

NOVA



Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Volume 42 Number 1 January - February 2012

Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!

Black, Steven - Salt Lake City, UT
Dorman, Roger - Lehi, UT
Emery, Joshua - Salt Lake City, UT
Gentis, George - Tooele, UT
Grossen, Richard - Sandy, UT
Miller, Karen - Salt Lake City, UT
Thompson, Mark - Layton, UT
Williams, Gerald - Provo, UT



December's Lunar Eclipse SLAS member David Rankin got these shots the morning of 10 December 2011 from a site just north of the Utah State Capitol Building. He used an unmodified Rebel 450D camera equipped with a Nikkor 180mm f/2.8 lens. Exposures ranged from 1/200s to 2.5s.

SLAS Meetings Are Moving

Starting this month (January) SLAS board and general meetings will be moving to Wednesdays.

Board meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, January through December at the Denny's restaurant located at 250 W 500 S in SLC. Start time will be 6:30 p.m.

General meetings will be moving back to room 105 of the U of U's Engineering/Mines Classroom Building and held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, January through November starting at 7:30 p.m.

SLAS ZAP Grant Application Receives Top Marks

Vicki Bourns, the Program Manager for the Zoo Arts and Parks, reports that SLAS's most recent grant application was well written and constructed. So well done that it received a rating of 9.75 out of a possible 10 while the average grant application was below a 7.

She added that SLAS's application is now being used as a sample for other agencies who wish to submit a grant.

Congratulations to SLAS ZAP Grant Committee Chair Ann House and her grant writing crew!

To view our grant application go to:

http://www.zap.slco.org/zapArts/html/recipient/applicant/Sample_Applications.html

"What Do You Know About Astronomy? Would You Like To Learn More?"



SLAS members Bob Moore and Larry Holmes wait to talk about astronomy with visitors to SLAS's information booth during October's Utah Education Association convention. Image by Steve Fisher

SLAS Post Office Box Closed

A reminder that per the vote at last October's meeting the club post office box has been closed. All postal mail for SLAS should be addressed to the current Secretary/Treasurer's home address. For 2012 the address to use is SLAS, 472 Country Club, Tooele UT 84074.

Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

SPOC Committee Meeting, 05 November 2011

SPOC Committee chair Ken Harris called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 W 500 S in SLC at 2:10 p.m. Others in attendance were Robyn Anderson, Roger Butz, Rodger Fry, Bruce Grim, Fletcher Gross, Kasey O'Connor, Mark Bloomenthal, Ken Harris, Bill Kennedy, Nate Goodman, Dave Bernson, Larry Holmes and Patrick Wiggins.

Observatory Director Emeritus Bruce Grim was appointed as a voting member of the committee with no expiration date to his term.

Nate Goodman and Robyn Anderson were appointed to 3 year terms on the committee effective 01 January 2012.

Ken Harris was nominated to another one year term as committee chair. Ken's nomination will be submitted to the SLAS board for approval.

Rodger Fry was nominated to fill the position of Observatory Director. Rodger's nomination will be submitted to the SLAS board for approval.

Bill Kennedy reported that the electric slow motion controls for the refractor have been bench checked and are ready to be installed next spring.

Weather permitting next year's observatory training will start in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Board Meeting, 08 November 2011

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 6:32 p.m. Others in attendance were Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins & Board Members at Large Bob Taylor and Steve Fisher and members Ray Druian, Dave Bernson, Nate Goodman, and Mark Shelton.

The meeting started earlier than usual to allow members a chance to see the flyby of NEO 2005 YU55.

All recommendations made by the SPOC Advisory Committee at their meeting last week were approved (see above).

Per a request from Solstice Festival organizer Ann House, \$100 was allocated from the general fund as a gratuity to the servers at this year's festival.

A discussion on SLAS activities relating to next year's Venus transit of Venus was put off until we have more information from the Natural History Museum of Utah who may be the venue.

We do not know yet if we will charter a bus to carry members to and from next May's annular eclipse in southern Utah. Hopefully we'll know more information by next month's transitional board meeting.

The 2012 public star party schedule was discussed. It will be finalized at next week's general membership meeting.

Considering the thousands of fliers being thrown out each year it was decided to order no more than 5,000 next year and to urge people to visit the club's website for star party information.

Rodger will order ZAP and SLAS stickers to be placed on things given to the public that are paid for with ZAP funds.

