

# NOVA



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

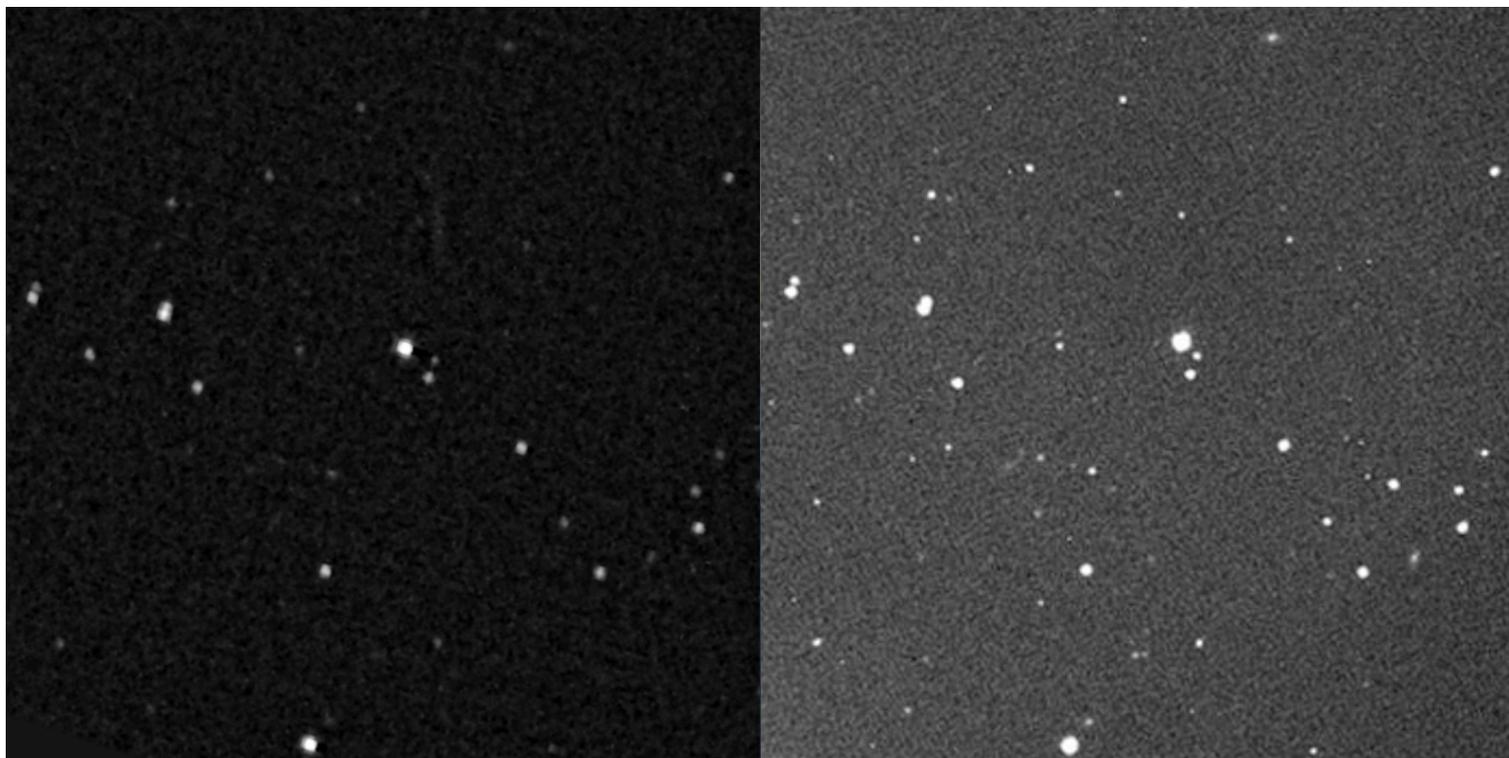
**Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!**

Barnabas, Anderson  
Pol, Pranit

Evans, Carma

Kallen, Jenny

Nelson, Bruce



## **Demonstration of Parallax**

Wolf 359 is a star only 8 light years from Earth (it's the bright star near the center of the pictures).

