

NOVA



Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society Volume 36 Number 6 November - December 2006

2007 SLAS BOD Announced

The results of this year's SLAS election are in. SLAS's 2007 Board of Directors will consist of Bob Moore, president; Ann House, vice president; Erik Hansen, secretary/treasurer; Rodger Fry and Bill Kennedy, board members at large. Congratulation to the winners!

Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

David Hays
Bruce & Leslie Hugo
Michael Kligman
Tony Sarra
Lance Thorpe

Capitol Reef by Lowell Lyon

I believe it was in the 1980's when Capitol Reef National Park completed a new group campsite. I had never been to Capitol Reef before and went down with family for a weekend camping trip. I was so impressed with the nice facility. It was like a city park with nice sod, covered pavilions with picnic tables and its own private rest room building and outdoor covered utility sink plus drinking fountain. The trees were very small at the time and weren't a problem at all to star gazing. The only significant restriction to viewing is a butte due east.

Over the next few years, I would reserve the group campsite, invite some friends down and star gaze from the parking lot of the group campsite. We would invite the park rangers and those from the campground to come over and take a look. It was very informal, yet a lot of fun.

For the next dozen years or so, SLAS would reserve the group site and offer star gazing on a sporadic basis, maybe every two to three years between star gazing weekends.

We typically come to Capitol Reef the latter part of August or first part of September each year. The group campground is part of what is called the Fruita Historic District. Included in the historic district are fruit orchards offering cherries, peaches, pears, apricots and apples. In late summer and early fall, much of the fruit is ripe and free to pick and eat.

Just the last couple of years, the Capitol Reef star party has evolved into something more. Ann House and Tom Sevcik have put on the evening campfire programs at the campground amphitheater. In addition, Tom has set up a solar scope during the middle part of the day. We now reserve a large area know as "Cal Pendleton's Field" to set up our scopes. This

field is adjacent to the group campsite and near both the amphitheater and regular campground. Pendleton's Field is more open and better suited to star gazing as the trees at the group campsite have now grown quite large and the parking lot next to the group site has poorer horizons because of the foliage.

We had a record number of scopes this year providing a great opportunity for the public to view a very dark sky. When Capitol Reef is having one of its better nights weather wise, it is as dark a sky as I have seen anywhere.

We hope that more SLAS members will plan on supporting this worthwhile event next year in late summer. The exact dates will be announced to club members probably by mid-February of 2007.

See pictures of this year's event at <http://slas.us/gallery/events/capitalreef.htm>.

SLAS Has A New Meeting Night

Per this year's SLAS election ballot measure, beginning with the January 2007 meeting, SLAS board and general meetings will be moved up one week to the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Since this change does not take effect until January SLAS's November board and general meetings will remain on the 4th Tuesday.

SLAS Contest Update (Observing Programs)

SLAS president Lowell Lyon reminds everyone that working on an Astronomical League Observing Program has been the focus this year for club members in lieu of the traditional astronomical contests of years past. Entries should be turned in to ALCOR Erik Hansen by the end of November so that award certificates may be presented at the Solstice Party on December 9th.

SPOC Update

SPOC closes this year on 1 November and, weather permitting, will reopen on 1 March next year.

Reminder: SLAS Has a New Home

A reminder that SLAS Board and General meetings are now being held 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 <http://www.map.utah.edu> and search on "EMCB".

Loaner Telescopes For SLAS Members

SLAS has an assortment of scopes available for loan to current SLAS members. Please contact Roger Butz at 801.884.3894 or 435.830.4684 for specifics. You may also look on the SLAS website under "[Membership Benefits](#)".

Loaner Telescope Upgrades

Equipment manager Roger Butz is working to upgrade many of the club's loaner scopes with better finders, focusers and the like. Those with telescope parts they'd like to donate to the upgrades are asked to contact Roger at 801.884.3894 or 435.830.4684.

