

THE EVENT HORIZON



ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

VOLUME 25, Issue 9
September, 2015

Total Eclipses Over St. Louis - One Lunar, One Solar

Astronomer-author-educator Chap Percival, will be featured at the September meeting of the St. Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at **7:30 PM Friday, September 18, in McDonnell Hall, Room 162, on the Washington University campus.**

Eclipses occur when the Sun, Earth, and Moon align. A total eclipse occurs when the alignment is nearly perfect. On September 27, the Moon will move into the Earth's shadow, and the total lunar eclipse will be visible from anywhere on the night side of the Earth, including Saint Louis. This will be the last total lunar eclipse visible here until January 21, 2019. On August 21, 2017, the Earth will move into the Moon's shadow, and a total solar eclipse

will occur. The last total solar eclipse visible from the Saint Louis area occurred in 1442. The Moon's shadow will be only about 100 miles wide as it sweeps across the United States from Oregon to South Carolina. Chap Percival will talk about both the lunar and the solar total eclipses. He will explain when they will occur and how to view them. He will also talk about safe ways to view the solar eclipse during its partial phases before and after the total solar eclipse.

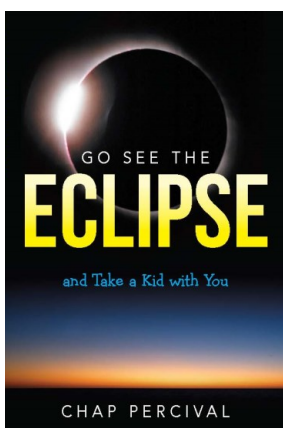
Chap Percival is a veteran astronomer and science educator, a former planetarium director, and an author. He earned a Masters degree in planetarium education from Michigan State University, and a Masters in Instructional Technology from the University of Virginia. His current book, "Go See the Eclipse" provides detailed information about the 2017 solar eclipse.

Mid States Region



Inside This Issue

President's Corner, Motions, Library expansion	2
Borg Collective, Library Volunteer Training	3
SLSC Volunteers	4
StarBQ	5
FOR SALE!	6
Board Minutes	7
Financials	9
Events	10
Contact	11



New Members Meeting 6:30 p.m. Friday, September 18 McDonnell Hall, Room 162

There will be a meeting for new members prior to the regular meeting beginning at 6:30 pm. The purpose is to help new members get started using SLAS resources and

getting to know each other and SLAS members. The meeting is open to anyone wanting to attend. A welcome packet will be passed out during the meeting and instruction for using Night Sky Network will be presented. People are urged to ask questions. We look forward to meeting you at the meeting! Contact Brad Waller to RSVP at 314-481-7250.

President's Corner by Jim Small

Everyone had a great time at the StarBQ Saturday, Sept 12. Good food, good quiz, good observing that night at the monument area with some good instruction for finding constellations for new members and some good viewing with my new planet killer 100mm f11 refractor. Numbers weren't quite as high as usual due to conflicts. We will try to fix that for next year.

We have three vacant positions: Brian Mills resigned as board member at large (through 2018), Mike Malolepszy resigned as star party coordinator and merchandise is still vacant. Please volunteer if you are interested!

Saturday the 19th is an important day for SLAS outreach. We have Astronomy Day at the Planetarium, a telescope build and Crestwood park that night. Please try to make it if possible! We also have two NEW venues for a star party

next Friday, September 25th. One of them is the coffee house in Francis Park (I KNOW! There's a coffee house there???) and the other is the St. Louis Art Museum for their Friday night event a bit like the SLSC. Please sign up so we have good representation for these first-time events. Don't forget to RSVP on Night Sky Network so we know you are coming. We'll see you at an outreach event near you!

SLAS Auction Nets \$231. Proceeds to be Used to Purchase Video Camera VOTE TO BE TAKEN

The following motion was made regarding the proceeds from the SLAS auction: **Motion by Mark Jones: "Proceeds from the auction, not to exceed \$250, to be used to purchase camcorder for recording meetings" second Larry Campbell. Motion passed and will be presented to membership for approval.**

MSRAL 2016 to be Held June 3-5 in Columbia, MO. VOTE TO BE TAKEN

After a meeting September 4 in Columbia, MO between Cook Feldman, Carroll Iorg, Angela Speck and Jim Small, it was decided that SLAS and ASKC will cohost MSRAL 2016 on June 3-5 in Columbia, MO. The meeting will be hosted by the Physics Department of UMC with Angela Speck as the liaison. To that effect, the SLAS board passed a motion to be brought to the members at the September meeting to deal with the financials for hosting the meeting.

