

THE EVENT HORIZON



ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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

**VOLUME 24, Issue 6
June, 2014**

Mid States Region



Meteorite Hunting in Antarctica

Dr. Alex Meshik of Washington University will be featured at the June regular meeting for SLAS. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM Friday, June 20.

Meteorites are the pieces of rocks from outer space that survive to land on the ground or ocean. Most meteors – streaks of light in the night sky - are caused by pinhead sized dust grains. They vaporize many miles above the surface. Each year, only a few dozen rocks survive to hit the ground. These meteorites are valuable for what they can tell us about their composition and origin on the Moon, Mars, or an asteroid. They are perhaps more valuable for what they can tell us about the birth and early years of the solar system – including the Earth. Dr. Meshik will talk about his research on meteorites, and why Antarctica is the best place in the world to find them.

Dr. Alex Meshik is a Research Professor in the Department of Physics and a member of the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences at Washington University. He is also an avid photographer. He will be showing photographs from his two month expedition to Antarctica, taken under the challenging lighting and environmental conditions of that icy continent.

Upcoming Speakers:

July - Rich Heuermann - Life and death of stars; types of stars (including how spectroscopy works)

August - Logan Brown - Exoplanets

September - Dr. Jack Fishman (SLU) and Dr. William Smith (WU) - Solar impact on earth's weather-two opposing viewpoints

MSRAL 2014 A Success

After more than a year of waiting, the 2014 MSRAL conference hosted by SLAS went off without a hitch. Great food, speakers and people got together and had a great educational and social experience this weekend. For more details, see the articles inside.

Amy White and Jim Small Both Named

Amateur of the Year

For the first time, the AOY committee named two persons as the Amateur of the Year for the Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League at this year's convention. More details inside.

SLAS Elections held, Still Looking for Treasurer, Election This Month

Elections were held last month and the following persons were elected: Jim Small, President; Paul Baldwin, Vice President; Mark Jones, Secretary; Grant Martin, Hospitality; Tom Nickelson, Board Member at Large. The treasury position was not filled at the last meeting. In the interim, Bill Wittingham has been nominated for the position and is ready to take over the treasury if elected at the meeting this month.

MSRAL 2015 Set

MSRAL 2015 will be held at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock June 5, 6 and 7, 2015. More details inside!

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President's Corner

by Jim Small

June started off with a bang. More than 80 people attended the MSRAL 2014 conference and it seemed like a great time was had by all! It went off without a hitch and was a truly team effort by all the committee members and volunteers. We could not have done any of it without everyone pitching in and contributing wherever help was needed. The reviews from out of town attendees was universally terrific and we received many compliments on the program, food, door prizes, events, etc. See the article for all the details about the contributions of the committee, etc.

The highlight of the weekend for me was being awarded the Amateur of the Year along with Amy White. I am honored to be selected along with such deserving company as Amy. Thank you to Mark Jones for the nomination and to all the former AOY awardees who were part of the selection committee. More elsewhere in this issue.

I am pleased to announce that next year's MSRAL will be held at the University of Arkansas - Little Rock on June 5, 6, and 7, 2015. It will be chaired by Bruce McMath and co-chaired by Darrell Heath and is hosted by the Central Arkansas Astronomical Society. Mark your calendars!

We have some HUGE events coming soon. SLAS will be running Public Telescope Viewing July 3, 4, and 5 during Fair St. Louis which is being held in Forest Park this year due to construction at the Gateway Arch grounds. Hopefully we will have a terrific turnout like we had at First Friday this month for the MSRAL conference!

We will have an election this month for the treasury position that was not filled at last month's meeting. Bill Winningham has been nominated and will take over the position assuming he is elected. Be sure to thank him for stepping up to help!

If you are having trouble with the calendar not coming up in a timely fashion on NSN, try this:

1. Log in.
2. Under the SLAS logo, look for the tab that says "My Profile" and mouse over it.
3. Click on "My RSVPs"
4. Carry out the usual actions, either getting details or submitting an RSVP.
5. To log hours served, click instead on "My Volunteer Hours"

Amy White and Jim Small

Named Amateur of the Year

John Johnson stepped up to the podium at the banquet for the MSRAL 2014 convention and said the committee had a hard time with the decision this year for Amateur of the Year. They had so much trouble with it, they decided to award the AOY to two people this year, Amy White and Jim Small. It's the first time that two awards have ever been given. Congratulations to both as deserving recipients. We were going to publish the nominating letters that were written, but tradition has been in the past that this practice is not followed. If it is decided to change that, the letters will be published in a future issue of the Event Horizon.



