on the campus of the University of Utah in the room 105 of the Engineering/Mines Classroom Building (EMCB). The new venue has been made available courtesy of the generosity of the U of U Physics Department.

For a map to the new location go to the following URL and search on "EMCB" (without the quotation marks).

<http://www.map.utah.edu>

Candidate Statements

Per SLAS's constitution, candidates for next year's SLAS board of directors were offered space in this issue of the newsletter to state their case.

Bob Moore, Candidate for President

Yes, I am fairly new to SLAS so you would ask why I am running for any office and especially President. While I am new to SLAS I have had a love for astronomy since the first moon landing. I got serious about astronomy as a hobby a few years ago which is when I joined SLAS. I am retired from my business career and so I have time to put into a job like this. I am excited about the opportunity to give something back to astronomy by serving as your president. I have had extensive experience in the commercial real estate world with business operations and serving on boards and as chairman. I will commit to the time to make sure SLAS is well run and is fun to the best of my ability if elected.

Bill Kennedy, Candidate for Board Member at Large

I am seeking a second term as Board Member At-Large. For the past year, I've been privileged to serve the club in a public outreach capacity. As I said in my campaign statement last Fall, this has been "an opportunity for me to 'give back' to the club, to help foster the very aspect of this experience that has helped me so much: to reach out to others and help them along their path to learning astronomy and enjoying the hobby". I wish to continue, and improve upon, the projects I've been working on, as well as implement any new public outreach opportunities that may come up. I've tried to make a positive difference, and will continue to do so. If re-elected, I will do my best at whatever I'm asked to do for the betterment of the club and the benefits it brings to the community.

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 in some cases.

If you have feelings about moving the meeting date please contact Lowell Lyon.

Free Telescopes For SLAS Members

SLAS has several scopes available for free, long term loan to current SLAS members who have belonged to SLAS for at least 30 days. Details at http://www.slas.us/membership_benefits.htm.

SPOC Classes

Observatory Training Director Mark Bloomenthal reports that with the SPOC season so near it's end there will be no further level 1 training offered this year. Look for training to resume next March.

A Bit 'O SLAS History

An Excel spreadsheet showing the names of just about everyone who has served on the SLAS board and/or as SLAS newsletter editor since the club's founding in 1971 is now available at <http://utahastro.info/temp/SLASBOD.XLS>. Details from early years are probably not complete. If anyone has SLAS meeting minutes or newsletters from the early 1970's please email paw@wirelessbeehive.com. The spreadsheet is not an official SLAS publication but is based on data gleaned from official SLAS records.

Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Board Meeting for 25 July 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the Salt Lake County Council Chambers at 6:38 p.m.

Tom Sevcik reported that the SLAS brochure is "All but ready." and that he'd have finished brochures at the August meeting. The brochures will be used to market SLAS. He noted that he's still working on the minutes of the January and February meetings and would endeavor to get them to the newsletter editor soon.

Lowell gave New Member Development Coordinator Bob Moore copies of over 60 SLAS questionnaires he'd received in the Fall of 2005 after mailing the questionnaires to all current SLAS members. Bob wanted to look them over to get an idea of what SLAS members are interested in and why they were members of SLAS. He also wanted to see the questionnaires for possible future mailing of similar questionnaires.

Lowell read an email in which SLAS member Michael Morrison offered to donate a double stack filter for the club's Personal Solar Telescope (PST). The board voted to accept the filter. As it turned out Ron Ford had brought the filter to the meeting so SLAS was able to take immediate possession.

Lowell announced that Karla Van Hemert had tendered her resignation from the board citing work and family constraints. Lowell asked if anyone was interested in filling the position which consists mainly of scheduling and coordinating special star parties. Patrick Wiggins expressed interest provided no one else volunteered and the board would establish an official star party price list.

Following prolonged discussion the following was set, subject to revision by the current and future boards:

Public star parties and those arranged privately by SLAS members will remain free (donations to SLAS will continue to be accepted).

Star parties at public schools: Free with a minimum suggested donation of \$100.

SPOC star parties: \$100 for the first of the 3 permanently installed scopes (Ealing, Grim, Bogdan). \$50 for each additional. Any needed portable scopes will be \$25 each. Funds collected for SPOC star parties will go to SPOC maintenance.

Star parties at sponsor's location: \$25 per telescope.

All money for special star parties will be paid to the Salt Lake Astronomical Society.

Considering the ever increasing cost of transportation, the board also agreed to offer a \$5 fuel reimbursement to every SLAS member who signs up ahead of time for a paid special star party with SLAS's Special Star Party Coordinator. This \$5 fuel reimbursement applies to star parties in the greater Salt Lake City area and SPOC. The fuel reimbursement and associated cost to the sponsor could increase for more distant locations.

The board voted to appoint Patrick to the vacant board position provided, as Patrick requested, no one volunteered at the evening's general meeting.

