

NOVA



Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

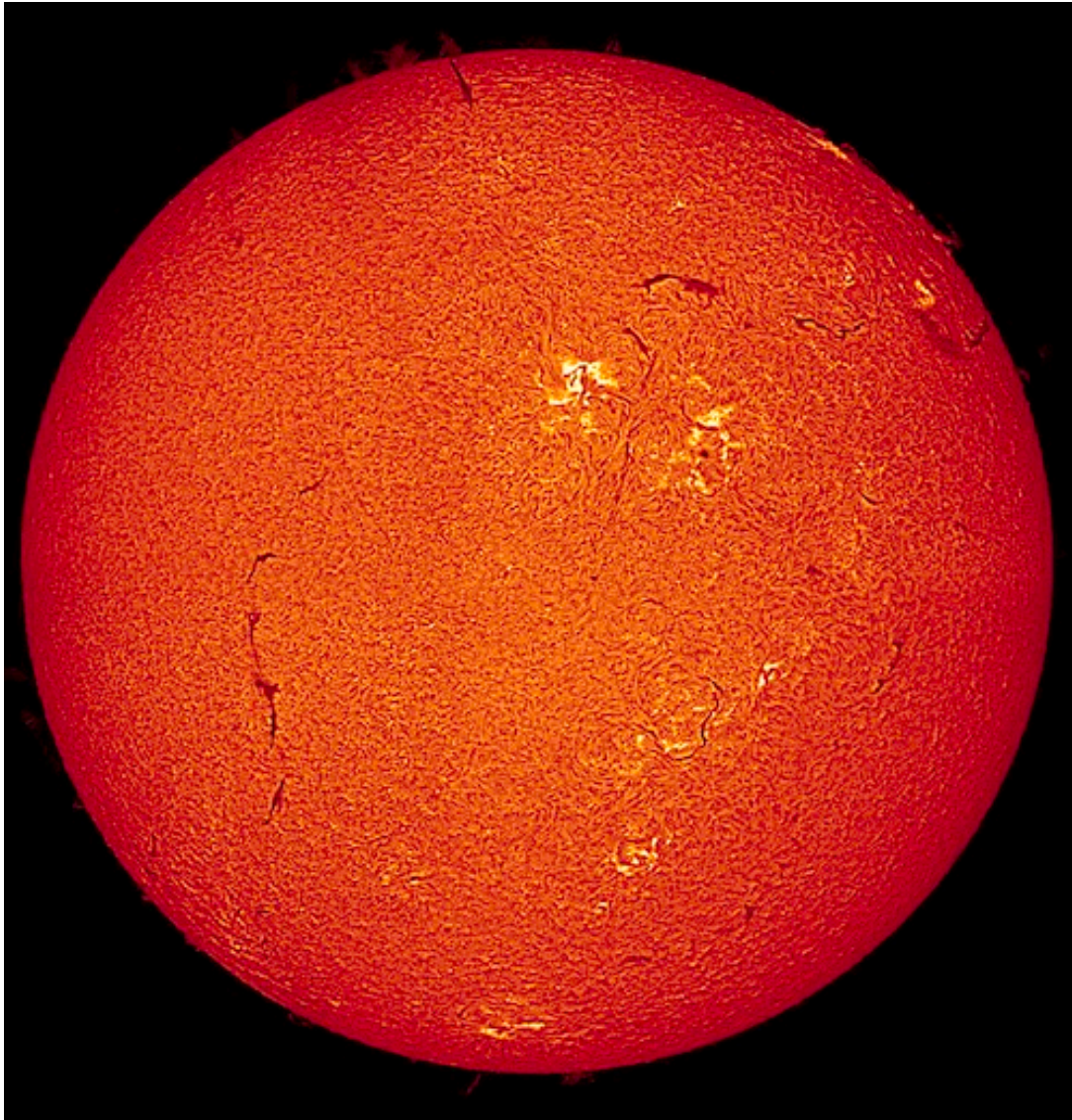
Volume 44 Number 1 January - February 2014

Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

Armastrong, James D
Gale, Eric K

Hargis, Jeff
Occon, Mildred

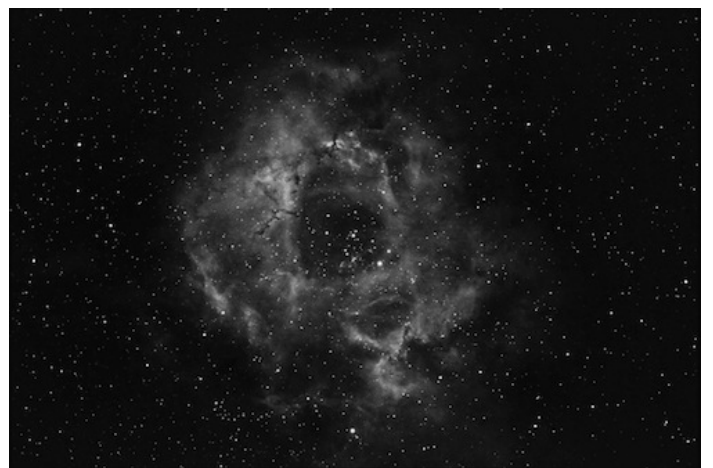
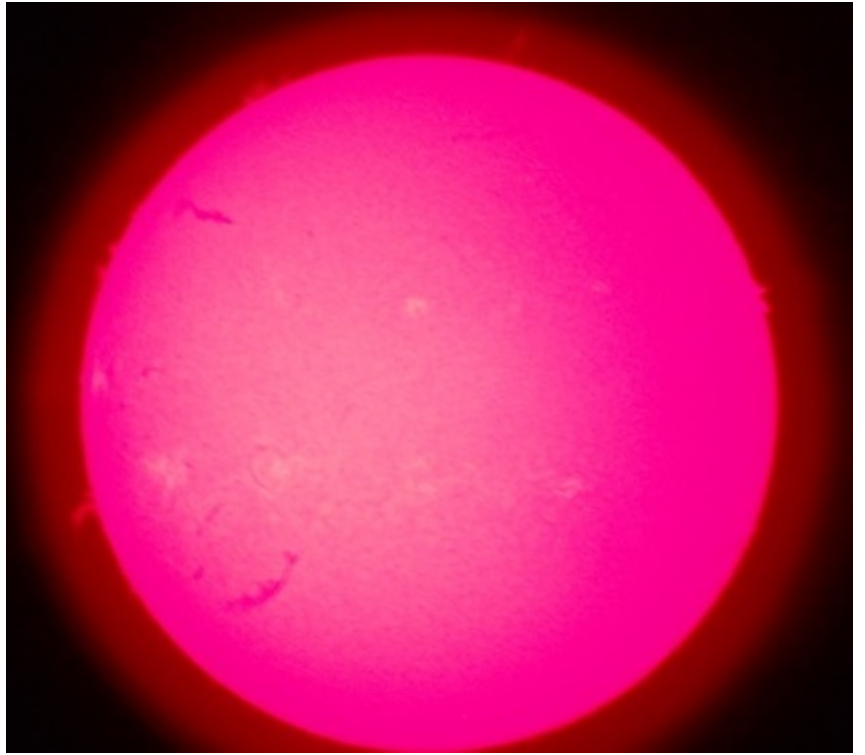
Serdyuk, Oleg



The Sun in hydrogen alpha light

By 2013 SLAS Astro Photo Challenge, Group 5, 1st place winner Richard Grossen

1st Place 2013 SLAS Astro Photo Challenge Winners Groups 1-4



Group 1: JaAnn Brown, Eclipse Shadows

Group 2: Kenneth Porras, Sun

Group 3: Mark Toso, Cutthroat 2

Group 4: Figuera Marcelo, Rosette Nebula

In Memoriam

By Karl Battams, NASA Comet ISON Observing Campaign

Comet C/2012 S1 (ISON)

Born 4.5 Billion BC, Fragmented Nov 28, 2013 (age 4.5-billion yrs old)

Born in a dusty and turbulent environment, comet ISON spent its early years being jostled and struck by siblings both large and small. Surviving a particularly violent first few million years, ISON retreated to the Oort Cloud, where it maintained a largely reclusive existence for nearly four billion years. But around 3-million B.C., a chance encounter with a passing star coerced ISON into undertaking a pioneering career as a Sungrazer. On September 21, 2012, ISON made itself known to us, and allowed us to catalog the most extraordinary part of its spectacular vocational calling.

