

NOVA



Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Volume 41 Number 3 May - June 2011

Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

Anderson, Michael J - Tooele, UT
Blagay, Paul - Draper, UT
Fry, Kevin - Salt Lake City, UT
Ingle, George - Clinton, UT

Peay, Steven E - Tooele, UT
Turnbaugh, Matthew - American Fork, UT
Wilkinson, Judy - Morgan, UT
Winters, Donald - Pleasant Grove, UT



M-42 Image by Tony Sarra using an AP1200 mounted TEC140 telescope & QSI 583wsg camera

Congratulations!

Kudos to Robert Bigelow for successfully completing Bogdan refractor training at SPOC.

Are You Registered?

SLAS members who have not registered on the SLAS website can not access the many current and upcoming features contained in the Members Only portion of the club's website. The SLAS board encourages all SLAS members to register.

To register go to <http://slas.us/registration.asp>. If you have any problems registering please let me know and I'll help resolve any issues.

Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Board Meeting, 08 March 2011

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 7:30 p.m. Others in attendance were Vice-President Bob Moore, Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins & Board Members at Large Bob Taylor & Steve Fisher and members, Ann House, Ian Taylor, Corina Jachmann and Siegfried Jachmann.

Rodger and Steve started a discussion about the future of the club's newsletter noting that out of 210 members only 10 are still requesting paper copies with all other members having it emailed to them or downloading it from the club's website. Until now all members paid a small amount to cover the costs of the paper copies but both Rodger and Steve felt that is not fair. A motion was made and passed unanimously that after this year those wishing to receive paper copies will need to pay the costs involved in printing and mailing (about \$9.00 per person per year).

Patrick noted that this year's insurance premium was \$365.50 more than anticipated leaving the insurance account that much in the red. After much discussion it was decided to transfer that amount from the general fund and to ask the membership present at next week's general membership meeting for permission to restructure the dues so that \$4.50 of each dues payment which is currently going to the general fund go to the insurance fund to keep this from happening again next year.

Progress with this year's ALCON continues. Banners, fliers and posters for the event have been printed.

Member Mark Hanning-Lee recently contacted the board suggesting the locations of the private star parties be added to the Members Only portion of the club's online events calendar. The board agreed that was a good idea and Rodger presented a list of dates and locations provided by Members Only Star Party Coordinator Don Colton which Rodger will see is listed on the web as Mark suggested.

Bob M. said he is working on star party banners to be displayed at Wheeler Farm. The banners will carry the SLAS, Wheeler Farm and ZAP logos.

Patrick asked what the board thought of offering online voting in club elections. All present thought it was a good idea. Patrick will check with SLAS webmaster Ken Warner about getting it set up in time for this year's elections.

Steve is going to make a point of staying in contact with officials at Great Basin National Park and pass on information to SLAS members about any astronomical activities planned at the park.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

General Meeting, 15 March 2011

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in room 105 of the University of Utah's Engineering/Mines building at 7:30 p.m. Approximately 67 people attended.

Following the usual introduction of the members of the board and those attending for the first time Rodger introduced the evening's guest speaker, John Armstrong from Weber State University who presented "Extra Solar Planets and the Search for Earth.

Lowell Lyon presented an update on the ALCON. He reported that the marketing materials for the ALCON have been printed thanks to the efforts of Robert Taylor and that Ruby's Inn is now booked but that other motels near Bryce Canyon still have rooms available.

Rodger passed around sign up sheet for ALCON volunteers.

Don Colton reported on plans for the public star parties at the ALCON and upcoming private star parties.

Steve Fisher spoke about the great time he and other members have had at public star parties at Great Basin National Park.

Robert Taylor spoke about the school star parties that have been scheduled and urged all members to help out.

Rodger went over the concerns he and Steve Fisher had expressed at last week's board meeting about the club's newsletter and the action the board took to rectify the situation (see board meeting minutes above).

Rodger noted that this year's insurance premium was more than anticipated. The shortage will be transferred from the general fund.

Roger Butz said SPOC telescope training should start very soon.

Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins presented the treasurer's report. It showed:

General Fund	\$ 2,525.79
Postage & Printing	56.36
Entertainment	152.33
Astronomical League	630.00
Insurance	-365.50
Outreach	1,047.90
SPOC	3,009.33
H-Alpha	40.00
ZAP Grant	4,085.44
ALCON	1,875.00
Total	\$13,056.65

Noting the shortage in the insurance fund Patrick suggested redistributing how dues are allocated so that \$4.50 of what currently goes into the general fund go into the insurance fund. The idea being to keep the shortage from happening when the premium comes due next year. Roger Butz made a motion to that effect. Seconded by Bob Moore and approved with no dissenting votes.

A suggestion was made to shop around for a better rate next year.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at Village Inn on 900 East 400 South at 9:05 p.m.

Board Meeting, 12 April 2011

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 7:31 p.m. Others in attendance were Vice-President Bob Moore, Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins, Board Members at Large Steve Fisher and Robert Taylor and members, Ray Drurian, David Hays, Kevin Hays, Dave Bernson, Nate Goodman, Ian Taylor, Cory Bauman and Joe Bauman.

Patrick reported that he had paid the \$100.00 fee the state now requires SLAS to pay in order to solicit donations and he asked for a decision on which account to take the funds from. The board decided to take them from the general fund.

The ALCON committee is still looking for help with this year's ALCON.

Rodger said the ZAP stickers had been received as had the books he'd ordered from Barnes & Noble for give aways at public star parties.

Bob is working with Wheeler Farm on the star party banners to be displayed there.

Rodger and Dave were recently joined by Robyn Anderson and Grant Clayton on KCPW radio during a fund raiser for the public radio station. To entice people to call and make pledges the club offered 2 telescopes and Grant's firm offered a \$500.00 challenge grant. By the end of the one hour they were on they had raised public awareness of SLAS and \$1,900.00 in pledges.

There was extended discussion about the display stand SLAS will be buying.

Paul Michael Maxfield from the Utah Museum of Natural History arrived and asked about the possibility of SLAS helping them with astronomy programs in their new building after it opens later this year. This could entail lectures and Sun and star parties. No decisions were made but the board was open to the idea and Paul will arrange for a tour of the facility by the board.

The supply of SLAS advertising brochures is running low. Thought will be given to printing more.

Rodger will represent SLAS at this year's Utah Education Association convention.

Rodger will also represent SLAS at the planetarium during the day on Astronomy Day this year before heading out to SPOC that evening.

Steve will organize a swap meet at SPOC on Astronomy Day.

Kevin Hays will be given authority to issue SLAS Blasts.

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

General Meeting, 19 April 2011

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in room 105 of the University of Utah's Engineering/Mines building at 7:31 p.m. Approximately 58 people attended.

Following the usual introduction of the members of the board and those people attending for the first time Rodger introduced the evening's guest speaker, SLAS member and Adjunct Professor at Weber State University Wayne Sumner. Wayne spoke about star formation.

Lowell Lyon presented an ALCON 2011 update.

Bob Taylor announced that Rob Ratkowski had been awarded the Astronomical League Herschel 400 certificate adding that Rob had previously received the AL's Messier Binocular certificate.

Rodger showed the display stand SLAS recently bought for use at public SLAS events.

Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins said that SLAS had received a \$600 grant from the Harmons grocery stores. He then displayed the treasurer's report. It showed:

General Fund	\$ 2,216.87
Postage & Printing	50.53
Entertainment	207.33
Astronomical League	740.00
Insurance	99.00
Outreach	1,091.90
SPOC	3,134.03
H-Alpha	50.00
ZAP Grant	4,085.44
ALCON	1,682.67
Total	\$13,357.77

Dave Bernson spoke about highlights of the current night sky.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at Village Inn on 900 East 400 South at 8:58 p.m.

As people were leaving the meeting they were treated to an excellent flyover of the International Space Station.

SLAS Meeting Parking

When parking at the University of Utah for SLAS meetings only those parking lots marked with a "U" are free after 6:00 p.m. Parking is also permitted in the "A" lot north of the Kennecott Building after 6:00 p.m. Map: <http://slas.us/location.htm>

2011 SLAS Member Information

The SLAS Member Information file is available at <http://slas.us/docs/NEWMEM.PDF>.

Loaner Telescopes For SLAS Members

SLAS has several scopes available for loan to current SLAS members. Contact Roger Butz at 435.830.4684 for details. Or look on the SLAS web site under "[Membership Benefits](#)".

