

THE EVENT HORIZON

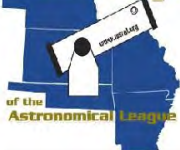


ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

VOLUME 25, Issue 6
June, 2015

Mid States Region



Skywatchers of Ancient Cahokia *by* **William Iseminger** **Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site**

William Iseminger of Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, will be featured at the June meeting of the St. Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM Friday, June 19, in McDonnell Hall, Room 162, on the Washington University campus.

The Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, just 15 minutes east of Saint Louis, is the location of a Native American city that flourished from 600 A.D. to 1100 A.D. The Site preserves the remains of about 80 earthen mounds out of the 120 mounds constructed in the city. The Cahokia tribe included ancient astronomers who discovered much about the

movements of the Sun, Moon, and stars centuries before the European invention of the telescope. They constructed a “Woodhenge” of upright logs, positioned to mark the changing of the seasons and the motion of the Moon. Mr. Iseminger will talk about the astronomy of the Mound City builders and about how the Historic Site and its Interpretive Center tell the story of this vanished civilization and its great city.

William Iseminger is the Assistant Site Manager for the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site. He holds a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Oklahoma and a Master’s degree from SIU-Carbondale, in anthropology. A participant in excavations of Native American sites in South Dakota and Illinois, Mr. Iseminger is author of a recent book Cahokia Mounds, America’s First City.

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Below:

Attendees at the 2015 Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League (MSRAL) Convention. The event was held at the University of Little Rock and was hosted by the Central Arkansas Astronomical Society (CAAS) on May 29-31

ALCON 2015

July 8-11

Las Cruces, New Mexico

<https://alcon2015.astroleague.org/>



President's Corner

by
Jim Small

Top priority: There are **MANY Star Parties and Events** coming **BEGINNING NEXT WEEK!** Please **RSVP on Night Sky Network and be sure to show up if you RSVP.** We need to know we can count on your to assist us at various events. Check the SLAS events calendar on page 10 in this newsletter and sign up! If you need help with the RSVP, please ask at the meeting and we can get you started. We will have some signup sheets available at the meeting.

MSRAL was held at the University of Little Rock May 29-31 and was very good. 13 SLAS members attended and there were about 55 overall. We started with the Pieces Fish Fry Friday night but were not able to visit the observatory due to the weather. (sound familiar??) Saturday meetings were very good and I attended a nice roundtable workshop on Sunday. It was a good trip hitting the Arcade Restaurant in Memphis on the way out and Central BBQ on the way back! It was suggested at the business meeting that SLAS and ASKC co-host the MSRAL next year. That concept was put to the board last week and the board approved.

Next week and the week after there are a plethora of Library Telescope Star Parties, mostly for the new libraries that came on board for the latest telescope build. We

would like to make sure we have plenty of volunteers for these events so these programs get off to a flying start. If you see more than 4 volunteers for a library star party and there is another underserved event the same night, consider volunteering for the second event. We don't want to short anyone.

ALCON 2015 is at Las Cruces this year and will be held July 8-12. I'll be attending and would like to know if anyone else from SLAS is planning on going. See me at the meeting!

The St. Louis Eclipse committee met Wednesday and worked hard on the planning for a workshop to be held on October 9 for educators and city officials to try to get them ready for the total solar eclipse in 2017. There was a good diversity at the meeting, including Bob Baer and a couple of other astronomers from Carbondale. They have a terrific event planned for the eclipse and if you would like to help them out, they are looking for volunteers for all kinds of help. The SLAS board voted to help monetarily with the workshop should funding to seed the workshop need to happen. The membership will vote on the proposal in July if the money is needed.

SLAS merchandise will soon be available from Johnny Mac's sporting goods stores. There will be catalogs available for us to choose several shirts to make available for logo merchandise and then an online store will be set up. You may also apply the SLAS logo to most merchandise in the store.

FOR SALE

Starter Eyepiece Kit

by
Mark Jones

We have a surplus of eyepieces left over from the Library Telescope Program. These eyepieces were the original ones that came with the Orion Starblast Telescopes. We removed these eyepieces from the telescope and replaced them with a single zoom eyepiece. We have bundled the 2 eyepieces along with a collimating tool into a plastic case as an eyepiece starter kit. If you are a beginner this might be a good starting point for you. If you are an experienced observer, these eyepieces are an inexpensive alternative for public viewing, solar projection and other activities.

