



SLAS

SALT LAKE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

**Member
Information**

Updated 29 December 2011

www.slas.us

The Salt Lake Astronomical Society, or SLAS, is a nonprofit corporation formed in the state of Utah and composed of over 150 members wishing to enjoy "the pleasure and benefits of an association of persons interested in astronomy, promote the science..." and "encourage and coordinate activities with professional research". The Society was formed in 1971 and is governed by a Constitution and yearly elected Board of Directors consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and two Board Members at Large.

General Meetings are held monthly, and are open to the public. General meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month January through November, begin at 7:30 pm and generally end by 9:00 pm. In December the annual members-only Solstice Festival replaces the General meeting on the first Saturday. The board meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to about 8:00 pm. Board meetings are open to everyone.

Please check the [website](#) for meeting locations.

The website is located at www.slas.us and provides information on most all SLAS activities. Club members may log in to the site's Members Only area and access information not available to the public.

Nova is the club's bimonthly newsletter and contains meeting minutes and other information of interest to club members. Nova is emailed to members and may also be found online at slas.us/nova_archive.asp.

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	dutchbutz@yahoo.com
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	kharris@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		

SLAS Activities

Public Star Parties

Public star parties are scheduled at various times and sites throughout the year. Star parties are a long-time tradition at SLAS going back to the 1970s. Members are encouraged to attend, operate a telescope if they have one and answer questions from the public whenever possible.

Public Sun Parties

Public Sun parties may be scheduled throughout the year. Special equipment is necessary for solar observing, some of which can be borrowed from the club.

Private SLAS Star Parties

SLAS members frequently conduct private star parties for members and their families. These may be late night or even all night events. Private events are not advertised to the public. Location and directions are typically listed in the Members Only section of the club's [website](#).

Special Star Parties

Special star parties for schools, groups and special events are arranged through the Board of Directors. A Board Member (see the list above) is assigned to coordinate volunteers and arrangements. Volunteers are always welcome at these events.

Advanced Training Sessions

A social activity nicknamed the "Advanced Training Session" or "ATS" follows most club events. These always involve food (SLASers love to eat) are very popular and take place at the Village Inn on 900 E 400 S following General Meetings, the Denny's in Tooele following SPOC star parties and various restaurants following other star parties.

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND! Dutch treat of course. Attending ATs is a great way to meet other club members and to feel more a part of the SLAS family.

Solstice Festival

Another long time SLAS tradition is the annual Solstice Festival held each December in place of the monthly General Meeting. Reservations are usually required. Funding for the party comes in part or whole from membership dues.

Date, time and location will be announced in meeting, in the newsletter and posted to the club's website.

Yearly Events and Programs

Messier Marathon

All-night star parties usually held in March on or near new Moon. All through the night members observe objects from the [Messier Catalogue](#). This is a private star party for SLAS members and their guests only.

Astronomy Day

Usually held in April or May. Activities usually include daytime and evening events for the public.

Loaner Telescopes for SLAS Members

SLAS has several Dobsonian and Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes available for loan to current SLAS members. The program is administered by the club's Equipment Manager. See the list above for the current Equipment Manager.

SLAS Image Gallery

SLAS members may post and display their astronomical images on the [SLAS Gallery](#).

SLAS History

A very detailed look at SLAS's history, authored by SLAS historian Ann Blanchard is available [here](#).

The Stansbury Park Observatory Complex

[The Stansbury Park Observatory Complex](#) (SPOC) is the crown jewel of SLAS and is located west of Salt Lake City in Stansbury Park, Utah. This premier amateur facility houses one of Utah's largest telescopes. Owned and operated by SLAS, SPOC is located in the Ken Sagers Memorial Park on land generously provided by the Stansbury Park Service Agency through a land-use agreement.

The club uses SPOC to host public star parties as well as members only star parties. The club also conducts training programs at SPOC so that members can learn to use the SPOC telescopes on their own. The lawn around SPOC is available for club members to set up their own telescopes. SPOC also offers high speed internet access to members via hard wire hookups and Wi-Fi.

SPOC has two observatories containing three telescopes.

The Harmons Observatory was built in 2001 in large part through generous donations from Harmons grocery stores as well as many others. The observatory contains two telescope bays connected by a central office with two desks, a computer, printer, microwave oven and space heater. The east bay houses a 1960s vintage 40cm (16") Ealing reflector which has been restored to mint condition by club members. The west bay houses the computer controlled 80cm (32") Grim Scope which was designed and built by Observatory Director Bruce Grim with optics made by SLAS member and professional optician Steve Dodds. These telescopes are at their best when viewing deep sky objects (nebulae, galaxies, and star clusters). They are also capable of delivering remarkable views of the Moon and planets.

