

THE EVENT HORIZON

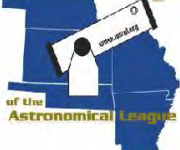


ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

*Devoted to the Interest and Advancement
of the Science of Astronomy*

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Mid States Region



Where Do We Come From? Our Stellar Roots

by

Dr. Ernst Zinner

Washington University

The search for our ultimate ancestors leads us to the stars. We are, literally, stardust. Most of the atoms in our bodies were made by nuclear reactions in ancient stars. Two types of stars mostly contribute material to the interstellar medium: exploding stars called supernovae and dying red giant stars. Much of their material is recycled in huge clouds of dust and gas – the building blocks of new stars. But how do stars manufacture the range of elements needed for life? Dr. Zinner will explain how part of the answer to that question may be found within tiny grains of stardust locked away in primitive meteorites. Their precise composition, like a cosmic DNA tracer, reveals the nature of their stellar parents. It also allows scientists to figure out how the stars manufacture complex atoms from primitive material. Dr. Zinner will describe how these meteorites are studied in detail in the laboratory and present recent results of his own work.

Dr. Ernst Zinner is a Research Professor of Physics and of Earth and Planetary Sciences, and a member of the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences, at Washington University. He studies primitive meteorites and what they tell us about the origin of the solar system and the early history of the Earth. He uses advanced instruments such as the ion microprobe to discover the detailed chemical composition of meteorites and space dust.

Upcoming speakers:

July Venus Transit and Solar Eclipse Show and Tell
August Fred Buenges (Astronomical Society of Kansas City)
September Carroll Iorg (Astronomical League President)

October Angela Speck -

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Transit of Venus Event at World's Fair Pavilion is a Great Success!

HUGE crowds gathered at the World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park for the prime-time Transit of Venus Tuesday evening, June 5th. There were more than 15 SLAS members with telescopes present and at least 5 others with telescopes to help the public see the event! More on this event may be found on page 7!

President's Corner *by Jim Small*

Mark Jones, Cook Feldman and I came home from MSRAL early. They both had other issues and I had an appointment to be interviewed by Veronique LaCapra from KWMU for national NPR about the Transit of Venus! How exciting! I got to the World's Fair Pavilion in time for the interview and Veronique was waiting with a nice professional recording setup and microphone. We talked on the steps for 15 minutes or more and she kept pushing me to relate why astronomers were so excited about viewing this event. I related that it was an extremely rare event and won't be seen again in our lives. Not good enough. WHY would anyone want to see it? she asked... I finally came up with the fact that it would be a beautiful event to see as little Venus crawls across the face of the Sun, an object that appears more than 30 times its size! It would be especially fine as it crossed prominences and sunspots as it made its way across. At the end of the interview, Veronique recorded a minute of just sounds from the park that afternoon. The interview aired on Tuesday morning on Morning Edition at both

**It's a
beautiful
event!**

5:25 and 7:25. It was great to hear SLAS on national radio. The interview reached a few people. One of the members of the local trails club who moved to Oregon heard it and called John Beaury to ask about it. He hadn't called in more than a year prior to that. There's nothing like a little publicity to get an event rolling!

Monday morning saw an interview with Ryan Dean from KSDK, Channel 5 and Monday afternoon had an interview with Mike Roberts for KSDK. Tuesday started with a LIVE interview with Ryan at 6 am (well actually, 6:45, but the original time was 6 am so that's when I was ready.) By the time the real deal came along at 3:00, I had run off 300 brochures for the event (which disappeared QUICKLY!) and packed the car with everything I could think of. I had a good plan for setting up equipment, BUT forgot a couple of key items that made things really difficult. (a mount with slow motion controls and my finder for the Lunt). Ok, ok, I'll make a list next time! Thanks Cook, John, Grant, Mark, and everyone else who suggested I should do that! As it was, I had a little help and one of my former students, Richelle Moore, brought some friends and they put together the banner and helped set up the screen. Richelle also ran the PST for about half of the event before she had to go. Another friend, Jim Hulse, was just running by and decided to stop in and I coerced him into running the PST for the rest of the time! KTRS interviewed me in the middle of all of it, but I didn't get to hear the results from that one. I'll have images to share at the July meeting and the Event Horizon. We will also enjoy some of the video from the news coverage, which was extensive. Several of our members were interviewed by KSDK and made the 10 pm news. In all, I have to say this was the biggest event SLAS has enjoyed in many years. EVERYONE I talked to seemed to really enjoy talking to the public and sharing the Transit with them!

We will have eclipse articles, more coverage from MSRAL, and more photographs to share in next month's Event Horizon. We will also feature everyone's work at the July meeting, so if you wish to present some of your transit or eclipse work, make sure you let us know before the next meeting.

In other news, congratulations to the slate of officers for the next year. They are: Jim Small, president, Bill Biermann, vice president, Rhonda Whelan, treasurer, Mark Jones, secretary, Grant Martin, hospitality, and Linda Follis, board member at large. Cook Feldman and Jim Trull both remain as board members at large. Jim's term is up next year.

Bill Davis Steps Aside as Homemade Fest Host

It has been a pleasure hosting the HOMEMADE FEST event for twelve times from 2001 through 2012, but I think it's time now for me to step aside for a new host.

