# THE EVENT HORIZON





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#### ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

#### Splitting Hairs Over the Distance to the Nearest Star *by* Dr. Kater Murch Washington University

Dr. Kater Murch of Washington University will be featured at the October meeting of the St. Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM Friday, October 21, in McDonnell Hall, Room 162, on the Washington University campus, Saint Louis, MO 63130.

On September 14, 2015, ripples in the fabric of the universe – gravitational waves – were detected by the new LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) facility. The waves were caused by the merger of two black holes far away in space, more than 1.3 billion years ago. That violent event stretched and compressed space by less than the width of an atom. The measurement of that small of a ripple challenges our most advanced technology. It also pushes the limits allowed by quantum mechanics, the branch of physics involved with matter and energy at very small scales. Dr. Murch will talk about the limits on the precision of measurements imposed by quantum mechanics. He will explain how scientists using LIGO and other instruments are learning to view the universe through gravitational waves rather than light waves.

VOLUME 26, Issue 10

October, 2016

Dr. Kater Murch is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics at Washington University. He received his Doctoral degree from the University of California in 2008 and joined the Washington University faculty in 2013. His research interests involve superconducting electrical circuits, quantum computers, and experiments on the limits of quantum measurement

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

November - Maggie Ducksworth - Mars One December - William McKinnon, PhD - Pluto -Washington University January - Peter Plavchan, PhD - The Golden Age of Exoplanet Discovery - Missouri State University February - Pamela Gay, PhD - Super Secret Squirrel Stuff - Southern Illinois University -Edwardsville March - Christine Floss, PhD April - Kevin Evans, PhD - Weaubleau Impact Structure - Missouri State University

July - Ryan Clegg-Watkins, PhD - Exploring the Moon from Orbit - Washington University

For SLAS members only The raffle is for TWO tickets to this event. The drawing will be held at the April SLAS monthly meeting. You do not need to be in attendance to win.

> Contact person: Bradley R Waller SLAS VP <u>bwaller@stlouisco.com</u> 314-481-7250

1 ticket: \$2.00 Buy 5 tickets for \$10.00 and get a 6<sup>th</sup> one!!!

#### A RAFFLE FOR Dr Neil deGrasse Tyson Peabody Opera House 18 May 2017 @ 7:30pm



#### **VOLUME 26, ISSUE 10**

#### **Presidents Corner—Jim Small**

It's budget time for SLAS. We will have a budget meeting for those interested Sunday evening at 4 pm at Young's. It's still a busy time for star parties, so check the calendar for Night Sky Network and sign up! I would love to be able to order more than 35 NSN pins for folks who have 5 events or more this year. See where you stand in the article below!

We are having the first workshop for teachers for the eclipse for next year this Saturday. It is the first of three workshops cosponsored by the Institute for School Partnership in Washington University.

Brad Waller (alias The Borg) has the speaker situation under control and has them booked well into 2017. He also has a "Meet and Eat"scheduled with Dr. Pamela Gay after her talk in February. We were out late the last time we did this! We have a list of potential speakers for SLAS that includes Erika Gibb, PhD, Bruce

#### **Outreach Volunteers Jan-Oct 4, 2016**

Through early August, SLAS members have logged 1347 hours for 127 NSN outreach events!

We are on a pace to exceed our 2015 totals of 1396 hours for 91 events.

Members with 5 or more events can qualify for the Night Sky Network pin. Check NSN for opportunities and sign up today. If you are a member with 4 or less events logged this year there is still time to volunteer. There is plenty of time to get to 5 events!

