

NOVA



Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Volume 45 Number 5 September - October 2015

Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

Andersen, Jason
Binek, Darwin
Clayton, Nelson
Cutler, Jefferson
Dajes, Talia
Driskill, Keith
Goodrich, Amelia

Gutting, Scott A
Hoerner, Priscila
Iverson, Craig
Jackson, Jamie
Lucas, Hamilton
McRoberts, Darrell
Morgan, Kristjan

Oppel, Matthew
Osczepinski, Tim
Perkes, Brian
Persell, Paul
Rasmussen, Marjorie
Schaaf, Eseta
Sharp, Dennis

Silcox, Deanna
Smith, Kaitlyn
Stanley, Carl
Stark, Marley
Strasser, Amber
Terry, Kathy
Wilson, Jeremy



Arches National Park's Delicate Arch at Night

Vote Now

The ballot for the SLAS 2016 Board of Directors election is now online. To vote logon at the following URL and follow the instructions provided. Votes must be placed by midnight on Tuesday, 20 October.

<http://slas.us/memberlogin.asp>

Statements of Candidacy for the SLAS 2016 Board of Directors

(posted in order of receipt)

Hi, my name is **Marley Stark** and I'm running for the Board Member at Large position.

I'm the President of the Salt Lake Community College Astronomical Society, and would love to see our clubs collaborating more! I'm majoring in Physics with a minor in Astronomy, and my long term goal is to be an Astrobiologist (specifically finding habitable exoplanets or life in our solar system).

I also love photography and cannot wait to try my hand at some deep space astrophotography! I know SLAS has already lived long, but I would love to help it prosper.

Campaign statement, **Joan Carman**, Presidential Candidate

On the whole it's been a good year for the society. The members are back to doing what they do best - spreading the love of astronomy and the related sciences among themselves and the general public. I wish I could, but can't and shouldn't take credit for the great support for the public star parties, those kudos go straight to the members.

However, the first true SLAstrofest in many years was held and it was a success. Membership is growing. Yet, there are still a number of issues which need attention.

Personal observing time for members that do not require the expenditure of large sums of money; expanding SLAS's presence on the internet and in the community; broader attendance at the general meetings and a funding source for potential future projects.

I would like another year as President to pursue these objectives.

Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Board Meeting, 08 July 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, Alpine Stringham, Levi Sandoval, Enid Norton and Sue Baxter. Also attending was guest Brett Crowley.

Ryan noted the huge turnout at the last SPOC star party was likely due to the extensive media coverage he has arranged for the club.

Siegfried reported that turnout was also good at the recent Tooele City Library and Camp Wapiti star parties.

Mike said he's had a problem with getting enough qualified volunteers to run the SPOC telescopes during the public star parties there. Current club policy is there should be two qualified operators at each scope.

He suggested changing that to one qualified operator and one member who need not be a qualified operator but who could help with crowd control. The board agreed and Joan will suggest the SPOC Advisory Committee discuss the matter at their next meeting.

Patrick said that after an incident in which sprinklers were (hopefully) accidentally turned on during a SPOC star party the switch controlling the sprinkler system was labeled to more plainly show the on and off positions. Also buckets and concrete pavers will be purchased and placed over the problem sprinkler heads at the start of future SPOC events.

Patrick also reported on problems with some students at SPOC telescope classes being late to class and using cell phones during the class. All agreed both were inappropriate and will not be permitted in future.

Joan is working on getting parking fees waived for SLAS meetings at SLCC and added that SLAS now has permission to meet at SLCC through the end of 2015.

Ryan said the company he works for, Adobe, has a program allowing employees who serve on boards of non-profit organizations to apply for \$2,500 grants for those organizations. With the board's approval Ryan will apply for a grant for SLAS.

SLAS has the opportunity to have an exhibit at Clark Planetarium provided SLAS can raise \$25,000 in donations by September. Ryan said he and at least 9 other SLAS members are investigating options.

Ryan will be setting up a "SLAS-talk" Facebook page in an effort to get more community involvement. He hopes to have it up and running in a couple of weeks. The new page would be in addition to SLAS existing Facebook page.

A Star-B-Que (daytime food and swap meet followed by private evening star party) is tentatively scheduled for the 8th of August provided volunteers can be found to organize the event.

This year's Solstice Festival will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 the evening of Saturday, 5 December at the Golden Corral in Midvale. Mike Wilson volunteered to organize the event.