2011 SLAS Board of Directors

President	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Meetings			
Vice President	Bob Moore	801.580.0466	bmoore@comre.com
Publicity, PR and Web Content			
Secretary-Treasurer	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	paw@wirelessbeehive.com
Membership Dues & Renewals			
Board Member at Large	Steve Fisher	801.884.3774	iotacass1@hotmail.com
Public Outreach Director			
Board Member at Large	Robert Taylor	801.599.3925	robtaylor@slc@gmail.com
School & Special Star Parties			

Appointed Positions

Astronomical League Contact	Robert Taylor	801.599.3925	robtaylor@slc@gmail.com
Dark Sky Committee Chair	Scott Crosby	801.295.5798	scott.crosby@hill.af.mil
Equipment Manager	Roger Butz	435.830.4684	dutchbutz@yahoo.com
Historian	Ann Blanchard	801.485.6629	a.blanchard@ugs.utah.edu
Inreach Director	Rodger Fry	801.268.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Ann House	801.671.8447	ann@annhouse.org
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Troy Stratton	801.647.5142	tmstratton@comcast.net
New Member Director	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	bmargrim@msn.com
Observatory Training Director	Roger Butz	435.830.4684	dutchbutz@yahoo.com
Private Star Party Coordinator	Don Colton	801.571.9757	dcolton@earthlink.net
Solar Scope Manager	Rodger Fry	801.268.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Webmasters	Ken Warner		webmaster@slas.us
ZAP Grant Committee Chair	Erik Hansen	801.253.2201	zaurak@digis.net

Current SPOC Advisory Committee

Chair through JAN 2012	Ken Harris	801.572.3457	kharrismar@earthlink.net
Member through JAN 2014	Mark Bloomenthal	801.842.1242	markbloomenthal@yahoo.com
Member through JAN 2013	Roger Butz	435.830.4684	dutchbutz@yahoo.com
Member through JAN 2012	Bill Kennedy	801.964.6199	truss_tube@hotmail.com
Member through JAN 2012	Boyd McNeil	435.882.1901	bmcneil@wirelessbeehive.com
Member through JAN 2014	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	paw@beehivewireless.com
Member while SLAS President	Rodger Fry	801.268.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Member while Observatory Dir.	Bruce Grim	435.882.5237	bmargrim@msn.com
Member while Harmons Rep.	Keith Harmon		

NOVA is a publication of the [Salt Lake Astronomical Society](#), a non-profit organization. Nova contains minutes of meetings, Board member names & contact info, activities, reports, special club events. The editor of NOVA is appointed by the Board. Members are encouraged to contribute content. Current NOVA editor is Patrick Wiggins, paw@wirelessbeehive.com, 435.882.1209.

Events Calendar

May 2011

- 07 Public Astronomy Day star party at [SPOC](#).
- 10 Board Meeting 7:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, SLC.
- 13 Public star party at 7th Street Harmons, 7755 S 700 E.
- 14 Public star party at [SPOC](#).
- 17 General Meeting 7:30 pm at U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.
- 21 Public Sun party at Winchester Park, 6400 S 1100 W.
- 27 Public star party at Wheeler Farm, 6351 S 900 E.
- 28 Public star party at [SPOC](#).

June 2011

- 10 Public star party at Brickyard Harmons, 3270 S 1300 E.
- 11 Public star party at [SPOC](#).
- 14 Board Meeting 7:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, SLC.
- 18 Public Sun party at Winchester Park, 6400 S 1100 W.
- 21 General Meeting 7:30 pm at U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.
- 24 Public star party at Wheeler Farm, 6351 S 900 E.
- 25 Public star party at [SPOC](#).

July 2011

- 08 Public star party at 7th Street Harmons, 7755 S 700 E.
- 09 Public star party at [SPOC](#).
- 12 Board Meeting 7:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, SLC.
- 16 Public Sun party at Winchester Park, 6400 S 1100 W.
- 19 General Meeting 7:30 pm at U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.
- 22 Public star party at Jordanelle State Park.
- 23 Public star party at [SPOC](#).

View a list of all 2011 public SLAS events at on the Events Calendar page on the SLAS [website](#).

Unless otherwise noted board meetings begin at 7:30 p.m, general meetings begin at 7:30 p.m., public star parties run from dusk until 11:00 p.m. and public Sun parties run from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Star and Sun parties are held weather permitting.

Salt Lake Astronomical Society
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