Immediately to the west of the Harmons Observatory is the Donna Pease Wiggins Refractor House. It was built in 2005 primarily through the generous donations of club member Patrick Wiggins. It has a single telescope bay with a slide-off dome (one of very few in the world). It houses the 200mm Bogdan Refractor (named for late SLAS member Andy Bogdan). The telescope pier was made in 1915 by the world famous telescope manufactures Alvan Clark & Sons. It normally operates with a 200mm f/16.8 Brandt lens, but it is hoped that eventually it will be fitted with an adapter to allow use of an original 9" Alvan Clark lens on special occasions. In either configuration, this telescope provides exquisite views of solar system objects.

All SLAS members are eligible and encouraged to learn to operate the observatory telescopes!

Telescope Operator Training at SPOC

The club conducts the following training classes at SPOC, typically starting very early in the SPOC observing season. All classes are free. To sign up for a class reply to any of the various notifications emailed out during the year or contact the Observatory Training Director. See the list above for the current Observatory Training Director.

Bogdan Refractor Level 1

Provides an introduction to Refractor House procedures and handling of the Bogdan Refractor. The class is open to SLAS members and non-members and consists of a single 1 hour session. The class may be repeated if desired. There are no prerequisites for taking this class but the class is a prerequisite for all other SPOC telescope training.

Bogdan Refractor Level 2

Provides hands-on training for students wanting to learn to operate the Bogdan Refractor on their own. The number of sessions required by a student is determined by the instructor but typically only one is needed. Prerequisites: SLAS membership and satisfactory completion of a Bogdan Refractor Level 1 class.

Ealing Reflector Level 1

Provides an introduction to Harmons Observatory procedures and handling of the Ealing Reflector. The class is open to SLAS Members and consists of a single 1-2 hour session. The class may be repeated if desired. Prerequisites: SLAS membership and completion of Bogdan Refractor training.

Ealing Reflector Level 2

Provides hands-on training for students wanting to learn to operate the Ealing Reflector on their own. The number of sessions required by a student is determined by the instructor. Prerequisites: SLAS membership and an Ealing Reflector Level 1 class.

Grim Reflector

Provides hands-on training for students wanting to learn to operate the Grim Scope on their own. The number of sessions required by a student is determined by the instructor. Prerequisites: SLAS membership, completion of Ealing Reflector Level 2 training and current SPOC key-holder status.

SPOC Key Holder Status

To become a SPOC key-holder you must successfully complete at least a Level 2 Bogdan telescope class, pay the annual SPOC user fee, and have been a member of SLAS for at least 6 months. Students should not pay the annual SPOC user fee until they have graduated a Level 2 telescope class.

The SPOC fee is \$25.00.

Constitution of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

Preamble

We the undersigned, desiring to secure the pleasures and benefits of an association of persons interested in astronomy; to promote the science of astronomy and its associated sciences; to encourage and coordinate activities with professional research, do hereby organize and constitute ourselves as the Salt Lake Astronomical Society, a non-profit organization.

Article I Name

The name of this organization shall be the Salt Lake Astronomical Society, hereafter referred to as "the Society".

Article II Membership

A. Any person and/or family with an interest in astronomy shall be admitted to membership upon the payment of membership dues.

B. A membership is a person or a family that has paid membership dues. Individual family members have membership privileges but the entire family shall comprise one membership (hereinafter called a "membership").

Article III Meetings

A. Regularly scheduled general meeting will be held at least monthly as scheduled by the Board. Times and locations of at least the next three general meetings will be published in each edition of the Society's journal.

B. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least quarterly. The time and place of regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be published in the Society's journal in advance of the meeting.

C. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Chairman of the Board as required. No meeting of the Board of Directors may be held without all Board members having been given proper notice.

D. Minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors will be published in the following edition of the Society's journal and read at the following general meeting.

E. Any decision of the Board may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the memberships present at the general meeting following publication of the minutes. Suspended decisions shall be submitted to the entire membership for final disposition.

Article IV Officers

A. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following five officers (hereinafter called "the Board"):

1. President/Chairman of the Board
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary/Treasurer
4. Board Member
5. Board Member

B. Terms of office shall be one year beginning the first of January following the general election of officers and ending the 31st of December of the same year. No member may serve on the Board for more than two out of any three consecutive years. Board vacancies shall be filled within 30 days by the remaining Board.