Siegfried reminded everyone that there will be a total eclipse of the Moon the evening of Sunday, the 27th of September. Details of a probable eclipse watch to be hosted by SLAS are to be determined but sites being considered are a Harmons store and Wheeler Farm.

Brett reported on the results of the survey SLAS members and some non-members were asked to complete earlier this year. A common thread among new members is that SLAS can be "cliquish" so members need to do a better job of helping new members feel welcome and appreciated.

One point that surprised many is that most have no problem with paying up to \$5 for parking at meetings.

SLAS needs more of a social media presence and the website looks dated and needs a facelift. Younger members would be a plus as would less business being discussed at general membership meetings. SLAS might also like to consider offering astroimaging classes. It would be helpful if more information on general membership meeting content were to be made available online sooner.

A suggestion was made to hold SPOC star parties on Friday's and in-town star parties on Saturdays. As that has been tried unsuccessfully in the past the schedule will remain as is.

There was also talk about making all communications between board members public. That was not approved however all board decisions will continue to be made public and can be overturned by the membership.

With long time SLAS Historian Ann Blanchard stepping aside the position is now open. Patrick said he'd be interested if no one else is. Joan will bring this up at next week's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

General Meeting, 15 July 2015

SLAS President Joan Carman called the meeting to order in room 207 of the Salt Lake Community College's Rampton Technology building at 7:32 p.m. Approximately 79 people attended the meeting (largest attendance since May 2013).

Joan introduced the members of the board and then asked those attending a SLAS meeting for the first time to raise their hands. She then thanked SLCC's Jonathan Barnes for arranging for free parking for SLAS meetings.

Joan then introduced the evening's guest speaker, Dr. Heather Knutson from Caltech. Dr. Knutson's talk was entitled "The Grand Tour: Exploring the Diversity of Planets Outside the Solar System".

The results of the recent SLAS survey were announced.

First was that members wanted a more centralized meeting location. Judging from the evening's large turnout it's thought SLCC is great. Another was that SLAS tends to be cliquish. Members were asked to work on that.

Ryan Simpkins spoke about possible SLAS involvement in an exhibit on amateur astronomy at the planetarium. An outside company would build the exhibit with SLAS finding \$25,000 in donations to pay for it, by the end of September. No SLAS money would be involved. Any such exhibit would be completed by the end of next year. Motion approved.

Ryan announced the creation of the new SLAS Talk Facebook page. He hopes the page will help members and non-members to find others with similar astronomical interests.

SLAS now has over 1,300 followers on Facebook, more, Ryan noted, than the planetarium.

There will be no Star-B-Que this year as no one has offered to organize it.

A Lunar Eclipse Watch will be held on 27 September. Venue TBD.

This year's Solstice Party will be held 5 December from 6-8 pm at the Golden Corral in Midvale.

Ann Blanchard was thanked for her many years serving as SLAS Historian. Ann is retiring from the position.

Siegfried went over a list of upcoming special star parties and Joan announced the speakers for the next few general meetings.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at the Village Inn located at 4681 S Redwood Road at 9:12 p.m.

Board Meeting, 12 August 2015

SLAS President Joan Carman called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 7:00 p.m. Others in attendance were Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins, Board Members at Large Siegfried Jachmann & Mike Wilson and members Charlie Green, Nate Goodman, Mike Anderson, Enid Norton, Sue Baxter, Lowell Lyon, Alpine Stringham, Luke Moses and visitor Kay Davies.

Mike Wilson, who is organizing this year's Solstice Festival, asked about tipping the servers at the venue. We've typically tipped \$200 so that's what he's planning on this year.

Mike Wilson read an email from Kurt Fisher expressing concern about the Grim scope at SPOC. It seems that when the scope nears the horizon it starts slewing unpredictably.

Joan continued her report on the results of the survey SLAS members and non-members had the opportunity to take earlier this year. A number of people commented that there are not enough new Moon observing sessions for members only. There are also concerns that the maps on the club's website to private star party locations are old and need to be updated, especially with GPS coordinates.

Mike Wilson noted that while there are several members authorized to use the SPOC telescopes it is difficult to get enough volunteers to operate the scopes at star parties. One suggestion is to require members checking out on SPOC scope(s) to volunteer at a certain number of star parties before being granted access to the scope(s).

There was a brief discussion about who can issue SLAS Blasts to all club members. Those include all members of the board, all SPOC instructors, the webmaster, loaner scope manager and the newsletter editor.