Over the past eleven years we have had 85 presentations given by 35 participants. As a simple guy who just likes to make things, it certainly was my privilege to host an event that showed off the very impressive talent and creativity of our members as well as other astronomy related presentations. Our "Show and Tell" HOMEMADE FEST in a great event, which of course, should continue, so I am most willing to help our new host get started.

I am most grateful to all those who attended, preparing and bringing all the scrumptious food, helping with the set-up and especially those who gave presentations - the real heart of the event. My thanks also to the Hospitality officers for their co-operation and to Mark Jones who faithfully and generously supplied the ice and ice chest for our cold drinks. My special thanks to Dave Ritchey and John Lakey of the Science Center for making their wonderful facility available to us, and to Brenda King of BK Graphics for designing and doing the artwork for the flyers at no charge. And finally, my most heartfelt gratitude to those of you who gave me words of appreciation and encouragement over the years.

May God bless all of you. Bill Davis

MANY thanks to Bill for his years of service in both the capacity as host of Homemade Fest and ALL of the help to members over the years with any equipment need! Jim Small

Transit of Venus - June 5 2012

by Mark Jones

Weather forecasts for St Louis called for clear skies all day. I set up my equipment on my driveway before noon to make sure everything was working. My viewing and recording setup was as follows:

1. A Canon PowerShot 5S with Baader film filter was mounted to a tripod for still photography.
2. An ETX60 with Baader film solar filter and 25mm eyepiece for visual use.
3. A 5"- f/5 refractor stopped down to 4" glass solar filter for an f/6.25 ratio. The refractor was mounted on a Meade LX-5 fork mount for equatorial tracking. An Orion monochrome video eyepiece with Orion polarizing filter to reduce light was inserted into the 5" eyepiece mount for high magnification video recording during first and second contact. A Sony Hi-8 camcorder was used to record the video from the video eyepiece. Later a 25mm eyepiece and 2X Barlow were used for visual observing. A Panasonic HDC-TM80 camcorder with 42X zoom was mounted on the LX-5. The camcorder was mounted to a door hinge to allow for alignment with the 5" main scope. A short-wave radio tuned to WWV provided time signals for first and second contact. WWV was recorded on the Panasonic audio track.



I arrived at the Chesterfield Mall north parking lot, around 3pm, with a good horizon at azimuth 300degrees, which was the sunset location (lat=38d 39m 18s; lon=90d 33m 56s). I set up the LX-5 mount aligning the polar axis to north using a compass and used a leveling protractor for tilting the polar axis. I powered the LX-5 mount through the car battery. I located the sun in the 5" using the 25mm eyepiece, and then switched to the video eyepiece. I focused the image on the Sony camcorder screen using sunspots visible on the disk.



Next I set up the ETX-60, aligning to north with the compass and leveling the tube. After a fake 2-star alignment, I commanded the scope to Venus to verify alignment accuracy was near the sun. Then I center the Sun in the 25mm eyepiece and waited.

I turned on the short-wave radio and sync'd the time on my watch. Tracking on the LX-5 was a bit off but I made sure I had enough declination movement in the tangent arm for first and second contact. First contact was predicted for 5:04pm. At 5:00pm, I centered the Sun's eastern limb in the video eyepiece and then centered the Sun in the Panasonic camcorder using the door hinge. I started the video recording with Panasonic working at 38X. Since I needed accurate timings recorded with the video eyepiece but had no audio pickup from the short wave I used the "hat-trick" to sync the timing. Using the short wave I listened for the minute tone to strike. I then cover the 5" aperture to block the image and then unblocked as the minute tone chimed. I repeated this 3 times blocking the Sun thru the 5" at the following minute chimes: 5:06pm; 5:13pm; and 5:24pm.



The wind picked up from the NE and the LX-5 shook more than expected. I followed Venus egress on the camcorder screen. Second contact seems to occur around 5:22pm. Later the videos were played back and more accurate timings were made. Visually through the ETX-60 at 20X Venus was too small to accurately timing of second contact or observe the black drop effect. Later the video from the 5" was played back and while there was a slight darkening at the contact point, no obvious black drop effect was seen.

Based on these timings first contact occurred between 5:05:10 and 5:05:20 and second contact occurred at 5:22:04pm.