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Donald Ficken Cook Feldman Larry Campbell Rich Heuermann John Beaury Mark Jones Frank Mack James Small **Rick Menendez** Sharon Bertram Richard Fefferman **Richard Jennings** Bill Biermann Jim Trull William Neubert Bill Breeden Robert Drzymala William Winningham Ann Trull Doug Blum Edward Frey

30 events; 88.5 hours 30 events; 98.5 hours 27 events; 107 hours 23 events; 79 hours 18 events; 48.8 hours 17 events; 52 hours 15 events; 46.8 hours 13 events; 42.5 hours 10 events; 24.5 hours 9 events; 27.5 hours 7 events; 16.8 hours 6 events; 19.5 hours 6 events: 22.8 hours 5 events; 16 hours 5 events; 19 hours 4 events; 13 hours

80 events: 200.8 hours

44 events; 164.6 hours

## Wilking, PhD, Brad Jolliff, PhD, Tom Bermatowicz, Henric Krawczynski, PhD, Kun Wang, PhD, Jim Kaler, Linda Godwin, Angela Speck, PhD and several others.

If you have suggestions for speakers, let Brad know in person or at vicepresident@slasonline.org We are always looking for fresh ideas for speakers.

If you have suggestions for astro 101, that would be terrific as well!

Lots of stuff for sale in this issue. If you have an item for sale, The Event Horizon will be happy to help you out with an ad.

We are always looking for articles, so please feel free to write one and maybe include a photo or two. We would love to hear about current events, equipment reviews, or the last outreach event! Send to newsletter@slasonline.org Have a terrific month!

Gregory Rigelman Jeffrey Strauss Michelle Birch Rita Breeden Wayne Clark Bradley Waller Dale Engelbrecht Donald Snyder Gaylene Engelbrecht Gregg Ruppel **Gregory Gaines** Lynn Fee Raymond Mueller Robert Beebe Thomas Schloemann Alan Sapia Benjamin Winningham Brent Buch Brian Mills Cathy Hooper Gary Holt Gerald Hutchins James Griffith JD Henson Joseph Schober Lee Halbeck Mark Fedde Marlene Bopp Michael Callaghan Michael Malolepszy Nancy Clark Randy Gettman Renee Mettle Roy Lieberman

3 events; 11.5 hours 3 events; 10.5 hours 3 events: 18 hours 3 events; 10 hours 3 events; 14 hours 2 events; 7 hours 2 events; 7.5 hours 2 events; 4.3 hours 2 events; 7.5 hours 2 events; 9 hours 2 events;9 hours 2 events; 9.5 hours 2 events: 6 hours 2 events; 10.5 hours 2 events; 12.5 hours 1 events; 7 hours 1 events; 2.5 hours 1 events; 4.5 hours 1 events; 6 hours 1 events; 6 hours 1 events; 7 hours 1 events; 7 hours 1 events; 2.5 hours 1 events; 2.5hours 1 events; 2.5 hours 1 events:3 hours 1 events; 4 hours 1 events; 8 hours 1 events; 1.5 hours 1 events; 2 hours 1 events; 6 hours 1 events; 1.5 hours 1 events; 7 hours 1 events: 0 hours

## **SLAS Presentation Feedback**

Greetings again SLAS Collective,

The Borg has been busy typing away articles for the Newsletter. We would like some Feedback from the Collective on your opinions of what you thought of these past Presentations. This will help us on how the Topics were received and how to improve for the future.

3 events; 9 hours

3 events; 7.5 hours

3 events; 14.5 hours

Please send your Feedback to: bwaller@stlouisco.com Thank-you for your time.