SPOC Classes

Observatory Training Director Mark Bloomenthal reports that with the SPOC season over there will be no further training offered this year. Look for training to resume in March.

Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Board Meeting for 26 September 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the Salt Lake County Council Chambers at 6:40 p.m.

Following much discussion the board voted to make no changes in the telescope loaner program.

Roger Butz said that he needed to be relieved of his Loaner Scope Custodian duties. Patrick Wiggins volunteered to act as interim Loaner Telescope Curator until a permanent replacement can be appointed. Ron Ford will remain as Solar Scope Curator.

Bob Moore showed the SLAS questionnaire he and SLAS president Lowell Lyon have designed that will be added to both the SLAS New Member Handbook and the club's website (where the membership application is currently located). The new member Handbook can be found at <http://slas.us/docs/NEWMEM2006.pdf>.

Tom Sevcik reported he continued to work on the SLAS marketing brochure and showed what he has produced so far. When asked about the missing minutes for the January and February 2006 SLAS meetings he said he should have them done soon.

Lowell noted that SLAS webmaster Ken Warner has "jazzed up" the SLAS logo on the SLAS web site.

The subject of moving the SLAS meetings to a time earlier in the month was discussed. The board decided to choose next year's meeting night by putting the question on this year's ballot.

Bill Kennedy asked if the SPOC fee could be modified to accommodate those who checkout on the SPOC telescopes late in the season. The fee for the full season (typically March through October) will remain at \$25. However those who qualify during August, September or October will only need to pay \$10 that year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

General Meeting for 26 September 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the Salt Lake County Council Chambers at 7:30 pm noting that it would be the last SLAS meeting to be held there and that future meetings will be held on the U of U campus in room 105 of the Engineering/Mines building.

Lowell opened the meeting by asking anyone who was attending a SLAS meeting for the first time to stand and be recognized.

College of Eastern Utah professor Richard Irwin (<http://erwinonline.net>) presented a very well received talk on imaging the night sky using film and CCD cameras. He offered his PowerPoint presentation for posting on the SLAS web site. Unfortunately professor Irwin ran out of time before he could finish his talk so Lowell asked if he might want to finish at a future SLAS meeting and maybe even hold an imaging seminar. He agreed to both.

Bob Moore reported on his talks with This Is The Place Heritage Park management. They are very interested in adding a Pioneer Science exhibit to the park which would include a replica of the transit observatory that used to be located on Temple Square and would like SLAS's advice.

Lowell thanked everyone who supported the Capitol Reef Star Party and said the event was a great success.

Don Colton announced that Bryce Canyon National Park's 7th annual Astronomy Festival will be held 13 to 16 June next year.

The budget report was posted. It showed: General Fund \$9,101.73; Postage and Printing \$506.69; Entertainment \$533.12; Publicity \$258.00; Astronomical League \$215.00; SPOC \$2,962.70; H-Alpha \$14.50; Insurance \$424.50; Total \$14,016.24.

Lowell reminded everyone that this year's SLAS election will be held during next month's SLAS general meeting. Rob Oliver volunteered to serve on the election committee. Lowell said he would like one or two more on the committee and asked those interested in helping to contact him after the meeting.

SLAS historian Lola Warner sent word that she is planning on putting together a scrap book covering SLAS history. Those wishing to contribute items can contact her at princesslolaanne@yahoo.com.

SLAS vice president Tom Sevcik showed his draft of one side of the SLAS marketing brochure he is designing.

Lowell noted that there would be a Rap Session covering Observing Programs & Finding Objects on 10 October at the home of Mike Davis and said additional details were available on the SLAS web site. And speaking of the web site Lowell noted that SLAS webmaster Ken Warner has "jazzed up" the SLAS logo on the SLAS web site.

Patrick Wiggins thanked Chris Clark (who was unable to attend the meeting) for donating a new flat screen monitor to SPOC and Roger Ockey for arranging for a low price for a new SPOC computer and for relocating the Grim Scope computer from the control room to the Grim Scope bay. He suggested everyone come out to the upcoming weekend's SPOC star party to see the improvements first hand.

