THE EVENT HORIZON





ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

VOLUME 30, Issue 9 September, 2020

Water, Water, Everywhere: From the Study of Meteorites to the Origin of Earth's Water

by

Dr. Lionel Vacher Washington University

Dr. Lionel Vacher of Washington University will be featured at the September meeting of the Saint Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will be held via Zoom online conference only, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The meeting and lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 18. Zoom access information is posted below.

Over 70% of the Earth's surface is covered with water, to an average ocean depth of almost 2.5 miles. Where did all that water come from? The origin of Earth's oceans is a major topic of modern planetary science research. Most theories about the formation of the Earth propose that our planet formed too close to the Sun to retain large quantities

of water. Dr. Vacher will explain the leading theories for the original source of Earth's water, and indicate how his own studies of certain types of meteorites may provide some answers to water questions.

Dr. Lionel Vacher is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Physics at Washington University. His primary research interests include "primitive" meteorites, the origin of water in the solar system, the effects of water on meteorite chemistry, and hydrothermal experiments.

Upcoming Meetings!

October Marco Cavaglia, PhD Gravitational Waves Part II University of Missouri: S & T November-Brett McGuire, PhD Mirror Asymmetry in Life and in Space NRAO-WVa December- Maura McLaughlin, PhD Still Thinking About a Topic! University of West Virginia

January- Robert Criss, PhD Galactic Rotation & Dark Matter Washington University
February- Raymond E Arvidson, PhD
MARS!!! Washington University
March- K Michael Malolepszy Probing the Sub
-Microwave Universe Part III SLAS

Watch SLASdialogs and the newsletter between now and October for sales of telescopes nicely suited either for projects or ready-to-go mint telescopes. Great bargains will be for sale!

Inside This Issue

President's Corner

Photo Gallery	
Comet Neowise	3
Board minutes	4
Financials	5
Events	6
Contacts	7

Joining a Zoom Conference Meeting: Everyone can join!

Joining us for a Zoom Conference is easy! All you need is any of the following: Computer, desktop or laptop, smartphone, **OR** any regular phone! The meeting will be open from 6:30-11pm. The extra time is to allow socializing before or after the meeting

Below is the invitation to join:

To join Zoom Meeting for SLAS Regular Meeting with computer or smartphone:

Just click the link below:

https://zoom.us/j/8604505790

Meeting ID: 860 450 5790

Dial by phone using your location (any phone will work)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 860 450 5790

If you need help joining the meeting, don't hesitate to call Jim Small at 314-307-0692!!

(ps: the link for the meeting is the same each month so far. If there continue to be no problems)

President's Corner by Jim Small

The SLAS Regular meeting for September will be via Zoom conference only. This month features Lionel Vacher to speak to us about the origin of water in the solar system! To join the meeting, see the article on the front page for instructions and a link. We have been having good attendance at the meetings. We certainly hope to see you then!

We will also continue holding SLAS Board meetings via Zoom conference. The link for the board meetings on the First Thursday of the month is the same as the link for the regular meetings.

Nominations for the Special Awards program have been completed and we will hold the presentation ceremony at either the October or November meeting. Thanks to all who submitted a nomination form. Look for the process to be continued next year. Thanks to Larry Campbell and his committee for getting the work completed for this great recognition program. Thanks to Mark Jones for all the hard work developing the awards. If you have ideas for the plaques to be awarded for these programs, that would be terrific to pass on to Larry Campbell.

We will have an update at this months meeting for the Jefferson College Observatory and the progress being made on that front.

On the loaner scope front, Mark Jones and I unboxed bothe the Meade 10" LX200 GPS ACF that was donated to us and cataloged the scope and the equipment that came with it. We also unboxed the Meade LX55 10" SCT that was donated and cataloged that as well,

We have been getting a number of donated telescopes and currently have a surplus. As a result, we will be selling the following telescopes:

- -The Meade LX55 10" SCT
- -a mint Orion 6" Newtonian with equatorial mount with original box
- -a Tasco 4.5" Newtonian f8 with equatorial mount with original box. It was actually purchased in Japan!
- -a Meade Jupiter 4.5" Newtonian f8 with digital electronic goto alt az mount with the original box

I will also be selling telescopes donated by East Central College which includes a wide range of telescopes including a Criterion 6" long focal length with mount, and two other telescopes. We also have misc telescope boxes both large and small, two of them Unitron parts. There are other parts for sale as well including finderscopes and other Unitron parts. Proceeds for those materials will go to purchase equipment for the astronomy program at ECC.