**20-May-2016** Heather Knutson, PhD Cal-Tech Extra Solar Planets "Skype Event"

17-Jun-2016 Mike Roberts Meteorology

**15-Jul-2016** Jane Rix Sketching the Night Sky

**19-Aug-2016** John Wharton SLSC Eclipse of 2017 One Year Out

**16-Sep-2016** Gary Gackstatter StLCC-Meramec Chaco Canyon:

The Stones and Stars of Ancient American Astronomers

**21-Oct-2016** Kater Murch, PhD Wash U How LIGO pushes the limits of quantum measurement detect gravity.

#### **VOLUME 26, ISSUE 10**



From the Central Library branch for St. Louis Public Library

**Above:** Mark Jones and Larry Campbell explain how the library telescope works

**Right:** lining up the telescope at the Moon

**Left:** Frank Mack explains the library telescope program

**Below**: Don Ficken talking about the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse





## **SLAS Classifieds**

## For Sale: Telescope one

Meade 5" ED Apochromat f9 refractor with cradle and 8x50 finder

Meade LXD 650 HD Tripod and computer controlled mount

Meade 2" diagonal, Meade Super Wide Angle 40mm eyepiece, Meade 9mm plossl with reticle, Meade 15mm and 26mm plossl eyepieces, Orion 2" 2x Barlow, Sky software, New 7.17" Solar Filter, Orion red flashlight, all manuals and original boxes, Case for hand paddle and other parts. Selling for original owner Mike Sanders formerly of SLAS. \$2250 for everything. Will sell items separately. Call Jim Small at 314-307-0692 for inquiries.





For Sale: Telescope two Celestron Orange Tube C8 post 1980. Includes OTA, fork mount, trunk for OTA, cases for accessories, 6x30 finder, multiple diagonals, barlow, several eye-

pieces, tripod. Asking \$550 Contact Jim Small for info at 314-307-0692

#### **THE EVENT HORIZON**

## For Sale: Two Telescopes

1. Like New Orion 90mm tabletop reflector with EZ finder II. \$125 or best offer

2. Orion Sky Quest XT8 with protective cover. Minimal Use. \$350 or best offer. Contact for both is Susan at <u>Deafserviceslc@gmail.com</u>





For Sale:





heavy duty tripod and wedge. Perfect for the C8 on the previous page. Fork

mount available for C8 if needed. Tripod \$250 -Linhoff professional super heavy duty tripod. Great for heavy duty binos! \$750 (\$3300 new) -Celestron Astromaster 114 OTA only. Incluedes Vixen mount plate. \$75 -Nikon D700 body. Fab camera, (FX) sensor Uses all Nikon lenses \$800 -Nikon D200 camera with VR 18-200mm (35-300mm equiv) DX camera \$425

Contact Jim Small at 314-307-0692





#### SLAS Executive Board Meeting Minutes for September 1, 2016

#### 1. Opening Activities:

Attendees: Tom Nickelson, Jim Small, Bill Winningham, Rich Heuermann, Bradley Waller, Mark Jones

#### Meeting opened 7:10pm

August meeting minutes reviewed and approved with change, motion by Rich H. second by Tom N.

#### 2. External Business

Next board meeting: Oct 6, Nov. 10, Dec 7 (Wed)

3. Director Reports:

President – Jim Small

#### Report from ALCON 2016:

Was an expensive convention and will probably take a financial loss. Meeting rooms ended up costing \$11,000 more than planned. Jim Small and Brent Buch attended this year.

Library Telescope program was promoted at ALCON and NOVAC meetings. Articles requested for Sky & Telescope and Reflector

## Vice President –Bradley R. Waller Speaker lineup:

September: Gary Gackstatter SLCCC – Archeoastronomy October: Dr. Kater Murch, Wash U. – LIGO

December - William McKinnion, Wash U. on Pluto;

Feb 2017: Pamela Gay, SIU-E – Secret Squirrel;

April 2017: Kevin Evans, MSU – Weaubleau Impact Structure;

**Astro 101 –** Sept: Aldebaran Occultation videos by SLAS members; Oct: Brad W. presenting a Starfleet Updates on current space missions; November: Rich Heuermann on "Types of Stars - 'Regular Stars"

Other possible speakers: Peter Pavchan, Missouri State, Jim Kaler from U of Illinois, Angela Speck and Linda Godwin, MIZZOU

Brad sent speaker mugs for Caltech Dr. Brown and Knutson; and Salt Lake City (SLAS) members Joan Carmen and Mike Clements

Membership initiatives – Equinox Door Prize for September will be moved to October

#### Secretary - Mark Jones: No report

#### Treasurer/ALCor – Bill Winningham:

Reviewed the 2017 budget process and schedule

First budget meeting planned for Sep 18 at 6pm

Bill W. to send out narrative and spreadsheet

Will send out budget report including LTP transactions

Hospitality – Larry Campbell: No report

#### Board member at large reports

#### Tom Nickelson: (2017)

Recommendation to get new members. Give discount to Public who check out LTP and library would issue discount for SLAS membership

#### Brent Buch (2018) No report

#### Rich Heuermann (2019)

Parking at Wash U. Parking services is not willing to grant parking waiver so far. Rich is working thru channels. Need to park in yellow zones or parking meter zone. Notice to be published in newsletter.

