

NOVA



Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society Volume 37 Number 1 January - February 2007

Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

Christensen, Cameron
Decaria, Carol & Micheal
Dickey, Jeanne
LeBohec, Stephan
Ward, Rebekka

A Message From the SLAS President

SLAS Members:

It is an honor to be the President of this organization. I first must say that we all can be thankful to Lowell Lyon as he did a great job this year as the SLAS President. As many of you know I have not been a SLAS member for a long time. What I have noticed since being involved in the club & especially since I have been nominated for the office of President is the wonderful & giving people that make up the general membership of SLAS. I have noticed how much time & effort is donated so this can be the quality club that it is. There is certainly a great group of people involved in SLAS.

So, my first goal as the new President is to challenge each of us to get to know each other better! When you come to SLAS events, be it a general meeting, star party or some other function, make it a goal to meet at least one other person in the club that you do not know. That way you can get to know more of the great people in our club & they can get to know you.

I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday Season & I look forward to another great year with SLAS

Bob Moore

Solstice Festival Report

by Lowell Lyon

We started just shortly after 6:00pm at the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 9th. There were roughly 60 people in attendance including Dr. Paulo Gondolo from the University of Utah & his spouse. There was plenty of food brought by club members. Special thanks go to Bob Moore for bringing the tasty chicken cordon bleu for everyone.

After the feast, we announced that there were special small stuffed animals arranged for by Ann House for those small children in attendance as gifts. We had a long table filled with door prizes that were given away including some beautiful posters, various astronomy themed mugs, books & even Astronomy computer software. Cindy Dodds acted as "Vanna" showing off each item while Lowell announced the gifts being chosen by random ticket drawings.

Lowell thanked the Solstice Party committee for their hard work, & made some brief comments on the successes SLAS has had during the year. Lowell also acknowledged & thanked the 2006 Board for their hard work as well. People then visited among themselves for a little while & on the way out, each person was offered a small gift sack with a Christmas Cactus inside including care instructions also organized by party chairperson Ann House.

We appreciate the Lutheran Church for allowing us to have the party at its facility again this year & appreciate Jo & Allen Grahn for their assistance with access to the building.

SPOC Update

SPOC remains closed for the winter but that has not stopped its continued upgrades. Most recent is the installation of a brand new computer (the first non-used computer installed at the complex) for the Grim Scope. Many thanks to Roger Ockey who designed & built the computer & to Bill Kennedy who helped to install it.

The computer's OS was also updated & TheSky5, which is used to control the telescope, was upgraded to TheSky6. And considering the light gathering power of the Grim Scope the entire USNO-A2.0 (526,230,881 stars) was also be installed.

Pictures can be seen at <http://www.trilobyte.net/paw/slas/BIGSCOPED.HTML>.

A Reminder That SLAS Has A New Meeting Night

SLAS board & general meetings are now being held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, except December. Times remain the same.

Re-Reminder: SLAS Has a New Home

A reminder that SLAS Board & 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 the following URL & search on "EMCB".

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

SLAS Meeting Parking

When parking at the University of Utah for SLAS meetings remember that only those parking lots marked with a "U" are free after 6:00 p.m. If you park in an "A" lot, you are subject to being ticketed until 10:00 pm. Parking is free to SLAS members & visitors in the "A" lot north of the Kennecott Building after 6:00 pm.

The largest "U" parking close to the SLAS meeting venue is on the north side of the Merrill Engineering building.

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

Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Special Board Meeting, 15 November 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the home of SLAS member Ann House at 7:30 p.m. Members of the 2006 & 2007 boards in attendance were Lowell Lyon, Bill Kennedy, Rodger Fry, Ann House & Bob Moore. Nova editor Patrick Wiggins was also there as was Jess Clifford of [Clifford Studios](#) who designed the current SLAS logo & the logos for the SPOC grand opening T-shirts & the 2002 Astronomical League convention.

Lowell noted that the purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the extensive work done by 2006 SLAS VP Tom Sevcik & seriously discuss how the club should go about producing a SLAS marketing brochure. The purpose of the brochure would be to increase awareness of the club & to recruit new members.

Mr. Clifford explained what would be involved in designing an effective, professional looking brochure & showed samples of his work. This was followed by much discussion.

Cost of designing the brochure was estimated at under \$1,000. Cost of printing 10,000 brochures was estimated to be about \$1,200.

