

NOVA



Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Volume 44 Number 5 September - October 2014

Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

Arguello-Moeai, Sofia	Marshall, Bri
Bowles, Patrick	Peterson, Justin
Bradshaw, Allison	Poe, Ray
Chai, Ryan	Pollock, Francine
Coles, Craig	Reid, Ian
Fitzjarrell, David	Wittwer, Bryan
Guo, Jinyan	
Loveless, Rebecca	



SLAS member Patrick Wiggins receiving NASA's highest civilian award the Distinguished Public Service Medal from NASA Administrator Charles Bolden Jr. (r) and Associate Administrator Robert Lightfoot (l) at NASA Headquarters in Washington DC on 14 August 2014.

Candidate Statements

Per the club's constitution those standing for office in the annual SLAS election are entitled to post a statement in the September issue of the club's newsletter.

What follows are the statements that have been received at press time:

Ryan Simpkins, candidate for Vice President

I would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors of the Society as Vice President. I work for Adobe in the Digital Marketing division of the company. This division is responsible for optimizing the on-line marketing efforts of some of the largest brands in the world. Working in this capacity I have gained specialized insight and training regarding on-line marketing. I also have 15 years experience working in a highly technical role that has exposed me to a variety of Internet services that SLAS relies upon. For 5 years I served as President of the Provo Linux Users Group, a group of over 500 industry professionals working in Information Technology. SLAS is continuing to grow in to the on-line world through social networking sites like Facebook, Instagram, and many others. My technical and on-line marketing background makes me uniquely qualified to participate in the capacity of Vice President in organizing these important initiatives.

I believe that SLAS's future rests in the hearts and minds of our youth. In the younger visitors at SLAS outreach events the experience of awe and wonder can be found not in the eyepiece, but in the faces of children as they take their first real look at the night sky. Utah has a strong and lasting family-focused culture. As Vice President I will work to encourage family participation in SLAS events. I believe a focus on the family will help groom the future astronomers and leaders that SLAS will come to rely upon. Speaking as a father of nine future scientists (fingers crossed!), I know our family is always looking for reasons to learn together. The time we have spent under the stars with our telescopes has been some of the most rewarding and meaningful time we have ever spent together. SLAS will always be an organization that houses the highly technical knowledge that makes modern amateur astronomy and science possible. Yet our future lies in the hands of the young people we hope to inspire to one day lead SLAS to new and exciting possibilities. By leveraging both my unique background in on-line marketing, and my passion for engaging youth in the world of astronomy, I believe I would be an effective Vice President.

Cecile Oldham, candidate for Vice President

Hi, I'm Cecile Oldham. I grew up in the Sugar House Area of Salt Lake, graduating from South High and the University of Utah (go Utes) with a bachelors degree in Geography with my emphasis in digital mapping. I worked for REDCON in Bountiful digitizing 7.5" quads. I was the quality check person. USGS did not reject any of the work we sent them when I was quality checking. I seem to have had a gift for finding mistakes on maps.

I have served in the Cub Scouts as a den leader, cub committee chairman, Roundtable staff person and Roundtable Commissioner.

I've been interested in Astronomy since I was in high school. I got my first scope in 1987 when my husband bought me a Meade 2120LX3 ten inch scope. (Loved it) I then got a ten inch Odyssey scope and now also have a Celestron motorized five inch scope. I decided to run for office partly because so many people were unwilling to participate, but also I think I can add to the club. I am detailed oriented and like to do my best.

Astronomical League

Troy Stratton

The Astronomical League is one of the largest astronomy organizations in the world. Composed of over two hundred and forty local amateur astronomical societies, their goal is to encourage an interest in amateur astronomy. One of the means of accomplishing this, is through sponsoring Observing Programs. Observing Programs, (there are over 40 now, and new ones are continually being added) cover a wide range of astronomical viewing projects. From lunar observing to Arp peculiar galaxies, there are different observing skill levels to challenge the beginner and advanced astronomer alike. Each Observing Program contains it's own rules and completion requirements. Once completed and approved by the Program chairperson, the observer receives a letter of congratulations, numbered observing certificate, and a enameled lapel pin with the image of the appropriate program. The Astronomical League also lists the awardees name under the completed Observing Program in their Reflector magazine.