#### 4. Committee Reports: If needed

#### Library Telescope Program:

**Membership** – see Don's report submitted before the meeting

156 members YTD through August down from 171 at beginning of 2016. Don asks that each Board Member come up with a couple ideas on how to improve member retention. Board discussed several ideas, including improving communication with members by creating Twitter account and possibly a Facebook page

**Merchandise –** Infini-tees shirts for sale - \$20, Mugs \$7 (8 mug sold so far this year)

Sold 8 mugs \$56

**Librarian** – Jim S. will order 2017 RASC Handbook for library and members

**Newsletter** – Please send articles in ready to go format! Particularly for outreach events

#### Website - www.slasonline.org/joomla

**Night Sky Network** – In the process of testing new website, contacts will be able to add themselves for contact list!

**Publicity –** Press release for September speaker will go out this week

#### **Observing Programs – Star Parties:**

Astral Valley telescope viewing planned for Saturday Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday Sept 4<sup>th</sup>. Paddle – Sioux Passage Park canceled for Sep 26th, but will be held on 27th

#### 5. Old Business – None

#### 6. New Business -

Motion by Jim S. seconded by Tom N. Motion – I move that SLAS look into and create a Twitter account to Publicize SLAS events and astronomical items of interest to members and the public. Motion passed

#### 7. Closing Activities

Motion by Brad W. to adjourn seconded by Rich H. Meeting adjourned 9:40pm

#### VOLUME 26, ISSUE 10 OCTOBER, 2016

6:55 AM 10/06/16 Accrual Basis

#### St. Louis Astronomical Society Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January through September 2016

	Jan - Sep 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Total Magazine Subscription	1,062.98	1,297.85	(234.87)
Membership Dues	2,565.00	2,820.00	(255.00)
Total Merchandise Sales	126.00	0.00	126.00
Total Income	3,753.98	4,117.85	(363.87
Total COGS	905.15	1,342.85	(437.70)
Gross Profit	2,848.83	2,775.00	73.83
Expense			
1-Programs & Events	832.38	1,470.01	(637.63)
2-Newsletter	134.00	150.01	(16.01)
3-Library expense		74.99	(74.99)
4-Astronomical League Dues	700.00	695.00	5.00
5-Loaner Scopes		37.50	(37.50
7-Insurance	380.00	380.00	
8-Website	155.40	150.00	5.40
9-Administrative Expenses	409.08	1,077.50	(668.42
Total Expense	2,610.86	4,035.01	(1,424.15
Net Ordinary Income	237.97	(1,260.01)	1,497.98
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Total Donations	908.05	0.00	908.05
Eclipse Escrow Receipts	3,841.00	0.00	3,841.00
Interest Income	34.94	75.00	(40.06)
LTP Receipts	21,457.00	0.00	21,457.00
Non-Operating Income <sup>1,2</sup>	458.98	0.00	458.98
Proceeds from Lens Sales	13,234.08	0.00	13,234.08
Total Other Income	39,934.05	75.00	39,859.05
Other Expense			
Astro Mag Award Dispursements	472.76	0.00	472.76
Eclipse Escrow Dispursements	1,853.50	0.00	1,853.50
Eclipse Escrow Funding	800.00	800.00	0.00
LTP Disbursements	20,969.59	0.00	20,969.59
LTP Escrow Funding	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Non-operating Expense <sup>1</sup>	59.00	0.00	59.00
Total Other Expense	25,154.85	1,800.00	23,354.85
Net Other Income	14,779.20	(1,725.00)	16,504.20
Income	15,017,17	(2,985.01)	18.002.18

1 An individual mistakenly signed up for SLAS instead of the Science Center, membership and magazine funds refunded.

2 Includes \$399.98 of proceeds from MSRAL 2016.

## Wanted: Newsletter Articles!

The Event Horizon needs articles from people like YOU!

