

# NOVA



Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society  
Volume 51 Number 1 January / February 2021

**SLAS Newsletter's 51st year of publication.**

**Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!**

Bergeson, Terryne

Ericksen, Jessica

Gross, Laura

Mehta, Dhairya

Riaz, Awais

**Jupiter / Saturn Conjunction**



Tom Sevcik, 16 December 2020



Jeff Strate, 21 December 2020



Russell Lindsay, 21 December 2020

# SALT LAKE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

09 December 2020

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

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

**Other Members in Attendance:** Patrick Wiggins, Ken Warner, Aleta Cox, Jamie Bradley, Joan Carman

**Location:** Online virtual meeting using Zoom

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

Luke asked Patrick to provide his list of topics for Board transition. This includes meeting days & times, dues, etc.

-General and Board meeting dates and times for 2021: Motion by Luke to keep the current days, with locations to be determined based on virus conditions. Second by John. Rodger asked why not switch General meeting to 7:00 PM to match Board time (keeping the days the same, i.e., 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of the month). Joan noted that virus / vaccine conditions may change midway through the year and could lead to another time change. Luke noted that SLCC may not give us auditorium access for months. Daland suggested keeping the same schedule for now, but update later plus use Zoom for those who want to remain remote even if conditions clear. Summarized that meetings will stay the same: Board at 7:00 PM on 2nd Wed of each month, and General at 7:30 PM on 3rd Wednesday of each month. Passed unanimously.

- Dues for 2021: Motion by Rodger to keep dues the same, and that Astro League continue to be a separate and extra \$7.50 charge as is currently done. Second by Luke. Passed unanimously.

- Budget discussion for 2021: this year there were very few substantial expenditures, except for the Jachmann Memorial Telescope, and they were covered by donations. Motion by Luke to keep the same budget. Second by John, with the added condition that John update this years budgets to include Actuals. Luke suggested we budget for the Jachmann telescope. John was asked to review the 2020 Books, determine the donations and expenditures, and send the current balance available. Rodger believes it is about \$1,000, this will be verified. Joan suggested that we budget \$300 for the library loaner telescope program to cover things like printing of Quick Start Guides and other incidentals that SLAS has paid for in the past.

However, it was noted that most of the funds get reimbursed and Luke was concerned about budgeting because of that. He then suggested a smaller amount, \$100, to provide Joan with some flexibility while acquiring materials and waiting for reimbursement. Luke and Rodger noted that the Jachmann telescope will be covered by the sale of excess equipment. Luke updated the onscreen document with the \$100 value and will send it to John to maintain in 2021. Motion by John to accept the document as presented onscreen by Luke, to be presented at the General meeting next month for membership approval. Second by Rodger. Passed unanimously.

The budget discussion ended. Luke noted that Rodger contacted him, suggesting that we hold off on the sale of the following excess equipment: two LX-200's, Paramount, two cameras, and the 10' dome. Luke believes that if we can sell them we should do so. Tom agreed that we should sell what we can while we can. John noted that he has a bid on one of the items, and will recuse himself from the vote, but if the other bidders retract their offers John offered to do so too. Daland said that if offers are already in place then at least those sales should be allowed to proceed. Jamie said he thinks it may be beneficial to keep the equipment Rodger had noted, at SPOC for future use. Luke noted that some items such as the ST7 camera could be kept, and Joan commented that the cameras are old technology.

Patrick commented that we don't need both, and suggested we sell the 11000M [editor note: the 11000M is the only item on Rodger's list which is currently being bid upon.] Motion by Luke that items that have bids active be sold, and hold back the other items on Rodger's list (note: the items were shown onscreen, in Red text, in the document that Luke maintains for the sale items. It includes the items listed above.) Second by Rodger. John recused, Luke, Rodger, Tom, and Daland voted Yes. Motion passed.

Rodger discussed SPOC status. Everything is still basically on hold. Next, he called for help in finding guest speakers for 2021. Patrick suggested we use the Speaker's Bureau, or contact groups like JPL (which Patrick offered to do). Luke suggested we search out-of-state schools, and Joan noted that the use of Zoom enables a nationwide search. She mentioned several groups such as Southwest Horizons as possible sources. John suggested we consider some commercial sources as well, and noted that Space-X may be an example. Rodger asked that Board members send him potential contact ideas and info for people at those places if possible.

Joan commented that some of our own members also do good astronomical work and may be potential speakers. Luke asked Rodger if he would like Aleta's help on a "Speaker's Board" to find guests. No clear disposition of this point reached. John suggested that we hold some "how-to" sessions, especially to help new members or those with little experience. Examples might include constellation identification, telescope use and maintenance, star-hopping. Joan added that member Don Colton has done some of this, especially for collimation, and types of telescope mounts. Discussion continued until next year's Board is in place.

John summarized the Secretary/Treasurer Report: \$239.75 in dues income in November, with a current bank balance of just under \$25,000. Part of the increase from October is due to excess equipment sales (approximately \$2,675 so far, with at least one other bid pending). There were only two expenditures (a donation to Kosovo Observatory, and SPOC locks reimbursement). We added four new members in November: Mike Baird, Brian Miller, Brennon Shaffer, and Santana Whatley.

A donation recognition letter was sent regarding the 10' dome plus LX-200 16", and the memorial plaque is ready for placement at SPOC in the Spring. John also noted that Astro League status and payment date is now available to Board members on the SLAS.us site, however there may still be a minor bug needing repair. Ken replied that he had just recently fixed that bug. Expired/expiring member notices were sent to those affected members. Bank and account updates and minutes for the November meetings have been sent to Patrick for posting. Finally, John noted that we need a "bank signature" event at the bank, so that new Board members signatures can be added for counter-signing checks; no date set but will try in the next few weeks. And John noted that we need to get bank and Zoom "ownership" details moved to the new Board.

Rodger mentioned star parties: he feels we should use the same approach as this year (determined as we go due to the virus). John suggested we setup one of the cameras on the Grimm and hold virtual star parties with multiple targets and enabling attendees to comment via Zoom while we cannot have star parties. Patrick noted that the Grimm has been tried before but mirror problems were encountered. He thought the Ealing might be a better choice, but he also noted that it can take considerable time to setup the camera. John and Jamie offered to help get a camera setup at SPOC, with Rodger to coordinate.

Luke went around the attendees regarding other possible topics. Tom had nothing further at this time. Daland asked that the Board, early in January, setup and define any further criteria that we might have regarding reopening while adhering to at least the State guidelines. Also, regarding the budget, he suggested we add funds for a Spring party if it becomes possible to hold one. Luke noted that the budget already includes an entertainment category, which has been used for this in the past, and that \$500 is available.

Patrick asked those present to review the draft issue of the Jan/Feb Nova, especially with regard to duties performed by the officers, and for them to send their comments or changes to him.

Aleta had nothing further at this time.

There being no further business, Luke adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:16 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)

## **2021 SLAS Board of Directors**

President	Aleta Cox
Meetings	
Vice President	Jamie Bradley
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 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.**

Note: The following dates are based on past years' schedules and should be considered tentative. The final 2021 schedule will be discussed and adopted at the January 2021 General Membership Meeting.

### January 2021

13 Board Meeting may be held on line.  
20 General Membership Meeting may be held online.

### February 2021

10 Board Meeting may be held on line.  
17 General Membership Meeting may be held online.

### March 2021

10 Board Meeting may be held on line.  
17 General Membership Meeting may be held online.

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.