

NOVA



Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Volume 46 Number 3 May - June 2016

Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

Foster, Stephen
Hamilton, Bryan
Jackman, Nate
Lambson, Phillip
Shore, Melanie
Spangler, Bryan
VanLeuven, Wayne



Clarence Spencer got this shot while visiting Arches National Park the morning of 6 February 2016.

SPOC Cleanup

by Rodger Fry

On Saturday, April 16, 2016, we held a work project prior to the star party. The objective was to trim the bushes, edge the lawn, dust all surfaces and telescopes in the observatory, shampoo spots from the carpet and vacuum the observatory floors. We had an exceptional turnout of 16 members which enabled us to get the jobs done very early. As a result, we all went to Kraver's in Stansbury and had a light dinner prior to the start of the star party. I am happy to say that the observatory is in excellent condition and looked fantastic after the work project was completed.

SPOC Cleanup Pictures

Lots of pictures of the recent SPOC cleanup have been posted to the club's SLAS Talk Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SLAS.Talk>

Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Meeting minutes written by SLAS Sec/Treas [Rodger Fry](#).

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

March 9, 2016

Board members in attendance: Joan Carman, Ryan Simpkins, Aleta Cox, Don Knowlton and Rodger Fry

General members in attendance: Nate Goodman, Dave Bernson, Sue Baxter, Enid Norton, Charlie Green, Patrick Wiggins, Siegfried Jachmann, Alpine Stringham, Lowell Lyon, Kathy & Mike Terry.

Meeting called to order: 7:02 PM

Financial Report

The financial report was reviewed as listed on the web site as March 01, 2016 Financial Statement

It was noted that the total of assets listed on the agenda's financial report was in error by \$0.03. A comparison of the financial records show that the amount listed on the agenda for the ZAP grant was in error (\$5,165.02 when it is actually \$5,165.05).

Board Member Reports:

Ryan Simpkins noted that more people are using SLAS Talk. He also noted that the word is out that we are considering placing the Clements 1.8-meter telescope at SPOC and that Stansbury Park residents are responding positively on SLAS Talk.

Aleta Cox said that a group contacted her about holding a private star party to a group of at-risk girls (about 13 in number) in a lock-down facility located about 39th south and State Street. Rodger Fry indicated that we should get more information and it would be good to support this cause if we can. Aleta will get more information. Aleta also indicated that Magna Library would like us to put on a star party at their library in August. She will get this scheduled. We also have a scheduled star party at St. Olaf's School in Bountiful on Monday, May 13th.

Don Knowlton has sent out 130 emails to identify possible intern candidates but so far has not got responses. He will be contacting school administrators and teachers by phone. Patrick Wiggins indicated that he has email contacts for principals and administrators in Tooele and will be glad to send emails to them. It was suggested that Don Knowlton contact the U of U and Salt Lake Community College to find interns.

SPOC Report

Rodger Fry indicated that all three telescopes at SPOC are now operational and the observatory is open for instructor training. Some training has taken place on the Refractor and the Grim telescopes and instructor refresher training on the Ealing is scheduled for this Friday, March 11th weather permitting.

Rodger Fry also summarized the status of the plan to put the 1.8-meter Clements telescope at SPOC. The Stansbury Park Association will be meeting with Tooele City Council sometime in the next two weeks and we will then have a better idea on what course of action should be taken.

Vatican Astronomer at Juan Diego Catholic High School

Joan Carman indicated that SLAS will be setting up our display at the Juan Diego School about 1:00 PM on Sunday, March 13, 2016 (she noted to remember that daylight savings time goes into effect that morning). The display will be set up along with others and viewed by visitors between 2:00-3:00 PM. The astronomer will be speaking from 3:00-4:00 PM. Rodger Fry agreed to help set up. Enid Norton and Sue Baxter also volunteered to help set up. Joan indicated that the SLAS display will be brought up there by the Clarke Planetarium staff and that Juan Diego would provide a table.

Library Loaner Scope Program

Joan Carman said that the contact with the Salt Lake County Library systems and their board were thrilled with our proposal to provide loaner telescopes to the library system. The telescopes have been ordered and must be modified to make them novice-user friendly. A discussion was made about the EZ-finder telescope and the need to modify this or using a 6X30 finder telescope. An investigation will be made into modifying the EZ-finder battery system or replacing the switch to a push button to activate it while the button is depressed (thus preserving the battery). A time to assemble the telescopes was not established. Those who agreed to help assemble the telescopes are: Ryan Simpkins, Dave Bernson, Don Knowlton, Nate Goodman and Rodger Fry.

2016 SLAStrofest

Joan Carman indicated that she was waiting to hear back from the Salt Lake Community College about holding the event there but she has not yet received a reply. She presented a tentative agenda for the event but the date or location has yet to be determined.