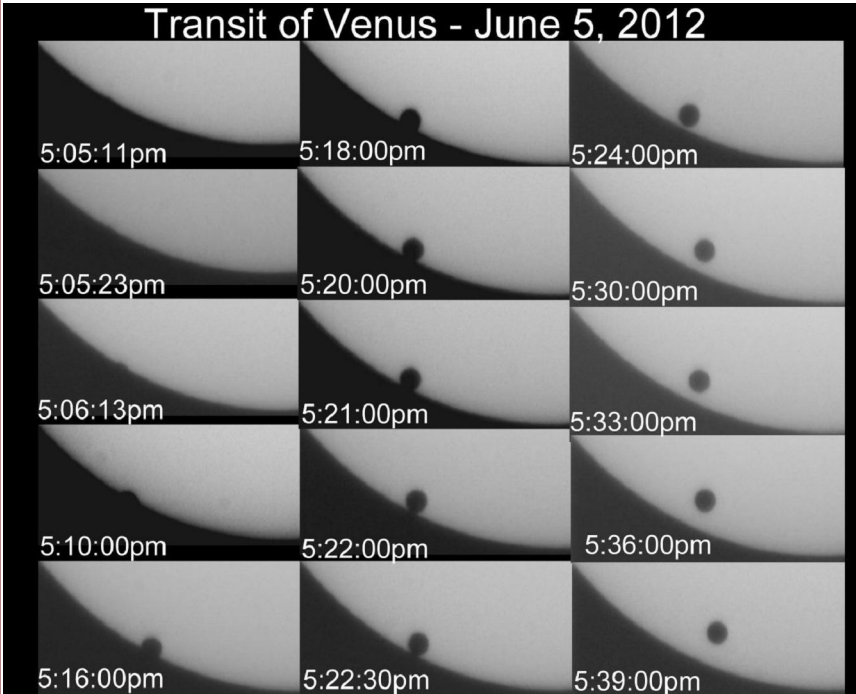
The Panasonic camcorder was initially set to 1/8000sec shutter speed, which I slowly increased as the Sun dimmed near the horizon. By 8pm my exposure max'd out at 1/60sec so I removed the solar filter and ran the shutter back up to 1/1000sec. Once again increasing the unfiltered exposure as the sun set.

With the camcorder on an equatorial mount, the Sun's north pole always stayed at the top of the video image.

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Transit of Venus - June 5, 2012



Visually, Venus appear much dark than the nearby sunspots. There was a definite 3D feeling that Venus was much closer to the Earth than the Sun. Sunspots added to the perception that the Sun was a globe not just a flat disk with Venus

lying on top. Venus itself was so black with no features to provide a 3D perception so it gave the impression as a flat disk hovering over the Sun. Once Venus passed 2nd contact and moved away from the Sun's limb any sense of movement diminished and Venus crawled its way slowly across the Sun. Sunspots were too far away to provide reference points for fast motion and there was no prospect of Venus passing over these spots because of their low solar latitude. The Earth's atmosphere caused "boiling" of both the Sun and Venus' limbs, providing the only sense of movement.

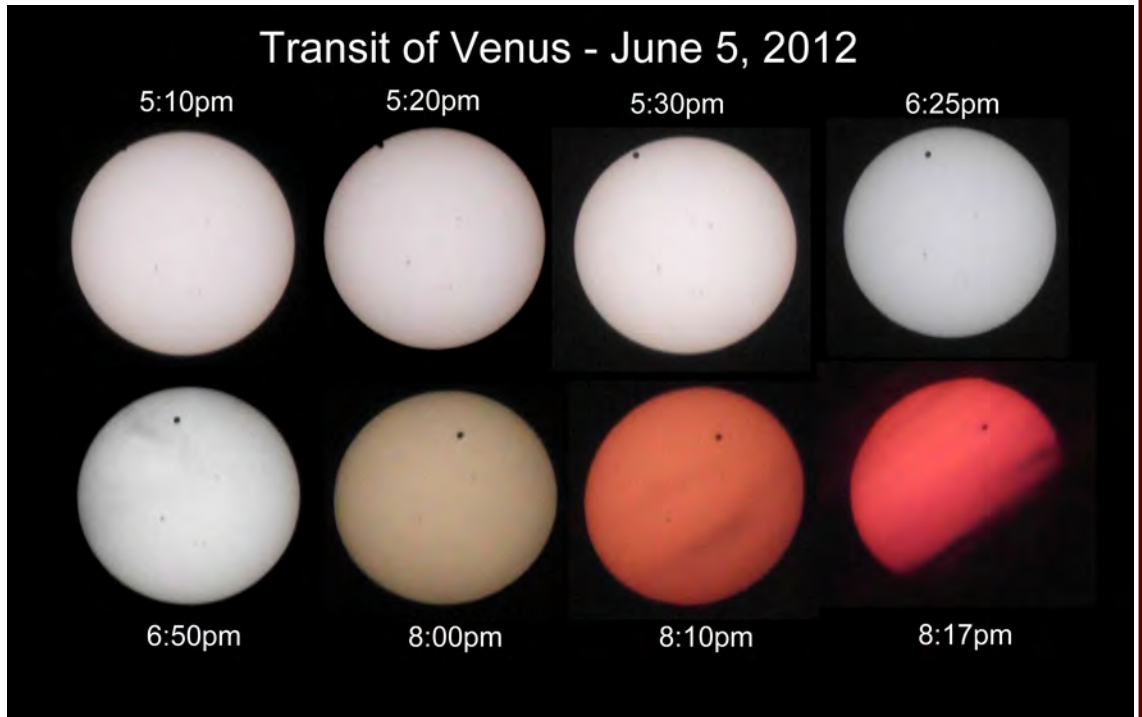
**WELCOME
to the following
NEW members
of SLAS!**

May
Daniel Perryman
Husam Almogren
June
Abigail Smyth

About 25 people came by during the transit, asking questions and looking through my ETX-60 and 5". Solar glasses and good eyesight were needed if you did not have a telescope. Most people stopped for a quick look then left, a few stayed and observed with welding filters or eclipse glasses and some came back several times for a peek through the telescopes.

According to predictions, Sunset was at 8:21pm however, a dense bank of clouds appeared near the horizon and the Sun slowly sank into the cloudbank at 8:17pm ending the transit for St. Louis. A beautiful sunset was the final treat for the evening.