The motion reads as follows:

Motion by Jim Small: "SLAS will provide \$1000 seed money for the 2016 MSRAL Convention to be held in Columbia, MO June 3-5, 2016. ASKC will also provide \$1000. Any profits from the convention will be distributed as follows: 50% to the region, 25% to ASKC, 25% to SLAS. The MSRAL account will be opened at Commerce Bank to enable easy coordination with ASKC. Cook Feldman will be treasurer for the account." Seconded by Brad Waller. Motion passed by Board to be presented to membership for approval.

We are looking forward to your support for this motion at the meeting. If you have questions, please ask Jim Small.

SLAS Library Telescope Program Expands into Edwardsville and Collinsville

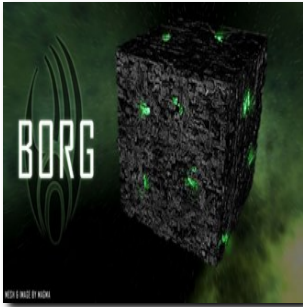
Effective October 1st, SLAS will be expanding its Library Telescope Program into Edwardsville and Collinsville Illinois with five more library telescopes. Of the five new telescopes being added, three telescopes will be added to the Edwardsville Public Library and two telescopes added to the Mississippi Valley Library District in Collinsville. The Friends of the Edwardsville Public Library funded the purchase of the three telescopes for Edwardsville Public Library with Mississippi Valley Library District directly funding the purchase of their telescope.

The addition of the five library telescopes will raise the count of library telescopes in the St. Louis regional area to 57 telescopes. Our initial deployment of SLAS Library Telescopes was in November 2014. In less than one year, we have expanded our program to be one of the biggest in the country making this a remarkable story for our society.

More importantly the demand for the telescopes by the patrons has been high. The typical library branch has 30 people on the waiting list to checkout a telescope. One library in St. Louis County (Tesson Ferry) reports a waiting list of 90. The cumulative waiting list of all libraries currently in the St. Louis area program is nearly 1,000.

A key to the success of the library telescope program successful is making sure proper support is in place. The program's expansion into Edwardsville and Collinsville will be supported by SLAS members and also by Tom Foster, Professor of Physics at SIUE, and a team of his current and former students. Support includes upgrading the telescopes to be more patron friendly, providing the libraries with ongoing telescope maintenance and conducting library staff training and ongoing star party support.

A special "build" of the six library telescopes will be conducted at the campus of SIUE on Saturday, September 22nd. While a few SLAS members will be lending a hand, the primary source of volunteers will be from SIUE.



Greetings from the Borg Collective!

Ever wonder how SLAS got Mike Clements to speak to us for our August 2015 Meeting? Well, it all began during the April 2015 Board Meeting when Jim

Small made a comment about that there was another SLAS -Salt Lake Astronomical Society. The Collective thought it would be a good idea to assimilate this SLAS into the fold. The original plan was to develop a "Sister City" Program with them. It still is. We made contact with their President, Joan Carman. SLAS-Utah meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the Month. Through our conversation, we made a comment about a gentleman who made a 70" telescope and how great it would be to meet him or have him as a guest lecture. Joan then made this statement: "Oh, you mean Mike Clements! He comes to our meetings; his is a member of SLAS-Utah!" This made the Borg very happy and made us break out in our Happy Assimilation Dance. We asked Joan if the next time she meets Mike, could she pass on our contact info? If you do not see this next line coming, you need to get into **FULL Star Trek mode J**

"**FIRST CONTACT**" was made in May. After a day of assimilation, we returned to the hive to find a message on the Comms Unit. It was a message from Mike. After again breaking out in our Happy Assimilation Dance, we opened a Hailing Frequency with Mike that night. Since there is NO QUEEN to rule this Cube, we talked for nearly 1.5 hours! You must be warned, Mike loves to talk, so, if you call be ready to talk!! Those 1.5 hours went by as if were 30 minutes! Mike said he would love to talk about his Telescope, but, there was a problem. His travels

sent him in the other direction, Salt Lake City to OREGON! We then came up with the idea of Skyping. Believe it or not, a man with a 70" Telescope was unfamiliar with Skype and he did not have a computer or e-mail! His phone, FLIP-PHONE!!! He is a full believer in talking! The best time to call is, 1800-2100 CDT when he is on the road. It is a great time to talk to him with the occasional missing Cell tower dropping the call.