Amy White, Jim Small and John Johnson after the AOY awards.
Photo Cyndie Jones

MSRAL 2015 Set for June 5-7

at University of Arkansas

in Little Rock

The Central Arkansas Astronomical Society has decided to host the MSRAL 2015 convention on June 5, 6, and 7, 2015 next year at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. Bruce McMath and Darrel Heath will be the chair and co-chair for the convention. Bruce and Chris Lasley presented on their robotic observatory at this year's convention and I'm sure that will be part of the focus for the convention next year. Watch the MSRAL web site for more details. Be sure to set the date on your calendars! Road trip anyone?

MSRAL 2014: A Personal Perspective

by

Jim Small

It's the 70th anniversary of D-Day and I'm just about packed and ready to head out to start MSRAL 2014. The team had been working for over a year on the convention and it was finally here! My first phone call was from John Beaury, who had the earliest start, picking up John Johnson from the airport. He called to let me know that John had been delivered to the Knight Center and would hang out there for a while before heading over to the Planetarium. I thanked him and threw the last bag in the back seat and left for Wash U. I walked in to check into my room and John was there in the lobby. I took the bags up to my room and John Johnson and I headed to the Science Center to see how registration is going. We arrived and the registration table was already set up and badges and packets were being assembled. When Mark Jones arrived, we made our way around the property putting up



Wayne and Nancy Clark working the registration table.
Photo Mark Jones

orange signs so people could find what they needed. We then set up more signs around the grounds at Washington University so people could find the Knight Center and Crow Hall and the appropriate parking. By the time we got back, there were plenty of people there and the place was being set up for the Star-B-Q in the lobby. I was a little worried about how things would go over with that setup, but it worked well with the tables around the perimeter. Any glitches would have been forgotten when people went through the line! Starlight served up ribs,

chicken and hamburgers, along with two kinds of cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans (we didn't run out!), a really nice tossed salad, French onion soup and a ton of fixings for the burgers! (That was more than we had on the contracted menu, they really outdid themselves) The food got rave reviews and Bert Vescolani, the President and CEO for the Science Center, Christian Greer, the new Chief Education and Programs Officer and of course, John Lakey, the Director of the Planetarium were milling



Conversations after the Star-B-Q.
Photo Mark Jones

around during the dinner.

After the Star-B-Q, everyone moved to the Orthwein Star Bay and were treated to a really nice talk by John Lakey about the equipment they use to run the planetarium shows. Mike Malolepszy followed that presentation with



John Lakey explains the inner workings of the Zeiss Projector system in the Planetarium. Photo Mark Jones

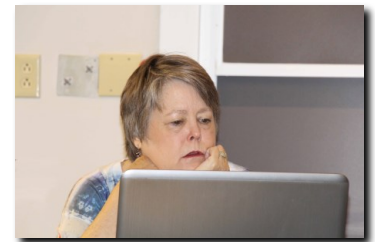
the regular Sky Tonight program to show off the night sky

before people visited the Archery Field full of telescopes for viewing on a beautiful night. There were a myriad of telescopes set up for public viewing, ranging from a Meade 60 mm goto to an 18" dob. Thanks to all who made the extra effort to bring some great telescopes. It certainly made the evening special with so many choices to view through! Perhaps we can duplicate that effort for Fair St. Louis next month! Below are a few photos of telescopes set up on the field.



Only a few of us finished the evening on the terrace at the Moonrise Hotel Friday night. We held out until midnight before retiring. I headed back to the Knight Center hotel for a good nights rest.

