

# NOVA



## **Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society**

Volume 44 Number 3    May - June 2014

### **Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!**

Buckley, Ron  
Burris, Richard S  
Coberly, Alexander  
Howa, Steven

Johnson, Michael  
Judd, Lisa  
Lacey, Joshua  
Noetling Pamela

O'Keefe, Kevin  
Peterson, Jennifer  
Ritchie, Ryan  
Roddy, Alisha

Simpkins, Ryan  
Steves, Kevin  
Villafana, Malessa  
Zhang, Jingzhou



**The Orion Nebula, Messier 42/43**

Image by Dave Gary.

## 14-15 April 2014 Lunar Eclipse

SLAS hosted middle-of-the-night eclipse watches at SPOC and the Sandy Walmart for April's lunar eclipse. Here are a few members' pictures. More to come on the SLAS Gallery.



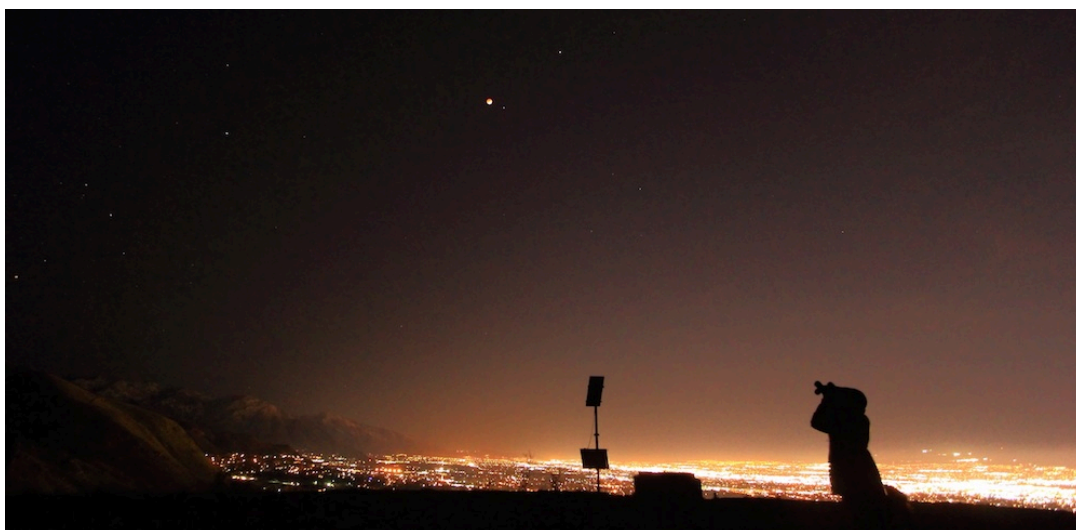
**Joe Bauman** (Spica on the right)



**Don O'Cain**



**Dave Gary**



**Jingzhou Zhang**

## **April SPOC Cleanup**

by Rodger Fry, Observatory Director

On Saturday, April 12, 2014, we held a very successful cleanup at SPOC. The weather was great for the cleanup but clouds moved in before sunset and we therefore couldn't open the observatory for the first public SPOC star party of the year.

We would like to thank those who helped on the cleanup:

Mike Anderson  
Robert Bigelow  
Jamie Bradley  
Cory Fisher  
Rodger Fry  
Bruce Grim  
Bill Kennedy  
Kristen Mitchell  
Ruth Nakamura (thanks for the donuts!)  
Ken Porras  
Bernard Rouse  
Alpine Stewart  
Patrick Wiggins

For those who were not able to make this, don't feel left out, we will have some other work projects in May.

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

### **Board Meeting, 12 March 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, Joe Bauman, Cory Bauman, Siegfried Jachmann, Mike Anderson, Michael Morrison and Jamie Bradley.

Rodger went over speakers he's scheduled for the next few meetings and noted he's still looking for speakers for the May and June meetings.

Patrick reported that the hoped-for grant from Walmart fell through putting us \$500 short for the purchase of 50 binoculars we'd hoped to purchase for give away at star parties.