So, before talking to Joan Carmen if she could help Mike with Skyping his presentation, we asked Jim Small if Wash U was capable of a Skype Lecture. Jim said they were. We then asked Joan if she would help Mike with this. Well, you saw the lecture. Both Joan and Jim earned a well-deserved

BRAVO-ZULU!!

If you like the idea of Skype Meetings please let us know. This is a great way to get Lecturers who would be unable to get to St Louis. Even in the glow of Mike's FABULOUS presentation, **THAT NIGHT**, there was talk of, do not expect this to happen very often. The Borg are not campaigning for every meeting to be Skyped, maybe 1 or 2 meetings a year on subjects where the Presenter is unable to get to St Louis. If you like the Skype option please let your voice be heard. If you do not speak up, those who hate using this option will win out and a world of great Lectures will be closed to SLAS.

One last item: Viewing. Mike is an Over-the-Trucker. The only day he can guarantee viewing is Sunday. He gets back in on Saturday, and, depending on how fast he secures his truck and completes paperwork, Saturday is iffy. This makes Sunday his day of viewing. If you are curious about Winter viewing, Mike loves it!!! Winter does not deter him. The skies are bright and clear (if you do not mind the ever so chilly Utah Winter night J) Mike has given The Collective permission to give out his phone Number. If you want it, please feel free to contact The Collective: 314-481-7250

Library Telescope Program Volunteer Training Tuesday, September 22nd

by Don Ficken

Whether you are an experienced volunteer in the SLAS Library Telescope program or someone with little experience and wanting to get involved, we have a two hour volunteer training event designed just for you.

On September 22nd from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the Thornhill Branch of St. Louis County Library, a training program has been scheduled designed to improve the skills

of experienced trainers and recruit new volunteers to provide support. Attendees will benefit from presentations by experienced trainers, best practice sharing and hands-on operation of telescopes.

Several new SLAS members along with volunteers from our expansion into Edwardsville and Collinsville are expected to attend, so it will be a good chance to meet new people. We hope that you will enjoy us for this evening of fun, learning and socializing.

Please RSVP on Night Sky Network if you can attend. You can email Don Ficken at librarytelescope@slasonline.org or call him directly at (314) 550-7191.



Greetings from the Borg Collective Part III!

Ever since the GREAT Success of the Dr Neil degrasse Tyson Raffle, the Collective has been looking for new ways to reward the SLAS Collective. We are here to announce our next event. What is it???? It is an Attendance Prize! It will be done roughly quarterly, maybe 2-4 times a year. The way it will work is, at each meeting, you will be a raffle ticket. One ticket a month. The more meetings you attend, the better your odds. This quarter-ish (Sept-Dec 2015) prize will be a signed copy (hopefully, if we were one of the first 500 to purchase his album) of Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield's CD, "SPACE SESSIONS: Songs From A Tin Can." He wrote and recorded some of them while in Command of Expedition 35 (18 Nov 2012-15 March 2013) on board the ISS. The drawing will be in December. Since this is an ATTENDANCE prize, you do need to be there for the drawing Sorry.... We cannot have the winner of an Attendance Prize win by not being there J

Saint Louis Science Center Volunteer Program

by

Cook Feldman

To preface this short article, I have been, more or less, coordinating the monthly Public Telescope Viewing for a number year and have acted as one of the liaisons between SLAS and the SLSC. I would like to thank those members who have taken the time out of their busy schedules to help out regardless of whether they have telescopes or not. This not only pertains to the monthly telescope viewing, but also special events. Some of these events include Astronomy Day, Venus Transit, Solar Viewing programs and eclipses.

On August 27, I met with representatives from the St. Louis Science Center to discuss the volunteer program. The crux of the meeting was to discuss a couple of requests by the SLSC and to discuss a couple of items relating to the volunteer recognition program.

A request was made by the SLSC to encourage all of the SLAS members who volunteer at the monthly public telescope viewing and other co-sponsored events to complete the "Volunteer Application" at <http://www.slsc.org/volunteer.application>

[volunteer-application](#). This is not a new request, but one that we have been remiss in asking our members to complete.

The purpose of completing this application is to allow the SLSC to do a background check. While some members may choose not to complete this application, it is for the protection of the individual SLAS volunteer, SLAS as an organization and the SLSC. In addition to this request, since children are part of the community we service, we have been asked to view a short video on child protection. These requests are not unreasonable and most volunteer organizations have similar requirements.