The cost for one starter kit is \$15. You can buy 2 or more kits for only \$10 each. Each kit comes with an Orion 6mm and 17mm eyepiece, a collimating tool and a plastic storage case. We will be selling the kits, while supplies

last, at our monthly meetings. All proceeds of the sale will go to the Library telescope Program Fund for future purchases. See photo below (left to right plastic case, 17mm eyepiece, collimating tool, 6mm eyepiece, screw on lid for plastic case).



From the Borg Collective (Brad Waller for the uninitiated)



Greetings from the Borg Collective. As you know, SLAS purchased 4 telescopes, the ones used in the Library Program Telescopes (LPT), for SLAS Members to use. The Collective thought it might be ease the assimilation process if we gave them names. Since the Collective assimilated them, we could have given them Borg Designations, 1 of 4 of the LPT, 2 of 4.... and so on. So, we came up with an idea for a contest with a prize! The Guidelines are listed below. The submitting of names will be conducted through SLAS Dialogs, while the actual votes for the contest will be sent to the SLAS Board e-mail: board@slasonline.org

If you are submitting a name that is not well known, say a former member of SLAS, please include a brief description of that person. Some SLAS Members might not know who this person was, thus, hurting your chances of having this person honored.

GUIDELINES FOR THE LPT NAMING CONTEST

1. SLAS Members submit their names to me through SLAS dialogs. I will record them. There will be no double entries. The 1st SLAS Member to submit the name (you can only submit 4 names) gets credit for it. If the name you submitted has already been nominated, you will get a chance to submit a replacement. After the deadline has passed, I will create a list. SLAS members who submitted their names before this announcement will be allowed to keep their names submitted.
2. Submitting names Deadline: 19 June 2015
3. At SLAS June meeting, I will announce to the membership that voting has commenced. They can send me their votes through The SLAS Board e-mail listed above. Each SLAS member can vote for THREE names from the list. The top three vote getters...WINS. In case of a ties, at the July 2015 SLAS meeting, the membership will break the ties.
4. Voting will end on: 14 July 2015, yes, in honor of New Horizons Flyby of the PLANET PLUTO!!!!
5. The results will be announced at the SLAS July Meeting: 17 July 2015
6. The THREE top names will be announced. Why only 3 instead of 4 ?????, simple, We are invoking the Edict from Mel Brooks', "The History of the World, Part 1", "It is Good to be King" J

7. Those three winning names will be placed in a Cube and the Lovely and Gracious Donna (since she did so well on the Tyson Raffle) will pull the name. That person will be the winner. The Prize??
8. Prize: They will get a choice of either:
 - A. One year SLAS Membership
 - B. One Year Science Center Membership

Library Loaner Telescope Checkout Procedure

Greetings once again from the Borg Collective. In the first article, we announced the naming contest for the LPT. We thought it might be useful to announce the procedures on how to check one out. They are listed below.

Requirements for borrowing a SLAS owned telescope.

- 30-day limit.
- Member in good standing (dues current and 18 years of age and over) and membership in force for the period during which the equipment is held. As verified by Treasurer.
- Copy of driver's license as verification of current address.
- SLAS equipment manager and Borrower complete the "Loaner Telescope Agreement" and borrower submits a refundable deposit of \$75.00.
- Check deposited and held in SLAS account until such time as the telescope is returned to equipment manager and condition of equipment is verified.
- The borrower is not to attempt to collimate or adjust the optics in any manner.
- Borrowers must pick-up from and deliver the equipment to the equipment manager.
- Advance notice of 24 hours required.
- After equipment is inspected and found to be in good order, the equipment manager will authorize a deposit refund to be sent by the treasurer to the borrower.
- If the equipment is not returned in the condition in which it was loaner with the exception of reasonable wear and tear, then the member has the right to appeal any assessment of repair or replacement to the Board of Directors of the St Louis Astronomical Society.

Neil deGrasse Tyson at the Peabody by Eric Kovach

As the winner of the raffle, I was able to attend the Neil deGrasse Tyson lecture on May 13th at the Peabody Opera House (the Kiel for Brad!) The event was sold out and his topic for the evening was "Science as a Way of Knowing." He spoke for two and a half hours and had time for some questions from the audience.