As the Salt Lake Astronomical Society is a member society of the Astronomical League, all SLAS members are eligible to participate in the Observing programs. Fun and exciting to do, these Observing Programs help focus and enhance our observing qualities. With so many different programs to choose from, it's easy to select one that appeals to your personal interest in astronomy.

There is little or no cost to the observer, to participate in the programs. For most, the cost associated lies only in the expense to ship your observations to the program coordinator. Many of the programs offer the option to email observations. This would reduce or even eliminate any cost. Before beginning any of the programs, ensure that you review all of the program requirements and submission instructions. All of the programs are listed on the Astronomical League website <http://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/AlphabeticObservingClubs.html>

In future issues of NOVA, I will be writing a highlight of the various Observing Programs that the Astronomical League has to offer.

Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Board Meeting, 09 July 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 Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins & Board Members at Large Nate Goodman and Rebeca Granillo and members Kenneth Porras, Charlie Green, Larry Holmes, Enid Norton, Sue Baxter, Joe Bauman, Alpine Stringham, Chuck Hards and Kelly Hards.

Speakers are still needed for this year's October and November general meetings. Suggestions for speakers should be sent to Rodger.

Joe said there was an excellent article in the Tribune about the U's work with cosmic ray research. He suggested someone from that program be invited to speak at a SLAS meeting.

Patrick noted that there are several paper planispheres at SPOC. An attempt will be made to give them away during the Stansbury Days star party. Enid said she could use some for a class she is teaching.

Despite multiple attempts we've still not heard back from NASA about a speaker for September's planned public lecture. Rodger said that if a speaker is not confirmed by 1 August the event will have to be cancelled.

Summer camps at Wheeler Farm continue. Someone from SLAS is needed to help with a camp on 30 July. Anyone interested should contact Rodger.

SLAS has been invited to hold a star party the night of 1 August for this year's Hellfire Rocket Launch on the Salt Flats.

Enid was authorized to spend \$50.00 to have 200 SLAS buttons made for give away at SLAS events. If the buttons prove popular more will be ordered.

Problems continue with the alarm system at SPOC. Apparently no one has been able to make contact with the company that installed it.

A combination work party, swap meet and Star-B-Que was scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday 2 August at SPOC. Work party to start at 3:00. Swap meet and Star-B-Que to start at 6:30 and end prior to the star of the evening's public star party.

A meeting was held locally on 2 July for SLAS members wishing to help with the Astronomical League's 2017 convention.

Chuck Hards' \$25.00 bid was the winning bid for the original focuser for SPOC's Grim scope. He paid for and picked up the focuser at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

General Meeting, 16 July 2014

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in room 105 of the University of Utah's Engineering/Mines building at 7:02 p.m. Approximately 45 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 Dr. John Armstrong from Weber State University. Dr. Armstrong's talk was entitled "Super Earths, Mini-Neptunes, and Habitable Worlds".

Rodger went over the next few club events including a combination work party, swap meet, Star-B-Que, vintage telescope contest and star party at SPOC on Saturday 2 August.

The work party will start at 3:00 p.m. The swap meet, telescope contest and dinner will start at 6:30 and conclude before the start of the evening's public star party.

SLAS will provide drinks while the dinner will be pot-luck so members are encouraged to bring food items to share.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at Denny's at 250 W 500 S at 8:14 p.m.

Board Meeting, 13 August 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 Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins & Board Members at Large Rebeca Granillo & Nate Goodman and members Kenneth Porras, Charlie Green, Larry Holmes, Carol Holmes, Enid Norton, Sue Baxter, Deloy Pierce, Joe Bauman, Cory Bauman, Stan Eriksen, Ray Durian and Alpine Stringham.

Rodger went over the speakers for the next two meetings.

There was discussion about how to spend the ZAP funds including Sun party signage and bringing in out of town speakers.

Rodger brought up the cards we've been having kids fill out at star parties before entering the drawings. The system received mixed reviews.

Rodger is going to check with the museum to see if they'd like to hold Sun parties there this winter.

There was general agreement that the new SLAS Intern program is working.

Planning continues for next month's Frontiers of Science lecture the club will be co-hosting with the U. The U is very happy with SLAS's involvement and want to do it again next year.

The summer camps SLAS has been holding a Wheeler Farm have proven very popular with over 100 attendees at each of this year's 3 camps.