Ann said she'd learned that ZAP grant funds can no longer be spent on prizes. Between that news and the failed Walmart grant it was decided to purchase only 25 binoculars with the entire cost coming out of the General Fund. Patrick will handle the purchase.

Kids participating at drawings at star parties this year will need to be between the ages of 9 and 18.

Ann and Rodger will be meeting next Wednesday with the dean of the U's Department of Physics & Astronomy to pick a date and venue for the Frontiers of Science lecture SLAS will be cosponsoring with the U.

SLAS is heavily involved with the Natural History Museum of Utah, helping with Sun parties, classes, camps and the upcoming eclipse watch for this year's partial eclipse of the Sun.

The deadline for the next ZAP grant is the end of this month. Ann will continue to be in charge of preparing the application but Rodger will also be involved.

Siegfried is going to get the name and product information for the laser collimator SLAS will be buying. He will pass the information on to Rodger who will then place the order.

There was much discussion about a possible partnership with Deer Valley wherein SLAS would provide star parties for the resort's guests. In the end the idea of a partnership was shelved in favor of encouraging members to participate on their own.

Zion National Park is seeking volunteers to help with a Sun party they are planning for 19 April. Rodger is going to check with SLAS members who live in the southern part of the state to see if any would care to volunteer. Rebeca said she plans on attending.

Ann said she has purchased parts of what will become a display enclosure at SPOC for the Mickey Mouse telescope. She and Patrick continue to work on the project and hope to have it completed soon.

Patrick was authorized to purchase a \$50.00 gift card from the Copy Cottage in Stansbury Park. The card will be used to pay for SLAS related postage and copies.

Rodger said an alarm system has been installed in both buildings at SPOC and that the system should be operational later this week. Members with access to the facility need to become familiar with the system's operation before accessing either building.

The company that took over the ISP that served SPOC will no longer provide free internet service to SPOC. With the web being so widely available on phones and tablets the board saw no reason to pay for internet at SPOC.

Instructor refresher training has already begun at SPOC and will continue along with training of regular users.

An expert landscape designer recently visited with several SLAS members at SPOC about possible light blocking vegetation that could be planted along SPOC's south and west perimeter. A soil sample was taken and we should be hearing back about plant recommendations soon. The cost of the plants will be covered by the Stansbury Park Service Agency.

Rodger is going to check again with SLAS's contact at Harmons to see if they will be making a donation to SLAS this year as they have for the past several years. Harmons donations are usually spent on items given away at one of their stores on Astronomy Day.

Patrick noted that SLAS's master membership roster currently shows SLAS has had nearly 2,000 members since its founding. Based on the current rate of new members joining Patrick thinks we should pass the 2,000 mark later this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

#### **General Meeting, 19 March 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 58 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 guest speaker, noted comet discoverer Don Machholz who presented "A Visual Comet Hunting Program".

Ann House said that Deer Valley is looking for people with telescopes to help with an event on the 29th of this month.

Bill Kennedy still has several calendars and handbooks waiting to be picked up.

Rodger reported that Sun parties will continue at the Natural History Museum of Utah at least until the start of the regular Sun party season. The museum is very happy with the way the events have gone so far and looks forward to hosting many more.

A security system is now installed and operational at the club's observatory. Effective immediately anyone using the observatory will need to be briefed on the system's operation.

Patrick said an order for several 7x35 binoculars will be placed Walmart. The binoculars will be given out at public star parties.

Siegfried Jachmann reminded everyone that a total eclipse of the Moon will happen during the late night and early morning of 14/15 April. He is arranging a public eclipse watch at the Bangerter Harmons. Rodger said he will see about getting out a news release about the event.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at Denny's at 250 W 500 S at 8:38 p.m.

#### **Board Meeting, 09 April 2014**

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 6:37 p.m. Others in attendance were Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins & Board Member at Large Nate Goodman and members Kenneth Porras, Charlie Green, Enid Norton, Sue Baxter, Deloy Pierce, Mike Anderson, Christopher Stokes, Alpine Stringham and Jamie Bradley.

Rodger said SLAS VP Ann House submitted SLAS's 2015 ZAP grant application the end of last month. The request asks for \$6,800.00.