Dr. Tyson started off with a basic review of the scientific method including a review of hypotheses and theories and how the media can misuse this nomenclature. He discussed the cultural, political and sociological observations of the use and misuse of science. He also showed a few of the latest pictures of Mars and Pluto. As you would guess, he was pretty thorough on all of the reasons why Pluto was not a planet. He often reminded the hecklers in the audience to "Get over it!" Pluto is not a planet.

The highlight for me was when he showed a recent picture of Earth from Cassini's perspective near Saturn, similar to Voyager's picture, and read an excerpt from Carl Sagan's Pale Blue Dot. Also, I found it interesting during



the Q & A, when asked if he could talk to anyone, alive or dead, who it would be and what they would talk about. He answered Isaac Newton because he is the father of modern science and he also wanted to run a few current problems by him!

Neil deGrasse Tyson did a very good job of inspiring and motivating the next generation to be involved in the sciences. An overall theme was to encourage thinking and how science affects future generations. Thank you S.L.A.S. and Brad Waller for offering this raffle. Above is a picture taken at the event that I found on Facebook. My seats were not this close!

Note: Cassini's ring division disappears at the top. This is due to bright Saturn shining through the division.



45cm Newt: 2015-06-10: 06:06UT Dia 18.4 De 24.2 Ds 24.7
S4/10 T5/6 CMI - III 55.5° 323.0° 296.2° Ls 69 Mag 0.1
Dbk41Af04.AS_Registax 5_PIPP 2.5.1 Pic Window 6.0_UV/IR block
Jim Melka Chesterfield, Mo. 900 RGB raw frames

The latest image of Saturn taken by SLAS member Jim Melka of Chesterfield, MO. The image was taken with a 45cm Newtonian telescope on June 10, 2015. Note: Cassini ring division disappears at the top due to bright Saturn shining through the division.



SLAS Members attending MSRAL 2015 in Little Rock Arkansas May 29-31.
From Left to Right:
Wayne Clark, Nancy Clark, Brent Buch, Donna Ficken, Don Ficken, Cook Feldman, Thane Bopp, Marlene Bopp, Jim Small, John Beaury, Mark Jones, Cyndie Jones

SLAS Telescope Auction

SLAS will hold another astronomy auction at the August 2015 General Meeting.

Recent donations of astronomy related equipment, maps and books will be for sale.

Here is a list of these items:

1. The first scope is a Meade Polaris Digital DS-60mm Refractor. It came with a tripod, accessory tray, a 90-degree angle diagonal, 25mm, 12.5mm and 4mm eyepieces and a 3X Barlow. All eyepieces are the 0.965" Japanese standard size. It did not come with the optional electronic controller. The dew shield is missing off from objective lens and there is no dust cap.



2. Red Tasco 40x40mm refracting telescope and tripod.



3. White 45x40mm refracting telescope and tripod.



4. Binocular Mount and camera tripod. Mounts to any binocular with 1/4"-20 mounting hole



5. 6-inch f/8 Dobsonian Reflecting telescope



6. Below: 2-inch glass solar filter mounted for use with 8-inch telescope



7. Kodak 35mm Slide Projector with 2 trays and dozens on Astronomy Related Slides



(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

- 8. Astronomy Books



- 9. Various Paper Maps and Posters. Including Space and NASA Posters.



- 10. Sky Atlas 2000 Laminated Star Charts. 26 charts covering the entire sky



- 11. Tasco 50mm 20x-60x Zoom Spotting Scope. (no tripod, but leather case with shoulder strap included).



Library Telescope 2nd Distribution

The second build of library telescopes was a success and they have been distributed to libraries where they are already being placed in service. Below are a couple of photos of the telescopes being delivered!