Transit of Venus - June 5, 2012



Time in a bottle. The day after the transit was over the Transit of Venus website started the countdown to the next transit only 105 years away. However, the 2117 transit is not visible from Missouri, and you would have to wait until 2125. It is a reminder of how rare these events are and how lucky we were that the St Louis weather cooperated so nicely on that June 5 afternoon. It is also a reminder of human mortality, medical breakthroughs notwithstanding, none of us adults will be around to view the next transit. In 1937, William Lyon Phelps (1865-1943), noted educator, writer and early radio commentator published his recollections of the 1882 transit in "The Sky" magazine. He noted how lucky he was to have viewed the 1882 transit. Phelps retold his conversion with Harlow Shapley (1885-1972) who was then head of Harvard Observatory. Phelps said that he (Phelps) had seen the 1882 transit whereas Shapley had not seen it nor would he see the next one even if he lived to be 100 yrs old. In this case, timing is everything. Congratulations to all who saw the Transit of Venus. In some future time, you may also meet the less fortunate and have the opportunity to echo Phelps words.

Transit of Venus Report – June 5, 2012

by Bill Breeden

ST. LOUIS, MO – Success! I was able to observe the Transit of Venus on June 5, 2012 from my backyard. My wife and I had my LX90 SCT telescope all to ourselves, and we were able to observe the transit until 6:45pm, until the Sun dropped below the bushes and fence on the west side of our yard.

I rushed home from work and had my telescope set up with a Thousand Oaks white-light solar filter at 4:40pm. The transit was supposed to begin at approximately 5:04pm Central Daylight time. I had missed the 2004 Transit of Venus, so I was really looking forward to this second chance to witness this rare event. The next time Venus crosses the face of Sun will be in December 2117!

Local astronomy clubs here in St. Louis held Transit of Venus viewing sessions for members of the public today. The St. Louis Astronomical Society held a session at Forest Park, under the Pavilion. The River Bend Astronomy Club held an event in Alhambra, Illinois at Salem United Church of Christ. I would have loved to participate in these events, but my work schedule allowed me just enough time to get home and get the telescope set up in the backyard. By the time I got home, set up the telescope, and snapped my first image of the Sun (before the transit), it was already 4:49pm, just 15 minutes before First Contact.

I set up the telescope with safe solar observing being the most important factor. I did not install the finder scope, nor did I install the Rigel finder. These instruments can be damaged by the intense light of the Sun, and I certainly did not want us to ‘accidentally’ look through the finder at the Sun! I turned the telescope well away from the Sun, then installed the Thousand Oaks solar filter. Only at this point was it safe to point the LX90 at the Sun.

The weather today for this transit was good, with clear skies and 80 degrees. A few clouds rolled in deeper into the transit, but this did not hinder viewing First and Second Contacts. First Contact occurs when Venus first begins to move in front of the Sun. Second Contact occurs when Venus finally completely enters the Sun’s disk. Third and Fourth Contacts occur when Venus leaves the Sun’s disk, which would not be visible from St. Louis for this transit.

I tried my best to determine the exact times that I observed First and Second Contacts. These timings are somewhat subjective, as determining the exact times of these contacts depends greatly on seeing conditions, and the observing skills and determination of the observer. To help with this task, my wife ran a video camera during my observations of First and Second Contacts. I recorded the time (to the second) during the video, and I announced contact times while at the eyepiece. This way, I could determine the times of First and Second Contacts simply by reviewing the video and noting the elapsed times.

Taking photographs of the transit itself was not my first priority, as I just wanted to be at the eyepiece, especially during First and Second Contacts. Since my wife and I were making a video with my cell phone, I figured it wouldn’t hurt to try to capture a few images through the eyepiece (if that was even possible). I took my first image through the eyepiece before the transit began. Interestingly, this was one of my best pictures of the Sun!

My wife began recording me while I was observing the Sun, starting at 5:01pm. This way, I could simply announce when I see First Contact, and then the video could be reviewed to determine the exact time of contact. As I observed the Sun, I looked all around the limb for that tell-tale little “bite” that Venus would soon take out of the sun.

“First Contact!! We have First Contact! I believe I’m seeing it!” I announced for the camera.

At first I was not sure it was really there – several seconds passed before I could really be sure it was happening. In reviewing the video, I decided to place the time of first contact at my first “First Contact!” announcement – at 5:05:06pm (22:05:06 UT).

After determining that First Contact had happened, I asked my wife to look through the eyepiece. “Wow!,” she said, “it’s so easy to see!”

As Venus’s disk grew larger at the Sun’s limb, I was struck by how large Venus appeared. It currently subtends an angle of 1 arcminute, which is quite large as planets go! This is probably as large as Venus ever appears, and this is obvious when Venus is observed at night as a growing crescent.

Between First and Second Contacts, I looked at Venus’ partial disk against the bright Sun, and noticed that I could see the rest of Venus’ disk beyond the Sun’s limb. How? The part of Venus outside the Sun’s disk was gently outlined by the so-called “ring of fire,” which is caused by the Sun illuminating Venus’ atmosphere. I stepped away from the eyepiece so that Rita could take a look. She could also easily see the “ring of fire.” Awesome!

