

NOVA

Proposed SLAS constitutional amendments and absentee ballot included at the end of this issue.



Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society
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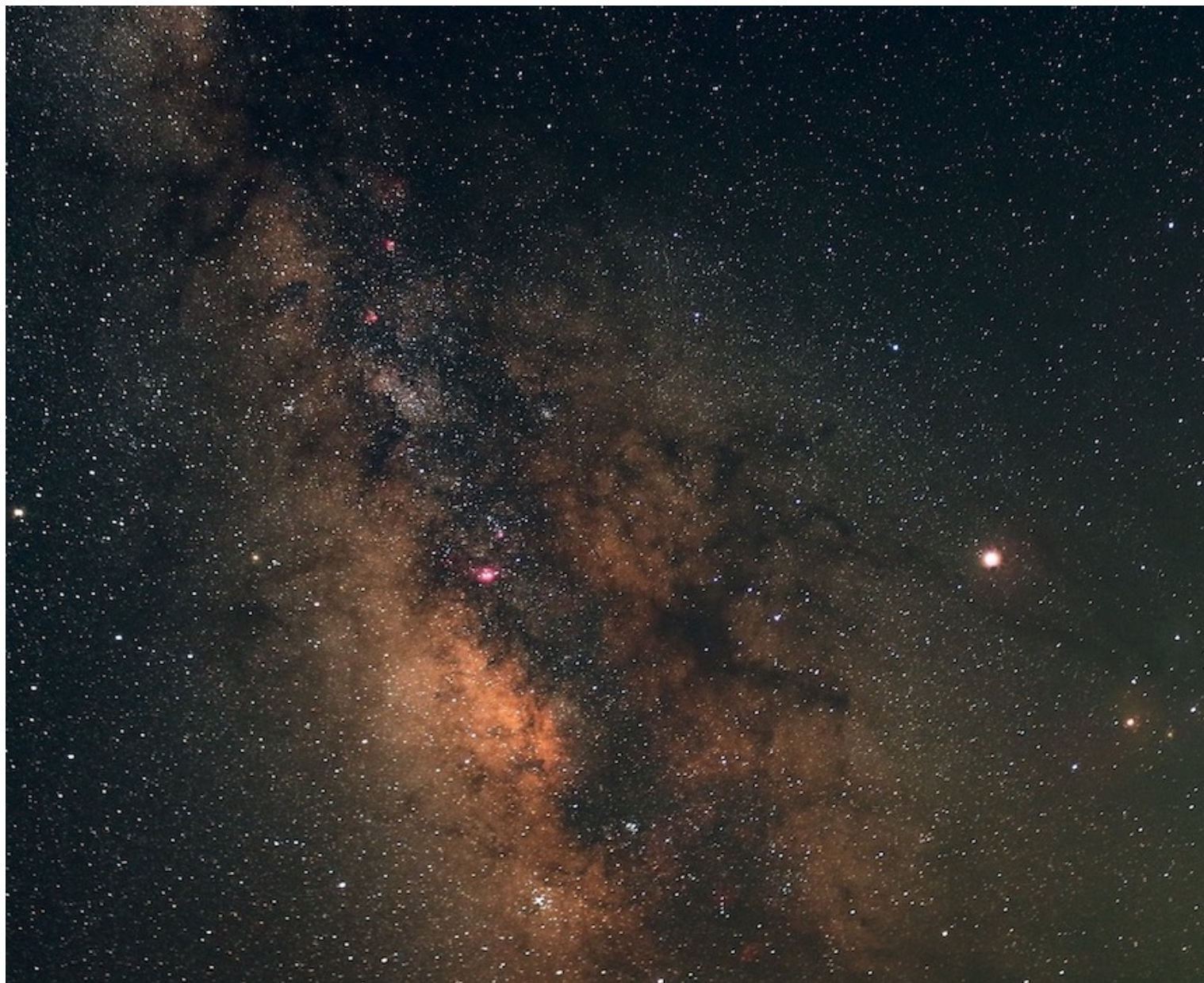
Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