The director of the volunteer program has been asked to forward a list of the SLAS volunteer who have completed the "Volunteer Application" process. We encourage our membership to complete this application. The list maintained by the SLSC will be used to cross reference our volunteers along with the volunteer hours in determining who are eligible to participate in the recognition program. Cur-

**Members should
complete the
"Volunteer Application"
at
[http://www.slsc.org/
volunteer.application](http://www.slsc.org/volunteer.application)**

rently volunteers receive a complimentary general membership to the SLSC (a \$50 value), annual recognition dinner and this past year a light weight logo jacket (which have finally arrived). In addition, those listed members will soon be able to upgrade their membership to Family & Friends (which is an \$85 value) for half price. SLAS volunteers who choose not complete the volunteer application can still participate in the co-sponsored events but will not be eligible the memberships or benefits that are available.

I also requested a copy of the policy which I have now received. Once I review this documentation (all 170 pages), I will extract the sections that pertain to SLAS volunteers. We will then be able to make this available to our membership via email and/or SLAS Dialogs. Once our members have read the applicable sections, an acknowledgement may be requested. Again, this is the SLSC general policy, and conforms with requests made by various other volunteer organizations and many employers.

WHAT!! Another Message from the Borg Collective??



WOW! Three messages from the Collective in one newsletter! At the September 2015 SLAS Board meeting, 10 Sept 2015, a Motion was passed changing a requirement for the Library Telescope Loaner Program (LTLP). The old requirement for a \$75.00 deposit in order to check-out one of the LTLP

scopes no longer exists. As a matter of fact, there is “NO” deposit required for checking out one of the LTLP Scopes. You will still need to have a photo copy of your Driver’s License and complete a Check-Out sheet to check out a scope. This change was done to encourage new and possibly not so new SLAS Members to check out one of the new LTLP scopes. This Policy change “Only” affects the LTLP scopes.

Is That Really the Right Answer?

By: John Beaury
September 13, 2015

Well, another great Star-B-Q is behind us. The 2015 Star-B-Q was held on Saturday, September 12 th in the Cochran Shelter of Babler State Park. The food was great, the weather was great, and the attending members (and a few non-members) were great company. **Thanks to Mark Jones for a great job in organizing the event.** If you were unable to attend I am truly sorry. You missed out on a fun event and a good opportunity to socialize with other members of SLAS. I hope we get to see you at next year’s event or sooner.

After enjoying a happy meal of well-prepared brain food we collectively sat down to this year’s annual Quiz. The Quiz contained fifty multiple-choice questions on astronomy,

space, and the St. Louis Astronomical Society and Astronomical League activities. The Quiz attempted to cover as broad a range of astronomy and society related topics as practical to truly test the knowledge of the participants. The Quiz was not limited to theoretical textbook astronomy; rather its focus was real world astronomy. That made it a better filter of those who really know their stuff. Hopefully it can serve as a guide for additional study for those who did not get all the answers right.

The goal for each participant was to achieve the highest possible score of correct answers for the opportunity to select from a variety of prizes set out for the occasion. The First Place Prize Winner (highest score) earned the privilege of being first to select a prize of their choice. The Second Place Prize Winner then selected from the remaining prizes and so on, in turn, for the remaining prize winners, until all prizes had been claimed.

Prizes up for grabs in this quiz included books, toys, observing aids and equipment. Prize winners could select from a couple of 1-1/4” Zoom Eyepieces for telescopes, a couple of coffee table style, glossy photo star atlases, some books on cosmology and astronomy, a planisphere, a Moon map, a pair of red light flashlights, and a Star Wars battery operated action toy.

Following completion of the Quiz questions each participant passed their Quiz to another participant to score for correct answers. The Quiz Master (that would be me this year), then read out the answers for each of the Quiz questions to the group. Prize winners were determined after the scoring.

There were approximately 27 contestants for quiz prizes. Fourteen people of this group won a prize.

Prize Winners this year, in order of scores (highest to lowest) are as follows: Richard Heuermann, Mark Jones, Rick Menendez, Tom Keutzer, Jim Small, Larry Campbell, Bruce Logan, Paul Baldwin, Rhonda Whelan, Roy Lieberman, Alex Salois (g), James Finklang (g), Dylan Salois (g), and Alan Sadia. (“g” identifies non-member guests of SLAS to the Star-B-Q event.)

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Quiz. We had lots of fun discussions about the answers to the many questions. To those who did not do well enough to win a prize sorry, but please come back next year for another attempt, it could be your year.