Patrick Wiggins said he had recently received and forwarded to Lowell a legal opinion from a local attorney about the honorary SLAS lifetime memberships which have been granted a few

people over the years. It stated that since the memberships were honorary and non-voting they did not violate the SLAS constitution.

The board then voted to recognize the non-voting "memberships" with the proviso they be called honorary lifetime memberships. The vote also enabled those granted honorary lifetime memberships to log on to the SLAS-Only parts of the SLAS web site and participate in all SLAS functions and programs provided they pay the same fees and prices (like SPOC fees and Sky & Telescope magazine) any actual SLAS member would pay but not the yearly dues.

Lowell noted that an organizer for this December's SLAS party is needed. Several people suggested Ann House.

Lowell reported that Rob Oliver had asked to be relieved of his position as Loaner Telescope Curator and that Roger Butz had volunteered. The board voted to make Roger the new Loaner Telescope Curator.

Lowell expressed his pleasure that so much was accomplished in the Board meeting.

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

General Meeting for 25 July 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the Salt Lake County Council Chambers at 7:32 pm. There were 61 people in attendance.

After asking anyone there for the first time to be recognized (several did) and introducing the SLAS board Lowell asked Ken Harris to speak about an upcoming special event at SPOC.

Ken reported that the long awaited official opening of the society's new Refractor House at SPOC would occur the evening of Saturday, 5 August at about 7:45 p.m. That would be followed a few minutes later by the dedication and official naming of the Refractor House's telescope. The scope was to be named in honor of late SLAS member Andrew "Andy" Bogdan.

Ken finished by saying both events would be held regardless of the weather.

Lowell noted that Karla van Hemert had resigned from the board and that a replacement was being sought.

Long time SLAS member Joan Carman presented an informative program on constellation mythology and star lore.

After a brief break Lowell announced Roger Butz was the new Loaner Telescope Curator and then displayed a chart showing the featured speakers at the next several SLAS general meetings.

The budget report was posted. It showed:

General Fund	\$ 8,393.90
Postage and Printing	335.69
Entertainment	457.12
Publicity	182.00
Astronomical League	25.00
SPOC	2,995.75
H-Alpha	14.50
Insurance	275.00
Total	\$12,678.96

Lowell showed a video of the Wolf Creek observing area (site of this year's SLASTROFEST) and highlights of last year's private star party at Capitol Reef National Park. He noted this year's SLASTROFEST would be happening over the upcoming weekend and this year's private star party at Capital Reef would be held on 25-27 August.

Lowell asked if anyone was interested in serving as chair of the committee to organize this year's solstice party. Ann House volunteered after no one else offered (and, humorously, after just about every member of the audience pointed at her).

Ann said she'd be needing lots of help and many members expressed interest in helping. Those wishing to help out should contact Ann at 801.671.8447 / ann@annhouse.org.

The party will be held the evening of Saturday 9 December in the basement of the Zion Lutheran Church on Foothill Drive in SLC (SLAS former meeting place).

Lowell said that Rodger Fry had volunteered and would fill the unexpired portion of Karla van Hemert's position on the SLAS board.

Several members reported that the recent SLAS star party at Snowbird was well received and very successful.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Board Meeting for 22 August 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the Salt Lake County Council Chambers at 6:37 p.m.

Lowell reported SLAS VP Tom Sevcik continues work on a SLAS marketing brochure.

Webmaster Ken Warner said he will be moving the SLAS web site to another server but does not expect the move will effect service.

Loaner Scope Custodian Roger Butz went over the loaner scope contract and said he felt no changes need to be made at this time. The Board agreed with Roger and said that if a special exception to the loaner agreement is needed, the club president needs to be contacted first. If the club president is unavailable or unreachable, then two other board members may be approached for approval.

Roger added that he might consider selling off some of the scopes if they are not loaned out but would hold off on any decision until next spring.

Bob Moore is going to come up with a questionnaire to add to the SLAS New Member Booklet.

The board authorized Lowell to have a large reusable banner made reading "Astronomy Star Party - Free to the Public".

Roger Butz said he had spoken to a printer who was willing to print next year's star party brochures for free (estimated savings of \$300 to \$400) provided the schedule could be set well before the end of the year.

To that end Lowell had prepared a 2007 public star party schedule using the scheduling scheme used in year's past. It was noted that this in no way effects next year's private or special star parties which can be set later.

The schedule read: April 7-Sun Party, 14-SPOC, 27-Midvale Harmons, 28-SPOC; May 5-Sun Party, 12-SPOC, 25-Taylorville Harmons, 26-SPOC; June 2-Sun Party, 9-SPOC, 22-Midvale Harmons, 23-SPOC, 30-Sun Party; July 7-SPOC, 20-Kearns Harmons, 21-SPOC, 28-Sun Party; August 4-SPOC, 17-Midvale Harmons, 18-SPOC, 25-Sun Party; September 1-SPOC, 14-Brickyard Harmons, 15-SPOC, 22-Sun Party, 29-SPOC; October 19-Midvale Harmons, 20-SPOC.

