

NOVA



Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Volume 45 Number 6 November - December 2015

Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

Anderson, Jonathan
Anderson, Victoria
Ansley, George
Berry, Kevin
DeLeeuw, Eileen

Ellsworth, Amy
Glasser, Benjamin
Harmer, Brent
Helphenstine, Alex

Meacham, Alyshondra
Merrill, Daniel
Nix, Pepper
Powell, David

Shields, Joann
Smith, Jeffery F
Spencer, Clarence
Swetnam, Rachael



Marley Stark under Delicate Arch

SLAS Member Images of the 27 SEP 2015 Total Lunar Eclipse



Kevin Berry



Bruce Hugo



Siegfried Jachmann

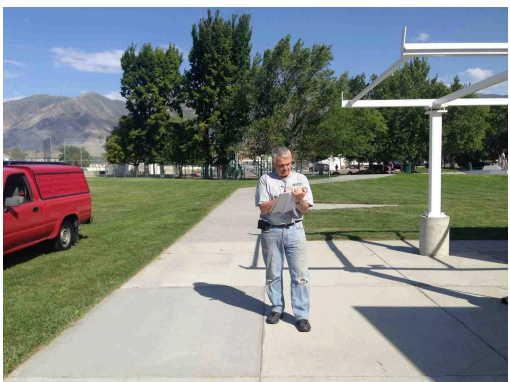
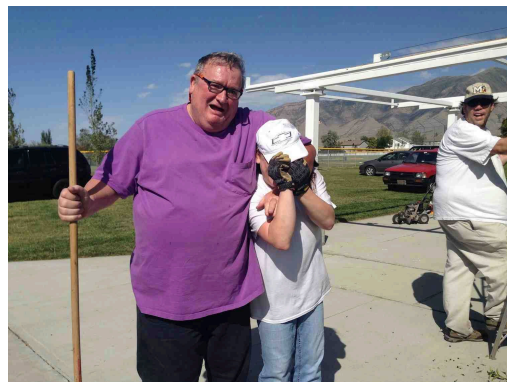


Emily Lehnardt & Tom Zirker



Michael Sprague

September SPOC Cleanup



On the afternoon of September 5, 2015, we had a very successful cleanup project at SPOC. The weather cooperated nicely, albeit a bit windy and we had an excellent number of members willing to help.

The following were in attendance:

Bill Kennedy
Patrick Wiggins
Brent Jaffa

Jamie Bradley
Ken Porras
Amelia Goodrich

Kim Keane
Denise Larsen
Rodger Fry

Alpine Stringham

We were able to complete some touchup painting on the refractor dome, trim all the hedges and edge the lawn, clean out the storage shed (inventory and categorize the newly acquired donated telescopes), clean all of the observatories and repair the encoder drive belt on the Ealing telescope.

Following the cleanup, all involved had a light dinner at Kravers and then a very successful star party followed in the evening.

I wish to thank all of those who helped make this happen.

Rodger C. Fry
Observatory Director

Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Board Meeting, 09 September 2015

SLAS President Joan Carman called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 7:02 p.m. Others in attendance were Vice President Ryan Simpkins, Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins, Board Members at Large Siegfried Jachmann & Mike Wilson and members Charlie Green, Enid Norton, Sue Baxter, Rodger Fry, Nate Goodman, Ken Porras, Mike Wilson, Mike Anderson, Don Knowlton and Amelia Goodrich.

The monthly financial report was reviewed.

Ryan said he'd been interviewed by Runners World magazine about star parties

Siegfried went over upcoming school star parties.

Patrick reported that for the first time in club history membership has reached and recently passed 300. He credited the work Ryan has been doing advertising SLAS on Facebook.

Joan continued her report from previous board meetings on the results of the survey SLAS members participated in earlier this year. She said several members expressed interest in training on SPOC's Ealing telescope. This is something that will be discussed at this fall's SPOC Committee meeting.

Joan said that anyone wishing to see the survey's raw data should contact her.

Joan reminded everyone that this month's Frontiers of Science lecture at the University of Utah is being cosponsored by SLAS. 75 seats have been reserved for SLAS members.

Rodger said the recent SPOC cleanup had gone very well and that the facility is looking great. He added that all of the SPOC scopes are running well but that the Sky Wizard on the Ealing has been having problems. He said Jim Keene is working on that. Jim is also going to work on the recently donated Meade 10 over the winter and hopes to have it ready in the spring.