Congratulations and hats off to those that did well enough to win a prize. Keep adding to your knowledge base for next year’s contest.

--- END ---

FOR SALE:

8" Hardin Optical Deep Space Hunter, plus extras

\$400 OBO for Everything!
(selling as entire package only)

TELESCOPE:

Hardin Optical Deep Space Hunter 8-inch Dobsonian
Manuals/documentation included
Purchased new in 2003 – One Owner

Eyepieces (all 1.25-inch, but telescope can also accept 2-inch)

Astrola Plossl 9mm and 25mm (came with telescope)
Scopetronix Plossl 15mm
Celestron 2x Barlow

Filters

Scopetronix Basic Color Filter Set – Yellow/Green/Blue/Red
Lunar Filter

ViewFinders

Rigel QuickFinder (includes extra mount and tape w/ instructions)
8x50 Finder Scope

Collimators Tectron Sight Tube AND Tectron Cheshire Eyepiece. Includes detailed collimation instructions printed from web

Extras!

Additional 9mm Plossl (has minor flaw – replaced by company with eyepiece noted above)
Eyepiece cases (plastic foam-ended cases)
Rigel Infralite LED w/ lanyard
Aluminum Case w/ foam inserts

Additional Information

SORRY, I WILL NOT SHIP! Will travel within St. Louis/St. Charles/Jeffco/Metro-East area to transfer to purchaser. Transaction will occur in a mutually agreed upon public location (for example, police department parking lot). Cash or money order accepted. No personal checks.

Email queries to Ted at gk4239@hotmail.com, with "Deep Space Hunter" in the subject line. I hope this scope finds a new owner that has more time to use it than I have. I had fun with it when I had the time, and I'm sure you will too!

THE EVENT

Three Plossl eyepieces (9mm, 15mm, 25mm seen top left);
Barlow 2x eyepiece (middle);
extra 9mm (above Barlow);
Tectron collimation set (top right);
Lunar filter (below collimation tools);
4 color filter set; (in bag, lower center)
Rigel Infralite (in bag, lower center)



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 or 618-337-8135



SLAS Executive Board Meeting July 9, 2015

1. Opening Activities: Meeting opened at 7:03pm Attendees: Bradley Waller, Bill Winningham, Paul Baldwin, Mark Jones, and Brian Mills June minutes sent out before the meeting. Corrections made. Brad motion seconded by Bill

2. External Business Jim at ALCON, Las Cruces, NM. Eclipse committee is doing well. The eclipse workshop, targeting city planners is now planned for October 9. St. Louis Science Center will host the event. Agenda and speaker list is in work. Last month Board voted to fund up to \$1000 to seed expenses that will be paid back from registration fees charged for the workshop. **Next board meeting:** 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 plan to increase our base membership significantly during the course of the year. Brian Mills to contact Don Ficken and Bill Biermann about member training for attracting new members **2. Retain members – We need plans to retain members that join beyond one year.** New Member survey need to send out to new members joined since July 2014. Mark Jones took action to send out. Suggestion made to send Rich Heuermann's monthly Press Releases out to all members via Night Sky Network. Will verify with Rich we can broadcast and Bill Winningham has volunteered to send broadcast for July **3. Get members involved – Ideas were discussed how to appeal to members** Promote our dark sky sessions Need to offer balance rather than too much Outreach emphasis More diverse A101

Vice President –Paul Baldwin: Due to construction in main lecture hall, the July meeting will be upstairs in room 361 or 362 We can still have refreshments. Larry and Sharon are in charge. Paul will print up signs to post on stairs and elevator.

Speakers July – Dr. Pamela Gay, What Makes a Planet a Planet? August – Best time to call is 7-9 central time: Mike Clements, Skype – 70" Homemade Scope, September - Chap Percival October – Kari Wojkowski, Illinois, Pluto Astro 101: Topic: suggestions: ALCON report (4 new observing programs) July – Trip to Corning Glassworks- Bill and Ben Winningham Aug - Auction Sep – Disabled Scope - Tom Nickleson Oct – Space Aps for your iwatch or iphone-Brian Mills Nov- Bring your telescope

Secretary – Mark Jones We are planning for an August SLAS Auction. Items are in the June newsletter **Motion by Mark Jones** "Proceeds from the auction, not to exceed \$250, to be used to purchase camcorder for recording meetings", motion tabled until next month.