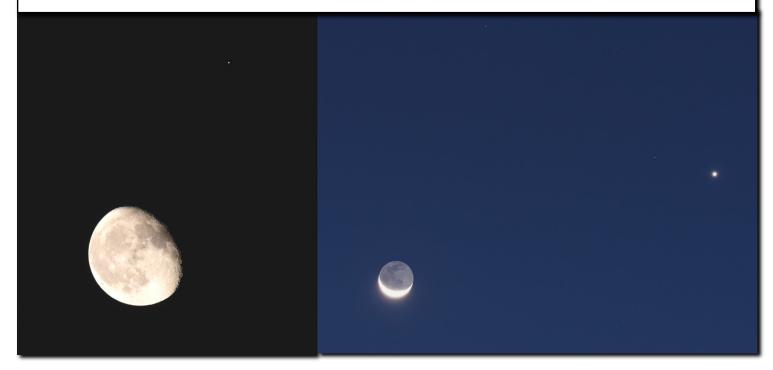
More info and photos soon!

Hope to see you at the meeting Friday night! Until then, clear skies!

JimSmall

The Moon and Planets!

The Moon has been hanging out with the planets lately and we've been blessed with some nice views. On the left is the Moon with Mars in the upper left. On the right is the Moon with Venus and if you look closely above Venus, you can find the Beehive cluster! The Beehive would show up better, but its hard so close to sunrise. Both shots were tough to expose for the Moon and the planet. Both were shot with a Nikon D750 and Tamron 150-600 zoom lens. The Moon and Mars was shot at 1/250s at f10 at 800 ISO. The Moon and Venus was shot at 1 sec at f6.3 at 1600 ISO.



Two images of the fabulous comet Neowise shot by Jim Melka last July. Jim determined that the comet faded 5 magnitudes, from 1st mag to 6th mag in 12 days. The July 13th image was obtained at a parking lot at Maryville University. The July 25th image was obtained at Brommelsiek Park in St. Charles County.

Do You Dabble in Astrophotography?

Even better, do you do more than dabble? The EFL 270mm on fixed tripod, Tail length 3° EH would certainly love to have your images for our gallery pages. Fancy, highly processed deep sky images or simple phone snapshots, we would love to see what you're up to! Did you venture out even with the pandemic to get some shots? Take a selfie of you and your equipment in action and send it in! Of course. it's nice to have some specs on both the subject of the photo and the equipment used to take it, especially exposure times ect.! You can label the photo as Jim Melka did here or



simply send the info in with the picture when you submit it! There are lots of great planet shots available right now, both in the morning and the evening! Maybe even grab Pluto as it's sandwiched between Saturn and Jupiter right now! Submit your photos to newsletter@slasonline.org and we'll make sure they get published!

Have You Been Out Observing Lately?

Have you dragged your telescope out for a run lately? Are you taking advantage of these times to work on an observing program from the AL? Did you do like apparently everyone else has done and bought some new equipment? We would certainly like to hear about THAT! What have you been looking at in the sky? Let us know what you've been up to! Just a short piece would work fine. Simply send it to newsletter@slasonline.org and we'll get it in the newsletter. We would love it!

St. Louis Astronomical Society Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy Executive Board Meeting Minutes August 6, 2020

1. Opening Activities

- a. Attendance: Jim Small, Bradley Waller, Bill Winningham, Larry Campbell, Brent Buch, John Newcomer Visitors: John Beaury, Rick Rodgers, Bill Poletti
- b. Open Meeting: called to order at 7:01pm
- c. Approval of last month's meeting minutes. Minutes approved by 4 -1 vote
- d. Next Board meeting date: Dates for 2020: Meetings will be via Zoom until further notice: Sep 3, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3

2. Upcoming General Membership meeting topics:

- a. Speaker: Jeffery Gillis-Davis
- b. Special Awards needed: none
- c. Speaker Press Release: is out
- d. Special Business needed: none
- e. A101: update on the observatory process.