Never one to follow convention, ISON lived a dynamic and unpredictable life, alternating between periods of quiet reflection and violent outburst. However, its toughened exterior belied a complex and delicate inner working that only now we are just beginning to understand. In late 2013, Comet ISON demonstrated not only its true beauty but a surprising turn of speed as it reached its career defining moment in the inner solar system. Tragically, on November 28, 2013, ISON's tenacious ambition outweighed its ability, and our shining green candle in the solar wind began to burn out.

Survived by approximately several trillion siblings, Comet ISON leaves behind an unprecedented legacy for astronomers, and the eternal gratitude of an enthralled global audience. In ISON's memory, donations are encouraged to your local astronomy club, observatory or charity that supports STEM and science outreach programs for children.

Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Board Meeting, 13 November 2013

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 6:31 p.m. Others in attendance were Secretary/Treasurer Charlie Green & Board Member at Large Kevin Hays and members Kenneth Porras, Ann House, Patrick Wiggins, Nate Goodman, Alpine Stringham, David Hays, Rebeca Granillo, Enid Norton, Sue Norton and Lowell Lyon.

Rodger presented the latest draft of the 2014 public star and Sun party schedule. Following a lengthy discussion and a few changes the following will be presented to the membership at next week's meeting for discussion and adoption.

April

04 7th Street Harmons
05 SPOC
12 Sun party at Winchester Park
18 Wheeler Farm
19 SPOC

May

02 Brickyard Harmons
03 SPOC
17 Sun party at Winchester Park
23 Wheeler Farm
24 SPOC

June

06 Taylorsville Harmons
07 SPOC
14 Sun party at Winchester Park
20 Wheeler Farm
21 SPOC

July
05 SPOC
12 Sun party at Winchester Park
18 Wheeler Farm
19 SPOC

August
01 Cougar Harmons
02 SPOC
09 Sun party at Winchester Park
15 Wheeler Farm
16 SPOC
29 South Jordan Harmons
30 SPOC

September
06 Sun party at Winchester Park
12 Wheeler Farm
13 SPOC
26 7th Street Harmons
27 SPOC

October
04 Sun party at Winchester Park
10 Bangerter Crossing Harmons
11 SPOC
24 Brickyard Harmons
25 SPOC

Sun parties will be proposed to run from 9:00 am to noon. All public star parties will begin at dusk. April and October star parties will be proposed to officially end at 9:00, those in May and September will end at 10:00 while those in June, July and August will end at 11:00. Members will be welcome to remain past the official ending times if desired.

Rodger is still working to set up a meeting between the SLAS board and Tara Haynie. Ms. Haynie is SLAS's new liaison with Harmons.

Ken was appointed the new custodian of the club's loaner solar scopes.

Lowell presented an update on the 2017 ALCON, noting that the event now has a website. <http://astrocon2017.astroleague.org>.

Ann reminded everyone that this year's Solstice Festival is still on for 7 December at 6:30 pm at Golden Corral, 665 E 7200 S in Midvale.

SPOC is now officially closed for the season with the possible exception of a comet watch later this month if Comet ISON puts on a good enough show. The combinations on both observatory's doors have been changed.

Items for next spring's SPOC cleanup will include electrically grounding the Grim bay's roof, removal of rust from rusted areas and lots of painting.

Kevin said he'd received a bid on an alarm system for SPOC. Basic cost for a simple "noisemaker" system is \$199.00 which includes monitoring of two doors. Additional doors would run \$45.00 each. Adding alerts via cell service would cost \$175.00 plus \$25.00 per month.

Rodger plans on calling a SPOC Committee meeting one Saturday afternoon in the next few weeks.

Rodger continues to investigate another SLAS remote imaging session on the Faulkes telescope on Maui sometime in January or February.

Patrick noted that at least 1,500 paper star party brochures went undistributed this year and had to be thrown out. This despite SLAS having had far fewer of them printed this year. He suggested it might be time to finally do away with paper star party brochures in favor of more advertising on social media. Following a number of objections to that idea Rodger said he'd only have 1,500 printed next time.

