

# NOVA



## Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Volume 44 Number 2 March - April 2014

### Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

Baker, Brent

Bunnell, Mark

Comstock, Jessica

Cowley, Brett

Eriksen, Stan

Fischer, Cory

Lindsay, David

Parkin, Matt

Pater, Craig

Phibbs, Steve

Reed, Kevin

Stimpson, Ed

Stokes, Christopher

Svedin, Mark



### Stephan's Quintet

Processed by Tyler Allred using images obtained remotely with the 2 meter Faulkes telescope on Maui over several nights in early January 2014.



**Supernova 2014G**

SLAS member Patrick Wiggins recently discovered a supernova in NGC 3448. Wiggins took the picture on the left on 6 January 2014 which showed no sign of the supernova. He took the discovery image on the right on 14 January. This is Wiggins' first supernova discovery following 469 attempts over 3 years.

## **Start & Renew Astronomy Direct**

Sky & Telescope has been offering it for years and now SLAS members may start or renew subscriptions to Astronomy magazine directly with the publisher.

The procedure takes a bit more effort than that offered by Sky & Telescope but using it should save the extra up to 4 weeks it takes when paying through SLAS.

Be sure to use Renewal Keycode RCLUB152.

<http://subscribe.astronomy.com/ecare>

## **Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society**

### **Board Meeting, 08 January 2014**

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 Ann House, Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins & Board Members at Large Rebeca Granillo & Nate Goodman and members Kenneth Porras, Charlie Green, Kristen Mitchell, Larry Holmes, Enid Norton, Sue Baxter, Deloy Pierce and Stan Eriksen.

Rodger went over proposed speakers for the next few meetings: Tyler Allred this month (with Dave Bernson as a backup), Dave Bernson next month, comet hunter Don Machholz in March and the Astronomical League's Carroll Iorg in April.

The board approved asking the membership to spend up to \$500.00 in ZAP funds to pay for Don Machholz's possible presentation.

There are enough books in stock for give away at star parties that no more need to be ordered.

There was considerable discussion about what kind of binoculars should be given away at star parties this year. Regardless of what kind are eventually given out those attending star parties who would like to win binoculars will first be asked to demonstrate a sincere interest. To that end they will first need to view a certain number and type of objects through telescopes at the evening's star party.

Ann continues to work with the U of U on co-sponsoring one of the U's Frontiers of Science lectures later this year. Rodger is hopeful we'll be able to get someone from NASA/JPL to speak on the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity mission. Another possibility would be the Kepler mission.

Dave will check with the Natural History Museum of Utah about the possibility of holding off-season Sun parties there this year.

Rodger Butz has the master for this year's printed star party schedules. The plan is to have 30 pads of 50 and 500 loose schedules printed.

Rodger asked Patrick to prepare and make available an ICS file containing the SLAS events schedule.

Harmons has approved the star parties to be held at their store this year but they've said nothing about their traditional yearly \$600 donation for Astronomy Day star party door prizes.

International Observe the Moon Day will be on 6 September this year. As SLAS will be holding a star party that evening Rodger is going to register the club on the IOMD web site.

Patrick reported that the club's 2013 financial records had been finalized and posted to the SLAS website.

Larry continues to work on organizing workshops meant to bring members up to speed on various topics in amateur astronomy.

Ann and Patrick will work on getting the club's "Mickey Mouse" telescope and its accessories properly housed and put on display at SPOC. The scope was a gag gift toy telescope given to a different "lucky" member at each Solstice Festival from 1989 to 2008. The member was then to bring it back the next year after having made some "improvement".

Ann will be working with the Natural History Museum of Utah to present science classes for kids at the museum again this summer. Anyone wishing to help out should contact Ann.

Patrick noted that the proposed 2014 dues structure and meeting schedule needs to be voted on by the membership at next week's meeting.

A meeting of the SPOC Advisory Committee will be held on 8 February starting at 3:00 p.m. at the 5th South Denny's. The meeting will be open to all.

Rodger will put this year's meeting and star party information on the club's online events calendar.

SLAS will almost certainly hold some sort of public event for October's partial solar eclipse. The Natural History Museum of Utah has expressed interest in hosting the event. Another possibility would be one of the Harmons stores.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

#### **General Meeting, 15 January 2014**

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 46 people attended.

The meeting started with an announcement that noted telescope maker and popularizer of astronomy John Dobson had died.

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

A representative of the company that has been selling green lasers to SLAS members passed out a questionnaire asking how people got interested in astronomy.

Rodger explained that the images members took recently using a remote connection to telescopes in Chile and Hawaii did not come out very well.

Dave Bernson presented "Ghost Hunting in the Milky Way: A Summary of Planetary Nebulas (Ejection Nebulae) in the Milky Way".

Motions were made and approved to accept the 2014 dues and meeting schedule that had been approved by the board at December's transitional board meeting.

Don Colton outlined the year's private star party schedule and said that the data had been added to the Members Only area of the online SLAS Events Calendar.