Breakfast at the Knight Center was great. I had to leave pretty early, so I didn't get to visit with anyone who was staying there to speak of. On to Crow hall to help get things set up. I had the signs for everyplace inside, Brent and Rich Heuermann helped the vendors get set up, Grant and Mark set up the coffee and hospitality, Ann and Jim Trull picked up the bagels and set those up. Wayne Clark helped set the room up and we began loading speaker programs. Jackie Beucher began laying out material for the business meeting... suddenly it was 8:00 am and we're off! The business meeting went well with reports from various clubs, last years minutes and the treasury report. We didn't have a commitment for next year's MSRAL, and a minor glitch over term limits led to us



not electing Jackie as treasurer for the coming year. All of that will be fixed, though when we have the official election of next year's chair and co-chair now that the Central Arkansas Astronomical Society has committed to hosting next years convention in the last day or so.

The program began with Joe Marcus presenting his talk on what makes comets great. SLAS members had heard the talk recently, but it was worth it to share the information with the resto of the region. Richard Schmude from Gordon State College in Georgia then presented on Wideband J and H photometry. He used a style called active learning, which is designed to get a large lecture hall more involved with the topic, even including some quick checks for understanding. Perhaps we'll use that in some of our meetings at some point. Thane Bopp then shared his 1-inch solar system visualization. If you haven't seen it before, ask him about it at the next meeting! A great teaching tool.



Before lunch, Bruce McMath and Chris Lasley from

CAAS presented on their remote observatory. Perhaps we'll get to tour the observatory next year when the conference is held nearby!

We broke for lunch in the lobby of the Earth and Planetary Sciences building and caught the end of one of the tours that were given in the morning while the sessions were going on. Rich Heuermann was finishing up his tour of the rover on display in the lobby. Lunch was catered by Bon Appetite on the Wash U campus and was delicious. Thanks to the crew

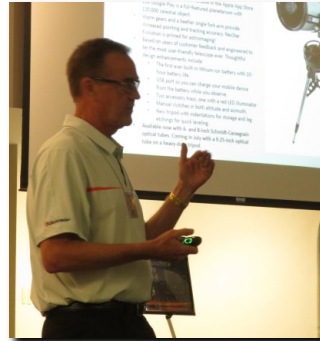


put together by Ann Trull to assemble and distribute the lunches. We then took the group shot around the rover after lunch.

After lunch, Catarina Ubach presented on her specialty, proto-planetary discs. Dr. Ubach just received her degree from Swinburne University in Australia and studied under one of my instructors, Dr. Sarah Maddison. Dr. Ubach did an excellent job on her presentation. We



will likely have her as a SLAS speaker sometime in the next year.



Lonnie Wege from Celestron spoke next, getting us up to speed with the new equipment coming down the pike at the company including new SC and astrograph telescopes. He was also around for both the telescope viewing at the planetarium and as a vendor for the conference.

We then got to share Dr. Pamela Gay with the rest of the region through her talk on getting cratered, as she presented it to the SLAS membership in May. As always, Dr. Gay provided a superb presentation about true citizen science. The program just kept getting better!

Speaking of working with the public, Christine Nobbe and Gloria Lloyd gave a great talk about getting in touch with the public via social media, something that many astronomy groups could learn to use a lot. The talk had us discussing it at the board meeting and thinking about setting up a twitter or other similar account to get in touch with a wider public.



We saved one of the best presentations for the Saturday Sessions for the end of the day. Dr. Ian Redmount presented his talk on General Relativity to the group and was riveting. Unfortunately, several of us missed a fair portion

because of storm warnings that conflicted with a seemingly clear sky. Dr. Friedlander said he might make a Saturday lecture series around the topic because of Dr. Redmount's talk.

The door prizes given out at the end of each break were a trip. Brent and I THOROUGHLY mixed up the names and we STILL had some of the funniest draws!



(Continued from page 5)

Ed Flaspoeehler donated 2 of his astronomy log books, and the first name we draw for one? HIS! We put it back and ended up drawing it again for a pair of Nikon binoculars, which he gave away because he also donated a pair of binoculars!



There were about two hours to kill before the banquet, so lots of people went to the Knight Center and gathered around the terrace to chat until the doors opened.

The banquet was fabulous. The food was amazing, with a great variety of quality food on the buffet. Dr. Arvidson, who has eaten many meals by the caterer even said the meal was outstanding and that we got a great deal. Dr. Arvidson delivered his typical excellent talk and got us up to speed with everything that was going on with the Mars Rovers.