Patrick said that he'd added a file to the SLAS website containing scans of almost all SLAS star party brochures and printed announcements going back to the 1970s.

Lowell reminded everyone that he continues to help former SLAS member Fred Olsen sell off his inventory of telescope equipment. He said he'd email a list of all items to anyone requesting it.

For the past few years Patrick has allowed his snail mail address to be used by SLAS. But since virtually the only SLAS related mail he's been receiving has been junk mail he has had his address removed from the web site though he continues to allow his phone number to serve as the SLAS phone number.

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

General Meeting, 20 November 2013

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in room 105 of the University of Utah's Engineering/Mines building at 7:00 p.m. Approximately 72 people attended.

Rodger introduced the members of the board and then those persons who were attending a SLAS meeting for the first time.

Rodger then introduced the evening's speaker, SLAS member Tyler Allred. Tyler spoke about astroimaging covering equipment and techniques. He also showed a number of his stunning images.

That was followed by the announcement of the winners of this year's SLAS Astro Photo Challenge:

Group 1 Cell Phones and Point and Shoots, Non-Telescope

1st Place JaAnn Brown, Solar eclipse

2nd Place Figuera Marcelo, Moon and Jupiter

Group 2 Cell Phones and Point and Shoots, Telescope

1st Tie Kenneth Porras

1st Tie Kenneth Porras

Group 3 SLR/DSLR, High Zoom Cameras, Non-Telescope

1st Place Mark Toso, Cutthroat 2

2nd Place Mark Toso, Vanagon Milky Way

3rd Place Rob Ratkowski, Comet PanSTARRS

Group 4 SLR/DSLR, High Zoom Cameras, Telescope

1st Place Figuera Marcelo, Rosette_nebula

2nd Place Figuera Marcelo, M27

3rd Place Dave Gary

Group 5 CCD, SLR/DSLR, High Zoom Cameras, Cell, Point N Shoot, Everything Goes

1st Place Richard Grossen, Sun

2nd Place Tony Sarra, NGC 6995

3rd Place Tie Tony Sarra, NGC 6960

3rd Place Tie Tyler Allred, NGC 6946

3rd Place Tie George Ingle, M1

A KSL-TV news clip about local amateur astronomer Mike Clements and his 1.8 meter telescope was shown.

The 2014 public star party schedule was discussed and approved.

This year's orders of 2014 Observer's Handbooks and Observer's Calendars were made available for pickup.

Lowell Lyon said he continues to help former SLAS member Fred Olsen sell off his inventory of telescope equipment.

There was a brief discussion of a possible joint venture between the U of U and Bryce Canyon National Park to conduct astronomy programs at Bryce. While SLAS would not be officially involved SLAS members would be encouraged to participate.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at Denny's at 250 W 500 S at 9:00 p.m.

Transitional Board Meeting, 11 December 2013

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 6:30 p.m. Others in attendance were Vice President Joe Bauman, Secretary/Treasurer Charlie Green, board member at large Larry Holmes and members Ann House, Rebeca Granillo, Ken Porras, Patrick Wiggins, Cory Bauman, Nate Goodman, Mike Anderson, Dave Bernson, Kristen Mitchell, Siegfried Jachmann, Sue Norton, Enid Norton, Bill Baker and visitors JD Armstrong, Wayne Sumner and Brent Watson.

Duties were assigned to next year's board members. Rodger will work to keep us in our current meeting place. He will also be in charge of meeting content and will coordinate grants. Ann will handle public relations. Patrick will keep the books and meeting minutes. Nate will be in charge of SPOC star parties. Rebeca will coordinate special and school star parties.

Kristen presented her thoughts on getting the word out about SLAS using several social media outlets. She will coordinate with Ann.

Patrick noted that we already have enough money in the insurance fund to pay the 2014 insurance premium. He proposed that 50 cents of the \$4.50 that has been going from members' dues payments to the Insurance fund go instead to the Entertainment fund with the other \$4.00 to the SPOC fund.

Following more discussion it was decided the 2014 dues structure to be proposed to the membership at next month's general membership meeting would be:

\$ 8.00 General fund
 3.00 Entertainment fund
 5.00 Astronomical League fund
 4.00 SPOC fund
\$20.00 Total

Rodger said he was finally able to contact the new Harmons liaison to SLAS, Tara Haynie. He will continue to work with her as needed throughout the year.