C. Duties of Officers:

1. President/Chairman of the Board
 - a. Administers the affairs of the Society
 - b. Presides at meetings.
 - c. Responsible for meeting content.
 - d. Responsible for all the assets of the Society.
2. Vice-President
 - a. Assumes duties of the President/Chairman in his/her absence.
 - b. Becomes President/Chairman in the event that office becomes vacant.
 - c. Responsible for publicity and public relations.
3. Secretary/Treasurer
 - a. The Secretary/Treasurer is responsible for all the books and records of the Society.
4. Board Members
 - a. Advisors to the Board
 - b. May accept duties and responsibilities as agreed upon by the Board.

Article V Elections and Voting Procedures

A. Eligibility

1. Persons wishing to run for and hold office in the Society must:
 - a. Be a member of the Society and maintain membership status throughout their term of office; and
 - b. Be at least 18 years of age.
2. No more than one person per membership may run for office for any given term.
3. No more than one person per membership may serve on the Board during any given term.

B. The Election Process:

1. 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.
2. All candidates will be announced during the August general meeting.
3. If necessary, primary elections will be held during the September general meeting by the memberships present for the purpose of narrowing the number of candidates to two for each office.
4. An election committee comprised of three non-candidate members shall be appointed by the President during the September meeting.
5. Final candidates shall be announced in the September issue of the Society's journal and be given 1/4 page therein to make a statement.
6. Absentee ballots will be included with the September issue of the Society's journal.
7. All memberships of record as of the previous 1st of September will be eligible to vote in a general election.
8. A general election will be held by secret ballot at the beginning of the October general meeting. The results shall be announced before the end of that meeting.

C. Voting:

1. There shall be one vote per membership.
2. Proxies shall not be accepted for any purpose.
3. Motions will carry with a simple majority of those memberships present at a regularly scheduled meeting unless otherwise specified.

Article VI Finances

- A. Annual memberships dues shall be as recommended by the Board of Directors and ratified by a 2/3 majority of those memberships present at a regularly scheduled general meeting. All memberships shall pay the same dues.
- B. The Board is authorized to make all contracted magazine subscription expenditures.
- C. The Board shall prepare a budget for their term of office, to be presented for approval at the January general meeting and to be published in the journal prior to the meeting.

D. The budget will be adopted upon approval of the memberships present.

E. The Board is authorized to disburse the budget as approved.

F. All non budgeted funds shall be kept in a general fund which the Board is authorized to spend in a prudent manner so long as no item exceeds an amount to be approved in the January meeting. Items exceeding the approved amount shall be submitted for approval at a general meeting.

G. Two Board member's signatures are required on all Society checks.

Article VII Removal of Board Members

Any member of the Board may be removed from the Board by a 2/3 majority vote of the memberships present at any regularly scheduled general meeting.

Article VIII Constitutional Amendments and Bylaws

A. Any member may propose amendment(s) and/or bylaws.

B. The amendment and adoption process shall be:

1. The proposed amendment(s) and/or bylaw(s), hereinafter called "amendment", shall be published in the journal along with notice that the proposed amendment will be discussed at the next general meeting.

2. The proposed amendment shall be discussed at the next general meeting.

3. The following journal will include:

a. The pros and cons concerning the proposed amendment written by advocates on each side.

b. Notification that a vote on the proposed amendment will take place at the next general meeting.

c. Absentee ballots for the amendment.

4. The proposed amendment will be voted on during the next general meeting by the memberships present and absentee ballots.

5. The proposed amendment will be adopted if 2/3 of the votes cast favor adoption.

Article IX General Procedures

A. On procedural matters not covered by this constitution, Roberts Rules of Order will be followed.

B. The Society is and shall remain a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Utah and shall be subject to all nonprofit corporate laws of said state.

Article X Political Activity

The Society is organized as an educational and scientific organization and will take part only in activities that are scientific/educational in nature. No substantial part of the activities of the Society shall be carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the Society shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf on any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the Society shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Article XI Dissolution of the Society

Upon the dissolution of the Society, the Board shall, after paying or making provisions for payment of all the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all of the assets of the Society exclusively for the purpose of the Society in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board shall determine. Any of such asset not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas in the county in which the principle office of the Society is then located, exclusively for such purposed or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article XII Enactment

A. Upon ratification of this constitution by at least 2/3 of the eligible voters of the Society, this constitution shall be adopted as the constitution of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society and all previously adopted constitutions and bylaws shall become null and void.

B. The existing Board of Directors shall remain intact and the governing body of the Society until the first elections under this constitution are held.

Constitution Ratified 16 June 1980