Abernathy, Don
Bennett, Jason
Chaudhuri, Anabil

Cresswell, Casey
Jensen, Kevin

King, Lion
Longhurst, Jacob

Stevens, Matthew
Townsend, Laura



Milky Way by Mark Swain

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

10 July 2019

Location: Denny's Restaurant, 401 W 7200 S, Salt Lake City

Board Members in Attendance: John Johansen, Leslie Fowler, Denise Larsen, Luke Moses

General Members in Attendance: Patrick Wiggins, Larry Holmes, Joan Carman, Steve Anderson, Rodger Fry and Marlene Egger

President John Johansen called the meeting to order: 7:05 PM

The Editor would like to make a special announcement in welcoming back our President John Johansen who was on medical leave of absence for several months.

Future Events

John announced the potluck dinner we have at SPOC with UVAC & Ogden Club on July 20. The club will provide drinks. Everyone bring your favorite dish, salad, dessert, snack, etc to share.

John announced the upcoming and future speakers for our General Meeting.

July – SLAS member Mark Swain "A Lifelong Love Affair with the Starry Skies"

August – Dr Anil Seth on Black Holes

September 26–28 – Great Basin National Park Astronomy Festival. Park contact is Charles Reed (775) 234–7523 or Charles_reed@nps.gov. He needs a list of volunteers. Free camping for volunteers.

Constitutional update for Elections

John presented on paper the proposed amendments to the election section of the club's constitution. Discussion was had, changes were made to the amendments. The board voted in the unanimous on the amendments. John will send a SLAS blast outlining the amendments. They will also be posted to the website. These amendments will be discussed at the August General Meeting.

Insurance

Luke Moses is in the process of updating the insurance and looking for a new insurance agency.

Advertising

John intends on contacting regional high schools and colleges in regards to advertising. He will follow up with his ad boosting on Facebook at the General Meeting.

SLAstrofest/training sessions

It was decided that training will be before SPOC star parties. This training is for anyone who has a scope who needs help in getting to know it better.

Library Loaner Program

Joan received a letter from Park City and it read of how successful the program is up there. She also announced she is still selling eyepieces for sale \$15 each and other accessories for \$1. All proceeds will go back into the program. She announced there were 110 hours of volunteer work toward scope modification.

New Business

SLAS member Steve Anderson announced he is donating the Scott Crosby Memorial Telescope to the club. The scope is a 12" built by Scott Crosby who died earlier this year. It is valued at \$995 and is in need of some accessories but otherwise in fine condition. John will send him a donation letter.

Board & Officer Reports

John Johansen – It's good to be back!!!!

Leslie Fowler – no report

Denise Larsen – no report

Jim Keane – absent

Luke Moses – continues to need scope operators for the SPOC star parties.

Patrick Wiggins – passed around the Tooele Valley Magazine that shows a brief plug about SPOC courtesy Rodger Fry.

Rodger Fry – in charge of the potluck. He's also in the process of finding a mount for the Siegfried Jachmann telescope. He and others are in the middle of maintenance on the Clement's scope so that it can be ready for viewing by the next SPOC star party.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 pm

MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

17 July 2019

Location: Room 103 Calvin Rampton Technology Building at Salt Lake Community College

Attendance: 39

Board Members in Attendance: John Johansen, Leslie Fowler, Denise Larsen, Luke Moses

President John Johansen called the meeting to order: 7:30 PM

John welcomed everyone and announced that it felt good for him to be back after being absent due to medical issues. We gave John a very warm welcome back. So very good to see him back in action!

After taking a count, 5 people had shown up due to the Facebook announcement.

SLAS member Mark Swain then gave his presentation "My Lifetime Love Affair with the Starry Sky".

Club Business

Rodger Fry showed us 50-year old newspapers he has collected. These are from Deseret News. He will have them on display at the SPOC open house/potluck this Saturday, July 20. This potluck involves UVAC and OAS (Ogden's club). Everyone is welcome. Please bring a snack/entrée to share.

UVAC member Mark Cunningham announced a dark sky event in Vernal coming up in August. He will send an email and put this on Facebook as well. More to follow.