At 5:17pm, my wife began another video recording, and I again peered through the eyepiece so that I could announce Second Contact. I also eagerly awaited the renowned “black drop effect,” which has been reported just before Second Contact. The effect appears as a stretching out of the black disk of Venus against the Sun’s bright limb, which makes the timing of Second Contact difficult. No one is really sure what causes this effect. It could be turbulence inside the telescope tube, atmospheric seeing, or simply an optical illusion. No matter, I was going to announce it if I spotted it.



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And I did spot it!

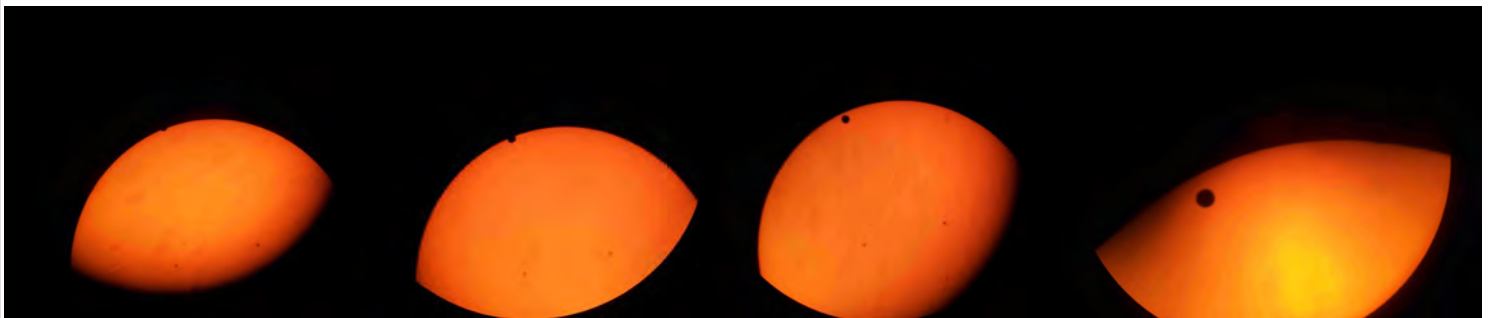
“There’s the black drop, and...very small...” I said, as I watched the black drop effect unfold at the eyepiece! As Venus completed its ingress into the Sun’s disk, the edge of it seemed to remain annoyingly attached to the Sun’s limb. I announced the effect at 5:22:20pm (22:22:20 UT).

Finally, after what seemed like the longest 7 seconds, at 5:22:27pm (22:22:27 UT), it was obvious that Venus had (finally) completely entered the Sun’s disk. I announced with a little hesitation - “and I’m gonna say that...Second Contact is...now!”

We continued to observe the Transit of Venus well after Second Contact. As Venus moved further into the Sun’s disk, its stark, round disk stood out nicely in the 26mm Plossl eyepiece. The Sun was also showing several nice sunspots, making this observing session even more exciting.

After a while, I decided to see what Venus would look like at higher magnification. The 26mm Plossl provides a view at 77x, so I tried my 12.4mm Plossl. This would provide 161x.

Fantastic view! Venus appeared surprisingly large at this “medium” magnification. I did my best to capture a quick image using my cell phone, but with this shorter focal length Plossl, it was just tad tricky to get the cell phone camera in just the right place. I did manage to capture an “okay” image, which shows Venus’ amazing 1-arcminute wide, black disk against the dazzling Sun.



Observed Times of Venus Contacts, June 5, 2012:

First Contact: 5:05:06 PM Central Daylight Time 22:05:06 UT

Black Drop: 5:22:20 PM Central Daylight Time 22:22:20 UT

Second Contact: 5:22:27 PM Central Daylight Time 22:22:27 UT

Observation Location: 5340 Chippewa St,
St. Louis, MO 63109, USA

Latitude: 38 deg 35 min 30.62 sec N **Longitude:** 90 deg 16 min 57.78 sec W

This is a summary of the video files that we recorded during the Transit of Venus, June 5, 2012.

20120605_162858.mp4 : Preparation

This video was shot starting at 4:28:58pm and ran for 1 minute and 20 seconds. It was recorded to simply prepare for the transit, and shows the sky visible from my backyard.

20120605_163247.mp4 : Setup

This video was shot starting at 4:32:47pm and ran for 5 minutes and 41 seconds. It simply shows me setting up the telescope equipment.

20120605_164022.mp4 : Solar Filter and the Sun

This video was shot starting at 4:40:22pm and ran for 6 minutes and 20 seconds. It shows me preparing the telescope for solar viewing, and safe solar observing techniques. I also demonstrate my Thousand Oaks solar filter, and show a brief view of the Sun through the eyepiece. The transit had not yet begun.

20120605_170058.mp4 : First Contact

This video was shot starting at 5:00:58pm and ran for 7 minutes and 10 seconds. It was recorded so that I could announce the start of First Contact, then determine the time by reviewing this video. A brief look though the eyepiece is shown just after First Contact.

20120605_171646.m44 : Second Contact

This video was shot starting at 5:16:46pm and ran for 8 minutes and 17 seconds. It was recorded so that I could announce the “black drop effect” and Second Contact, then determine the times by reviewing this video. A brief look though the eyepiece is shown just after Second Contact.

End of Report.

MSRAL 2012

by Mark Jones

This year's Mid-States Regional Convention of the Astronomical league was held on the campus of the University of Missouri- Kansas City. The Astronomical Society of Kansas City (ASKC) was the host.