Updated SPOC training materials will be made available online by March of next year.

Required SPOC telescope operator retraining will continue to be given first priority next year but training of new operators will not be held up until all retraining is completed.

The board learned that Stansbury Park is willing to pay for improvement of the grounds around the observatory. Bruce Grim will be contacted and asked to present more information when he has it.

Patrick will issue a Request for Opinions in News and on the Utah-Astronomy list serve. The RfO will ask if people wish to hold general membership meetings on Tuesdays or Wednesdays and if they prefer the old meeting hall or the new one.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

General Meeting, 15 November 2011

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in the University of Utah's Behavioral Science Auditorium at 7:31 p.m. Approximately 58 people attended.

Rodger introduced the members of the current and next year's board and those persons who were attending a SLAS meeting for the first time.

Lowell Lyon presented a check from the Astronomical League for SLAS's share of the profits from this year's ALCON at Bryce Canyon. The check was \$4,527.00.

A motion was approved to give \$200 to the Ogden Astronomical Society for their help at the ALCON.

Rodger introduced the evening's guest speaker, Dr. Ben Bromley from the U of U's Department of Physics and Astronomy. Dr. Bromley's talk was entitled Making Planets.

Rather than a monthly review of the budget at general meetings members were encouraged to find those data on line.

The members were asked if they preferred to hold general meetings on Tuesday or Wednesday nights. A majority voted for Wednesday.

Members were also asked if they prefer the current meeting venue of the former meeting hall. The majority voted for the former location.

Steve Fisher thanked Lowell Lyon for his work with the ALCON.

Rodger reminded everyone about next month's Solstice Festival.

Next year's public star party schedule was approved.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at Village Inn on 900 East 400 South at 9:00 p.m.

Transitional Board Meeting, 13 December 2012

SLAS President Rodger Fry called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 7:45 p.m. Others in attendance were Vice President Bob Moore, Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins & Board Members at Large Bob Taylor and Steve Fisher. Representing next year's board were board members elect Dave Bernson and Mark Shelton. Also attending were members Ray Druian, Nate Goodman, Ann House, Kevin Hays, David Cope, Deloy Pierce and David Hays.

The 2012 star party schedule was approved as previously published. Patrick Wiggins will create a SLAS QR code and forward it to Rodger so it can be included on the printed 2012 star party fliers. Rodger will work with Roger Butz to get the schedules printed. Only 5,000 will be printed this year since so many 2011 fliers went undistributed and had to be taken to the recyclers.

In keeping with a recent vote of the membership SLAS's 2012 general membership meetings will be moved to the 3rd Wednesday of each month except December. Dave Bernson announced he was able to secure our old meeting venue in room 105 of the U of U's Engineering/Mines classroom building starting with the January 2012 meeting. The room will be available starting at 6:30 p.m. with meetings starting at 7:30.

All 2012 regular board meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Board meetings will start at 6:30 p.m.. Venue will remain the meeting room in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 W. 500 S. in SLC.

Dues were proposed to remain at \$20.00 per membership per year. Line items for Postage & Printing and Outreach were eliminated with the balances of both accounts being transferred to the general fund. The proposed dues structure for 2012 has \$8.00 going to the general fund, \$2.50 to entertainment, \$5.00 to the Astronomical League and \$4.50 to insurance. Per the club constitution all matters relating to dues will be presented to the members present at the January general meeting for discussion, modification (if necessary) and approval.

Citing the desire to "go green" all present voted to do away with paper copies of the club's newsletter effective with the Jan/Feb 2012 issue. Instead the newsletter will be emailed to all members and continue to be made available on the club's website.

The Hydrogen-Alpha account was eliminated with all funds currently in the account being transferred to the general fund. All future H-A fees will go directly to the general fund.

The ALCON account was closed and transferred to the general fund.

There was considerable discussion about what to spend the 2012 ZAP grant on. While the final say will be with next year's board and membership everyone seemed to agree that we should do as with previous ZAP grants and spend it on bringing in speakers and on books and telescopes to be given away at Salt Lake County star parties.

During their 2012 terms as Board Members at Large Mark Shelton will handle school and special star parties and Larry Holmes will arrange for telescope operators and speakers for SPOC star parties.

Citing very little interest in chartering a bus for next year's annular eclipse the idea was dropped. Individual members are still welcome to pursue the idea.