In the end all three members of the 2006 board who were in attendance, Lowell Lyon, Bill Kennedy & Rodger Fry, voted to recommend to the general membership that the club contract with Mr. Clifford to design a SLAS marketing brochure.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Board Meeting, 28 November 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in room 105 of the University of Utah's Engineering/Mines building at 6:35 p.m. Those in attendance included board members Bill Kennedy, Rodger Fry & Tom Sevcik as well as newsletter editor Patrick Wiggins & several SLAS members.

Lowell said he had spoken with the club's insurance agent & found the cost of insuring the h-alpha filter & telescope would be \$250 per year. He is going to look into lesser rates if just the filter were covered &/or the deductible were raised.

More discussion about the proposed SLAS marketing brochure.

The Harmons in Midvale has offered to host Sun parties but the board decided to continue with the Winchester Park site. Hours of next year's Sun parties were changed to 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Patrick said he had spoken with Roger Butz & that Roger has arranged to have the 2007 star party brochures printed at no charge to SLAS. Lowell said he would email Roger the master brochure the following day.

Tom said he would email the missing minutes for the January, February & March 2007 SLAS meetings to the editor by the coming weekend.

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

General Meeting, 28 November 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in room 105 of the University of Utah's Engineering/Mines building at 7:35 p.m. There were about 60 people in attendance.

Lowell opened the meeting by asking anyone who was attending a SLAS meeting for the first time to stand & be recognized. Several did (most being U of U students).

Lowell reminded everyone that beginning in January SLAS meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

The members of the of the board were introduced.

The evening's guest speaker was Dr. Clark Christensen from BYU. Dr. Christensen spoke on the possibilities of life in the Universe.

Tom Sevcik has finished a DVD of Dr. Dale Ostlie's talk at the October SLAS meeting. The DVD will be available for loan from the club library.

Sign up sheets for next month's SLAS Solstice Festival were passed around.

Lowell noted that this year's transitional board meeting will be held the evening of Wednesday, 13 December at the the home of SLAS members Karla & Martin Van Hemert & that the Solstice Party would be held on 9 December at the Lutheran Church on Foothill Drive.

The times of next year's Sun parties will be 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The treasurer's report was posted. It showed:

General Fund	\$ 9,443.65
Postage & Printing	513.69
Entertainment	531.62
Publicity	306.00
Astronomical League	335.00
SPOC	2,191.91
H-Alpha	14.50
Insurance	520.50
Total	\$13,856.87

There was a brief discussion of the much discussed SLAS marketing brochure followed by the members present voting to approve spending up to \$2,500 to have the brochure professionally designed & 10,000 copies printed. Additional copies could be printed later if needed. Lowell noted that the brochure would be general enough to stay current for several years. The \$2,500.00 will come from the General Fund.

Rodger Fry reported that details & sign up information for the Solstice Festival were on the SLAS web site.

Dave Bernson noted that there would be a rare grouping of planets the morning after the festival & reminded everyone that the annual Geminids meteor shower was set for mid December.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Transitional Board Meeting for 13 December 2006

SLAS President Lowell Lyon called the meeting to order in the home of SLAS members Martin & Karla Van Hemert at 7:10 p.m.

Present were most members of the 2006 & 2007 boards (Lowell Lyon, Erik Hansen, Rodger Fry, Bill Kennedy, Bob Moore & Ann House), webmaster Ken Warner, equipment manager Roger Butz, newsletter editor Patrick Wiggins & observatory director Bruce Grim.

The meeting opened with what turned out to be the most debated topic of the evening when Ken Warner suggested that with so few members requesting paper copies of the club's newsletter those receiving paper copies should pay the actual cost of the paper copies.

Patrick Wiggins reported that the actual cost to the SLAS treasury of preparing, printing & mailing a year's worth (6 issues) of the newsletter works out to about \$6.90 per person. But, since only 47 of the current 184 members are receiving paper copies, charging everyone \$4.50 per year for the newsletter has more than covered the cost of the paper copies.

As can be seen below, in the end it was decided to charge everyone \$3.00 for Postage & Printing, with \$2.00 going to subsidize the paper copies of the newsletter for those who request paper & \$1.00 to cover the cost of production & mailing of the SLAS election ballot which must be snail-mailed to all members.

Next up was a discussion of the club's insurance. There is still a possibility that SLAS will buy additional insurance for the club's H-alpha filter so the cost of insurance per member per year was raised from \$4.00 to \$5.00.