The convention began Friday night June 1st with a Star-B-Q dinner and planetarium show at the Gottlieb Planetarium in Union Station. Jack Dunn, Director for the Mueller Planetarium in Lincoln presented several shows using Gottlieb's full dome projection system.

Cloudy skies prevented telescope viewing at the UMKC Warkoczewski Observatory on Friday night. MSRAL officially opened Saturday morning with a monster breakfast and the annual business meeting. The Omaha Astronomical Society volunteered to host the 2013 MSRAL.

The sun was out all day and a couple of telescopes equipped with Daystar hydrogen-alpha filters were set up on the sun deck on top of the Student Union.

Presentations began at 9:30am and ran until lunchtime. After another generous lunch, presentations resumed until 5pm. An exhibitor room was set up right next-door and attendees could browse the tables between talks.

A copy of the convention program is available at: <http://msral.org/MSRAL%20Schedule%202012aM12.pdf>

The annual banquet was held from 6-9pm. Dr. Barbara Anthony-Twarog gave the keynote talk on the Large Synoptic Telescope construction. Amateur of the year (AOY) award went to Bill Bond of the Omaha Astronomical Society for his service to the region including out-going MSRAL treasurer.

After the banquet, the St Louis attendees got together for a quick photo.

SLAS attendees: Left to right: Nancy Clark, Wayne Clark, Thane Bopp, Marlene Bopp, Mark Jones, Ann Trull, Jim Trull, John Beaury, Jim Twellman, Cook Feldman, Jim Small, Yvonne Roe and Jim Roe.

Skies were clear with a slight breeze so some of s went to the Warko Observatory for viewing through the 16" Newtonian, with nice views of Saturn and Mars.

Sunday morning workshops capped off the convention, which ended about noon.

This year's convention was well attended with 80 total registrants, and 13 people from St. Louis. Congratulations to ASKC for a wonderful 2012 MSRAL.



SLAS Bucks Report **by John Newcomer**

We had 6 events scheduled throughout the month of May, however, 2 were cancelled. Attendance for the month was 345, about the average for May at 375.

May drew 13 SLAS Volunteers, including first-timer Byron Brooks, who collectively earned 19 SLAS Bucks. Currently, 15 SLAS Bucks are held by 4 ex-members, and the society has 438 SLAS Bucks outstanding.

Lines of 20 or more people were common at times and a rough estimate of 2,000 might have attended the event. Parking was apparently a nightmare for patrons wishing to see! The crowd cheered as 1st and second contact was obtained and spent the next several hours enjoying the view through the variety of telescopes that were available for views of the transit. There were white light filters, dedicated solar scopes, projection systems, sunspotter systems, and cameras shown on a computer screen. Many patrons tried their hand at getting a photograph through a telescope or taking a picture of a computer screen or projection.

Channel 5 and Channel 2 newsteams were present and at least KTRS radio was also present for the event

There were other events around town and on the next page there are pictures sent in from a number of locations both around town and other places in the country!

Transit of Venus: June 5, 2012

The place was empty at 2:30 or so. By 4:45, it had filled up with more than 15 telescopes and numerous volunteers, both SLAS and non-SLAS members. SLAS members included: Bill Biermann, Brent Buch, Cook Feldman, Donald Ficken, Marvin Fridley, Glenn Greenway, Brad Griffith, Richard Jennings, Jerry Loethen, Michael Malolepszy, Jeromy Naethe, James Small, Ann Trull, Jim Trull, Bradley R Waller, Rhonda Whelan. Others included Joe Pastor and Lynnea Magnussen.

Marvin Fridley shares the transit with the crowd at Forest Park.



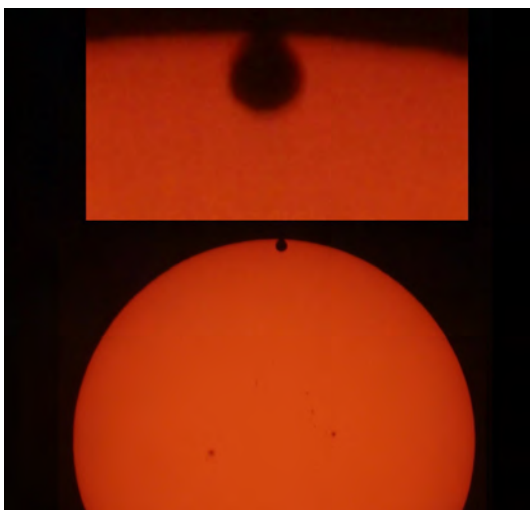


Crowd along the wall at the World's Fair Pavilion. This was a great venue for astronomers due to the power supplied behind each pillar!

Even the dogs got into the act !!!



John Beaury took this image with his cell phone through his 8" Dob with a white light Baader filter from Moab, UT where he was visiting with his daughter, Melissa.



Grant Martin took these photos at Frenchmans bluff in St Charles County. Passers by looked at the transit with a 60mm TASCOS via image projection. About 20 folks view the transit at this remote location.



Projection photo by Jim Studt of Kirkwood from Northern Michigan



Jerry Loethen checks on his webcam set up for recording the eclipse. Channel 5 camera is in the background. Several SLAS members made it on the news for Tuesday. Photo by Brad Griffith.