Check out slas.us for all the upcoming events.

September 26-28 Great Basin Astronomy Festival. Contact John Johansen if you would like to volunteer.

SLAS member Steve Anderson has donated the Scott Crosby Memorial Telescope to SPOC.

Joan Carman announced that she is still selling eyepieces for \$15 and other accessories for \$1.

John Johansen announced that the board is underway in amending three areas of the club's constitution. He then read the proposed amendments. Per the SLAS constitution, members may place comments for and against the proposed amendments in the club's newsletter by contacting

anyone on the Board or the Nova Editor, Patrick Wiggins. **(Editor's note: Proposed SLAS constitutional amendments and absentee ballot included at the end of this issue.)**

Here are the comments that were received:

IN FAVOR:

Marlene Egger expressed the fact that it is important to keep the constitution simple and update as necessary.

1- Question: Doesn't the constitution require that we publish the pros and cons in the next issue of Nova, before we take a vote?

Answer: Yes, that's a requirement. The online nature of Nova means we no longer mail out a paper version every two months. So we will try a monthly version online. This means the pros and cons will be in the online journal on August 1st; three weeks before taking a vote at the August 21st meeting.

2- Question: Doesn't the constitution require making absentee ballots available for the amendment?

Answer: Yes, that's a requirement. A copy of an absentee ballot will be included in the journal, which may be printed out and mailed to:

John Johansen (President)
3261 W. New World Drive,
West Jordan, UT, 84084.

Or for those without printing capability, an absentee ballot may be requested by contacting John Johansen at:

Phone/text: 801-550-0993 -or-
Email: jjmagic19@comcast.net

This will be sent by US mail. However, it must be returned and received before the August 21st meeting.

3- Question: Do these proposed amendments change the entire election process?

Answer: No. They only alter section B, lines 1, 2, & 8. Everything else remains the same, including allowing candidates to make a 1/4 page statement in the September NOVA.

4- Question: Is this REALLY necessary?

Answer: Yes. The current constitution does not include the idea of voting online, but it doesn't forbid it. Since it was ratified in 1980, no one could have known to include an "online voting provision". These proposals simply bring this part of the constitution up to date with how we operate now, and help clarify and legitimize the process.

AGAINST: No comments were submitted during the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to Village Inn for "Advanced Training" at 9:05 pm.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THE MEETING

IN FAVOR (submitted by John Johansen):

The purpose of these proposed amendments is to bring the constitution into conformity with the way we currently conduct elections online.

The current constitution was written decades ago, long before the advent of the internet. As written, it states that voting is to be done by "secret ballot at the beginning of the October general meeting". In practice that would mean paper ballots for everyone.

There was no provision for voting online, because the internet didn't exist yet. However, since 2011 we have been voting online, which is much easier, less costly, and more efficient; BUT the constitution doesn't allow for that.

These proposed amendments would simply bring the constitution into the internet age. Since we've been voting online for several years, it's time to make it official by amending the constitution.

AGAINST (submitted by Joan Carman):

The SLAS Constitution sets out the election process: nominations for next year officers starting 1st of August, ending at the general meeting and announcement of nominations; candidates are entitled to ¼ page statement in the newsletter published September 1st; September general meeting preliminary election to narrow candidates to two for each office, if necessary; and final election at the October meeting and announcement of winners. The proposed amendments extend the time for nominations by 7-10 days, eliminates the preliminary election, shortens the time for consideration of candidates by a month and puts the ¼ page statement in limbo.

For 38 years SLAS members managed to follow simple constitutional instructions and elect officers without a problem. In 2011 on-line voting was added to encourage broader member involvement. For 7 years on-line voting has operated without a problem. Except for 2018, when the board erred in the process. The board should have gone forward with the constitutional instructions, but instead attempted to ignore the constitution and set their own terms for the election process. Now the board seeks to amend the constitution with amazing specificity because it wasn't their fault, the constitution was unclear. The Constitution is not unclear on the election process, but the instructions are general enough to allow changes over time, like on-line voting. In addition, it has been said if you are too specific in your instructions, they can come back to bite you. The question everyone should be asking is – are the amendments necessary? They are not.