A motion was approved to pay noted comet hunter Don Machholz up to \$500.00 for his speaking at a SLAS meeting later this year.

A motion was approved to allow the board to continue to make individual expenditures of up to \$200.00 without prior approval by the membership.

Lowell Lyon encouraged members to attend next month's meeting where the guest speaker will be the Astronomical League's Carroll Iorg.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at Denny's at 250 W 500 S at 8:21 p.m.

#### **SPOC Advisory Committee Meeting, 08 February 2014**

SPOC Committee Chair Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 3:36 p.m. Others in attendance were Patrick Wiggins, Nate Goodman, Kenneth Porras, Charlie Green, Larry Holmes, Stan Eriksen, Roger Butz, Bruce Grim, Alpine Stringham, Bill Kennedy, Mike Clement, Mike Anderson, Siegfried Jachmann, Robyn Anderson, Dave Bernson, Kevin Hays and David Hays.

A motion was approved to spend up to \$500.00 from the SPOC fund on an alarm system for SPOC. The system is to include arming all entrances and a keypad in both buildings. The motion will be presented to the SLAS board at next week's board meeting and the following week at the SLAS general membership meeting.

Another motion was approved to spend up to \$175.00 from general funds to purchase a laser collimator. The collimator will be stored at and primarily used at SPOC. The motion will be presented to the SLAS board at next week's board meeting.

Items to be accomplished before use of the facility begins this year is installation of the security system and the grounding of the roofs of the Harmons building.

Bill hopes to finish the installation of a motorized slow motion control on the refractor's declination axis this year.

Refresher training for instructors on all three telescopes is to begin as early in March as the weather permits.

Lead instructors on the telescopes will be Patrick on the Bogdan, Bill on the Ealing and Rodger on the Grim.

Top priority will go to refresher training of instructors but once an instructor is trained and available on a given scope that instructor may refresh and/or train members on that scope provided there is no conflict with instructor refreshing.

Instructors this year are currently scheduled to be Dave Bernson and Rodger Fry on all three scopes, Mark Bloomenthal, Dale Wilson and Rodger Butz on the Grim, Bill Kennedy on the Bogdan and Ealing and Patrick Wiggins on the Bogdan.

As in years past the goal is to have at least two operators on each SPOC scope during public star parties. Nate will be in charge of coordinating SPOC operators.

This year's spring cleanup will be the afternoon of 12 April starting at 3:00. Cleanup activities will include trimming the hedges, dusting and vacuuming the interior of both buildings and, weather permitting, sanding and painting exterior spots as required. If the weather does not permit the sanding and painting will be done later in the year.

There was much discussion of what to do with the Sky Wizard on the Ealing. It is many years old and not always reliable. Rodger will look into repair or replacement.

The rain gutter on the south side of the Harmons building needs to be replaced. Hopefully that can be accomplished this year.

David Hays spoke about a treatment that can be applied to surfaces to keep graffiti from sticking. Rodger will look into that as well.

A few people thought it would be a good idea to add reflective or phosphorescent tape to the steps on the ladders in both buildings as an aid to the public.

Rodger Butz is looking into reinstalling a WiFi hotspot at SPOC.

All of the SPOC documentation appears to be current. Rodger will make sure that there is always a sufficient supply of training and logbook forms in both buildings.

There was strong support for the idea that telescope operators should be current on the scopes they are running. This is especially important on the Grim. Roger will chair a sub-committee to deal with making sure operators are current.

Weather permitting SPOC's opening and closing dates will be 1 March and 31 October.

Patrick was appointed to another 3 year term on the committee. Larry was appointed to a 3 year term on the committee filling a vacant position.

The club's Daystar H-alpha filter can only be used on the refractor. Those with access to the refractor that would like to learn to use the Daystar should contact Roger Butz.

Patrick said there is a possibility that an antique Celestron Schmidt camera might be donated to SLAS. He noted that if the donation comes through members could experience what astrophotography was like in the days of film.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

#### **Board Meeting, 12 February 2014**

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 6:59 p.m. Others in attendance were Vice President Ann House, Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins & Board Members at Large Nate Goodman & Rebeca Granillo, members Alpine Stringham, Enid Norton, Sue Baxter, Deloy Pierce, Ray Druian, Mike Anderson, Stan Eriksen, Larry Holmes, Siegfried Jachmann, Charlie Green, Kristen Mitchell and Dave Bernson and guests Len and Diane Druian.

The SPOC committee's request to spend up to \$500.00 to have an alarm installed in the observatory buildings was approved.

A motion was approved to purchase 50 binoculars from Walmart to be awarded at this year's public star parties. The approximately \$1,700.00 cost will be split between General and ZAP funds. Those purchased with General funds will be awarded at SPOC star parties while those purchased with ZAP funds will be awarded at Salt Lake County star parties.

SLAS has applied for a \$500.00 grant from Walmart to help cover the cost of the binoculars.

A request from the SPOC committee to appoint Larry Holmes to fill a vacancy on the committee was approved.