James Finkling used a f=6.2-18mm camera and a Meade ETX 90 telescope. He took the pic using the afocal method using his girlfriend Theresa Rohman's camera and Steven Sittster's telescope.



SAINT LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – May 12, 2012

Members in attendance: Jim Small, Rhonda Whelan, Mark Jones, Grant Martin, Cook Feldman, Jim Trull, Don Ficken,

Opening Activities Meeting called to order at 7:01pm

Jim Trull made motion to approve the April Minutes, second by Cook Feldman. Minutes were approved.

External Business

John Lakey from the SLSC was at the meeting and made the following announcements: June 1 is public telescope viewing and 8pm sky show. Seeking new earths program at 9pm, June 5th Venus transit, John got approval to use pavilion for public viewing, did not need permit. South side of pavilion will have a big tent so parking may be a challenge.

3. Director Reports:

President – Jim Small NEAIC/NEAF report - NSN report. May 20th eclipse. SLAS will not host public event because eclipse starts near sunset Venus transit SLAS will host at World's Fair Pavilion.

Vice President – Bill Biermann May Kryss Ericson (Recommended by Erica Gibb) A101 Jim Small will demo tool kit for Our Magnetic Sun, June Ernst Zinner (Wash U), July is TBD, August Fred Buenges (Astronomical Society of Kansas City), Sept Carroll Iorg (Astronomical League, Oct Angela Speck - Univ of MO Columbia

Secretary – Mark Jones No report

Treasurer/ALCor – Rhonda Whelan Monthly report, Cash CD took 2K from saving and opened CD, Added money to checking, AL fees are due Grant owes money from calendar sales, No receipts from Sandra Magnus, \$175 incidental fees from NASA some may be reimbursable. SLSC fees probably covered by Space Grant, AL dues will send in most current List, CD due to mature end of July

Hospitality – Grant Martin No report

Board member at large reports

Cook Feldman – solar event last saturday (5/5) at SLSC, 150 people.

Bill Breeden – no report

Jim Trull – attended solar event.

4. Committee Reports: If needed

Membership - Don Ficken submitted report. 169 members

Merchandise – no report

Telescope Making – no report

Librarian – picked up one book for library.

Night Sky Network – mentoring program going well NSN has 8 people trained, contact Jim Small

Newsletter – need articles

SLASdialogs – no report

Dark Site – May 19th next dark sky party

Loaner Equipment – no report

Observing Programs – no report

Star Party Coordinator/outreach – Mike posted a new list. Most critical one is at Beaumont May 19th. May 31 Gateway Arch.

Publicity activity: Rich Heuermann - Press release for April meeting sent out April 10; for May meeting sent May 3rd. E-mails plus direct entry for Post-Dispatch/St. Louis Today and Nine Network (PBS). When eclipse and transit events have confirmed locations, Rich can issue releases for those. Rich needs to connect with Don to get the press release routed to the guests list via NSN. As it is, the e-mails addresses Rich has received over the past 2 years are in the guest group, which does get the press releases.

5. New Business

Elections – Nominations for officers: Jim Small Pres.; Bill Biermann VP; Mark Jones Sec ; Rhonda Whelan Treas.; Grant Martin Hosp; Linda Follis and Joe McHugh BMAL

Post-Meeting – In an e-mail after the regular Board meeting, Cook Feldman stated that we were approached (through Steve Sands) about donating 5 Galileo scopes to the Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. The Watershed Nature Center is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing environmental education, passive recreation, and enjoyment of native habitats. Steve has been doing both solar and night sky programs for them for a number of years and Cook think this donation would result in the scopes actually being used. Cook made motion: "That SLAS make a donation of 1 case (6 scopes) to the Watershed Nature Center and that Don be authorized to give the scopes to Steve Sands at a mutual time and place that works for them." Board approved motion via e-mail vote.

6. Closing Activities Motion to adjourn: Cook, Second: Rhonda

Upcoming Star Parties and Other Events

For details on this and other upcoming events, check out the Night Sky Network Calendar linked on the Home Page for SLAS at <http://www.slasonline.org>

Dark Sky Observing Dates

May 19, 2012
June 16, 2012

Francis Park Events: These events are on **Wednesdays** the week nearest the first quarter Moon

Jun. 27, 2012 (7-day old Moon)
Jul. 25, 2012 (6-day old Moon)
Aug. 22, 2012 (5-day old Moon)
Sep. 19, 2012 (3-day old Moon)
Oct. 24, 2012 (9-day old Moon)
Nov. 21, 2012 (8-day old Moon)
Dec. 19, 2012 (6-day old Moon)

Future SLSC Public Telescope Viewing Events: These events are held the first Friday of the month-

July 6th

SLAS Executive Board Meetings *Location will be at the Edward Jones YMCA.*

July 12, 2012
August 9, 2012

Gateway to the Stars Dates:

June 28
July 26
August 30
September 27
October 25 (All Thursdays)

LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING!

To RSVP for any of these events log in to the Night Sky Network and submit your RSVP. If the event is canceled, you will be notified immediately according to the preferences you have selected. For more information about events, such as Moon phase, clear sky clock, weather report or a map of what's up, see the calendar online.