Larry outlined his thoughts on a couple of telescope classes he would like to see the club offer to members. They would be simple classes aimed at helping members learn how to assemble and operate their telescopes. Members who are interested in taking such classes should contact Rodger.

There was extensive discussion about the telescopes the club has been giving away and the way they are given away. Much of the discussion centered around the experiences and thoughts of Brent and Wayne who have had extensive involvement with getting telescopes into the hands of interested people.

No firm decisions were made and the discussion will continue.

The U's department of Physics and Astronomy was reported to be very interested in working with SLAS to bring in a high profile speaker at one of the U's Frontiers of Science lectures. Ann will be the U's contact with SLAS for the project.

JD (visiting from the U of Hawaii) is working to get SLAS an evening of remote imaging on the 2-meter Faulkes North telescope on Maui. He is shooting for the evening of 30 December. Bob Moore has again offered the use of the conference room in his building in downtown SLC.

Should the 30th work out JD will attend the session which could go a long way towards fixing any technical issues that might crop up.

Tyler Allred has agreed to do a presentation at next month's general membership meeting in which he will take the raw data from the Faulkes session and process them into a finished image.

Ann was presented with a round of applause and gift certificate to the spa of her choice as a way of thanking her for her many years of organizing the annual solstice festivals.

Rebeca agreed to try to fill Ann's shoes and will coordinate the next festival(s).

The board will propose at next month's general meeting that 2014 board and general meetings be held on the same schedule and venues as we've done this year. The board will also ask that the limit on what the board can spend without first seeking the membership's permission be left at \$200.00.

Noting how last week's bad weather kept so many people from attending the Solstice Festival and that the venue we've been using the past few years is already booked next year Patrick wondered if it might be a good idea to move it to the springtime. He said not only would there be a better chance of good weather but there would be fewer pressures on members' schedules as well as more venue options.

Rodger said Patrick could issue a SLAS Blast asking the entire membership how they feel about moving the event to springtime.

Patrick has heard that the Natural History Museum of Utah may be interested in working with SLAS on hosting a public eclipse watch at their facility for next October's partial eclipse of the Sun. The board liked the idea and will wait to hear more from the museum.

Dave is going to check with the museum to see if they would like to continue hosting Sun parties during the month's SLAS is not holding them.

Dave was authorized to continue giving out ZAP funded books at his classes at the Sandy Senior Center.

Siegfried pointed out a few problems with the 2014 public star party schedule as it was set at last month's general meeting. He showed that some of the in-town star parties would have little or no Moon. Following more discussion the following was agreed on:

APR 11th Cougar Harmons (4872 W. 6200 S.)
APR 12th SPOC
APR 19th Solar Party-Winchester Park (6400 S. 1100 W.)
APR 25th Wheeler Farm North Parking Lot (6351 S. 900 E.)
APR 26th SPOC
MAY 9th Seventh Street Harmons (7755 S. 700 E.)
MAY 10th SPOC
MAY 17th Solar Party-Winchester Park (6400 S. 1100 W.)
MAY 23rd Wheeler Farm North Parking Lot (6351 S. 900 E.)
MAY 24th SPOC
JUN 6th Taylorsville Harmons (5454 S. Redwood Rd.)
JUN 7th SPOC
JUN 14th Solar Party-Winchester Park (6400 S. 1100 W.)
JUN 20th Wheeler Farm North Parking Lot (6351 S. 900 E.)
JUN 21st SPOC
JUL 5th SPOC
JUL 12th Solar Party-Winchester Park (6400 S. 1100 W.)
JUL 18th Wheeler Farm North Parking Lot (6351 S. 900 E.)
JUL 19th SPOC
AUG 1st Bangerter Crossing Harmons (125 E. 13800 S.)
AUG 2nd SPOC
AUG 9th Solar Party-Winchester Park (6400 S. 1100 W.)
AUG 15th Wheeler Farm North Parking Lot (6351 S. 900 E.)
AUG 16th SPOC
SEP 5th Brickyard Harmons (3270 S. 1300 E.)
SEP 6th SPOC
SEP 13th Solar Party-Winchester Park (6400 S. 1100 W.)
SEP 19th Wheeler Farm North Parking Lot (6351 S. 900 E.)
SEP 20th SPOC
OCT 3rd South Jordan Harmons (10507 S. Redwood Rd.)
OCT 4th SPOC
OCT 11th Solar Party-Winchester Park (6400 S. 1100 W.)
OCT 17th SPOC
OCT 18th SPOC
OCT 31st Seventh Street Harmons (7755 S. 700 E.)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