The President has on several occasions stated the SLAS constitution is woefully out of date and needs revision. The SLAS Constitution is the founding document. It defines SLAS as a charitable, educational non-profit corporation. As such, SLAS has 501(c)(3) tax exempt status with the IRS. Any amendments to that document should be taken with care, full information and due deliberation by all members. The Constitution also sets out the amendment process, which should take some time, in the past 3-4 months. The current board has, without formal amendment, shortened that period to 3-4 weeks.

While the currently proposed amendments may seem harmless, what will the next proposed amendments do? While the 2019 board has been consumed with these non-essential amendments, they have set aside a myriad of more serious SLAS issues. Does the Constitution need to be updated? Perhaps, but not by unnecessary, overly specific language. I urge all members to vote against the amendments.

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.

2019 SLAS Board of Directors

President	John Johansen	801.550.0993	jjmagic19@comcast.net
Meetings			
Vice President	Leslie Fowler	801.554.5697	2sistersatstudio32@gmail.com
Publicity, PR and Web Content			
Secretary-Treasurer	Denise Larsen	801.913.1622	climberette@yahoo.com
Membership Dues & Renewals			
Board Member at Large	Luke Moses	970.376.2529	luke.moses1@gmail.com
SPOC Star Party Coordinator			
Board Member at Large	Jim Keane	801.942.3516	jimk@sisna.com
School & Special Star Parties			

Appointed Positions

Astronomical League Contact	Aleta Cox	801.966.2636	alc@fredccox.com
Equipment Manager	Luke Moses	970.376.2529	luke.moses1@gmail.com
Historian	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	4099wiggins@gmail.com
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Ann House	801.671.8447	ann@annhouse.org
Newsletter Editor	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	4099wiggins@gmail.com
Observatory Director	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Private Star Party Coordinator	Don Colton	801.571.9757	dcolton@sprint@earthlink.net
Solar Scope Manager	Ken Porras	801.210.8427	kennethprrs@gmail.com
Webmaster	Ken Warner		webmaster@slas.us
ZAP Grant Writer	Jim Keane	801.942.3516	jimk@sisna.com

SPOC Advisory Committee

Chair through JAN 2021	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Member through JAN 2021	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Member through JAN 2021	Stan Eriksen	801.446.1479	staneriksen@icloud.com
Member through DEC 2020	Larry Holmes	801.467.7855	larry@kijoda.com
Member through FEB 2022	Leslie Fowler	801.554.5697	2sistersatstudio32@gmail.com
Member through DEC 2020	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	4099wiggins@gmail.com
Member through JAN 2021	Jim Keane	801.913.7372	jimk@sisna.com
Member while SLAS President	John Johansen	801.550.0993	jjmagic19@comcast.net
Member through FEB 2022	Tony Lau	801.910.2170	tony@waymega.com
Member as Obser. Dir. Emeritus	Bruce Grim	435.882.5237	bmargrim@msn.com
Member while Harmons Rep.	Vacant		

SPOC Telescope Instruction Coordinators

Refractor	Marlene Egger	801.557.4549	marleneegger@ymail.com
Ealing	Jim Keane	801.913.7372	jimk@sisna.com
Grim	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Clements	Leslie Fowler	801.554.5697	2sistersatstudio32@gmail.com

Events Calendar

August 2019

- 09 Star party at Bangerter Harmons, 125 E 13800 S, dusk to 11:00 pm
- 10 Star party at SPOC, dusk to 11:00 pm
- 14 Board Meeting at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, 7:00 pm
- 17 Sun party, 6400 S 1100 W, 9:00 am to noon
- 17 Stansbury Days Star party at SPOC, dusk to 11:00 pm
- 21 General Meeting at SLCC's Rampton Technology Building, Taylorsville Campus, 7:30 pm
- 23 Star party at Wheeler Farm, 6351 S 900 E, dusk to 11:00 pm
- 24 Star party at SPOC, dusk to 11:00 pm