Interviews, current astronomy topics, historical articles, you name it, we can use it! Send what you have to: newsletter@slasonline.org

## St. Louis Astronomical Society Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2016			
	Dec 31, 15	Aug 31, 16	
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
Astronomy Magazine Award**	465.72	0.00	
Checking - First Bank	2,940.49	2,991.70	
Deposit, Certificate of	20,108.23	20,138.36	
Library Telescope Escrow*	444.55	227.77	
Merchandise Change Fund	20.00	20.00	
PayPal	82.51	179.23	
Savings - First Bank	5,361.90	18,600.03	
SLAS Eclipse Conference Escrow***	539.12	3,672.32	
YMCA Trout Lodge Escrow	542.87	542.87	
Total Checking/Savings	30,505.39	46,372.28	
Other Current Assets			
Inventory Asset	1,410.53	1,473.03	
Investment in Mid-States 2016	1,000.00	0.00	
Undeposited Funds	55.00	56.00	
Total Other Current Assets	2,465.53	1,529.03	
Total Current Assets	32,970.92	47,901.31	
Fixed Assets			
Accum Depr - Office Equp	(216.65)	(216.65)	
Office Equipment	216.65	216.65	
Total Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL ASSETS	32,970.92	47,901.31	
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Equity			
Opening Bal Equity	8,137.66	8,137.66	
Retained Earnings	24,464.84	24,833.26	
Net Income	368.42	14,930.39	
Total Equity	32,970.92	47,901.31	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	32,970.92	47,901.31	

\* Funds restricted for the Library Telescope Program. \$444.55 was carried over from the end of 2015. Reflects \$1,000 from the 2016 budget.

\*\* Funds from Astronomy Magazine Award, available until 4/10/2016 (funds have been spent).

\*\*\* Registration fees and donations for SLAS sponsored eclipse seminars. Also includes \$800 from the 2016 budget.

#### Wanted: Volunteers!

Be sure to sign up on Night Sky Network for upcoming star parties. Lead volunteers need to know who will be there so they can tell where we are falling short. If you aren't sure how to RSVP, please ask anyone at the meeting and we can show you how on the computer after the meeting. Or contact any board or committee member to find out. See you at the next star party!

#### Page 7

## Upcoming Star Parties and Other Events

## **SLAS EVENTS**

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

SLAS Executive Board Meetings *Location will be at the Edward Jones YMCA* All meetings are on Thursdays unless noted. Nov. 10, Dec 7

Dark Sky Observing Dates 11/5/2016.

Francis Park Events: These events are on Thursdays the week nearest the first quarter Moon See you in the Spring!

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

**Planetarium shows start at 7pm** 11/4/2016, 12/2/2016

YMCA Edward Jones Star Parties (generally third Mondays)

10/17/2016,

Pattonville Observatory Public Viewing Dates 10/20/2016, 11/4/2016, 11/1/2016

Broemmelsiek Astronomy Park Public Viewing Every Friday night with ASEM members

#### UMSL Observatory For directions and map <u>http://www.umsl.edu~physics/astro/</u> <u>directions.html</u>

All sessions include viewing of 1st quarter Moon with additional objects

Skywatch Hotline: 314-516-5706

Saturdays: 11/5

#### 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.

Octobe	r
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<del>.</del>	21 Fri 22 Sat 23 Sun 24 Mon 25 Tue 27 Thur 28 Fri 29 Sat 30 Sun	SLAS regular meeting Night Skies Over Babler Sky Orienteering 6th Grade Camp at Babler Monthly PEO Chapter meeting Windor Library Solar Buford Mountain Observing Buford Mountain Observing Buford Mountain Observing
d	November 4 Fri 5 Sat 7 Mon 9 Wed 9 Wed 10 Thur 10 Thur 15 Tue 18 Fri 49 Set	SLAS regular meeting
	19 Sat 20 Sun December	Sidewalk Solar Observing SLSC Sky Orienteering
	2 Fri	Public Telescope Viewing SLSC