Treasurer/ALCor – Bill Winningham Monthly financials sent out before the meeting LTP escrow account has increased due to eyepiece kits being sold Net Income is almost \$3000 more than budgeted. AL dues were paid this month, \$5/member + \$10 club fee

Hospitality – Larry Campbell Report sent prior to meeting. Larry looked into the pins available from PinMart and personally likes the idea of having custom SLAS pins made. See this link:

<http://www.pinmart.com/custom-lapel-pins/custom-soft-enamel-lapel-pins.aspx> Larry has not discussed this with any of the committee members yet. Also, SLAS has a bag of 10 generic "STAR Performer" pins. Larry would like suggestions for their use. Larry has two maps for the "New Member Packet" ready for review.

Board member at large reports

Brad Waller: (2016) Brad will research whether SLAS as a club can join the planetary society or if memberships are only for individuals. Library Telescope Loaner Program: 15 responses for the LTP naming contest. Voting ends on July 14th the Pluto encounter. Mark J will send reminder via NSN to vote for LTP names Repeat an-

nouncement in July newsletter One LTP has been checked by a member. This scope has been named "Enterprise" Brad asked - Should we reduce the \$75 checkout fee for the LPT? There was discussion and Brad and Paul work on drafting a motion.

Tom Nickelson: (2017) No report

Suggestions for new member welcome packet. Input desired.

NSN guide including RSVP's	Small
Loaner telescope and list	Jones (posted on SLASDialogs)
Dialogs	Jones
Newsletter	Small
Maps	Campbell (ready for review)
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

Brian Mills (2018) Brian will work with Don for Membership

4. Committee Reports: If needed

Library Telescope Program: 1st wave of star parties completed. Be sure to keep up with need for volunteers for upcoming events.

Membership – June 30, 2015 membership report: On June 30, 2015, we had 155 members which was nine members above the 146 members reported for the comparable month last year. The higher membership was caused by more members being added this year (23 new members added for the first six months of 2015 vs. 17 new members added through first six months of last year) and a better retention rate (15 members lost during the first six months of 2015 vs. 22 members lost through the first six months of last year). Our updated retention analysis shows that we have retained only 13 members from the 39 members that joined in 2013 (33% retention rate). Of the 44 members that joined in 2012, only 8 remain as members (18% retention rate). Our updated roster was sent to ALCOR on June 26. Our roster showed 129 members.

Idea 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. Therefore 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. Already implemented - Make eyepiece combos available for nominal cost: 2 eyepieces, collimating eyepiece, cover

e. Attendance prizes for attendance every quarter. Brad will work on this for next quarter.

Merchandise – Jim Small contact Johnny Mac's to see how logos are doing and get details about setting up shirts. JM will make available shirts online we can order (we can choose from catalogs, etc) Cost will be about \$40 for setup. They will provide a sew-out for a sample. We can order sew-on patches, but they are usually done in batches with a minimum of 50. Might be doable if we can take advance orders.

Telescope Making – no report submitted

Librarian – no new items. Talk from ALCON about putting reflectors on DVD, need for back issues

Newsletter – We need articles about stuff that SLAS is involved with. Jim Small can't write everything. Especially useful, are pictures.

Website – www.slasonline.org/joomla

Night Sky Network – NSN is back up and running very smooth now. No issues with emails, no issues with the site itself. We NEED a plan to respond to folks who request star parties. We should coordinate who does the response OR who delegates the person who does the response.

SLASdialogs – no report

Dark Site – Next event on July 11

Publicity – release sent

Observing Programs – Jerry Loethen new coordinator – 4 new observing programs added

Star Parties: Plaque for MM, will try to award at this meeting. Upcoming Star Parties are as follows:

Event Name	Start Date	RSVPs	Club Members Needed
Downtown Kirkwood Star Party Yes, 0 Probably 3	2015-07-16 8:30 PM	2	2
Edward Jones Family YMCA Yes, 0 Probably 3	2015-07-20 8:00 PM	2	2
Belleville Library Star Party Yes, 0 Probably 3	2015-07-21 8:00 PM	2	2
Francis Park Stargazing Yes, 0 Probably 3	2015-07-22 7:00 PM	2	2
Stargazing at the Gateway Arch Yes, 0 Probably 5	2015-07-23 8:30 PM	2	2
St. Charles McClay Star Party Yes, 0 Probably 4	2015-07-23 7:30 PM	0	0
Babler Night Sky Program Yes, 0 Probably 4	2015-07-23 7:00 PM	0	0
Collinsville Library Star Party Yes, 0 Probably 3	2015-07-24 9:30 PM	2	2
University City Library Star Party Yes, 0 Probably 0	2015-07-29 7:30 PM	1	1
St. Charles Deer Run Star Party Yes, 0 Probably 3	2015-07-29 7:30 PM	0	0
Rock Hill Library Star Party Yes, 0 Probably 3	2015-07-31 7:00 PM	2	2