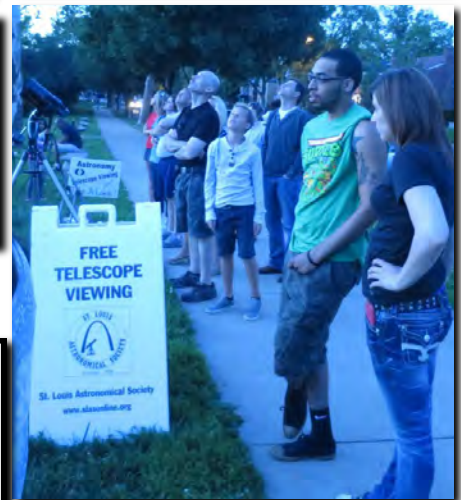




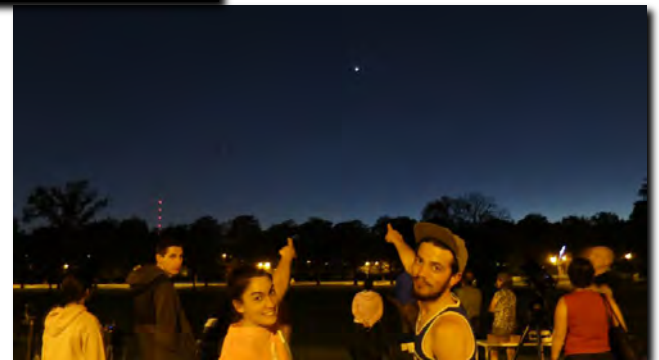
Sharon Bertran and Rick Menendez (right) at the Children's Hospital event.



Above: Anne Elise Parks and a channel 2 news team doing a live report from Francis Park. **Above right.** Taking in the Moon at FP. **Below Right:** Visitors to Francis Park. Note the new display board for star party use!



Left: John Beury and Cook Feldman at Francis Park. **Below:** A couple of former Meramec Students pointing out Venus at the Francis Park event.



Top Left: Bruce McMath addresses the group at the MSRAL fish fry. **Below left:** SLAS members (near) and ASKC members (far) at the MSRAL Pieces Fish Fry **Below:** John Beury, Wayne Clark, and Cook Feldman enjoying the PFF.



St. Louis Astronomical Society
Balance Sheet
As of May 31, 2015

| | Dec 31, 14 | May 31, 15 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Checking/Savings | | |
| Astronomy Magazine Award** | 0.00 | 1,257.45 |
| Checking - First Bank | 5,161.12 | 3,956.58 |
| Deposit, Certificate of | 20,068.06 | 20,088.04 |
| Library Telescope Escrow* | 1,660.10 | 526.44 |
| Merchandise Change Fund | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| PayPal | 82.81 | 266.77 |
| Savings - First Bank | 3,359.27 | 5,360.32 |
| YMCA Trout Lodge Escrow | 542.87 | 542.87 |
| Total Checking/Savings | 30,894.23 | 32,018.47 |
| Other Current Assets | | |
| Inventory Asset | 1,614.22 | 1,614.22 |
| Undeposited Funds | 261.95 | 0.00 |
| Total Other Current Assets | 1,876.17 | 1,614.22 |
| Total Current Assets | 32,770.40 | 33,632.69 |
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Accum Depr - Office Equip | (216.65) | (216.65) |
| Office Equipment | 216.65 | 216.65 |
| Total Fixed Assets | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 32,770.40 | 33,632.69 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | |
| Liabilities | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Total Accounts Payable | 167.90 | 0.00 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 167.90 | 0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | 167.90 | 0.00 |
| Equity | | |
| Opening Bal Equity | 8,137.66 | 8,137.66 |
| Retained Earnings | 22,221.50 | 24,464.84 |
| Net Income | 2,243.34 | 1,030.19 |
| Total Equity | 32,602.50 | 33,632.69 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 32,770.40 | 33,632.69 |

* Funds restricted for the Library Telescope Program. \$1,660 was carried over from the end of 2014.