Rodger said he plans to start SPOC telescope instructor training as early in March as the weather will permit.

Noted comet hunter Don Machholtz will be the speaker at next month's general membership meeting while Nowell Morris will speak at April's meeting.

There was some discussion about the merits of awarding binoculars vs. telescopes at star parties. As we have several telescopes in stock and will be ordering binoculars we will see how it goes this year and then discuss it again before next season.

A motion was approved to purchase a laser collimator for use at star parties. Dave will determine which one to buy and Rodger will make the purchase. The cost of up to \$175.00 will come from the General fund.

Ann and Rodger continue to work with the U of U on jointly sponsoring a Frontiers of Science lecture later this year.

While most members seem to be happy with continuing to hold the annual Solstice Festival at Golden Corral in Midvale, Rebeca (this year's festival organizer) remains open to alternate suggestions.

Zion National Park will host a Sun party on 19 April for Earth Day. SLAS will not be an official sponsor but SLAS members are encouraged to participate.

Ann will meet with Patrick at SPOC to come up with a way of displaying the club's Mickey Mouse telescope at SPOC. The scope is a gag gift which was awarded to one "lucky" member at the year-end party each year for some 20 years. Each recipient was tasked to make some "improvement" to the scope before returning it at the next party. It was last awarded at the 2008 solstice Festival and was then officially retired from service.

Patrick was authorized to spend up to \$60 from the SPOC fund to modify the A-frame sign purchased last year to advertise SPOC star parties. The sign currently indicates SPOC star parties end at 11:00 pm. That will need to be changed to accommodate this year's varying closing times.

Patrick noted that the board's \$200.00 per individual expenditure limit has remained unchanged for several years and questioned the need to keep reauthorizing the limit every year. Siegfried said he thought the yearly re-approval requirement was needed and the rest of the board agreed so the requirement will remain in place.

Kristen said she'd been accumulating lots of stuff to be included in the upcoming launch of SLAS's social media blitz. Along those lines she asked to have the email address "media@slas.us" set up for use with the effort. Patrick said he'd get with the webmaster and make it so.

SLAS members are asked to be careful when using lasers at star parties. Rodger noted that anyone shining a laser at aircraft can be fined up to \$10,000.00.

Mike said that one of the C-8s in the club's stable of loaner telescopes is in need of repair. He will determine costs and report at a later meeting.

Patrick said that any requests for reimbursement must be accompanied by an invoice or receipt. In the past a simple verbal request was usually all that that was needed. But now that we are accepting government grants and have to apply for a solicitation permit from the state each year SLAS's books are subject to government audit and must be kept in accordance with what is known as "Generally Accepted Accounting Principles".

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13p.m.

#### **General Meeting, 19 February 2014**

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in room 105 of the University of Utah's Engineering/Mines building at 7:03 p.m. Approximately 44 people attended.

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

Rodger introduced the evening's guest speaker, Astronomical League President Carroll Iorg, who presented "A Cosmic Journey with the Astronomical League".

Kristen Mitchell presented an update on her efforts to advertise SLAS via Instagram, Tumbler, Twitter and Facebook. Kristen asked that those wishing to contribute content should contact her at media@slas.us.

Rodger spoke about the decision by the SPOC Committee and the SPOC board to purchase a security system for SPOC costing up to \$500.00. There were no objections to the plan.

The KSL clip of Patrick Wiggins' recent discovery of supernova 2014G was shown.

SLAS is again doing Sun parties at the Natural History Museum of Utah every Saturday until the regular Sun parties start in the spring.

A motion was approved to purchase 50 binoculars with half of the funds coming from ZAP and half from General funds. 25 to be awarded at star parties in the Salt Lake Valley and 25 at SPOC.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at Denny's at 250 W 500 S at 8:10 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 | kennethprrs@gmail.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 2017        | Larry Holmes    | 801.467.7855 | larry@kijoda.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 | kennethprrs@gmail.com    |
| Member through JAN 2017        | 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.      | Tara Haynie     |              |                          |

## 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](mailto: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.

### **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.

### **April 2014**

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

11 Public star party at Cougar Harmons (4872 W 6200 S) 8:00 to 9:00 pm.

12 Public star party at [SPOC](#) 8:00 to 9:00 pm.

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

19 Public Sun party 9:00 to noon at Winchester Park (6400 S 1100 W)

25 Public star party at Wheeler Farm (6351 S 900 E) 8:00 to 9:00 pm.

26 Public star party at [SPOC](#) 8:00 to 9:00 pm.

### **May 2014**

09 Public star party at 7th Street Harmons (7755 S 700 E) 8:30 to 10:00 pm.

10 Public star party at [SPOC](#) 8:30 to 10:00 pm.

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

17 Public Sun party 9:00 to noon at Winchester Park (6400 S 1100 W)

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

23 Public star party at Wheeler Farm (6351 S 900 E) 8:30 to 10:00 pm.

24 Public star party at [SPOC](#) 8:30 to 10:00 pm.

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