3. SLAS Financial Report

- a. Balance Sheet Total assets \$83,000
- b. Profit/Loss report Current ahead by \$1,168.74
- c. Annual Budget meetings Need to begin the budget process for 2021 next month, send out budget commentary to be updated. : Budget meeting Sunday, September 20th at 4 pm
- d. Corporate filings: Coming up in August, AL fees.

4. Speaker Committee

- a. Budget \$500
- b. Upcoming speakers: September: Ann Hoffmeister Washington University, October: Marco Cavaglia, PhD,

November: Brett McGuire, PhD, December: Maura McLaughlin, PhD Speakers for 2021: send updated spreadsheet for speakers for next year.

- c. Open dates for 2021 Send suggestions for speakers with contact info
- d. Topics of interest
- e. Stipends
- f. Travel

5. Membership Initiatives

- a. Budget \$400
- b. Welcome Aboard Meetings
- c. Raffles
- d. Attendance prizes

6. Membership Recognition

- a. Total Budget \$900
- b. NSN Outreach Awards:
- c. Membership Report:
- d. Member anniversary awards awards not picked up were mailed with cover letter, certificate and pin. 13 in all.
- e. New Award program \$600 budget
- 1. New Award Committee report: Committee formed, Nomination forms finalized. Chairman Larry Campbell, Jim Small, Mark Jones, Cook Feldman, Sharon Bertram, Fred Schovanez, Bill Neubert,
- 2. New Award Policy and nomination process Article for newsletter to encourage nominations for awards.
- 3. Submittal deadlines
- 4. Nomination reviews
- 5. Award selection
- 6. Plaques purchased
- 7. Awards presented

7. Outreach

- a. Budget \$1100
- b. Member Training Program Status: on hold for the time being.
- c. Purchase of T-shirts for volunteers completed training
- d. Purchase of lawn signs **See photos from Bradley** I like the typeface we used on the guarter cards (Upper East Side) Can/Should we

use that on larger signs? Should we standardize where on a sign we put our logo? A QR code? Maybe there are other ideas? Maybe this is overthinking the signs?

- e. Upcoming outreach events: Virtual outreach for this fall
- f. Awards/recognitions
- g. NSN Outreach hours YTD
- 8. Old Business: a. Training Program start a committee
- 9. New Business: None
- 10. Other Committee Reports: If needed

A. SLSC Business:

- a. First Friday actions: First Friday is in play, but no word on telescope viewing at this time.
- b. Other immediate business

B. SLCL Business:

- a. Annual contract
- b. Upcoming events

C. Jefferson College Business:

- a. Committee Meeting report Update for Astro 101?
- b. Upcoming Outreach Event: Sunday August 9 Virtual event

D. Library Telescope Committee

- a. Budget \$650
- b. Upcoming builds or maintenance events
- c. Maintenance budget \$200 Adapter ring replacement update has been fabricated and installed.
- d. Mileage re-imbursement \$250
- e. Promotional materials \$200

E. SLAS Social Events

- a. Budget \$300
- b. Homemade Fest \$100 budget
- c. Star-B-Q \$200 budget no word on any possibility yet

Other

F. SLAS Brochures

- a. Budget \$325
- b. Quarter cards

G. Loaner scope Program

- a. Budget \$100
- b. New donations 4.25" reflector might be donated."
- c. Replacement Parts for the LPTs Library Telescopes with Brad's loaner program have been updated except for one.
- d. Items for sale

H. SLAS Library

- a. Budget \$400
- b. Other

I. Merchandise

- J. Telescope Making
- K. Newsletter Send articles!!!!
- L. Website
- M. Social Networking
- N. Night Sky Network
- O. SLASdialogs }
- P. Dark Site
- Q. Observing Programs
- R. Star Parties Donation:
- **11. Closing Activities** Bradley Waller motioned to adjourn, second by John Newcomer. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm

St. Louis Astronomical Society Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January through August 2020