** Funds from Astronomy Magazine Award, available until 4/10/2016.

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through May 2015

| | Jan - May 15 | Budget | \$ Over Budget |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | |
| Income | | | |
| Magazine Subscription | 698.45 | 834.25 | (135.80) |
| Membership Dues | 1,890.00 | 1,650.00 | 240.00 |
| Merchandise Sales | | | |
| General Merchandise*** | 239.48 | 0.00 | 239.48 |
| Merchandise Sales - Other | 150.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 |
| Total Merchandise Sales | 389.48 | 0.00 | 389.48 |
| Total Income | 2,977.93 | 2,484.25 | 493.68 |
| Cost of Goods Sold | | | |
| Magazine Subscriptions | 698.45 | 834.25 | (135.80) |
| Merchandise | | | |
| General Merchandise*** | 135.35 | | |
| Merchandise - Other | 16.52 | 30.00 | (13.48) |
| Total Merchandise | 151.87 | 30.00 | 121.87 |
| Total COGS | 850.32 | 864.25 | (13.93) |
| Gross Profit | 2,127.61 | 1,620.00 | 507.61 |
| Expense | | | |
| Programs & Events | 909.50 | 1,208.32 | (298.82) |
| Newsletter | 66.72 | 75.00 | (8.28) |
| Library expense | 10.46 | 75.00 | (64.54) |
| Astronomical League Dues | | 650.00 | (650.00) |
| Loaner Scopes* | 1,013.35 | 50.00 | 963.35 |
| Insurance | 380.00 | 380.00 | |
| Website | | 135.00 | (135.00) |
| Administrative Expenses | 355.66 | 486.66 | (131.00) |
| Total Expense | 2,735.69 | 3,059.98 | (324.29) |
| Net Ordinary Income | (608.08) | (1,439.98) | 831.90 |
| Other Income/Expense | | | |
| Other Income | | | |
| Donations | 1,500.05 | 0.00 | 1,500.05 |
| Interest Income | 21.03 | 41.00 | (19.97) |
| LTP Receipts | 10,860.00 | 0.00 | 10,860.00 |
| Non-Operating Income** | 2,500.00 | 0.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Total Other Income | 14,881.08 | 41.00 | 14,840.08 |
| Other Expense | | | |
| Astro Mag Award Disbursements | 1,242.55 | 0.00 | 1,242.55 |
| LTP Disbursements | 12,000.26 | 0.00 | 12,000.26 |
| Total Other Expense | 13,242.81 | 0.00 | 13,242.81 |
| Net Other Income | 1,638.27 | 41.00 | 1,597.27 |
| Net Income | 1,030.19 | (1,398.98) | 2,429.17 |

* Budget reflects membership vote to purchase 4 Orion Starblasts for the Loaner Program

** Non-operating income includes a \$2,500 award from Astronomy Magazine. \$1,242.55 of the award proceeds have been spent to date, the remaining proceeds must be spent by April of 2016.

*** Tyson Raffle

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Astronomy Out of this World Award
Tracking Spreadsheet (Funds Available until 4/2016)

| Item From Proposal | Budget | Spent | \$ Over Budget | Responsible |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Display Kits | \$700 | \$545 | (\$155) | Committee* |
| 2. Library Telescopes (two) | \$500 | \$500 | \$0 | Don Ficken |
| 3. Exhibit Display for indoor Events | \$500 | \$0 | (\$500) | Committee* |
| 4. Solar Eclipse Materials | \$500 | \$0 | (\$500) | Mark Jones |
| 5. Marketing Software | \$300 | \$197.90 | (\$102) | Don Ficken |
| Total | \$2,500 | \$1,243 | (\$1,257) | Updated Through May 2015 |

* Tentative committee of Jim Small, Cook Feldman, and Don Ficken



Mark Jones contemplating a purchase from Gil Machin (left) at MSRAL.

St. Louis Astronomical Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes for May 5, 2015

1. Opening Activities: Attendees: Jim Small, Larry Campbell, Brad Waller, Paul Baldwin and Mark Jones. Meeting started at 6:54pm. April minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. Suggested corrections were made to April minutes. Brad made motion to approve minutes Larry seconded motion. Motion passed minutes were approved.

2. External Business Astronomy Day went well at Kirkwood. Gave away 6 Galileoscopes. Not as many visitors as we would have at the Science Center, between 50-100. Thanks to Jim Small, John Beaury, Cook Feldman, Larry Campbell, Bill and Ben Winningham for attending

MSRAL2015 is coming up May 29-31 at University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Let's push to get some more attendees

Next board meeting: June 11, July 9, August 6, Sept 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10

3. Director Reports:

President: Goals for 2015 and beyond. The beginnings of a strategic plan.

1. Attract new members – We need to plans to increase our base membership significantly during the course of the year. Number? 50? 100?
2. Retain members – We need plans to retain members that join beyond one year. The retention rate for 2013 was only 20%
3. Get members involved – We need significant plans to involve our members in both programs and as volunteers.

