

# ***THE EVENT HORIZON***



## **ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

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

**VOLUME 25, Issue 8  
August, 2015**

## **Building Your Own (Really Big) Telescope**

***By***

**Mike Clements**

Amateur telescope maker Mike Clements, will be featured at the August meeting of the St. Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM Friday, August 21, in McDonnell Hall, Room 162, on the Washington University campus, Saint Louis, MO 63130.

Mike Clements has been interested in amateur astronomy and telescope making for forty years. His best known achievement is construction of a telescope 70-inches (1.8 meters) in diameter and 35 feet long. That is the largest amateur telescope in the nation and the largest modern-day amateur telescope in the world - which is why he is now known as "1.8 Meter Mike". Mr. Clements will talk about building large telescopes and about his plans to make an observatory-sized instrument mobile. His future plans are to put the 1.8 meter telescope on a trailer and then transport it around the country for public viewing of celestial objects that only a very large telescope can display in detail.

## **Welcome Aboard! New Members Meeting**

**6:30 p.m. Friday, August 21st.  
McDonnell Hall, Room 162**

There will be a meeting for new members prior to the regular meeting this month beginning at 6:30 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to help new members get started using SLAS resources and getting to know each other and SLAS members. If you have joined SLAS in the last year, please feel free to attend. If you joined more than a year ago but want to come, you are still welcome! SLAS members who would like to assist new members are also invited to attend if they like.

A welcome packet with maps, resources and other aids will be passed out during the meeting. People are urged to attend and bring their questions and any other needs to the meeting. We look forward to meeting you at the meeting!

## **Bring Your Cash! Bargains to be had!**

**SLAS Auction  
after the regular meeting**

SLAS will hold an auction of telescopes, books, charts and other materials after the regular meeting this month. Be sure to bring your checkbook or cash to pay for anything you would like to bid on at the auction.

Here are some of the items that will be auctioned off. Photos of each item were included in the June newsletter, which may be found here:

[http://slasonline.org/newsletters/2015/201506\\_Event\\_Horizon.pdf](http://slasonline.org/newsletters/2015/201506_Event_Horizon.pdf)

Here is a list of some of the items which will be for sale.:

1. The first scope is a Meade Polaris Digital DS-60mm Refractor. It came with a tripod, accessory tray, a 90-degree angle diagonal,

### **Inside This Issue**

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Contact Brad Waller to RSVP at 314-481-7250.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## **President's Corner**

*by*  
**Jim Small**

I am looking forward to our meeting Friday because it will be our first attempt at a meeting via Skype. Mike Clements will come to us via Skype and his slides will be presented on the second screen via a second projector. Mike is a dynamic speaker and really enjoys interacting with his audience. We are looking forward to making this a great event for SLAS!

We are also implementing our new member meetings at 6:30 p.m. before the regular meeting in the same room. Please attend if you are a member who has joined in the last year or so. Packets will be handed out to those attending. We will also have the SLAS Auction after the meeting. Bring your cash or checks!

We are looking forward to a great month. Be sure to RSVP for upcoming star parties and it would be great if you had some photos or a write up about the event you attend.

*(Continued from page 1)*

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 of Astronomy Related Slides
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.

## **Space Studies for the Masses**

**Dr. Edith E Weeks, Esq.**

**Saturday, August 22, 2015 3:00-4:00 pm**

**Webster Groves Library**

Enchanted Space Studies: An insightful lecture and discussion about key insights and emerging trends related to outer space development for children and young learners (ages 5-18, adults should accompany small children) Science and High Technology NASA site:

<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/index.cfm>

- The Milky Way Galaxy: Our Home
- Interplanetary Exploration: Our Solar System & Planets Around Other Stars
- Discovery of Earthlike Planets, Kepler and Hubble Telescopes
- Interstellar Travel and New Spaceships
- Asteroid Mining Missions
- Future Careers in Space
- About Research, Writing and Publishing and Developing a Specialized Expertise
- Spacecraft Trajectory Optimization
- International Relations and History of Outer Space
- Social and Behavioral Sciences for Space Travel
- The Outer Space Treaty: International Space Law
- RSVP <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/enchanted-space->

## **New Loaner Telescope**



SLAS has received another generous telescope donation. The newest addition is an Orion SkyView 8 Inch Deluxe EQ telescope. This telescope has an 8" f/4 primary mirror and only a 800mm focal length for a very wide field of view. The telescope includes a German equatorial mount and tripod with built-in polar alignment scope. The



accessories include a 6x30mm finder and three eyepieces with focal lengths of 9mm, 12.3mm and 40mm. SLAS plans to add this to the Loaner Scope Program in the near future.