Patrick went on to remind everyone that orders for 2007 calendars and Observer's Handbooks were due that night and finished by asking everyone to look at the "Capitol Reef 2006" pictures on the SLAS web site and try to identify people in the pictures who had not yet been ID'd.

Lowell, with the requested help of Joan "Vanna" Carman, unveiled the SLAS Star Party banner he had made. He asked if there were any objections to having an even bigger one made. There were none.

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

Board Meeting for 24 October 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in room 105 of the University of Utah's Engineering/Mines building at 6:40 p.m. All board members and the newsletter editor were present. This was the first meeting in the new venue, located on the U of U campus.

Lowell moved that the positions of Loaner Telescope Curator and Solar Scope Curator be merged into one position called the Equipment Manager. Motion passed. Roger Butz was appointed to fill the position.

Lowell read an email in which Patricia McWhorter offered three framed HST prints for use in the Refractor House. The board voted to recommend to Observatory Director Bruce Grim that he accept Patricia's very generous offer provided the pictures and frames match the antique look of the interior of the Refractor House.

Patrick Wiggins had emailed Lowell about several \$1 specials being offered by Sky Publishing and suggested some be purchased for door prizes for this year's Solstice party. Lowell said he'd pass the information on to party chair Ann House.

The board approved spending up to \$160 for a large promotional banner to be hung at SLAS events. Lowell will take care of procuring the banner.

Lowell reported that SLAS had won a NASA Night Sky Network prize for its work on this year's Capitol Reef star parties. The prize consisted of a lunar globe and a book called "Max Goes to the Moon". Both prizes were put on display.

SLAS had been contacted by a member of the Ogden club noting that SLAS's listing on the Sky & Telescope web site was out of date. Erik Hansen said he had tried at least twice to have the listing made current and would try again.

Tom Sevcik passed around mockups of SLAS first ever marketing brochure. Patrick Wiggins will see that it is put on the web so that members could see it and make comments and suggestions for changes. Tom asked that comments be received by 15 November. The cost of the brochures is to come out of the Publicity account in the club's treasury.

Tom assured everyone that he had the missing minutes from this year's January and February meetings nearly complete and that he would finish and email them to Patrick by the end of the week.

Lowell read an email from Nancy Stephanz suggesting that videos be made of all future general meeting speakers' presentations and that those videos be made available to all members. The board approved the idea.

Rodger Fry noted that there would be a school star party at Butler Elementary school in Sandy on the upcoming Friday (the 27th) from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. He said the school was going to put out a donation box at the event will all proceeds going to SLAS.

Bill Kennedy will speak with Roger Butz about drafting a loaner telescope policies and procedures manual which would then be voted on by the board.

Patrick asked what the board thought about opening the observatory to the public on Halloween night. There was no real interest so Patrick withdrew the proposal.

Lowell said he had been checking into insurance for the club's DayStar hydrogen alpha solar filter. The board authorized Lowell to purchase a policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

General Meeting for 24 October 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in room 105 of the University of Utah's Engineering/Mines building at 7:42 p.m. There were about 63 people in attendance.

The meeting started a little late to allow everyone to find the meeting in its new location and to vote in the year's club election.

Lowell called for new folks to stand and be recognized and then introduced the members of the board and several persons serving in appointed positions.

The budget report was posted. It showed: General Fund \$ 9,329.74; Postage and Printing \$464.19; Entertainment \$509.62; Publicity \$284.08; Astronomical League \$280.00; SPOC \$2,892.22; H-Alpha \$14.50; Insurance \$476.50; Total \$14,250.85.

Lowell showed the Moon globe and book the club had won for its work with this year's Capitol Reef star parties. The award came from the NASA Night Sky Network.

The evening's guest speaker was Dr. Dale Ostlie, Dean of the College of Science at Weber State University. Dr. Ostlie's talk was entitled "The Ins and Outs of Stellar Pulsation". Tom Sevcik videoed the lecture for the SLAS library.