Steve Fisher volunteered to act as SLAS's liaison with the Natural History Museum of Utah (formerly the Utah Museum of Natural History) for next June's transit of Venus event which will be held at the museum.

Next year's SLAS Solstice Festival will be held the evening of Saturday, the 1st of December. Ann House agreed to reprise her role as coordinator for the festival. Ann received a round of applause for the work she and her team put into this year's successful festival.

There was much interest in working with Bryce Canyon and Sky & Telescope magazine to organize a high profile astronomy event at Bryce Canyon.

2012 appointed positions were reviewed. All will remain the same as last year except for the Dark Site committee and the Inreach director, both of which were eliminated.

Patrick asked if there is still interest in an "End of the World" star party on 21 December 2012 at the Midvale Harmons. There was so the idea will be discussed in the new year.

Deloy Pierce suggested awarding a telescope to the person with the best astronomy related entry in the 2012 state science fair. He also proposed awarding telescope building grants.

Bob Taylor presented a \$50.00 donation received from Lifetree Clinical Research following a program Rodger Fry recently did for Lifetree.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

SLAS Member Information

The SLAS Member Information file is available [here](#).

Loaner Telescopes For SLAS Members

SLAS has several scopes available for loan to current SLAS members. Check the SLAS web site under "[Membership Benefits](#)" for details.

2012 SLAS Board of Directors

President	David Bernson	801.263.9264	dustynebula@gmail.com
Meetings			
Vice President	Robert Taylor	801.599.3925	robtaylor@slc@gmail.com
Publicity, PR and Web Content			
Secretary-Treasurer	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	paw@wirelessbeehive.com
Membership Dues & Renewals			
Board Member at Large	Larry Holmes	801.467.7855	larry@kijoda.com
SPOC Star Party Coordinator			
Board Member at Large	Mark Shelton	801.254.5654	astroshelton@yahoo.com
School & Special Star Parties			

Appointed Positions

Astronomical League Contact	Robert Taylor	801.599.3925	robtaylor@slc@gmail.com
Equipment Manager	Roger Butz	435.830.4684	
Historian	Ann Blanchard	801.485.6629	a.blanchard@ugs.utah.edu
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Ann House	801.671.8447	ann@annhouse.org
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Troy Stratton	801.647.5142	tmstratton@comcast.net
New Member Director	Bob Moore	801.580.0466	bmoore@commercecrg.com
Newsletter Editor	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	paw@beehivewireless.com
Observatory Director	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Observatory Training Director	Roger Butz	435.830.4684	
Private Star Party Coordinator	Don Colton	801.571.9757	dcoltonsprint@earthlink.net
Solar Scope Manager	Rodger Fry	801.268.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Webmasters	Ken Warner		webmaster@slas.us
ZAP Grant Committee Chair	Ann House	801.671.8447	ann@annhouse.org

Current SPOC Advisory Committee

Chair through JAN 2013 and			
Member through JAN 2015	Ken Harris	801.572.3457	kharrismar@earthlink.net
Member through JAN 2015	Robyn Anderson	801.520.6981	tailwinds152@hotmail.com
Member through JAN 2014	Mark Bloomenthal	801.842.1242	markbloomenthal@yahoo.com
Member through JAN 2015	Bill Kennedy	801.964.6199	truss_tube@hotmail.com
Member through JAN 2015	Nate Goodman	801.277.0193	ngoodman@lgcy.com
Member through JAN 2014	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	paw@beehivewireless.com
Member while SLAS President	David Bernson	801.263.9264	dustynebula@gmail.com
Member while Observatory Dir.	Rodger Fry	801.288.0851	rcfry@comcast.net
Member as Obser. Dir. Emeritus	Bruce Grim	435.882.5237	bmargrim@msn.com
Member while Training Dir.	Roger Butz	435.830.4684	
Member while Harmons Rep.	Keith Anderson		

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, 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@wirelessbeehive.com, 435.882.1209.

Salt Lake Astronomical Society
472 Country Club
Tooele UT 84074
<http://www.slas.us>

Events Calendar

NOTE NEW MEETING DATES AND GENERAL MEETING LOCATION

January 2012

11 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, SLC.
18 General Meeting 7:30 pm at U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.

February 2012

08 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, SLC.
15 General Meeting 7:30 pm at U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.

March 2012

14 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Denny's restaurant, 250 W 500 S, SLC.
21 General Meeting 7:30 pm at U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.

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