SLAS EVENTS

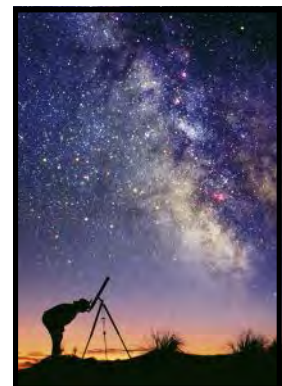
A Look at June/July

June

1 SLSC Public Telescope Viewing
1-3 Mid-States Regional Convention
4 Partial Lunar Eclipse
5 Transit of Venus
7 SLAS board meeting
15 SLAS regular meeting
16 SLAS dark sky observing
23 Des Peres Campout
26 University City Library
Edward Jones YMCA
27 Francis Park
28 Gateway Arch

July

4-8 ALCON - Chicago!
6 Public Telescope Viewing - SLSC
12 SLAS board meeting
20 SLAS regular meeting
25 Francis Park
26 Gateway Arch



SLAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name: Last _____
 First, Middle Initial _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip Code _____
 email address _____

Youth @ \$10.00 / 1 year (18 yrs or younger) \$ _____
 Individual @ \$25.00 / 1 year \$ _____
 Family @ \$40.00/1 year \$ _____
Publications with discount available with your SLAS membership:
Sky and Telescope @ \$32.95 / 1 year \$ _____
 (S&T may also be renewed at their website:
<http://www.skyandtelescope.com>)
Astronomy @ \$34.00 / 1 year \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please send completed form with check (no cash please) made payable to
St Louis Astronomical Society
 Rhonda Whelan, Treasurer
 P.O. Box 256
 Waterloo, IL 62298
 e-mail: treasurer at slasonline.org

Check all that apply:
 Renewal
 Address Change Only
 Please send my newsletter by regular mail
 New Member!

SLAS OFFICERS

President	Jim Small	314-307-0692
president at slasonline.org		
Vice President	Bill Biermann	314-596-6738
vicepresident at slasonline.org		
Secretary	Mark Jones	636-394-2342
secretary at slasonline.org		
Treasurer	Rhonda Whelan	314-750-0262
treasurer at slasonline.org		
Hospitality	Grant Martin	636-634-6607
hospitality at slasonline.org		
Board Members at Large:		
	Jim Trull	314-842-6165
board13 at slasonline.org		
	Cook Feldman	314-984-0868
board14 at slasonline.org		
	Linda Follis	636-583-3485
board15 at slasonline.org		
ALCOR	Rhonda Whelan	314-750-0262
(Astronomical League Correspondent) treasurer at slasonline.org		
MSRAL Rep.	Jim Small	314-909-7211
msral_rep at astroleague.org		

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership	Don Ficken	636-225-0269
membership at slasonline.org		
Publicity	Rich Heuermann	314-962-9231
publicity at slasonline.org		
'SLASdialogs' Moderator	Mark Jones, Rhonda Whelan	
dialogsmoderator at yahoo.com		
Webmaster	Jim Small	314-909-7211
webmaster at slasonline.org		
Newsletter Ed.	Jim Small	314-909-7211
newsletter at slasonline.org		
Loaner Equip.	Linda & John Follis	636-583-3485
loaner at slasonline.org		
Merchandise	Grant Martin	636-634-6607
merchandise at slasonline.org		
Librarian	Jim Small	314-909-7211
librarian at slasonline.org		
Star Party Coord	Mike Malolepszy	314-781-4701
starparty at slasonline.org		
Dark Site Coord.	Mark Jones	636-394-2342
darksite at slasonline.org		
Observing Programs	Mark Jones	636-394-2342
observing at slasonline.org		
Telescope Making	Bill Davis, Jim Melka	314-469-3061
telescope at slasonline.org		

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

We're on the Web!
<http://www.slasonline.org>

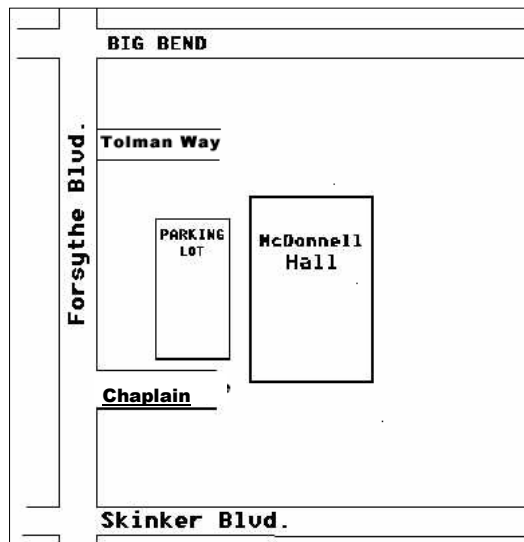


Who We Are and What We Do

St. Louis Astronomical Society is a not-for-profit organization established in 1936. SLAS is devoted to the interest and advancement of the science of astronomy. Our mission is to promote an understanding of the science of astronomy to our members and to the public. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in astronomy.

For more information contact any SLAS officer or visit our website listed above. SLAS is affiliated with the Astronomical League, Night Sky Network and the Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League.

Meetings are held the 3rd Friday of each month at McDonnell Hall at Washington University. See the map to the right for directions.



St. Louis Astronomical Society

Jim Small
13128 Cozyhill Drive
St. Louis, MO 63122

