

# NOVA



Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society  
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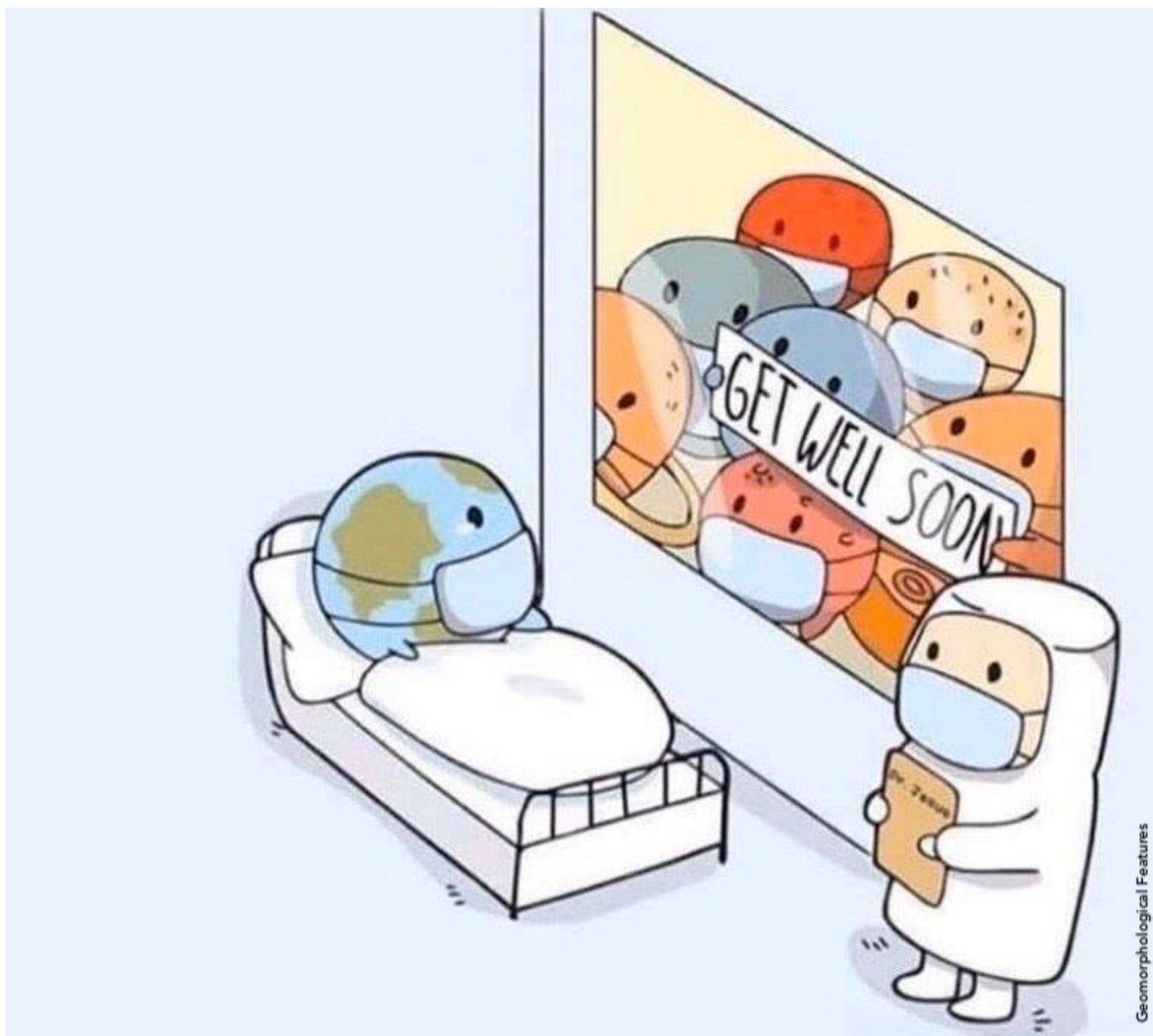
**SLAS's Newsletter's 50th year of publication.**

**Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!**

John Bell

Gamble, Jeannie

Rose, Sam



**ALL SLAS EVENTS ON HOLD**

**Owing to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, all SLAS events are currently on hold.**

**MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY TRANSITIONAL BOARD MEETING**

11 March 2020

Location: Denny's Restaurant, 250 W 500 S, Salt Lake City

Board Members in Attendance: Luke Moses, John Drabik, Tom Sevcik, Daland Speirs

General Members in Attendance: Leslie Fowler, Joan Carman, Tony Sarra, Patrick Wiggins, Ken Warner

President Luke Moses called the meeting to order: 7:01 PM

Luke asked for the Secretary/Treasurer report. The following is extracted from it:

Received \$2,762.11 in February plus \$0.85 interest. Receipts include \$2,236.35 in donations for the Jachmann memorial telescope (about \$70 more received so far this month; total is about half of the fundraising target of \$5,000). \$1,300 of the donated funds have been used to purchase the GEM and for crating; shipping charges of approximately \$500 are expected within the next few days.

A Utah Sales Tax refund request was filed with the State of Utah in January; it was received by Patrick this week and has been given to the Secretary for deposit at the bank (\$625.99). A Notice of Change was filed, to change the contact person from the former Secretary/Treasurer to me, but was rejected as it requires an in-person visit to the Corporations office in SLC. I hope to have this done by Friday, 3/13/2020 if government offices are open.

SLAS welcomed eight new members in February:

Chris Freerksen	Lydia Allred	Audra Sorensen	Donovan Kearns
Cynthia Hall	Bill Westlind	Jefferson Langford	Divya Chinchinada

Nine accounts were disabled (February expiration, applied 3/11/2020).

There were no major expenditures in February. Expecting about \$2,000 in March, of which \$1,300 has been paid for the GEM mount, and the remainder is an estimated shipping charge for the mount.

Luke asked about other topics. Tom asked whether we should cancel star parties for schools and libraries (not SPOC). Consensus that we should cancel if schools are canceling (no motion or vote).

Luke reported on his meeting with insurance agency. They asked to re-quote our premium, currently \$1,900 for liability plus \$747 for Directors and Officers (D&O) coverage. It does not include property damage, which was dropped last year. Luke: should we consider renewing property coverage? General liability would still be about \$300, saving us about \$1,000 per year if property is left out. Still need D&O, which is not final yet from the agency.

Discussion about property coverage followed. It would cover up to about \$180,000, but does not include flood or earthquake damage (it does cover fire, theft, etc.). The cost would be reduced because the agency did not take into account the concrete buildings at SPOC. Question as to whether they would drop further with newer security system, but Luke felt that it probably would not drop the cost since a system is already in place. The deductible is \$5,000.

Patrick questioned if the rest of the insurance is needed, given this fairly high number. Fire and theft are the big concerns. Consensus reached that it probably is not needed, but keep the other coverage.

Motion by Luke to drop the property damage coverage, keep liability and D&O coverage (total: about \$1,000), and improve the security system with the savings. Second by John. No other discussion. Passed by unanimous vote of those present (Rodger not in attendance).

SPOC opening will be tomorrow evening (Thu, 3/12). Rodger's email indicates he will be there around 6:00 PM. Those in attendance tonight plan on being at SPOC by about 4:00 PM to get an early start.

Tom reported that he received an email from Annie House, looking for a Night Sky Ambassador – after short discussion, it was determined that the cutoff was last Friday, so no further action is needed.

Luke brought up the donated (Robert Hill) observatory. The tentative removal and transport (to SPOC) date is Saturday, weather permitting. But Sunday may be an option, around 10:00 AM. No changes are needed yet.

Luke expanded on earlier discussion about star parties: should SPOC parties also be canceled? John asked what metrics would trigger an announcement. Others noted that State of Utah is calling for closures, and the SLCC library star parties are an example of the impact. Would it help if we kept the telescopes and ladders cleaner? Sanitizer is hard to get right now – would that affect our decision? General consensus is that if SLCC is canceling public (including SLAS General) meetings, then we should too. No motion or vote, we will monitor the situation.