He even joked about the SLAS “posse” that always seems to pile in the front row whenever he does a public talk! At the end, we presented him with a mars shirt from Infinites.

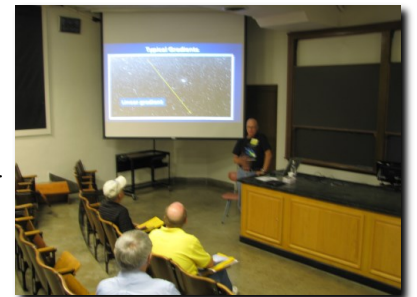


After the talk, John Johnson, last years Amateur of the Year winner, presented the letters for BOTH of this years winners. He said they had such a hard time choosing that they decided to present the AOY award to two people this year for the first time ever. The two winners were Amy White and Jim Small. You can see the nomination letters elsewhere in this issue. Congratulations to Amy and Jim.

After all the door prize fun, we gave away two more mars tee shirts and then had the drawing for the grand prize, a widefield 102mm refractor kit with mount, backpack, binoculars and planisphere. Brent and I had lots of wierd draws previously, but it was made up for on this last one. All those names in the hat for the telescope, and we pull out Shadow Winter’s name! It’s amazing that we actually gave a quality beginner’s telescope kit to a young astronomer! Brent and I looked at each other and just said “Perfect!” It was worthy of a high five!

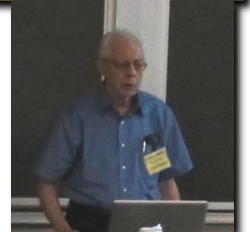


Sunday continued the good sessions as Gregg Ruppel and Dan Crowson took over two of the rooms for astrophotography workshops. The main room also had sessions including the popular Annette Lee who spoke on Native Skywatchers and had some excellent maps corresponding to Native beliefs and constellations. You can look forward to seeing her sometime within the next year as some of the folks from Kansas City said they would make the trip over to see her work again. Dr. Michael Friedlander wrapped up the main sessions with a talk on Cahokia Mounds.



It was a great conference. It was really nice seeing all of our friends from around the region again. Thanks so much to the committee and volunteers who made it all happen.

Mark Jones co-chaired, and the committee consisted of Cook Feldman, Wayne and Nancy Clark, Ann and Jim Trull, Rich Heuermann, Brent Buch, John Beaury, Larry Campbell, and Grant Martin. Thanks again to all.



MSRAL 2014 Committee and Volunteers

Many thanks to the following committee members and volunteers who put this convention together.

Committee Members:

Jim Small	Chair
Mark Jones	Co-Chair
Cook Feldman	Treasurer
Wayne Clark	Speakers and Program
Rich Heuermann	Facilities
Ann Trull	Star-B-Q, Banquet, Lunch
John Beary	Volunteers
Brent Buch	Vendors and Door Prizes
Grant Martin	Registration
Nancy Clark	Registration
Larry Campbell	Committee at Large
Jim Trull	Committee at Large

Volunteers

Paul A. Baldwin
Sharon Bertram
Bill Biermann
Marlene Bopp
Dale Engelbrecht
Gaylene Engelbrecht
Mark Fedde
Donna Ficken
Lois Fitter
Connie Gleason
Cyndie Jones
Frank Mack
Joe McHugh
Rick Menendez
Tom Nickelson
Frank Wachowe
Rhonda Whelan

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through May 2014

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Balance Sheet
As of May 31, 2014