Report on Wild Apricot

Ryan Simpkins indicated that the beta test of the web site is up and running and can be accessed at:

SLAS.WildApricot.org

He suggested that each of us test this out by loading in a dummy member file and look at what has been set up.

Fund Raising

Joan talked about the possibility of purchasing flash-drives with the SLAS logo imprinted on them. We could then sell them or give them away as prizes. Ryan Simpkins indicated that if we do this we should get the small flash -drives (2gb) and load them with information useful to the new astronomer. We should also provide these to new members. Several members indicated that "Why should we consider fund raisers when we have over \$22K in the bank?" The discussion for the flash drive was deferred to a future meeting.

Old Business

It was suggested by Ryan Simpkins that we should establish a legal document audit of all our agreements to make certain that we remain in compliance with our agreements in place. This also led to a discussion about the need to have an asset accounting ledger to document the value of our physical assets primarily at SPOC.

New Business

Lowell Lyon presented a discussion about the Astro-Con convention held in conjunction with the total solar eclipse to occur in August 2017. He indicated that pre-registration is at unprecedented levels and will likely exceed all previous Astronomy League conventions. This is being held in Casper, Wyoming. Lowell would like to have SLAS have a booth at a cost of \$80.00. This is feasible if we can get the volunteers to man the booth.

Pay Bills

A check was written to Rodger Fry for \$17.05 in compensation for the printing of photos of SPOC for the planning of the Clements 1.8-meter telescope (funds from the SPOC account). A check was written to Sky & Telescope (\$32.95 from S&T account) for the pre-payment of a members subscription, one Atilla Danko for the Clear Sky Clock support on our web-site (\$50.00 from general fund) and one to Joan Carman in the amount of \$1,451.33 for the Wheeler Banner and the library loaner telescopes (\$261.62 from ZAP account and \$1,189.71 Adobe account).

Meeting Adjourned: 8:37pm

General Meeting Minutes

Date: March 16, 2016 7:28 PM

Location: Room 207, Calvin Rampton Technology Building at Salt Lake Community College

Attendance: 67 members and guests

SLAS President, Joan Carman welcomed all in attendance and introduced our 2016 SLAS board (board members Ryan Simpkins and Don Knowlton were not able to be present).

Joan Carman introduced the Speaker, Jonathan Barnes, astronomy professor at Salt Lake Community College.

Mr. Barnes talked about "The era of big data in astronomy or how to be an astronomer from your living room".

In this discussion, he presented many on-line resources where astronomical data is stored and can be accessed by anyone via the internet. He cited many web sites that are valuable resources and presented how we can contribute to research by accessing these data sets.

Business:

1. The business portion of the meeting commenced at 8:45 PM. Joan Carman discussed SLASfest and that it will be held on May 14th from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The location is yet to be determined but might be at the Whitmore Library in Sandy.
2. Joan then presented the plan to assigned hosts or hostesses at the star party who would:
 - a. Not operate a telescope
 - b. Meet & Greet
 - c. Explain Event
 - d. Discuss Telescope Etiquette
 - e. Distribute pins
3. Joan Discussed the Library Telescope Loaner Program. She indicated that the Salt Lake County Library system is in support of this and we now have purchased the first telescopes to be distributed. She asked for volunteers to help assemble the telescopes.
4. Rodger Fry gave an update of the plans to house the 1.8-meter Clement's telescope at SPOC.
5. Future meeting were listed as Follows:

| | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| April | Detection of Gravitational Waves | | |
| May | Chuck Hards | SLAS | Moon Watch Program |
| June | Tim Parker | JPL | Mars |
| July | Open | | |
| August | Open | | |
| September | Kyle Dawson | U of U | Where we are in the Universe. |
6. Don Colton then presented the Dark Sky-New Moon Private Star Party Schedule as Follows:
 - a. April 8-9 Capital Reef-Panorama Point and Pit & Pole
 - b. May 6-7 Capital Reef-Panorama Point and Pit & Pole
 - c. June 3-4 Bryce Canyon-Rainbow Point & SPOC
 - d. July 1-2 Wolf Creek & SPOC
 - e. July 29-30 Wolf Creek & SPOC
 - f. September 2-3 Capital Reef-Panorama Point, Gravel Point and Pit & Pole
 - g. October 28-29 Capitol Reef-Panorama Point & SPOC
7. Meeting adjourned to Advanced Training at 9:07 PM

Advanced Training held at Village Inn 4681 South Redwood Road

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

April 13, 2016

Board members in attendance: Joan Carman, Ryan Simpkins, Aleta Cox, Don Knowlton and Rodger Fry

General members in attendance: Ken Porris, Jamie Bradley, Nate Goodman, Larry Holmes, Mike Anderson, Enid Norton, Charlie Green, Patrick Wiggins.