Anyone wishing to learn to run the club's C-14 at SPOC star parties should contact Rodger.

The club has 4 unneeded telescopes. They are two 8" German Equatorially mounted Newtonians, one 5" reflector and one 80mm goto scope. The board decided to surplus them and put them up for bid. \$50 minimum bid on the Newtonians. No minimum on the other two. Bids are due at next week's meeting. Pictures of all 4 have been placed on the club's SLAStalk Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SLAS.Talk>.

There was a brief discussion about possibly changing the SLAStalk page so that one could access it without having a Facebook account but that idea was deemed unworkable.

Siegfried suggested the club consider scheduling at least one private (members only) star party per month at SPOC next year.

Joan is going to check with the club's current representative to the Astronomical League, Rob Taylor, to see if he would like to continue in the job. If he does not Ryan said he would take the job.

Ken Porras is looking into a small projector that will project images from iPhones and iPads. If it works it might be able to be used to project sky charts on the inside of the dome of the Refractor House, much as what used to be done with a Star Lab projector until the planetarium requested it be returned.

Siegfried went over plans for this month's eclipse watch at the Harmons store in Draper. Ryan will work to get the word out via social media. Patrick offered to include a mention of the event in the release he, as a NASA/JPL Ambassador, will be sending out to all Utah media. Offer accepted.

Ryan said the plan to have SLAS help with an exhibit at the planetarium is on hold.

The two 6" Dobsonian telescopes still in inventory will be kept there until next year's board decides what to do with them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

General Meeting, 16 September 2015

SLAS President Joan Carman called the meeting to order in room 203 of the Salt Lake Community College's Rampton Technology building at 7:30 p.m. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting.

Joan introduced the members of the board.

Joan reminded everyone that tomorrow evening SLAS would be cosponsoring with the U of U a Frontiers of Science lecture on the U campus.

The evening's program was "Show and Tell, Just the Way You Remember It". Several members presented mini talks featuring various pieces of amateur astronomy equipment, pictures and experiences:

Joan Carman - Books - the New Solar System.

Dave Bernson - Binocular tripods

Scott Crosby - His first telescope - reconstructed over time. About the only "original" parts are the mirror and secondary.

Nate Goodman - Cartoons in a booklet form of his astronomical drawings

Marley Stark - Her picture at night of the Milky Way and a famous natural bridge in Moab.

Siegfried Jachmann - A self-built grating for splitting close double stars, specifically Sirius and well, his version of why the upcoming lunar eclipse will be a "super moon".

David Kennedy - His videos of planets taken through his scope.

Lowell Lyon - Recording/documenting/planning observing sessions. His first notebook.

Enid Norton announced recent changes to the loaner scope program. Pick up and delivery of scopes will now be prior to star parties at SPOC. Mike Anderson will be there rain or shine for scope return/delivery.

Siegfried announced the school star party by Paul Woelker on October 8th at Foothill Elementary noting SLAS has supported star parties at Paul's schools for about 25 years.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at the Village Inn located at 4681 S Redwood Road at 8:45 p.m.

Board Meeting, 14 October 2015

SLAS President Joan Carman called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 7:01 p.m. Others in attendance were Vice President Ryan Simpkins, Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins, Board Member at Large Mike Wilson and members Charlie Green, Enid Norton, Sue Baxter, Dave Bernson, Alpine Stringham, Stan Eriksen, Nate Goodman, Ken Porras, Mike Anderson, and Amelia Goodrich.

Ryan said he continues to work on the \$2,500 grant from Adobe and that he also has a lead on possible other Adobe grants.

Ryan said he spent \$150 on Facebook advertising for Dr. Spencer's lecture that netted 18,500 views and \$100 on the lunar eclipse watch that garnered 45,000 views. He said SLAS now has about 1,900 followers on Facebook, more than any other astronomy club in the region.

Joan said that this year's Slastrofest went so well that she hopes to hold another next year.

Joan reported that the St. Louis Astronomical Society has placed 60 telescopes in public libraries where they can be checked out. She would like to see SLAS do something similar.

Siegfried suggested a similar program that would put telescopes in the hands of teachers for which Joan suggested the possibility of SLAS appointing mentors to help the teachers.