SLAS Member Information

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

Loaner Telescopes For SLAS Members

SLAS has several scopes available for loan to current SLAS members. Check the SLAS website under "[Membership Benefits](#)" for details.

2014 SLAS Board of Directors

President	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Meetings			
Vice President	Ann House	801.671.8447	ann@annhouse.org
Publicity, PR and Web Content			
Secretary-Treasurer	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	paw@getbeehive.net
Membership Dues & Renewals			
Board Member at Large	Rebeca Granillo	801.856.0545	ilove_astronomy2@yahoo.com
School & Special Star Parties			
Board Member at Large	Nate Goodman	801.277.0193	ngoodman6053@gmail.com
SPOC Star Party Coordinator			

Appointed Positions

Astronomical League Contact	Robert Taylor	801.599.3925	robtaylor@slc@gmail.com
Equipment Manager	Anderson, Mike	801.910.0997	fisherman285@yahoo.com
Equipment Manager, Assistant	Hays, David	801.859.8511	kbh@utaharm.com
Historian	Ann Blanchard	801.485.6629	a.blanchard@ugs.utah.edu
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Ann House	801.671.8447	ann@annhouse.org
Newsletter Editor	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	paw@getbeehive.net
Observatory Director	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Observatory Training Director	Roger Butz	435.830.4684	
Private Star Party Coordinator	Don Colton	801.571.9757	dcoltonsprint@earthlink.net
Solar Scope Manager	Ken Porras	801.210.8427	kennethpr@gs.com
Webmasters	Ken Warner		webmaster@slas.us
ZAP Grant Committee Chair	Ann House	801.671.8447	ann@annhouse.org

Current SPOC Advisory Committee

Chair through DEC 2014 and			
Member through JAN 2015	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Member through JAN 2015	Robyn Anderson	801.520.6981	tailwinds152@hotmail.com
Member through JAN 2014	Mark Bloomenthal	801.842.1242	markbloomenthal@yahoo.com
Member through JAN 2015	Bill Kennedy	801.964.6199	truss_tube@hotmail.com
Member through JAN 2015	Nate Goodman	801.277.0193	ngoodman@lgy.com
Member through JAN 2016	Ken Porras	801.210.8427	kennethpr@gs.com
Member through JAN 2014	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	paw@getbeehive.net
Member while SLAS President	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Member while Observatory Dir.	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Member as Obser. Dir. Emeritus	Bruce Grim	435.882.5237	bmargrim@msn.com
Member while Training Dir.	Roger Butz	435.830.4684	
Member while Harmons Rep.	Keith Anderson		

Current SPOC Telescope Instructors

Dave Bernson	Refractor, Ealing, Grim	801.263.9264	dustynebula@gmail.com
Mark Bloomenthal	Grim	801.842.1242	markbloomenthal@yahoo.com
Roger Butz	Grim	435.830.4684	
Rodger Fry	Refractor, Ealing, Grim	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Bill Kennedy	Refractor, Ealing	801.964.6199	truss_tube@hotmail.com
Patrick Wiggins	Refractor	435.882.1209	paw@getbeehive.net

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 and 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@getbeehive.net, 435.882.1209.

Events Calendar

The following assumes the 2014 schedule remains the same as 2013. Decision on that to be made at the January 2014 General Membership meeting.

January 2014

08 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S.

15 General Meeting 7:00 pm at U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.

February 2014

08 SPOC Committee meeting 3:00 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S.

12 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S.

19 General Meeting 7:00 pm at U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.

March 2014

12 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S.

19 General Meeting 7:00 pm at U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.

View a list of all SLAS events online on the [Events Calendar](#).