	Jan - Aug 20	Budget	\$ Over Bud
Ordinary Income/Expense Income Events Income		810.00	(810.00)
Magazine Subscription	1,335.85	1,136.35	199.50
Membership Dues	3,250.00	3,205.00	45.00
Total Income	4,585.85	5,151.35	(565.50)
Cost of Goods Sold Magazine Subscriptions	1,368.80	1,103.40	265.40
Total COGS	1,368.80	1,103.40	265.40
Gross Profit	3,217.05	4,047.95	(830.90)
Expense 1-Programs & Events	980.16	2,873.00	(1,892.84)
2-Newsletter	79.20	465.00	(385.80)
3-Library expense 4-Astronomical League Dues 5-Loaner Scopes 6-Brochures	81.53 815.00	333.33 66.00 400.00	(251.80) 815.00 (66.00) (400.00)
7-Insurance 8-Website 9-Administrative Expenses	1,049.50 239.39 139.55	1,050.00 505.00 212.50	(0.50) (265.61) (72.95)
Total Expense	3,384.33	5,904.83	(2,520.50)
Net Ordinary Income	(167.28)	(1,856.88)	1,689.60
Other Income/Expense Other Income Donations	102.05		102.05
Interest Income	94.36	133.00	(38.64)
LTP Receipts Proceeds from Lens Sales	1,709.32 694.10		1,709.32 694.10
Total Other Income	2,599.83	133.00	2,466.83
Other Expense LTP Disbursements YMCA Trout Lodge ESCROW Expe	1,799.26 14.21		1,799.26 14.21
Total Other Expense	1,813.47		1,813.47
Net Other Income	786.36	133.00	653.36
Net Income	619.08	(1,723.88)	2,342.96

St. Louis Astronomical Society Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2020

	Dec 31, 19	Aug 31, 20
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings	7 407 45	7 500 40
Checking - First Bank Deposit, Certificate of	7,187.45 15,841.67	7,522.12 15,915.06
Deposit, Certificate of	10,041.07	10,910.00
Library Telescope Escrow	1,053.86	1,038.92
PayPal	77.94	93.14
Savings - First Bank YMCA Trout Lodge Escr	41,122.69 14.21	41,143.66 0.00
ThioA Hout Louge Laci		
Total Checking/Savings	65,297.82	65,712.90
Other Current Assets		
Inventory Asset	761.53	761.53
Undeposited Funds	20.00	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	781.53	761.53
Total Current Assets	66,079.35	66,474.43
Fixed Assets	15,000.00	15,224.00
TOTAL ASSETS	81,079.35	81,698.43
LIABILITIES & EQUITY Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	8,497.66	8,497.66
Retained Earnings	69,757.14	72,581.69
Net Income	2,824.55	619.08
Total Equity	81,079.35	81,698.43
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	81,079.35	81,698.43

We could use articles for the newsletter. The following topics are fine for submission.

- 1. Star party reports. Let us know how a star party you attended went! Photos would be most welcome in addition to the article.
- 2. Observing reports. Actually made it out observing? Let us know how it went. Taken some astrophotos? Please submit!
- 3. Bought something or built something? How about a review or an article! Send to newsletter@slasonline.org

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 Nicoletti's Restaurant in Valley Park All meetings are on First Thursdays unless noted. *Note: Board* meetings will be via Zoom until further notice. Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3

Dark Sky Observing Dates

Francis Park Events: These events are on Wednesdays of the week nearest the first quarter Moon Sept 23, Oct 21

Sky Orienteering Events For members who want to gather and do some relaxed observing at Babler State Park

Please RSVP if you plan to come!

SLSC Public Telescope Viewing Events: These events are held the first Friday of the month Planetarium shows start at 7pm Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4

Pattonville Observatory Public Viewing Dates See you next year! Maybe!