Image on the left was taken by the New Horizons spacecraft on 23 April 2020 when it was about 7 billion kilometers from Earth. Image on the right was taken by the editor on 18 June 2020.

When viewed in stereo using the "Cross-Eyed Stereo" method Wolf 359, being much closer than all the other stars in the images, appears to hover in front of the background stars.

Star Trek trivia: The United Federation of Planets and the Borg Collective fought a battle near Wolf 359 on star date 43989.1.

# SALT LAKE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

10 June 2020

**Special Note:** Due to the COVID-19 outbreak the meeting was held virtually.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Rodger Fry, Daland Speirs, Tom Sevcik, John Drabik

**Other Members in Attendance:** Joan Carman, Patrick Wiggins, Tony Sarra

**VP Rodger Fry called the meeting to order: 7:01 PM**

Rodger began by noting that pandemic numbers are still rising and so he suggests we continue to hold back on in-person functions such as meetings and star parties. Rodger then moved that we purchase a Zoom account, basic service for up to 100 people, and in time for the June General meeting and the subsequent Board and General meetings.

Joan noted that for \$15.00 per month we can get service similar to what was used for the Professor Einstein meeting last month. It was also noted that since the total estimated expenditure is less than \$200, the Board can proceed this evening without bringing this to the membership for a vote. Second by Daland. Passed unanimously.

Next was a discussion of the Jachmann memorial telescope. Chuck Hards will take the original tripod mount and see if it can be augmented to serve as the base going forward. He will donate up to \$150 for enhancements to the tripod (which will be recorded as a donation in the SLAS Books when it occurs).

Rodger asked for the Secretary's report. Due to computer audio problems, John was unable to speak but was able to provide financial results through the end of May (these were submitted to Patrick last week and are posted on the SLAS site). He was also able to use Zoom Chat to propose a Motion that Ken add the code needed for tracking Astronomical League memberships, to the SLAS.us site. Patrick asked if he could speak with John by phone first, to discuss what worked in the past, so the motion was tabled for now.

Joan reported that telescopes are still not being lent out by the public libraries. She is concerned that the Utah State sales tax refund that was due to telescope purchases be returned to the Library Loaner program. John noted (via chat) that the amount was computed and reported last month, and has been marked as Library funds in the Books.

Tony Sarra has no update on the University of Utah Imaging Sessions. He will continue to track those to see when the University re-opens.

Rodger noted that a number of people have paid for SPOC use this year but are not getting a chance to use the facility due to the pandemic. He suggests we should automatically extend their expiration date to next year. Discussion ensued, and it was suggested that since the State is beginning to re-open, we should wait to determine if a whole-year or partial-year change is needed, based on whether people get to use SPOC in the near future.

There being no further business, Rodger adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned: 7:35 PM**

**SALT LAKE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**17 June 2020**

**Special Note:** Due to the COVID-19 outbreak the meeting was held virtually.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Rodger Fry, Daland Speirs, John Drabik, Tom Sevcik

**Other Members in Attendance:** Patrick Wiggins, Joan Carman, Ken Warner, Jamie Bradley and est. 10 other attendees

**VP Rodger Fry called the meeting to order: 7:36 PM**

The meeting was a conversational interaction with our Guest Speaker, Rodger Fry.

Minutes for this meeting are very short: prior to the meeting, Rodger announced he would provide the slides for posting on the SLAS.us site, at the following link:

<http://slas.us/slasbooks/astronomythroughtime.pdf>

The presentation ended at 8:30 PM

In the Society Business portion of the meeting after the presentation, Rodger noted that star parties and other public events are still on hold due to the pandemic. John noted that there were no carryover items from the Board meeting last week either.

Joan Carman noted that some people may be at Bryce Canyon as the June meeting is often canceled for that event, however, due to the virus there are probably not many people there, and others may not have known about this presentation.

Rodger noted there is no further Society business to discuss.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:35 PM**

## **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 in person SLAS events are currently on hold. The board will be sending out email SLAS Blasts advising the membership about any changes.

### July 2020

08 Board Meeting may be held on line. Details to be announced via SLAS Blast emails.

15 General Meeting may be held on line. Details to be announced via SLAS Blast emails.

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.