A majority of the board agreed to the purchase of 400 more SLAs advertising pins for \$100.00. Enid will handle the purchase.

The SLAS Election Committee this year will consist of Rodger Fry, Enid Norton and Larry Holmes. Nominations for the 2015 board are due at next week's meeting.

Rodger said the alarm system at SPOC has been fixed.

The next SPOC cleanup has been set for 20 September starting at 3:00 p.m. The club will buy lunch at the nearby Kravers restaurant for those attending.

Patrick expressed disappointment that so few bothered to show up for the recent SPOC cleanup while many did show up for the food after.

Seven SLAS members met recently to help plan the 2017 Alcon in Wyoming.

Everyone was reminded that SLAS will be holding an eclipse watch at the museum for this October's partial eclipse of the Sun.

Charlie Green is going to work on amending the club's constitution to remove term limits.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

General Meeting, 20 August 2014

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in room 105 of the University of Utah's Engineering/Mines building at 7:04 p.m. Approximately 36 people attended.

Rodger introduced the members of the board and then spoke briefly about member Patrick Wiggins receiving NASA's Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest award NASA gives to civilians.

Rodger then introduced the evening's guest speaker, SLAS member Laura Burchell who spoke on "Youth in Astronomy" and gave tips on attracting more young people to astronomy.

Charley Green moved the club amend the club's constitution to eliminate term limits. Motion was seconded followed by discussion. Pro and Con points will be in the next newsletter with a vote to be taken at the next meeting.

A video showing Patrick receiving his NASA medal at NASA headquarter in Washington DC last week was shown and Patrick received a standing ovation.

Nominations were taken for next year's SLAS board of directors. Several members declined nominations so as this issue of Nova is being published here are the members willing to stand for office.

President: None

Vice President: Ryan Simpkins, Cecile Oldham

Secretary Treasurer: Patrick Wiggins

Board Member at Large: Rebeca Granillo, George Van Komen, Stan Eriksen, Aleta Cox, Michael Anderson, Edward Ericksen, Mike Wilson, Fletcher Gross and Bill Cowles

SLAS will cosponsor the September Frontiers of Science lecture with the U.

Lowell Lyon provided an update on the 2017 ALCON.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at Denny's at 250 W 500 S at 8:45 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@slas.us
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@slas.us
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, 435.882.1209.

Events Calendar

September 2014

05 Public star party at Brickyard Harmons 3270 S 1300 E dusk to 10:00 pm.
06 Public star party at [SPOC](#) dusk to 10:00 pm.
10 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S.
13 Public Sun party 9:00 to noon at Winchester Park (6400 S 1100 W)
17 General Meeting 7:00 pm at U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 2230.
19 Public star party at Wheeler Farm (6351 S 900 E) dusk to 10:00 pm.
20 Public star party at [SPOC](#) dusk to 10:00 pm.

October 2014

03 Public star party at South Jordan Harmons 10507 S Redwood dusk to 9:00 pm.
04 Public star party at [SPOC](#) dusk to 9:00 pm.
08 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 1701 W North Temple (this month only)
11 Public Sun party 9:00 to noon at Winchester Park (6400 S 1100 W)
15 General Meeting 7:00 pm at U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 2230.
17 Public star party at [SPOC](#) dusk to 9:00 pm.
18 Public star party at [SPOC](#) dusk to 9:00 pm.
23 Public solar eclipse watch at Natural History Museum of Utah.
31 Public star party at Seventh Street Harmons 7755 S 700 E dusk to 9:00 p.m.

November 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 2230.

December 2014

06 Solstice Festival at Golden Corral 665 E Fort Union Blvd, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
10 Transitional Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S.

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

SLAS General Election for 2015 board.

President

No nominated candidates

Suggested write-in :

Joan Carmen

Joe Bauman

Write-in vote:

Vice-President

☐ Ryan Simpkins

☐ Cecile Oldham

Write-in vote:

Secretary/Treasurer

☐ Patrick A Wiggins

Suggested write-in: Lowell Lyon

Write-in vote:

Board Member - Vote for 2

☐ Rebeca Granillo

☐ George Van Komen

☐ Michael Andersen

☐ Michael J Wilson

Write-in vote board member (1):

Write-in vote board member (2):

Note: Suggested write-in candidates asked to be added to the ballot after the August general membership meeting.