Broemmelsiek Astronomy Park Public Viewing Every Friday by appt

UMSL Observatory For directions and map http://www.umsl.edu/~physics/About%20the%20Department/astro.html

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

Skywatch Hotline: 314-516-5706

Saturdays:

SLAS Events

September

18 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
19 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky Observing
20 Sun	SLAS Sky Orienteering
21 Mon	Constellation Tour 13
23 Wed	Virtual Francis Park Stargazing
26 Sat	Gateway to the Stars
28 Mon	Constellation Tour 14

October

4	01.40.5
1 Thur	SLAS Board Meeting
4 Sun	Aim for the Stars - Jeffco
5 Mon	Constellation Tour 15
12 Mon	Constellation Tour 16
16 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
17 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky Observing
18 Sun	SLAS Sky Orienteering
19 Mon	Constellation Tour 17
21 Wed	Francis Park
24 Sat	Stargazing at the Arch
26 Mon	Constellation Tour 18
29 Thur	Carbon Library Star Party
2 Mon	Constellation Tour 19
5 Thur	SLAS Board Meeting
6 Fri	SLSC First Friday
8 Sun	Aim for the Stars - Jeffco
9 Mon	Constellation Tour 20
14 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky Observing
16 Mon	Constellation Tour 21
30 Mon	Constellation Tour 22
•••	CONCLUNATION FOR EL

December

3 Thur	SLAS Board Meeting
4 Fri	First Friday
6 Sun	Aim for the Stars - Jeffco
7 Mon	Constellation Tour 23
12 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky Observing
14 Mon	Constellation Tour 24
18 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
	0 1 1 1 1

For other events, watch the calendar on the website. Virtual stargazing events and other online activities will be registered there. We hope you can join us for some of these activi-

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

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.





ST. LOUIC

SLAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: Last		
First, Middle Initial		
Address		
City, State, Zip Code		
email address		Founded 1936
		Please send completed form with check (no cash please) made payable to
Youth @ \$10.00 / 1 year (18 yrs or younger)	\$	St Louis Astronomical Society
Individual @ \$25.00 / 1 year	\$	Don Ficken, Membership
Family @ \$40,00/1 year	Φ.	13024 Barrett Crossing CT

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) Check all that apply: Astronomy @ \$34.00 / 1 year **TOTAL ENCLOSED**

St. Louis, MO 63122

Please send my newsletter by regular mail

SLAS OFFICERS	
President Jim Small president at slasonline.org	314-307-0692
Vice President Bradley R Waller vicepresident at slasonline.org	314-481-7250
Secretary Mark Jones secretary at slasonline.org	636-394-2342
<u>Treasurer</u> Bill Winningham, (Don Ficken treasurer at slasonline.org	- membership) 636-357-2763
Hospitality Larry Campbell hospitality at slasonline.org	636-244-2867
Board Members at Large:	
Tom Nickelson board20 at slasonline.org	314-346-9565
Brent Buch	314-239-0329
board21 at slasonline.org John Newcomer board22 at slasonline.org	314-496-4636
ALCOR Bill Winningham (Astronomical League Correspondent) treasurer at slasonline.org	636-357-2763
MSRAL Rep. Jim Small msral_rep at astroleague.org	314-909-7211

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Address Change Only

New Member!

Renewal

<u> </u>	-
<u>Dark Site Coordinator</u> Mark Jones darksite at slasonline.org	636-394-2342
<u>Librarian</u> <i>Jim Small</i> librarian at slasonline.org	314-909-7211
Library Telescope Program Don Ficken	636-851-9630
librarytelescope at slasonline.org Loaner Equipment Greg Gaines loaner at slasonine.org Merchandise Vacant	314-277-3082
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	314-303-7211
Observing Programs Mark Jones	636-394-2342
observing at slasonline.org	
Publicity Rich Heuermann	314-962-9231
publicity at slasonline.org	606 044 0067
Recognition Larry Campbell	636-244-2867
recognition at slasonline.org Social Media Vacant	
'SLASdialogs' Moderator Mark Jones, R	Rhonda Whelan
dialogsmoderator at yahoo.com	
Star Party Coordinator Bill Breeden	314-276-3613
starparty at slasonline.org	044 400 0004
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

Follow us on Twitter: @stlastro Facebook: @stlastro

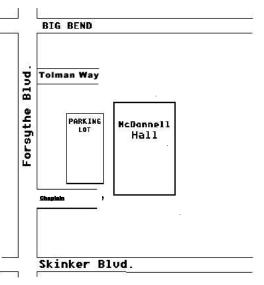


Who We Are and What We Do

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		