September 2019

- 06 Star Party at 7th Street Harmons 7755 S 700 E, dusk to 10:00 pm
- 07 Star Party at SPOC, dusk to 10:00 pm
- 11 Board Meeting at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, 7:00 pm
- 14 Sun party, 6400 S 1100 W, 9:00 am to noon
- 18 General Meeting at SLCC's Rampton Technology Building, Taylorsville Campus, 7:30 pm
- 20 Star party at Wheeler Farm, 6351 S 900 E, dusk to 10:00 pm
- 21 Star Party at SPOC, dusk to 10:00 pm

October 2019

- 04 Star party at Draper Harmons, 672 E 11400 S, dusk to 9:00 pm
- 05 Star party at SPOC, dusk to 9:00 pm
- 09 Board Meeting at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, 7:00 pm
- 12 Sun party, 6400 S 1100 W, 9:00 am to noon
- 16 General Meeting at SLCC's Rampton Technology Building, Taylorsville Campus, 7:30 pm
- 18 Star party at SPOC, dusk to 9:00 pm
- 19 Star party at SPOC, dusk to 9:00 pm

November 2019

- 13 Board Meeting at Denny's Restaurant, 250 W 500 S, 7:00 pm
- 20 General Meeting at SLCC's Rampton Technology Building, Taylorsville Campus, 7:30 pm

December 2019

- 07 Solstice Party at Golden Corral, 665 E 7200 S, 6:30 pm
- 11 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](#)

Outdoor events are held weather permitting.

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 SLAS Vice-President. Members are encouraged to contribute content.

Members may also vote in person at August's General Membership meeting.

Absentee Ballot for proposed SLAS Constitutional

Amendment changes to the following:

**Article V, Section B, Line 1 & Article V, Section B, Line 2
& Article V, Section B, Line 8 (see below for wording)**

To vote you must be a member of SLAS as of August 1, 2019

The constitution does not require this to be a secret ballot

Name: _____

Check ONE:

Yes — I am in favor of these changes

No — I oppose these changes

Instructions for Absentee Ballot:

— Print off ballot — Fill out ballot — Mail Ballot.

Ballot must be received before the next SLAS General Meeting

(Wednesday, August 21, 2019)

If you cannot print this ballot, you may request a paper ballot by contacting

Aleta Cox at: alc@fredccox.com — or call: 801-966-2636

Mail Ballot to:

SLAS Election Committee — C/O Aleta Cox

4466 Early Duke Street

West Valley City, UT 84120

Proposed Amendments to the SLAS Constitution

Purpose— To bring the constitution up to date with email, online NOVA and online Voting.

Proposals and Articles to be Considered:

Proposal #1 Article V Section B Line 1: Currently it reads: “Members wishing to run for office shall file their candidacy with the Secretary during August but no later than the end of the August general meeting.” It shall be amended to read: “Members wishing to run for office shall file their candidacy with the Secretary during August.” The last phrase shall be deleted: “But no later than the end of the August general meeting”.

Proposal #2 Article V Section B Line 2: Currently it reads: “All candidates will be announced during the August general meeting.” It shall be amended to read: “All candidates will be announced to all members by email during the first week of September and at the September general meeting.” The word “August” shall be changed to “September”.

Proposal #3 Article V Section B Line 8: Currently it reads: “A general election will be held by secret ballot at the beginning of the October general meeting. The results will be announced at the end of the meeting.” It shall be amended to read: “A general Election will be held online beginning after the September general meeting and running until midnight on the day before the October general meeting. Members may vote on the SLAS website. For those who wish, paper ballots shall be made available at the beginning of the October general meeting. The election committee shall determine when the paper ballot voting closes. They shall then determine the results, which shall be announced before the end of the October general meeting. All members shall be sent an email announcing the election results after the October general meeting.”

These three proposals were voted on and approved by the board during the July 10, 2019 board meeting. They shall be announced at the general meeting of July 17, 2019. A vote shall be taken at the August meeting, where a two-thirds majority of members present (& absentee ballots) is required to pass these proposed amendments.