#### **SLAS Merchandise Available**

SLAS merchandise is now set up for embroidery at

Headz n Threadz at <u>https://</u> hnt.threadthis.com/

There are two locations: **Galleria**: 2495 St. Louis Galleria, St. Louis, MO 63117 Telephone: 314.862.2695

galleria@headznthreadz.com

**Delmar**: 6662C Delmar Blvd St. Louis, MO 63130 Telephone: 314.863.2695 delmar@headznthreadz.com **Delmar Map** 

Simply take the garment, hat, etc you wish to have embroidered and they will take care of it. They have the SLAS logo on file. You may make modifications to the colors if you wish.

#### SLAS Logo is also available at Infini-tees and Johnny Mac's



SLAS MEN	IBERSHIP /	APPLICA		100
Name: Last			ST.	LOUIS
First, Middle Initial				$\sim$
Address			B3 #	N.
City, State, Zip Code		·	Ropper C	COL
email address				ICAL SU
		Р	lease send completed form	
Youth @ \$10.00 / 1 year (18 yrs or young	ger) \$		cash please) made pay	able to
Individual @ \$25.00 / 1 year		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	St Louis Astronomical	-
Family @ \$40.00/1 year			Don Ficken, Membe 13024 Barrett Crossi	ng ĊT
Publications with discount available w			St. Louis, MO 631	22
Sky and Telescope @ \$32.95 / 1 year	\$			
(S&T may also be renewed at their webs http://www.skyandtelescope.com)		Che	eck all that apply:	
Astronomy @ \$29.95 / 1 year	\$		Renewal Address Change Only Please send my newsletter	
TOTAL ENCLO	SED \$		Please send my newsletter <b>New Member!</b>	by regular mail
SLAS OFFICERS		(		S
President Jim Small	314-307-0692	Dark Site Coor	dinator Mark Jones	<u>-</u> 636-394-2342
president at slasonline.org	214 401 7250	darksite at slaso	online.org Jim Small	314-909-7211
Vice President Brad Waller vicepresident at slasonline.org	314-481-7250	librarian at slaso	online.org ope_Program <i>Don Ficken</i>	
Secretary Mark Jones secretary at slasonline.org	636-394-2342	lirbrarytelescope	e at slasonline.org nent Greg Gaines	314-277-3082
Treasurer Bill Winningham, (Don Ficken treasurer at slasonline.org	- membership) 636-225-0269	loaner at slason Merchandise merchandise at	Vacant	
Hospitality Larry Campbell	636-244-2867	Membership membership at s	Don Ficken	636-225-0269
hospitality at slasonline.org		Newsletter Edit newsletter at sla		314-909-7211
Board Members at Large:		Observing Prog observing at sla	grams Jerry Loethen	314-329-8008
<b>Rich Heuermann</b> Board19 at slasonline.org	314-962-9231	Publicity publicity at slase	Rich Heuermann online.org	314-962-9231
Brent Buch	314-239-0329	Recognition recognition at sl	Larry Campbell asonline.org	636-244-2867
Board18 at slasonline.org		<u>'SLASdialogs'</u> dialogsmoderate	Moderator Mark Jones, F	Rhonda Whelan
<i>Tom Nickelson</i> board17 at slasonline.org	314-346-9565	Star Party Coo starparty at slas	rdinator Bill Breeden online.org	314-276-3613
ALCOR Bill Winningham (Astronomical League Correspondent)	636-225-0269	Telescope Mak telescope at sla Webmaster	<u>ting</u> Bill Davis, Jim Melka sonline.org Jim Small	314-469-3061 314-909-7211
treasurer at slasonline.org <b>MSRAL Rep.</b> Jim Small msral_rep at astroleague.org	314-909-7211	webmaster at sl	asonline.org	

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

#### **ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**



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 any-one 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.