Meeting called to order: 7:01 PM

Financial Report

The financial report was reviewed as listed on the web site as April 08, 2016 Financial Statement (it was late posting because my computer died).

Board Member Reports:

Ryan Simpkins presented SLAS with a check from Adobe in the amount of \$220.00 which was from a \$110.00 donation from the Simpkins family and the matching contribution from Adobe. He also pointed out that because of the Facebook ad that cost \$50.00 we had 23,000 visitors to our Facebook page and out of these 220 are permanent followers (OUTSTANDING free advertising)! Ryan also reported that the Wheeler Farm star party held on April 1, 2016 was a big success with 200 visitors. He also mentioned that 85 people visited the new Wild-Apricot web site (one logged in as Donald Trump).

Aleta Cox reported on the special star party held at the U of U med center Girls lock-down facility on Monday night and expressed that it was an excellent star party and the 9 girls in attendance were very thankful and enjoyed our being there. She reported on the school star party at Olympus Jr High on Tuesday night and said that we had 12-15 telescopes and about 150 students and their parents in attendance. Scheduled special star parties include St. Olaf's in Bountiful on May 16, 2016, June 13th at the Tooele library, July 11th at the Magna Library. Jordanelle State Park and Capitol Reef are interested in having us put on a star party there but no dates have been set.

Don Knowlton said that he is finding success in getting volunteers to operate the telescopes at the SPOC star parties.

SPOC Report

Rodger Fry indicated that the first star party at SPOC was a big success and that the seeing was excellent. We had over 15 telescopes brought by volunteers and about 100 visitors. He also indicated that we have a work project scheduled for this coming Saturday, April 16, 2016 starting at 4:00 PM.

SLAS Corporate Fund Raising Certificate

Rodger Fry expressed an apology for letting the certificate expire (his laptop died and had to get it replaced at that time stopping work for a week). The permit has been submitted along with all requested documentation and payment. We can now solicit funds as we wish.

Mike Clements Telescope

Rodger Fry summarized progress on the plans to house the Clements 1.8-meter telescope at SPOC. It was reported that contracts between SLAS and Stansbury Park and SLAS and Mike Clements are being reviewed by Peter Waldo, a SLAS Member who is an attorney and the review should be complete in the next day or so. It was also reported that Rodger Fry, Mike Clements and Charley Green joined with Glenn Oscarson and Randall Jones in meeting with the Tooele County Commission on Tuesday evening. At that meeting, Rodger Fry presented a PowerPoint presentation about SLAS and the plans to put the telescope at SPOC. In a phone call between the commission and Glenn Oscarson on Wednesday, it was indicated that Tooele County will be making funds available for the project.

Library Loaner Scope Program

Joan Carman said that the library loaner telescope is well underway and brought one telescope in as an example. She explained about the modifications that are required. She further explained that the Library system has asked that we purchase four additional telescopes that they will reimburse us for making the total eight telescopes. These will be placed, two in each of the following libraries: Magna, Riverton, Herriman, and Draper. A work party will be scheduled to modify the telescopes when the additional four arrive.

2016 SLASrofest

Joan Carman indicated that SLASrofest will be held on June 11, 2016 at the Whitmore Library. She will be in contact with those that are assisting with putting this on.

Astronomy Day

Joan indicated that the Clarke Planetarium would like us to set up the SLAS display there from 1:00-4:00 PM on May 14, 2016. They would also encourage us to have some solar telescopes available for the public to look through. Also, in conjunction with Astronomy Day will be the Harmon's star party on Friday, May 13, 2016. At that star party we will be giving away two 6-inch dobsonian telescopes and perhaps two first scopes (one lacking the accessory kit).

Old Business

There were no old business items.

New Business

There were no new business items.

Pay Bills

A check was written to Rodger Fry for \$100 in compensation for the Utah Corporate Solicitation Renewal, one to Ryan Simpkins for \$50.00 to pay for the Facebook ad and one to Joan Carman for \$4,130.50 to pay for astronomy books, SLAS pins, and accessories for the library scopes.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:53pm

General Meeting Minutes

Date: April 20, 2016 7:31 PM

Location: Room 207, Calvin Rampton Technology Building at Salt Lake Community College

Attendance: 64 members and guests

SLAS President, Joan Carman welcomed all in attendance and introduced our 2016 SLAS board (board member Don Knowlton was not present because of work conflict).

Joan Carman introduced the Speaker, Sydney J. Chamberlin from Penn State University

Her topic was "Listening to the Universe with Red Stars and Lasers" (a comprehensive summary of the detection of gravitational waves with LIGO).

This was an excellent presentation and was well accepted by those in attendance. The lecture portion of the meeting lasted until 8:40PM including an active Q & A session.

Business:

The business portion of the meeting commenced at 8:45 PM.