# 13<sup>th</sup> Annual SLAS Star-B-Q

## Saturday, September 12, 2015

### Cochran Picnic Shelter

### New Location!!!



Come join fellow members of the SLAS in Babler State Park at the Cochran Picnic Shelter for a day of food, games, and observing. SLAS will once again provide the hamburgers and hotdogs. We ask for you to bring your favorite drinks and side dish or dessert.

Activities will include: **games, prizes, solar viewing and plenty of socializing!** Then we pack up and move to the Babler Monument area where we will observe from 8-Midnight. Don't have a telescope? Don't worry this is a great chance to see other member's equipment.

**2pm – Picnic begins**

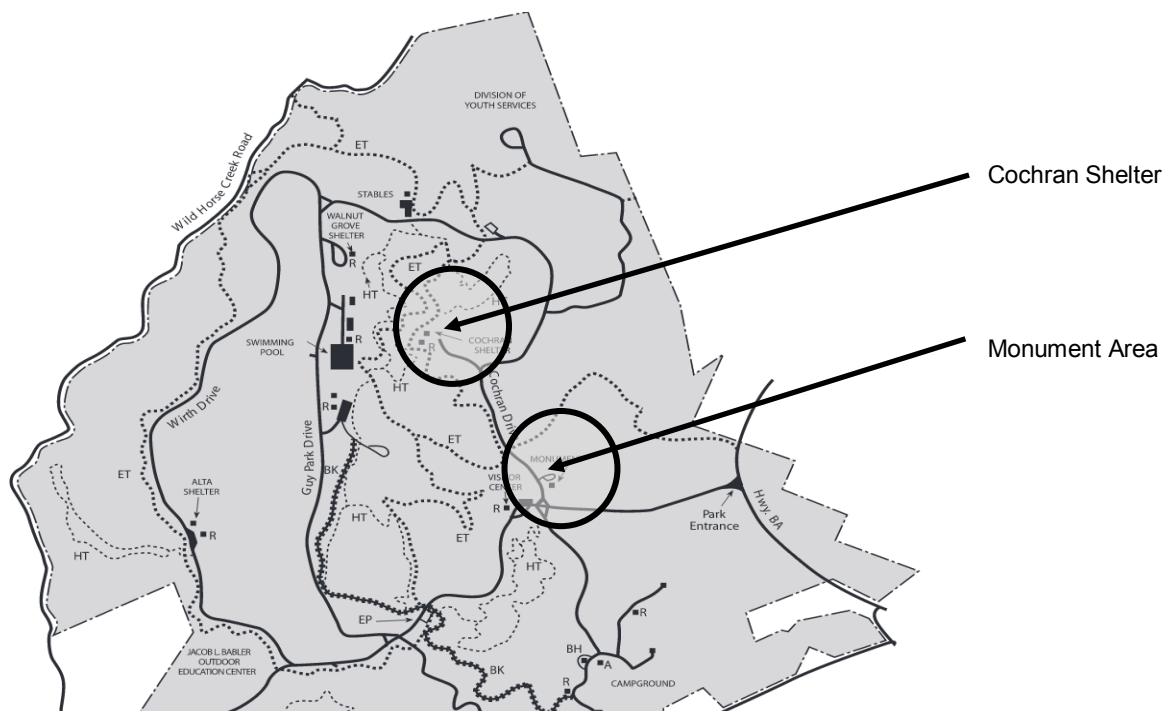
**3pm-5pm Food line open**

**5pm-6pm Trivia Contest (with prizes)**

**6pm-7pm- cleanup shelter**

**7pm-midnight- Observing at Monument Area**

**Special Note: There will be solar viewing during the day**





**Don Ficken Flies Out of the Solar System!**

What??? You didn't hear about this flight during Mission Updates?? Well, if you were at the Rockhill Starwars Party, you too could have taken a ride in the space ship they created at this fun event. You haven't attended a Library Star party as a volunteer yet? You

need to get involved! See our calendar or Don Ficken to sign up for one of these events sponsored by the enthusiastic libraries that have one of our Library Loaner Telescopes in their system. We hope to see YOU in a ship flying through the Solar System sometime soon! Thanks to Shelley Dieterichs at the Rockhill Library for setting up this event!

**Solar Party at the James S. McDonnell Planetarium Friday Afternoon**

**to Begin the countdown to the 2017 Eclipse**

**WHAT** The countdown begins for the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse! On August, 21, 2017, the St. Louis region will experience a total solar eclipse when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, blocking the Sun for more than two minutes.

To help you get ready for one of nature's most amazing events, the St. Louis Astronomical Society is hosting a solar viewing day at the Saint Louis Science Center's James S. McDonnell Planetarium on Friday, August 21, 2015. Members of the St. Louis Astronomical Society will set up solar scopes and answer all your questions about the total solar eclipse in 2017.