Tom showed the mockup of the SLAS marketing brochure he designed. He passed it around and asked for comments. He added that it would be placed on the web and he encouraged members to read it over and let him know about any typos.

Patrick Wiggins reported that the Sky & Telescope wall calendars were available for pickup in the front of the room and that he had been advised that morning that the club's order of Observer's Handbooks should be arriving soon.

Rodger Fry reminded everyone that he had scheduled a school star party for the following Friday (the 27th) at Butler Elementary and encouraged everyone to help out.

Lowell had U of U professor Dr. Paolo Gondolo stand and receive the thanks of the club for arranging for the new meeting venue. Lots of applause signaled a general agreement that the new meeting hall is very well liked.

Tom Sevcik volunteered to video all future SLAS lectures and donate the videos to the club's library.

The results of the annual SLAS election were announced. The 2007 SLAS board of directors will consist of president Bob Moore, vice president Ann House, secretary/treasurer Erik Hansen and board members at large Rodger Fry and Bill Kennedy. One other ballot item had asked the club to decide on next year's meeting dates. In a very close race the 3rd Tuesday of each month won out over the 3rd Thursday by only one vote.

Lowell stressed that the change in meeting night will not take effect until January so next month's meeting would still be held on the 4th Tuesday.

Lowell reminded everyone that next month's meeting would feature Dr. Clark Christensen from the Department of Physics and Astronomy at BYU and that his topic would be astrobiology.

Anyone interested in helping out with this year's SLAS solstice was asked to contact [Ann House](#).

In answer to a question from the audience asking if SLAS was going to do anything for next month's transit of Mercury Lowell said the club will be holding a Transit Watch at the Harmons in Midvale from noon to 5:00 p.m.

[Roger Butz](#) said he is attempting to upgrade many of the telescopes in the club's Loaner Scope program and was actively seeking donations of telescope parts. He added that Steve Dodds of Nova Optics had generously offered to recoat the scopes' mirrors at no charge to SLAS.

Scott Crosby said that Dwight Ball is recovering from a heart attack and that Dwight would like to sell his Celestron 4" refractor tube assembly for \$150.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 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>.

January/February Nova Deadline

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

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? utahastro.info

<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, log on to <http://www.astroleague.org> today.

2006 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	ehansen@networld.com
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			

2006 Appointed Positions

Astronomical League Contact (ALCOR)	Erik Hansen	801.253.2201	ehansen@networld.com
Dark Sky Committee Chair	Scott Crosby	801.295.5798	scott.crosby@hill.af.mil
Historian	Lola Warner	435.830.9036	princesslolaanne@yahoo.com
Librarian	Roger Butz	435.830.4684	dutchbutz@yahoo.com
Equipment Manager ("Loaner scopes")	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
Members Only Star Party Coordinator	Don Colton	801.571.9757	dcoltonsprint@earthlink.net
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. Current NOVA editor is Patrick Wiggins, paw@wirelessbeehive.com, 435.882.1209.

Events Calendar

November 2006

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

December 2006

09 SAT Solstice Party at Zion Lutheran Church, 1070 S. Foothill Drive, SLC - Time TBD
12 TUE Transitional Board Meeting at the home of Martin & Karla Van Hemert. 7:00 p.m.

January 2007

16 JAN Board Meeting 6:35 p.m. U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105
16 JAN General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105

February 2007

20 FEB Board Meeting 6:35 p.m. U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105
20 FEB General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105

Notice: While the dates of the January and February meetings were set in this year's SLAS elections the times were not. The times reported below are based on this year's calendar and could be changed at December's Transitional Board meeting. Official times will be reported in the January/February 2007 issue of Nova which should be issued the last week of December of this year.



Salt Lake Astronomical Society
P.O. Box 26114
Salt Lake City, Utah 84126-0114
<http://www.slas.us>