Luke also brought up a West Desert Amateur Radio Club (WDARC) request to consider mounting an antenna on the roof of the Kolob building for use in an amateur radio mesh network. This has been demonstrated at the Tooele County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), where WDARC meetings are held.

The mesh network faces a coverage problem, especially north toward Lake Point, due to terrain height and blockage of line-of-sight high frequency signals. Discussion followed, including possible benefits to SLAS, such as possible mounting of a camera on the site, with regular pictures taken and sent by FTP to the slas.us site.

Daland noted that the communications cannot be encrypted due to amateur radio regulations, however, that may not be a problem due to the frequencies involved. To get the pictures to a SLAS-accessible site, a ham on the mesh network would have to setup a "bridge" to get the pictures from SPOC and then put them on the slas.us server.

Ken indicated that we have the software (FTP) to do this. WDARC would pay for the antenna, mount, and other equipment needed.

Motion by Luke to proceed with investigating the potential use of Kolob. Amendment by John that WDARC be responsible for checking regulations including overall height and county/state considerations and then present finding to the SLAS Board; amendment rejected, Luke will work with them instead. Original motion seconded by John. Unanimous approval.

Luke asked for any other business.

Tony reported that UofU is canceling sessions for the remote telescope, but they will continue to accept requests for viewing specific targets.

Ken reported that PayPal now requires Transport Level Security version 1.2 or newer for payment confirmations with slas.us. The current server does not support TLS 1.2 and is antiquated. Ken has bypassed the PayPal confirmation for now but the approach requires re-transmission that can result in payment delays of up to 3 days. The current server software is from 2003; he is move to the 2012 version (which is still commonly used).

John asked about potential problems with migrating the slas.us site; Ken said our software is written largely in ASP so he expects few problems. In addition, he is converting to the newer .Net since ASP is being replaced, and he has begun that migration with several functions on the website.

Ken also reported that a domain we owned, "starparty.us", has expired. We have not used it in years. Consensus that it not be renewed. The slas.us domain is coming up for renewal in May. Motion by John to extend the slas.us registration for up to 10 years or for however long we can get for \$200. Second by Luke. Unanimously approved.

Patrick noted that an annular solar eclipse will pass through southern Utah in 2023. Any decisions about possible SLAS sponsored eclipse events will be made at a later time.