**WHEN** August 21, beginning 1 p.m.

**WHERE** James S. McDonnell Planetarium in Forest Park

**MEDIA CONTACT** Margie Walsh, Saint Louis Science Center, 314.286.4621, mw Walsh@slsc.org

**FOR SALE: 12.5' STARMASTER**

12.5" StarMaster ELT truss-tube Dobsonian w/ Zambuto f/4.5 mirror, secondary heater, Starlight 2-speed focuser.

Purchased new in 2002 or 2003. It has seen light maybe 12-15 times. Needs collimation, mirrors may be a slight bit dusty - otherwise excellent condition. Last used at a River Bend Astronomy Club star party in March 2015.

Includes TeleVue visual ParaCorr, 2" 35mm Panoptic eyepiece, Desert Storm cover, Rigel QuickFinder. Asking \$2,000.

Contact Lynn Fee at [lynnfee09@gmail.com](mailto:lynnfee09@gmail.com) or 618-337-8135



7:07 AM  
08/13/15  
Accrual BasisSt. Louis Astronomical Society  
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual  
January through July 2015

	Jan - Jul 15	Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Events Income -Eclipse Workshop	90.00	0.00	90.00
Magazine Subscription	997.10	985.20	61.90
Membership Dues	2,575.00	1,990.00	585.00
Merchandise Sales			
General Merchandise***	239.48	0.00	239.48
Merchandise Sales - Other	150.00	0.00	150.00
<b>Total Merchandise Sales</b>	<b>389.48</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>389.48</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,051.58</b>	<b>2,925.20</b>	<b>1,126.38</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>			
Magazine Subscriptions	997.10	985.20	61.90
Merchandise			
General Merchandise***	135.35	0.00	135.35
Merchandise - Other	16.52	60.00	(43.48)
<b>Total Merchandise</b>	<b>151.87</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>91.87</b>
<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>1,148.97</b>	<b>995.20</b>	<b>153.77</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>2,902.61</b>	<b>1,930.00</b>	<b>972.61</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
1-Programs & Events	934.50	1,641.65	(707.15)
2-Newsletter	86.32	105.00	(18.68)
3-Library expense	184.95	150.00	34.95
4-Astronomical League Dues	690.00	650.00	40.00
5-Loaner Scopes*	1,027.24	1,100.00	(72.76)
7-Insurance	380.00	380.00	
8-Website	131.88	135.00	(3.12)
9-Administrative Expenses	510.29	681.33	(171.04)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>3,945.18</b>	<b>4,842.98</b>	<b>(897.80)</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(1,042.57)</b>	<b>(2,912.98)</b>	<b>1,870.41</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Other Income</b>			
Donations	1,600.05	0.00	1,600.05
Interest Income	29.01	58.00	(28.99)
LTP Receipts	10,975.00	0.00	10,975.00
Non-Operating Income**	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>15,104.06</b>	<b>58.00</b>	<b>15,046.06</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>			
Astro Mag Award Disbursements	1,473.45	0.00	1,473.45
LTP Disbursements	12,270.76	0.00	12,270.76
Non-operating Expense	203.69	0.00	203.69
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>13,947.90</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>13,947.90</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>1,156.16</b>	<b>58.00</b>	<b>1,098.16</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>113.59</b>	<b>(2,854.98)</b>	<b>2,968.57</b>

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

\*\* Non-operating Income includes a \$2,500 award from Astronomy Magazine. \$1,473.45 of the award proceeds have been spent to date, the remaining proceeds must be spent by April of 2016.

\*\*\* Tyson Raffle, net proceeds of \$104.13 available for Membership Initiatives.

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

	Dec 31, 14	Jul 31, 15
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Checking/Savings</b>		
Astronomy Magazine Award**	0.00	1,026.55
Checking - First Bank	5,161.12	3,589.64
Deposit, Certificate of	20,068.06	20,095.57
Library Telescope Escrow*	1,660.10	370.94
Merchandise Change Fund	20.00	20.00
PayPal	82.81	299.22
Savings - First Bank	3,359.27	5,360.77
Security Deposit	0.00	150.00
YMCA Trout Lodge Escrow	542.87	542.87
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>30,894.23</b>	<b>31,455.56</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>		
Inventory Asset	1,614.22	1,410.53
Undeposited Funds	261.95	0.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>1,876.17</b>	<b>1,410.53</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>32,770.40</b>	<b>32,866.09</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Accum Depr - Office Equip	(216.65)	(216.65)
Office Equipment	216.65	216.65
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>32,770.40</b>	<b>32,866.09</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	167.90	0.00
Security Deposits	0.00	150.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>167.90</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>167.90</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Opening Bal Equity	8,137.66	8,137.66
Retained Earnings	22,221.50	24,464.84
Net Income	2,243.34	113.59
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>32,602.50</b>	<b>32,716.09</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>32,770.40</b>	<b>32,866.09</b>

\* 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.