5. Old Business none

6. New Business none

7. Closing Activities Motion made by Brad to adjourn, seconded by Brian. Meeting adjourned at 9:18pm

SLAS Executive Board Meeting

August 13, 2015

Minutes - no quorum

1. Opening Activities: Attendees: Paul Baldwin, Brad Waller, Tom Nickelson and Bill Winningham. Short of the required 5 for a quorum, so no votes were taken.

2. External Business Jim at Birds in Concert. Someone please take notes for the minutes. Use the agenda for a template.

Next board meeting: Sept 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10

3. Director Reports:

President: not present

Vice President –Paul Baldwin: Skype is set up for the mee-

ing. Will use Jim's Laptop for skype, Rich Heuermann will bring a projector set-up to show the slides on the other screen at the same time. Should work very well. Just have to test to make sure we can hear questions. Mike likes responding to questions during a talk.

August – Best time to call is 7-9 central time: Mike Clements, Skype – 70" Homemade Scope. Auction after speaker. Note that a description of auction items is need for the newsletter. The new member meeting will at 6:30 before this month's general meeting. Bill will provide Brad with a list of new members since January 1. Brad will attempt to contact new members prior to the general meeting.

September - Chap Percival

October – Kari Wojkowski, Illinois, Pluto

Are there any additional speakers set up?

Astro 101: Topic: for August: Astro 101 for August will consist of the auction and a short version of Brads space update. If needed Brad will be prepared for a somewhat longer update version. Jim also mentioned that he could talk about ALCON if needed.

Secretary – Mark Jones on vacation

Treasurer/ALCor – Reports provided before meeting

Hospitality – Larry Campbell not present

Board member at large reports

Brad Waller: (2016) Brad mentioned to possibility of purchasing a couple of CD's for attendance prizes (about \$40 in total). The members in the meeting were in agreement that Brad has the digression to make small purchases like this out of the membership initiative budget.

The following is a link to the cd he is considering www.space.com/30241-astronaut-chris-hadfield-space-sessions-album.html

Contact Brad is you have any questions regarding the cd.

Tom Nickelson: (2017)

Brian Mills (2018) not present

4. Committee Reports: If needed

Loaner Equipment –

We continued a discussion regarding the security deposit requirements for the LTP loaner scopes. The issue was tabled until the next board meeting.

Publicity – release sent

Star Parties

5. Old Business

6. New Business

7. Closing

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

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

	<u>Dec 31, 14</u>	<u>Aug 31, 15</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Astronomy Magazine Award**	0.00	743.53
Checking - First Bank	5,161.12	4,185.37
Deposit, Certificate of	20,068.06	20,095.57
Library Telescope Escrow*	1,660.10	390.94
Merchandise Change Fund	20.00	20.00
PayPal	82.81	419.64
Savings - First Bank	3,359.27	5,361.00
Security Deposit	0.00	75.00
SLAS Eclipse Conference Escrow***	0.00	1,464.25
YMCA Trout Lodge Escrow	542.87	542.87
Total Checking/Savings	30,894.23	33,298.17
Other Current Assets		
Inventory Asset	1,614.22	1,410.53
Undeposited Funds	261.95	75.00
Total Other Current Assets	1,876.17	1,485.53
Total Current Assets	32,770.40	34,783.70
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	<u>32,770.40</u>	<u>34,783.70</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	167.90	0.00
Other Current Liabilities	0.00	75.00
Total Current Liabilities	167.90	75.00
Total Liabilities	167.90	75.00
Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	8,137.66	8,137.66
Retained Earnings	22,221.50	24,464.84
Net Income	2,243.34	2,106.20
Total Equity	32,602.50	34,708.70
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>32,770.40</u>	<u>34,783.70</u>