Both Joan's and Siegfried's projects could be funded by grants.

The board appointed Ryan as SLAS representative to the Astronomical League.

Repairs and anti-virus protection for the club's laptop computer were authorized.

Joan said the recent Lunar Eclipse Watch at the Harmons in Draper was a particularly successful event with many telescopes, 500-1,000 public and channels 4 and 13 present.

Mike Wilson said planning for this year's Solstice Fest continues.

Ryan will send a SLAS Blast reminding members to vote prior to next week's club election.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

General Meeting, 21 October 2015

SLAS President Joan Carman called the meeting to order in room 203 of the Salt Lake Community College's Rampton Technology building at 7:32 p.m. Approximately 44 people attended the meeting.

Joan introduced the members of the board and then spoke briefly about her fun experiences with setting up telescopes on Halloween night.

Joan then introduced the evening's guest speaker, long time SLAS member Dave Bernson. Dave's talk was entitled "In Search of Ancient Astronomers".

Enid Norton outlined changes in the long term and short term loaner scope program. Contact Enid or Mike Anderson for details.

Siegfried Jachmann announced the results of the club's election for the 2016 board of directors.

President: Joan Carman

Vice President: Ryan Simpkins

Secretary/Treasurer: Rodger Fry

Board Member at Large: Marley Stark

Board Member at Large: Aleta Cox

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at the Village Inn located at 4681 S Redwood Road at 8:44 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.

2015 SLAS Board of Directors

President	Joan Carman	801.943.4192	jcarman6@q.com
Meetings			
Vice President	Ryan Simpkins	801.602.8661	simpkins.ryan@gmail.com
Publicity, PR and Web Content			
Secretary-Treasurer	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	paw@digis.net
Membership Dues & Renewals			
Board Member at Large	Siegfried Jachmann	801.520.2271	siegfried@jachmann.org
School & Special Star Parties			
Board Member at Large	Mike Wilson	801.508.1050	astro_outwest@yahoo.com
SPOC Star Party Coordinator			

Appointed Positions

Astronomical League Contact	Ryan Simpkins	801.602.8661	simpkins.ryan@gmail.com
Equipment Manager	Anderson, Mike	801.910.0997	fisherman285mike@gmail.com
Historian	Position vacant		
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Ann House	801.671.8447	ann@annhouse.org
Newsletter Editor	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	paw@digis.net
Observatory Director	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Private Star Party Coordinator	Don Colton	801.571.9757	dcoltonsprint@earthlink.net
Solar Scope Manager	Ken Porras	801.210.8427	kennethprrs@gmail.com
Webmaster	Ken Warner		webmaster@slas.us
ZAP Grant Writer	Ann House	801.671.8447	ann@annhouse.org

Current SPOC Advisory Committee

Chair through DEC 2018	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Member through JAN 2018	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Member through JAN 2018	Stan Eriksen	801.446.1479	staneriksen@icloud.com
Member through JAN 2017	Larry Holmes	801.467.7855	larry@kijoda.com
Member through JAN 2018	Bill Kennedy	801.964.6199	truss_tube@hotmail.com
Member through JAN 2018	Nate Goodman	801.277.0193	ngoodman@lgcy.com
Member through JAN 2016	Ken Porras	801.210.8427	kennethprrs@gmail.com
Member through JAN 2017	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	paw@digis.net
Member while SLAS President	Joan Carman	801.943.4192	jcarman6@q.com
Member as Obser. Dir. Emeritus	Bruce Grim	435.882.5237	bmargrim@msn.com
Member while Harmons Rep.	Tara Haynie		

Current SPOC Telescope Instructors

Mike Andersen	Ealing	801.910.0997	fisherman285mike@gmail.com
Dave Bernson	Refractor, Ealing, Grim	801.263.9264	dustynebula@gmail.com
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@digis.net
Dale Wilson	Grim	801.518.7859	dalel2112@yahoo.com
Mike Wilson	Ealing	801.508.1050	astro_outwest@yahoo.com

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@digis.net.

Events Calendar

November 2015

11 Board Meeting at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, 7:00 pm

18 General Meeting at SLCC's Rampton Technology Building, room 203, 7:30 pm

December 2015

05 Solstice Festival at Golden Corral 665 E Fort Union Blvd, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

09 Transitional Board Meeting at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, 7:00 pm

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