The one other budget item to produce some discussion was the current line item for the Astronomical League. Several months ago the League changed it's policy of requiring all AL affiliate club members to also pay dues to the AL. The League now says membership in the League is optional but leaves the final decision up to the individual clubs. The boards agreed to continue the practice of having all SLAS members pay dues to the Astronomical League.

Following brief discussions about the remaining items in the budget the following dues structure was approved & will be voted on by the members present at SLAS's January general meeting.

Proposed 2007 dues structure (compared to 2006):

	2007	2006
General Fund	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.50
Postage & Printing	3.00	4.50
Entertainment	2.00	2.00
Astronomical League	5.00	5.00
Insurance	5.00	4.00
Outreach	2.00	2.00
Total dues	\$20.00	\$20.00

Roger Butz reported that all materials for the 2007 star party brochures are at the printers & that the brochures should be available at the January meeting. Roger added that the brochures are being printed at no charge to SLAS by the Tooele Transcript Bulletin.

Lowell said a variety of sample brochures to gather ideas was given to the firm designing the SLAS marketing brochure.

Ann House is looking into the possibility of a ZAP grant.

Bob Moore said he plans on discussing ways to improve the club's outreach program at the January meeting & asked all board members to come to the meeting with suggestions.

Next year's board was authorized to follow the existing protocol & make individual expenditures of up to \$200.00 without receiving prior approval from the membership.

Duties for the various elected & appointed positions were set & are listed near the bottom of this newsletter.

Ann said it might be a good idea to add another person to the the club's roster of NASA Night Sky Ambassadors. She has someone in mind & will followup later.

There are three boxes of SLAS t-shirts in storage at SPOC. What to do with them will be discussed at the January board meeting.

The 2007 Solstice Festival was scheduled for Saturday, 8 December & the 2007 Transitional Board meeting set for Wednesday, 12 December.

Ken Warner reminded everyone that it is his & his wife's job to keep the SLAS web site up & running but it is up to the board &, in some cases, individual members to post data on the site. Ken offered to show interested members how to add to the site.

Erik Hansen will work with Ken Warner to put more of the club's financial records on the club's web site & make them accessible to all members.

Karla Van Hemert agreed to continue to oversee the club's New Member Booklet "Unless," she said, "someone else wants the job".

Ken noted that a March/April issue of Nova was never produced. Patrick & Lowell outlined the problems they have had with getting meeting minutes that were to appear in that issue.

Patrick said he had all but given up on getting official minutes from the previous editor but would advertise in News for people's recollections of the 2006 January, February & March 2006 board & general meetings & try to have something on line by the end of the month.

Lowell thanked Karla & Martin for allowing the meeting to be held in their home.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

SLAS New Member Handbook On Line

The SLAS New Member Handbook is available at <http://slas.us/docs/NEWMEM2006.pdf>. The Handbook is edited by [Karla Van Hemert](#).

2007 SLAS Public Star Party Schedule On Line

See the 2007 SLAS public star party schedule at <http://utahastro.info/LOCAL2007.HTML>.

Loaner Telescopes For SLAS Members

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

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, www.astroleague.org.

March/April Nova Deadline

Submissions for the next issue of Nova must be received by the editor by 15 February 2007.

2007 SLAS Board of Directors

President	Bob Moore	801.580.0466	bmoore@commercecrg.com
Meetings			
Vice President	Ann House	801.671.8447	ann@annhouse.org
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			

2007 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	sfvlt@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 & General Meetings, Board member names & phone numbers, activities, reports, calendars & new member information. It also announces special events & dates such as speakers, field trips & conventions. The NOVA may contain advertising of equipment for sale, etc., by its members. The editor of the NOVA is appointed by the Board & may serve until replaced or resignation. The editor may be a Board member, & publication of the NOVA lies within the responsibility of the Vice President. Members are encouraged to contribute articles & 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 & December. Current NOVA editor is Patrick Wiggins, paw@wirelessbeehive.com, 435.882.1209.

Events Calendar

January 2007

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

February 2007

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

March 2007

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

April 2007

- 7 Public Sun Party 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Winchester Park, 1200 W 6400 S in Murray
- 14 Public star party at [SPOC](#). Starts at dusk.
- 17 Board Meeting 6:35 p.m. U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105
- 17 General Meeting 7:30 p.m. U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105
- 27 Public star party at Harmons. 7755 S 700 E in Midvale. Starts at dusk.
- 28 Public star party at [SPOC](#). Starts at dusk.



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