**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****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!**

## **SLAS EVENTS**

### **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*

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**

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**

9/4/2015      10/2/2015  
11/6/2015      12/4/2015

**YMCA Edward Jones Star Parties**  
9/7/2015      10/5/2015

21 Fri      SLAS regular meeting  
Solar Viewing Outreach  
24 Mon      St Charles Library Corporate  
25 Tues      Cliff Cave Library Star Party  
26 Wed      Star Party at Schlafly Branch St.  
Louis Public Library  
27 Thur      St. Charles Kisker Road Star Party  
27 Thur      Stargazing at the Gateway Arch

#### **September**

4 Fri      SLSC Public Telescope Viewing  
12 Sat      SLAS Star B Q  
SLAS Dark Sky Observing  
Francis Park  
16 Wed      SLAS regular meeting  
18 Fri      Stargazing Crestwood Park  
19 Sat      Edward Jones YMCA  
21 Mon      Library Telescope Volunteer  
22 Tue      Training  
23 Wed      University City Library Starparty  
23 Wed      St Charles Library Middendorf-  
Kredall Star Party  
27 Sun      Total Lunar Eclipse  
28 Mon      St Charles Library Spencer Road  
Star Party

#### **October**

2 Fri      SLSC Public Telescope Viewing  
8 Thur      SLAS board meeting  
10 Sat      Girl Scout Camp  
10 Sat      SLAS Dark Sky Observing

### **SLAS Merchandise:**

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

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

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



### **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 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**    *Jim Small*    314-307-0692  
 president at slasonline.org

**Vice President**    *Paul Baldwin*    314-781-4080  
 vicepresident at slasonline.org

**Secretary**    *Mark Jones*    636-394-2342  
 secretary at slasonline.org

**Treasurer**    *Bill Winningham, (Don Ficken - membership)*  
 treasurer at slasonline.org    636-225-0269

**Hospitality**    *Vacant effective Dec 31*  
 hospitality at slasonline.org

**Board Members at Large:**

*Tom Nickelson*    314-346-9565  
 board17 at slasonline.org

*Larry Campbell*    636-244-2867  
 board15 at slasonline.org

*Bradley Waller*    314-481-7250  
 board16 at slasonline.org

**ALCOR**    *Bill Winningham*    636-225-0269  
 (Astronomical League Correspondent )  
 treasurer at slasonline.org

**MSRAL Rep.**    *Jim Small*    314-909-7211  
 msral\_rep at astroleague.org

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Dark Site Coordinator**    *Mark Jones*    636-394-2342  
 darksite at slasonline.org

**Librarian**    *Jim Small*    314-909-7211  
 librarian at slasonline.org

**Library Telescope Program**    *Don Ficken*    636-851-9630  
 librarian telescope at slasonline.org

**Loaner Equipment**    *Greg Gaines*    314-277-3082  
 loaner at slasonline.org

**Merchandise**    *Vacant*  
 merchandise at slasonline.org

**Membership**    *Don Ficken*    636-225-0269  
 membership at slasonline.org

**Newsletter Editor**    *Jim Small*    314-909-7211  
 newsletter at slasonline.org

**Observing Programs**    *Jerry Loethen*    314-329-8008  
 observing at slasonline.org

**Publicity**    *Rich Heuermann*    314-962-9231  
 publicity at slasonline.org

**Recognition**    *Larry Campbell*    636-244-2867  
 recognition at slasonline.org

**'SLASdialogs' Moderator**    *Mark Jones, Rhonda Whelan*  
 dialogsmoderator at yahoo.com

**Star Party Coordinator**    *Mike Malolepszy*    314-781-4701  
 starparty at slasonline.org

**Telescope Making**    *Bill Davis, Jim Melka*    314-469-3061  
 telescope at slasonline.org

**Webmaster**    *Jim Small*    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>

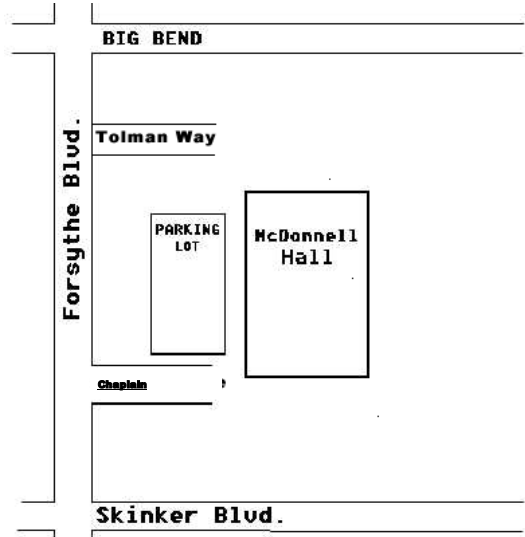


**Who We Are and What We Do**

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