Patrick questioned the need to give out books at star parties. But since we have enough books in stock to last through the end of the year the decision on whether to continue giving them out next year will be up to next year's board.

There has been some confusion about if SLAS will be hosting a star party at SPOC for this year's Stansbury Days. We will.

SLAS will host a public Eclipse Watch for September's total lunar eclipse at the Harmons in Draper. SPOC was ruled out because of the relatively high eastern horizon.

Lowell provided an update on plans for the 2017 ALCON in Casper, Wyoming to be held in conjunction with a total eclipse of the Sun. New to the list of activities is a gathering called Amateur Showcase which will serve as a way for astronomy clubs from around the nation and world to network.

Joan has been contacted about SLAS providing telescopes and a speaker for the Heritage Fest star party at Capitol Reef. Those interested in volunteering should contact Joan.

Patrick noted that nominations for the SLAS 2016 Board of Directors are due at next week's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

General Meeting, 19 August 2015

SLAS President Joan Carman called the meeting to order in room 207 of the Salt Lake Community College's Rampton Technology building at 7:30 p.m. Approximately 65 people attended the meeting.

Joan introduced the members of the board and then those attending a SLAS meeting for the first time.

Joan then introduced the evening's guest speaker, Mike Clements, aka "1.8 Meter Mike". Mike spoke about his building of a 1.8 meter telescope, thought to be the largest, transportable amateur telescope on the planet. His talk was appropriately entitled "How to Build a Really Big Telescope".

Joan reminded everyone about the new SLAS Talk Facebook page.

SLAS will host a Lunar Eclipse Watch for the 27 September eclipse at the Harmons in Draper.

SLAS board member Siegfried Jachmann said Butler Elementary has requested a star party in October.

Joan went over plans for general meetings through the end of the year.

Nominations were accepted for the 2016 SLAS board of directors.

President: Joan Carman

Vice President: Ryan Simpkins

Secretary / Treasurer: Rodger Fry

Board Members at Large: Marley Stark, Don Knowlton, Aleta Cox, Cecile Oldham

Siegfried Jachmann, Tony Sara and Ann Blanchard volunteered for the election committee.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at the Village Inn located at 4681 S Redwood Road at 9:24 p.m.

Death of Tom Henchy

by Rodger Fry

Longtime former SLAS member, Tom Henchy, passed away in June. His only living relative, a sister from New Jersey, contacted SLAS and indicated that Tom's wishes were to donate all of his telescope equipment to our club. On Saturday, July 4, 2015, I met her at his condominium where she gave this equipment to us. It is now stored at SPOC and is part of our loaner telescope program. The items donated by Tom are as follows:

- 2 Meade Star Navigator 90 GOTO telescopes (one still in the box)
- 1 Iopton 4 1/2" Newtonian telescope on a Celestron GEM mount with motor drive
- 1 Venture 70mm Spotting telescope
- 1 Vixen 110mm classic cassegrain telescope on a GOTO mount
- 2 camera tripods

He also donated several assorted eyepieces and filters.

This equipment provides a great addition to our loaner telescope inventory.

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	Robert Taylor	801.599.3925	robtaylor@slc@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	kennethprsr@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@lgy.com
Member through JAN 2016	Ken Porras	801.210.8427	kennethprsr@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

September 2015

04 Star Party at Wheeler Farm, 6351 S 900 E, dusk to 10:00
05 SPOC cleanup at SPOC. Starts at 3:00
05 Star Party at SPOC, dusk to 10:00
09 Board Meeting at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, 7:00 pm
16 General Meeting at SLCC's Rampton Technology Building, room 203, 7:30 pm
18 Star Party at South Jordan Harmons, 10507 S Redwood Rd, dusk to 10:00
19 Star Party at SPOC, Dusk to 11:00
26 Sun party, 6400 S 1100 W, 9:00 to noon

October 2015

02 Star Party at SPOC, Dusk to 9:00
03 Star Party at SPOC, Dusk to 9:00
14 Board Meeting at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, 7:00 pm
21 General Meeting at SLCC's Rampton Technology Building, room 203, 7:30 pm
23 Star Party at Cougar Harmons, 4872 W 6200 S, Dusk to 9:00
24 Star Party at SPOC, Dusk to 9:00
31 Sun party, 6400 S 1100 W, 9:00 to noon

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, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
11 Transitional Board Meeting at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, 7:00 pm
Solstice Festival - TBD

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