	<u>Jan - Aug 15</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Events Income****	1,828.96	0.00	1,828.96
Magazine Subscription	1,231.93	1,102.05	129.90
Membership Dues	2,940.00	2,285.00	655.00
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	6,390.39	3,387.05	3,003.34
Cost of Goods Sold			
Magazine Subscriptions	1,165.00	1,102.05	62.95
Merchandise			
General Merchandise***	135.35	0.00	135.35
Merchandise - Other	16.52	60.00	(43.48)
Total Merchandise	151.87	60.00	91.87
Total COGS	1,316.87	1,162.05	154.82
Gross Profit	5,073.52	2,225.00	2,848.52
Expense			
Programs & Events	1,029.07	1,908.32	(879.25)
Newsletter	86.32	120.00	(33.68)
Library expense	184.95	100.00	34.95
Astronomical League Dues	690.00	650.00	40.00
Loaner Scopes*	1,027.24	1,100.00	(72.76)
Insurance	380.00	380.00	
Website	131.88	135.00	(3.12)
Administrative Expenses	669.44	778.66	(109.22)
Total Expense	4,198.90	5,221.98	(1,023.08)
Net Ordinary Income	874.62	(2,996.98)	3,871.60
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Donations	1,850.05	0.00	1,850.05
Interest Income	29.24	66.00	(36.76)
LTP Receipts	11,283.21	0.00	11,283.21
Non-Operating Income**	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
Total Other Income	15,462.50	66.00	15,396.50
Other Expense			
Astro Mag Award Disbursements	1,796.47	0.00	1,796.47
LTP Disbursements	12,270.78	0.00	12,270.78
Non-operating Expense	203.69	0.00	203.69
Total Other Expense	14,230.92	0.00	14,230.92
Net Other Income	1,231.58	66.00	1,165.58
Net Income	<u>2,106.20</u>	<u>(2,930.98)</u>	<u>5,037.18</u>

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

** Non-operating Income includes a \$2,500 award from Astronomy Magazine. \$1,756.47 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.

**** Events Income includes \$231 of SLAS telescope auction net profit and \$1,484.25 in SLAS Eclipse Conference fees and donations. The auction proceeds are to be used for the purchase of a video camera for recording General Meetings.

* 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.

*** Registration fees and donations for SLAS sponsored eclipse seminars

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!

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*

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
9/21/2015 10/19/2015

SLAS EVENTS

September

18 Fri SLAS regular meeting
19 Sat Astronomy Day - SLSC
19 Sat Library Telescope Build
19 Sat Stargazing Crestwood Park
21 Mon Edward Jones YMCA
22 Tue Library Telescope Volunteer Training
22 Tue Nazareth Living Center
23 Wed University City Library Starparty
23 Wed St Charles Library Middendorf-Kredall Star Party
25 Fri Coffee and Constellations
25 Fri St Louis Art Museum
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
12 Mon Jeffco Staff Training
13 Tue Star Party at Julia Davis Library
16 Fri SLAS regular meeting
19 Mon Edward Jones YMCA
20 Tue SLCL Headquarters
20 Tue St. Chas Library McClay
21 Wed Francis Park
22 Thur Florissant Valley Library
22 Thur St Chas Deer Run Library
22 Thur 6th Grade Camp Babler Outdoor Ed
23 Fri Faith Academy
23 Fri Webster Groves Library
26 Mon Richmond Heights Library
26 Mon St Chas Library Kathryn Linn

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 is also 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>	636-225-0269
treasurer at slasonline.org		
Hospitality	<i>Larry Campbell</i>	636-244-2867
hospitality at slasonline.org		
Board Members at Large:		
	<i>vacant</i>	
Board18 at slasonline.org		
	<i>Tom Nickelson</i>	314-346-9565
board17 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 slasonline.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>Vacant</i>	
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>

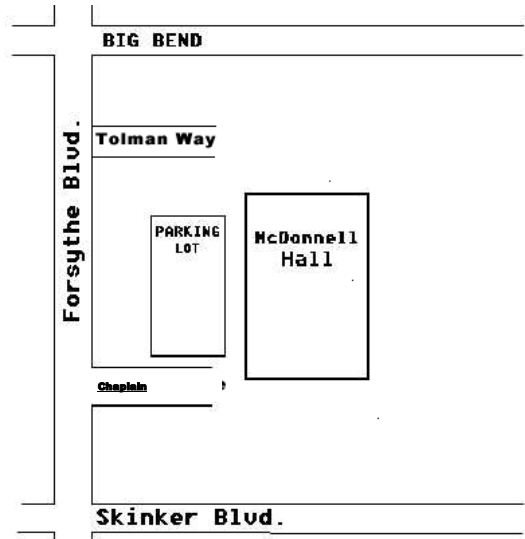


Who We Are and What We Do

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