Elections: Slate is ready for May 2015 elections. Nominees are: Jim Small – President, Paul Baldwin - Vice President, Mark Jones – Secretary, Bill Winningham – Treasurer, Larry Campbell – Hospitality, Brian Mills – Board Member at Large (for board 2018 position)

Vice President –Paul Baldwin: May - Kathryn Powell will speak on “All the Mars Rovers and What They Have Discovered”, June Bill Iseminger from Cahokia Mounds on Indian Astronomy. July is still in work hope to have something on Pluto results.

Astro 101: Topic: Brad Waller Star Fleet Command

Secretary – Mark J Report on Lois Fitter. Lois and family donated some astronomy items to our club. Mark will inventory the donated items.

Treasurer/ALCor See separate detailed report. Net income more than \$3000 through April 2015. Budget reflects membership vote to purchase 4 Orion Starblasts for the Loaner Program. Income from Tyson Raffle. Non-operating income includes a \$2,500 award from Astronomy Magazine. \$683 of the award proceeds have been spent to date, the remaining proceeds must be spent by April of 2016.

Hospitality – vacant Larry Campbell will run for office in May. Larry Campbell and Sharon Bertrum have been bringing refreshments to meetings.

Board member at large reports

Larry Campbell (2015) Recognition program report. Look at Pin-mart.com. Looking at ideas for recognition for years of service. No response to request to for members to join the committee. Paul said he would join the committee.

Brad Waller: (2016) New Members report New member survey. First ten question. Brad will send the 10 survey questions to the Board. Jim will create the formsite survey on May 25th. Brad made contact with Joan Carman of Salt Lake Astronomical Society. Possible speaker would be the man who built the 71" amateur telescope.

Tom Nickelson: (2017) unable to attend due to class. Mark, Jim, and I met together last month to continue progress on the disabled scope. Photos were taken to create a user's manual; and I explained the systems workings to Mark.

Suggestions for new member welcome packet. **Input desired.**

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Welcome packet | |
| NSN guide including RSVP's | Small |
| Loaner telescope and list | Jones |
| Dialogs | Jones |
| Newsletter | Small |
| Maps | Campbell |
| Library | Small |
| Calendar for upcoming events | Small |
| Sky map | Jones |
| Planisphere | Ficken |
| Observing for the month | Jones |
| Decal | Small |
| Merchandise | Small |
| Resources | Small |
| Pamphlet from Astronomy | Small |

Discussion about new members meeting. Time? When to start? This month? Social input at meeting?

4. Committee Reports: If needed

Library Telescope Program: Build is Saturday, May 9 at Parkway West HS, prep is Friday, May 8. Contact Don Ficken.

Membership – Survey for exiting members, another for new members **Ideas for membership initiative.** So far we had a raffle for Tyson tickets very successful. Now I would suggest we offer things for sale at membership discount if we can buy them in bulk. Here are some ideas:

- a. Eclipse 2017 bumper magnets. These normally sell for \$3 + shipping we can order 100 units at \$1.25 each + shipping. Therefor we could sell to members for \$2 and to non-members for \$4. see the website <http://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/store/magnetic-bumper-stickers>
- b. high powered laser pointers. about 10yrs ago we bought a large qty of green laser pointers that were very popular. There are newer/ brighter one on the market now. I recommend putting together a bulk order. target price \$90each
- c. Planispheres - laminated plastic sizes 5.5" size http://www.amazon.com/MILLER-PLANISPHERE-Miller-Planisphere-40n/dp/B007W8AQEI/ref=sr_1_45?ie=UTF8&qid=1430879989&sr=8-45&keywords=planispheres
- d. Make eyepiece combos available for nominal cost: 2 eyepieces, collimating eyepiece, cover
- e. Attendance prizes for attendance every quarter?
- f. Raffle for Science Center membership

Merchandise – Jim will get in touch with Johnny Mac's around May 25.

Telescope Making – no report submitted

Librarian – No changes. Picked up several books at NEAF.

Newsletter – Deadline is Saturday for articles. Newsletter will come out Sunday. Need pics for Homemade Fest

Website – www.slasonline.org/joomla Website fees of 131.88 paid in January. Note to increase budget for next year as promotional price is no longer applicable...

Night Sky Network – Need to organize plan for setting up star parties and logging events.