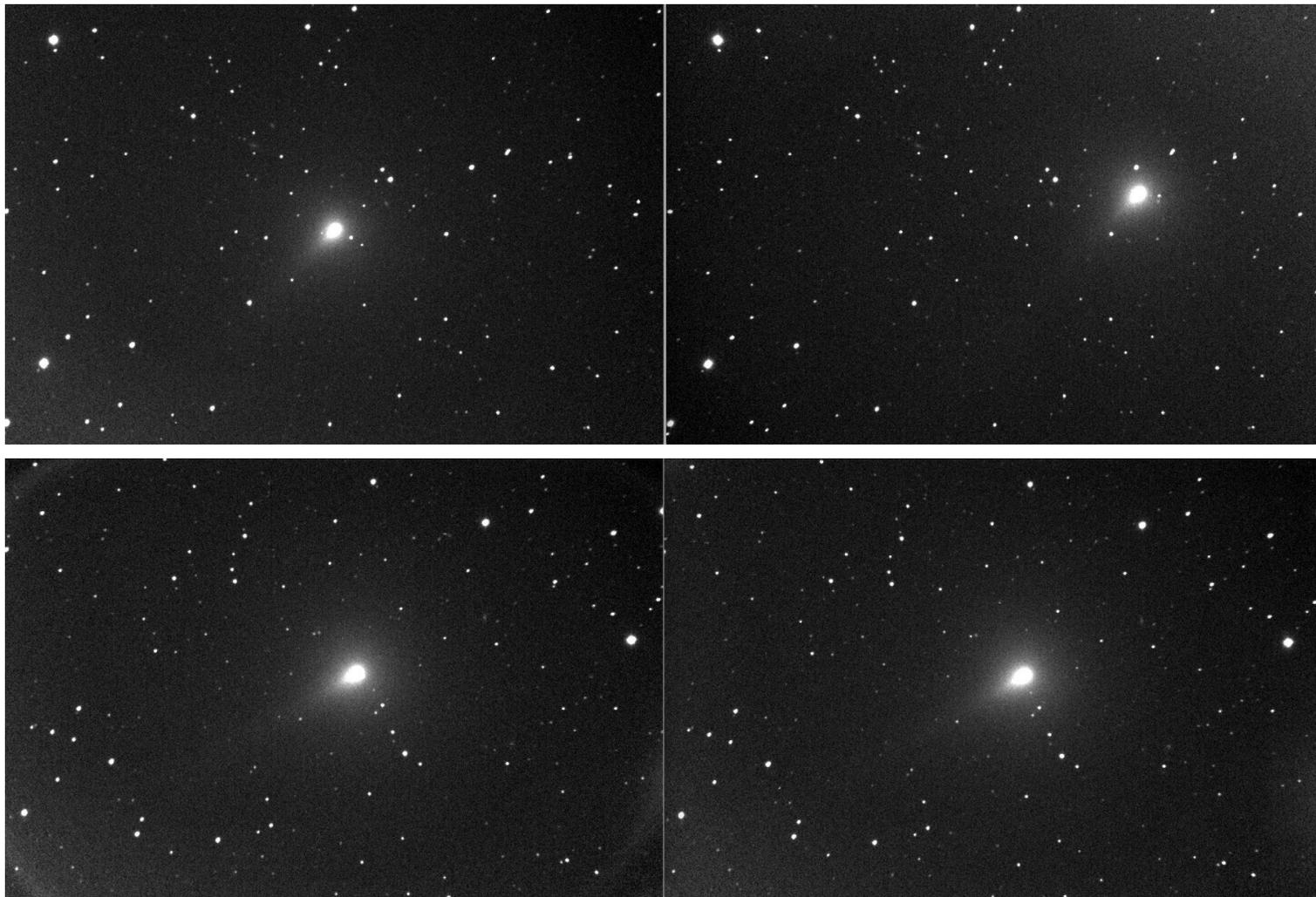
There being no further business, Luke adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:54 pm

### **MINUTES OF THE SALT LAKE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

18 March 2020

Meeting was cancelled out of concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Stereo pairs of Comet C/2019 Y4 (ATLAS) shot by the editor the mornings of 22 and 29 March. Some are predicting the comet could become naked eye visible later in the spring.**

## 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.

**Contact Us** [slasinfo@slas.us](mailto:slasinfo@slas.us)

## 2020 SLAS Board of Directors

President	Luke Moses
Meetings	
Vice President	Rodger Fry
Publicity, PR and Web Content	
Secretary-Treasurer	John Drabik
Membership Dues & Renewals	
Board Member at Large	Tom Sevcik
SPOC Star Party Coordinator	
Board Member at Large	Daland Speirs
School & Special Star Parties	

## Appointed Positions

Astronomical League Contact	Aleta Cox
Equipment Manager	Luke Moses
Historian	Patrick Wiggins
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Ann House
Newsletter Editor	Patrick Wiggins
Observatory Director	Rodger Fry
Private Star Party Coordinator	Don Colton
Webmaster	Ken Warner
ZAP Grant Writer	Jim Keane

## SPOC Advisory Committee

Chair through JAN 2021	Rodger Fry
Member through JAN 2021	Rodger Fry
Member through JAN 2021	Stan Eriksen
Member through DEC 2020	Larry Holmes
Member through FEB 2022	Leslie Fowler
Member through DEC 2020	Patrick Wiggins
Member through JAN 2021	Jim Keane
Member while SLAS President	Luke Moses
Member through FEB 2022	Tony Lau
Member as Obser. Dir. Emeritus	Bruce Grim
Member while Harmons Rep.	Vacant

## SPOC Telescope Instruction Coordinators

Refractor	Marlene Egger
Ealing	Jim Keane
Grim	Rodger Fry
Clements	Leslie Fowler

## Events Calendar

**NOTICE:** Owing to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, all SLAS events are currently on hold. The board will be sending out email SLAS Blasts advising the membership about any changes.

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. Current editor is Patrick Wiggins, 4099wiggins@gmail.com.