One of the members questioned if the current board has the authority to set next year's schedule. Following much discussion, some of it heated, the board voted unanimously to approve the schedule and pass it on to the membership at the evening's general meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

General Meeting for 22 August 2006

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

The club has been approached by staff from the This Is the Place monument about helping with a project to recreate the astronomical observatory built in Utah by Orson Pratt in the 19th century.

Lowell noted that the the talk at October's meeting would be presented by Weber State University's Dr. Dale Ostlie and entitled "The Ins and Outs of Pulsating Stars".

The evening's speaker was UVSC's Nal Morris who discussed archaeoastronomy at Utah's Parowan Gap.

Following a brief break a short video by Bob Moore was shown covering the recent SLASrofest and Star-B-Que.

Nominations for next year's SLAS board of directors were taken. Only one person for each position was nominated however Lowell noted that write in candidates could still be written in on the general election ballot. Those who filed were: President, Bob Moore; Vice President, Ann House; Secreatry/Treasurer, Erik Hansen; Board Member at Large #1, Bill Kennedy; Board Member at Large #2, Rodger Fry.

The budget report was posted. It showed:

General Fund	\$ 8,766.88
SPOC	2,995.75
Entertainment	495.12
Publicity	220.00
Astronomical League	120.00
Insurance	348.50
Postage and Printing	421.19
H-Alpha	14.50
Total	\$13,381.94

SLAS VP Tom Sevcik passed out brochures for the upcoming star party at Capitol Reef.

Lowell said the Clark Planetarium is looking for 1 or 2 SLAS members to serve on its advisory board. Interested members should contact Lowell.

Scott Crosby will be hosting a "Rap Session" on telescope making at his home on 12 September at 7:00. RSVP to Scott if you'd like to attend.

Lowell explained the situation with the 2007 star party schedule and asked for a vote of the membership. There were no dissenting votes.

Patrick Wiggins auctioned off the finder for the original SPOC telescope. Bidding was between three members and the price eventually reached \$110 which will go to the SPOC fund.

Roger Butz reminded everyone about the club's loaner telescope program.

Tom Sevcik handed out several Honorable Mention certificates from Sky & Telescope magazine for the club's 2006 Astronomy Day activities. Individual certificates were awarded to Lowell Lyon, Ann House and Laura Carnes. A certificate was also awarded for all SLAS members in general. Additional certificates were awarded to the University of Utah, Harmons, Zion's Bookstore and the Clark planetarium.

Tom said Great Basin National Park would like to hold star parties on Friday and Sunday nights of the upcoming Labor Day weekend. Those interested in participating should contact Tom.

Tom finished by saying that Sky Publishing would like to know how many SLAS members read Night Sky magazine. Those SLAS members who read nIght Sky should contact Tom.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

2006 SLAS New Member Handbook On Line

The 2006 edition of SLAS's New Member Handbook is available for download from <http://slas.us/docs/NEWMEM2006.pdf>. The Handbook is edited by Karla Van Hemert.

2007 SLAS Public Star Party Schedule On Line

The 2007 SLAS public star party schedule is available for download from <http://utahastro.info/LOCAL2007.HTML>.

November/December Nova Deadline

Submissions for the next issue of Nova must be received by the editor by 15 October 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	sfv1ts@hotmail.com
Publicity & Public Relations			
Secretary-Treasurer	Erik Hansen	801.253.2201	erikhansen@thebluezone.net
Membership Dues & Renewals			
Board Member at Large	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
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	erikhansen@thebluezone.net
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	Roger Butz	435.830.4684	dutchbutz@yahoo.com
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Ann House	801.671.8447	ann@annhouse.org
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Tom Sevcik	801.262.6557	sfv1ts@hotmail.com
New Member Development Coordinator	Bob Moore	801.580.0466	bmoore@commercecrg.com
Nova Newsletter Editor	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	paw@beehivewireless.com
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

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](#)

October 2006

- 07 Public Sun Party at Winchester Park, 1200 W. 6400 S. 10:00 a.m. - noon
- 14 Public Star Party at [SPOC](#)
- 28 Public Star Party at [SPOC](#)
- 24 Board Meeting 6:35 p.m. U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building (EMCB), Room 105
- 24 General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building (EMCB), Room 105

November 2006

- 08 Public Mercury Transit Watch, noon to 4:00 p.m. at Harmons in Midvale, 7800 S. 700 E.
- 28 Board Meeting 6:35 p.m. U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building (EMCB), Room 105
- 28 General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building (EMCB), Room 105

December 2006

- 09 Solstice Party at Zion Lutheran Church, 1070 S. Foothill Drive, SLC - Time TBD
- 12 Transitional Board Meeting - Venue & Time TBD

Salt Lake Astronomical Society

P.O. Box 26114

Salt Lake City, Utah 84126-0114

<http://www.slas.us>