SLASdialogs –

Dark Site – Next event on May 16

Loaner Equipment – We need to have an equipment sale. We have several items that don't fit our needs. I recommend we set up a sale or auction for July meeting for these items a. Bausch and Lomb 15-60X zoom lens worth \$25-100. No tripod, does have worn case. Here is a link to what it looks like: http://www.ebay.com/itm/Tasco-15x-60x-60mm-World-Class-Zoom-Spotting-Scope-with-Tripod-and-Carry-Case-/311350445498?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item487deec5ba

b. Meade DS-60mm refractor poor condition.

c. 6" Dob Reflector. Donated by Lois Fitter. Dirty but could easily be fixed up. Proceeds could be used to purchase camcorder for recording meetings...

Publicity – release sent for May meeting

Observing Programs – no report

Star Parties: Last month we voted to get a plaque made for MM. Have we taken action on this? Upcoming star parties: May 8 – Union HS, May 9 – Hawn State Park, May 23 - Crestwood Park, May 25 – Edward Jones, May 27 – Francis Park, May 28 – Jeffco Library, May 29-31 MSRAL, June 1 – Jefferson County Library, June 5 – SLSC

5. Old Business - Looking at our by-laws and the possible reorganization of the operating structure of the Society. Topic tabled.

6. New Business - none

7. Closing Activities - None Meeting adjourned at 9:14pm

Upcoming Star Parties and Other 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*

| | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| 6/11/2015 | 7/9/2015 | |
| 8/6/2015 | 9/10/2015 | 10/8/2015 |
| 11/12/2015 | 12/10/2015 | |

Dark Sky Observing Dates

See you in April!

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

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 6/24/2015 | 7/22/2015 | 8/19/2015 |
| 9/16/2015 | 10/21/2015 | |

SLSC Public Telescope Viewing Events: These events are held the first Friday of the month
Planetarium shows start at 7pm

None in July

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 8/7/2015 | 9/4/2015 | 10/2/2015 |
| 11/6/2015 | 12/4/2015 | |

YMCA Edward Jones Star Parties

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 7/13/2015 | 8/10/2015 |
| 9/7/2015 | 10/5/2015 |

SLAS EVENTS

June

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 19 Fri | SLAS regular meeting |
| 22 Mon | Star Party at Jeffco Library |
| 22 Mon | Edward Jones YMCA |
| 23 Tue | Maplewood Library Star Party |
| 23 Tue | Belleville Library Star Party (Main) |
| 24 Wed | Francis Park Stargazing |
| 25 Thur | St. Ch. Library Kathym Linn |
| 25 Thur | Stargazing at the Arch |
| 26 Fri | St Louis Art Museum Garden Party |
| 26 Fri | Blessed Savior Star Party |
| 27 Sat | Night Sky Over Babler |

July

| | |
|---------|---|
| 3 Fri | NO PUBLIC TELESCOPE VIEWING |
| 8-11 | ALCON - Las Cruces |
| 9 Thur | SLAS board meeting |
| 10 Fri | Every Hero Has a Story Star Party |
| 11 Sat | SLAS dark sky party |
| 16 Thur | Downtown Kirkwood Star Party |
| 17 Fri | SLAS Regular Meeting |
| 20 Mon | Edward Jones YMCA |
| 21 Tue | Belleville Library Star Party (Main) |
| 22 Wed | Francis Park |
| 23 Thur | Babler Night Sky Program |
| 23 Thur | St Charles Library McClay |
| 23 Thur | Stargazing at the Arch |
| 24 Fri | Collinsville Library Star Party |
| 29 Wed | St. Charles Library Deer Run Star Party |
| 29 Wed | University City Library Star Party |
| 31 Fri | Rock Hill Library Star Party |

SLAS Merchandise:

**Soon to be available at
Johnny Mac's Sporting
Goods!**

**Watch for notification
through NSN and the
website!!**

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.