The Natural History Museum of Utah is interested in having SLAS members present a star party at a site near Salt Lake this summer.

Kristy Mitchell's suggestion for a SLAS internship program was approved. Interns will be provided with SLAS memberships paid for by donations.

Rodger Fry and SLAS VP Ann House met last month with with representatives of the U's College of Science about the planned Frontiers of Science event SLAS will be cosponsoring at The Leonardo, possibly on 24 September. It was decided to not make the talk part of the Frontier's of Science series of lectures. Rodger has submitted a request to NASA for a speaker. SLAS will cover the cost of the speaker's transportation, lodging and meals.

SLAS members continue to be encouraged to help Zion National Park with an Earth Day Sun party on 19 April.

Rodger reported that he has submitted another soil sample from SPOC for testing in a continuing effort to find some sort of light-blocking foliage that could be planted around part of SPOC's perimeter. The first sample showed a very high pH of 8.4.

A SPOC cleanup has been scheduled for this coming Saturday at SPOC starting at 4:00 pm. All members are encouraged to show up and help spruce up the club's flagship facility.

Patrick delivered the 2014 SLAS star and Sun party fliers. As in years past they were printed for free by Transcript Bulletin Publishing in Tooele. Rodger will send them a letter thanking them for their donation.

Rodger also presented a batch of 2014 star and Sun party fliers which he had printed and SLAS paid for. Rodger explained he'd had them printed after the SLAS member who had been in charge of getting the schedules printed mistakenly told him that free copies would not be provided this year.

Christopher spoke about a star party he is planning at St Olaf School in Bountiful on 8 May. He will work out the details with SLAS's Special Star Party Coordinator Rebeca Granillo.

Patrick showed one of the advertising posters the Cedar City • Brian Head Tourism Bureau had printed for 2012's eclipse in Kanarraville. Approval was given to frame three with one being hung in each of SPOC's 3 telescope bays.

Mike said another telescope has been donated to SLAS's loaner scope program.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

#### **General Meeting, 16 April 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 53 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 guest speaker Nowell Morris who presented a talk on archaeoastronomy entitled A Solar Calendar Device at Parowan Gap.

Ann House spoke about her's and Kristy Mitchell's new SLAS internship program. They are seeking SLAS members to sponsor the interns by paying the interns' dues. Ann will put information on the program on the SLAS website.

Rodger spoke about last Saturday's clean up at SPOC noting that a lot of work was done. He will be scheduling another similar event soon for sometime in May.

Rodger said Mike Clements (aka 1.8 meter Mike) will be hosting a star party with his 1.8 meter reflector for SLAS members soon.

This year's Bryce Canyon Astronomy Festival will be held on 25-28 June. Those wishing to help out should contact Don Colton at dcoltonsprint@earthlink.net.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at Denny's at 250 W 500 S at 8:33 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	801.558-2813	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 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	kennethpr@gs.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.

### **May 2014**

09 Public star party at 7th Street Harmons (7755 S 700 E) dusk to 10:00 pm.  
10 Public star party at [SPOC](#) dusk 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) dusk to 10:00 pm.  
24 Public star party at [SPOC](#) dusk to 10:00 pm.

### **June 2014**

06 Public star party at Taylorsville Harmons (5454 South Redwood Rd) dusk to 11:00 pm.  
11 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S.  
14 Public Sun party 9:00 to noon at Winchester Park (6400 S 1100 W)  
18 General Meeting 7:00 pm at U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.  
20 Public star party at Wheeler Farm (6351 S 900 E) dusk to 11:00 pm.  
21 Public star party at [SPOC](#) dusk to 11:00 pm.

### **July 2014**

05 Public star party at [SPOC](#) dusk to 10:00 pm.  
09 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S.  
12 Public Sun party 9:00 to noon at Winchester Park (6400 S 1100 W)  
16 General Meeting 7:00 pm at U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.  
18 Public star party at Wheeler Farm (6351 S 900 E) dusk to 11:00 pm.  
19 Public star party at [SPOC](#) dusk to 11:00 pm.

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