1. The floor was turned over to Aleta Cox to update members on the special star parties that are in the schedule or to be scheduled. First she presented to the club, four poster-size thank you cards that were presented by the girls attending a star party in a lock-down facility on April 4, 2016. In support of that star party were Aleta Cox, Cecile Oldham and Rodger Fry. This party was a great success and the girls were very interested in astronomy. Aleta then listed the following star parties that are scheduled or to be scheduled:
 - a. May 16th St. Olaf's School in Bountiful
 - b. June 13th Tooele Library
 - c. July 11th Magna Library
 - d. TBD Jordanelle State Park

2. Dave Bernson's plans to hold ad-hoc events at SPOC, starting next week. He will hold two kinds of events:
 - a. - Mars Watch. Events focused on observing Mars.
 - b. - Constellation Tours. Dave will give tours of the constellations in the sky. These will be held during weekdays. We will announce these events as "pop up" events on social media. Follow SLAS on Facebook to hear about these events.
3. Joan then discussed website issues:
 - a. Joan encouraged all to join SLAS Talk by creating a Facebook account and joining SLAS Talk.
 - b. Ryan Simpkins gave us an update on the beta test of the Wild Apricot hosted web site. He indicated that Donald Trump has joined the club.
4. LX-80 repair at Meade. Joan presented the need to have the LX-80 mount sent to Meade for repair at a cost of \$350. Rodger Fry presented a motion to have the mount repaired and the motion was seconded by Bill Kennedy. Discussion was held and then the vote was held and a strong majority voted to repair the mount.
5. Joan presented the plan for the 2016 SLASTrofest to be held at the Whitmore library in Sandy on June 11th between 10:30am and 5:30pm.
6. Joan outlined the plan to modify eight telescopes for the library loaner program (four paid for by SLAS and four by the Salt Lake County library system. The project to modify the telescopes will be Saturday in Joan's garage. She encouraged members to help in this project.
7. Rodger Fry updated the members of progress on the plans to have the 1.8-meter Clements telescope placed at SPOC. He indicated that he, Charlie Green and Mike Clements joined with Randall Jones and Glenn Oscarson in a meeting with Tooele County on April 12th. At the meeting, Rodger Fry gave a PowerPoint presentation on who is SLAS and how SPOC brings astronomy to the public. Tooele County indicated that they would be providing some funding for the building of the facility. A lease agreement between SLAS and the Stansbury Park Special Service Association for leasing the land is in the hands of their attorneys and should be ready for signing the first of May.
8. Joan presented the plans for the Mercury watch to be held on Monday, May 9, 2016 between 9:00am and 1:00pm at the Bangerter Crossing Harmons.
9. Scheduled future meetings as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| May | Chuck Hards | SLAS | Moon Watch Program |
| June | Tim Parker | JPL | Mars |
| July | Tony Sarra | SLAS | Astrophotography |
| August | Bill Dunford | NASA | The Cassini project |
| September | Kyle Dawson | U of U | Where we are in the Universe. |

Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

Advanced Training held at Village Inn 4681 South Redwood Road.

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.
moohoodlesgaming@gmail.com

2016 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 | Rodger Fry | 801.288.0851 | rcfry@comcast.net |
| Membership Dues & Renewals | | | |
| Board Member at Large | Don Knowlton | 801.372.7504 | carlosknowlton@gmail.com |
| SPOC Star Party Coordinator | | | |
| Board Member at Large | Aleta Cox | 801.966.2636 | alc@fredccox.com |
| School & Special Star Parties | | | |

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 | Patrick Wiggins | 435.882.1209 | paw@digis.net |
| 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 2019 | 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

May 2016

09 Public Mercury Transit Watch - Bangerter Crossing Harmons, 125 E 13800 S, 9:00 to noon
11 Board Meeting - Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, 7:00
13 Public Star Party - Seventh Street Harmons, 7755 S 700 E, dusk to 10:00
14 Public Star Party - [SPOC](#), dusk to 10:00
18 General Meeting - SLCC's [Rampton Technology Building](#), room 203, 7:30
21 Public Sun party - Winchester Park, 6400 S 1100 W, 9:00 to noon
27 Public Star Party - [Wheeler Farm](#), 6351 S 900 E, dusk to 10:00
28 Public Star Party - [SPOC](#), dusk to 10:00

June 2016

08 Board Meeting - Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, 7:00
10 Public Star Party - Taylorsville Harmons, 5454 S Redwood Rd, dusk to 11:00
11 Public Star Party - [SPOC](#), dusk to 11:00
15 General Meeting - SLCC's [Rampton Technology Building](#), room 203, 7:30
18 Public Sun party - Winchester Park, 6400 S 1100 W, 9:00 to noon
24 Public Star Party - [Wheeler Farm](#), 6351 S 900 E, dusk to 11:00
25 Public Star Party - [SPOC](#), dusk to 11:00

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