SLAS Merchandise Available

SLAS merchandise is now set up for embroidery at Headz n Threadz at <https://hnt.threadthis.com/>

There are two locations:

Galleria: 2495 St. Louis Galleria, St. Louis, MO 63117

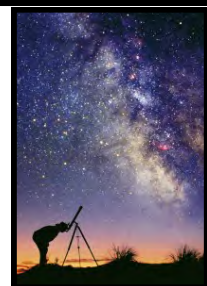
Telephone: 314.862.2695
galleria@headznthreadz.com

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 Soon to be Available at Infini-tees and
Johnny Mac's**



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
 Don Ficken, Membership
 13024 Barrett Crossing CT
 St. Louis, MO 63122

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

SLAS OFFICERS

| | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| President | <i>Jim Small</i> | 314-307-0692 |
| president at slasonline.org | | |
| Vice President | <i>Paul Baldwin</i> | 314-781-4080 |
| vicepresident at slasonline.org | | |
| Secretary | <i>Mark Jones</i> | 636-394-2342 |
| secretary at slasonline.org | | |
| Treasurer | <i>Bill Winningham, (Don Ficken - membership)</i> | |
| treasurer at slasonline.org | | 636-225-0269 |
| Hospitality | <i>Vacant effective Dec 31</i> | |
| hospitality at slasonline.org | | |
| Board Members at Large: | | |
| | <i>Tom Nickelson</i> | 314-346-9565 |
| board17 at slasonline.org | | |
| | <i>Larry Campbell</i> | 636-244-2867 |
| board15 at slasonline.org | | |
| | <i>Bradley Waller</i> | 314-481-7250 |
| board16 at slasonline.org | | |
| ALCOR | <i>Bill Winningham</i> | 636-225-0269 |
| (Astronomical League Correspondent) treasurer at slasonline.org | | |
| MSRAL Rep. | <i>Jim Small</i> | 314-909-7211 |
| msral_rep at astroleague.org | | |

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Dark Site Coordinator | <i>Mark Jones</i> | 636-394-2342 |
| darksite at slasonline.org | | |
| Librarian | <i>Jim Small</i> | 314-909-7211 |
| librarian at slasonline.org | | |
| Library Telescope Program | <i>Don Ficken</i> | 636-851-9630 |
| lirbrarytelescope at slasonline.org | | |
| Loaner Equipment | <i>Greg Gaines</i> | 314-277-3082 |
| loaner at slasonine.org | | |
| Merchandise | <i>Vacant</i> | |
| merchandise at slasonline.org | | |
| Membership | <i>Don Ficken</i> | 636-225-0269 |
| membership at slasonline.org | | |
| Newsletter Editor | <i>Jim Small</i> | 314-909-7211 |
| newsletter at slasonline.org | | |
| Observing Programs | <i>Jerry Loethen</i> | 314-329-8008 |
| observing at slasonline.org | | |
| Publicity | <i>Rich Heuermann</i> | 314-962-9231 |
| publicity at slasonline.org | | |
| Recognition | <i>Larry Campbell</i> | 636-244-2867 |
| recognition at slasonline.org | | |
| 'SLASdialogs' Moderator | <i>Mark Jones, Rhonda Whelan</i> | |
| dialogsmoderator at yahoo.com | | |
| Star Party Coordinator | <i>Mike Malolepszy</i> | 314-781-4701 |
| starparty at slasonline.org | | |
| Telescope Making | <i>Bill Davis, Jim Melka</i> | 314-469-3061 |
| telescope at slasonline.org | | |
| Webmaster | <i>Jim Small</i> | 314-909-7211 |
| webmaster 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>

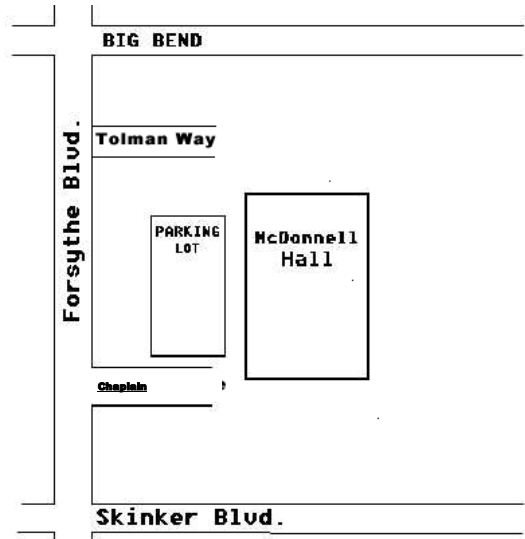


Who We Are and What We Do

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