sis

	Jan - May 14	Budget	\$ Over Budget		Dec 31, 13	May 31, 14
Ordinary Income/Expense				ASSETS		
Income				Current Assets		
Magazine Subscription	433.60	2,471.90	(2,038.30)	Checking/Savings		
Membership Dues	1,550.00	1,740.00	(190.00)	Checking - First Bank	3,263.28	2,980.05
Total Income	1,983.60	4,211.90	(2,228.30)	Deposit, Certificate of	20,020.23	20,020.23
Cost of Goods Sold				Merchandise Change Fund	20.00	20.00
Magazine Subscriptions	433.60	2,471.90	(2,038.30)	PayPal	24.15	0.00
Total COGS	433.60	2,471.90	(2,038.30)	Savings - First Bank	3,357.60	3,408.29
Gross Profit	1,550.00	1,740.00	(190.00)	YMCA Trout Lodge Escrow	877.87	877.87
Expense				Total Checking/Savings	27,563.13	27,306.44
1-Programs & Events	227.15	810.41	(583.26)	Accounts Receivable	0.00	5.00
2-Newsletter	279.26	118.75	160.51	Accounts Receivable	0.00	5.00
3-Library expense	88.62	75.00	13.62	Total Accounts Receivable	0.00	5.00
4-Astronomical League Dues	650.00	660.00	(10.00)	Other Current Assets		
5-Loaner Scopes	95.93	75.00	20.93	Inventory Asset	1,707.15	1,707.15
6-Brochures	43.69	104.16	(60.47)	Investment in Mid-States 2014	2,000.00	2,000.00
7-Insurance	380.00	380.00		Total Other Current Assets	3,707.15	3,707.15
8-Website	113.88	108.00	5.88	Total Current Assets	31,270.28	31,018.59
9-Administrative Expenses	114.19	177.50	(63.31)	Fixed Assets		
Total Expense	1,992.72	2,508.82	(516.10)	Accum Depr - Office Equip	(216.65)	(216.65)
Net Ordinary Income	(442.72)	(768.82)	326.10	Office Equipment	216.65	216.65
Other Income/Expense				Total Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00
Other Income				TOTAL ASSETS	31,270.28	31,018.59
Donations	231.33			LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Interest Income	0.89	41.00	(40.31)	Liabilities		
Total Other Income	232.02	41.00	191.02	Current Liabilities		
Net Other Income	232.02	41.00	191.02	Accounts Payable	40.99	0.00
Net Income	(210.70)	(727.82)	517.12	Accounts Payable	40.99	0.00
				Total Accounts Payable	40.99	0.00
				Total Current Liabilities	40.99	0.00
				Total Liabilities	40.99	0.00
				Equity		
				Opening Bal Equity	8,137.66	8,137.66
				Retained Earnings	19,214.15	23,091.63
				Net Income	3,877.48	(210.70)
				Total Equity	31,229.29	31,018.59
				TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	31,270.28	31,018.59

THE GREAT GALACTIC GHOUL

by Brad Waller



Who?? What?? Unless you are unusually geeky, this picture might be new to you. So, let me introduce SLAS tothe one....and only.... "The Great Galactic Ghoul!" During the Space Race in the 1960s, the Soviets and the United States were sending their robotic emissaries into the solar system. The Ghoul was the solar system's version of King Kong. Instead wreaking havoc from the Empire State Building, the Ghoul would and still does patrol the solar system between Venus, Earth, and Mars. Whenever the third planet would hurl an emissary into the solar system, the Ghoul would take notice of this event. While the inhabitants of the third planet did not know it at the time, the Ghoul had a taste for Russian cuisine. Yes, the Ghoul would occasionally take a nibble on an American probe, but truth be told, the Ghoul loves his Borsch!!! It would take the Soviets 13 attempts before they finally, on the fourteenth; got Venera 4 to Venus in June 1967! To this day, the Russians have NEVER had a fully successful mission to Mars! Thus proving the Red Planet was not theirs! Do not look for the Ghoul to change his mind any time soon with Vlad in charge now.

The Ghoul remained nameless until Time reporter, Donald Neff, while covering the Mariner VII mission at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), named him. Neff had noticed that Mariner VII was behaving very much like other ill-fated flights into the solar system. It was beset by a succession of unexplained accidents. The probe would suddenly go dead and would not send back any telemetry regarding its health. Then hours later, it would make contact again, but on a slightly different course and telemetry reduced to a whisper. The Engineers at JPL said there was a malevolent presence in space. This creature was the bane of every astronomical engineer and deep space manager on Earth. This creature was the equivalent of the Bermuda Triangle. What better way to explain inexplicable events. Blame it on a mythical phenomenon!

How long has the Ghoul been in the solar system? Who knows how old the Ghoul is. Jupiter's Great Red Spot is only 400 years old to Man; the Ghoul is only in his '50s. While he is not as fast as he was in the 1960s, he still loves to play havoc with missions to Mars. Just ask the engineers of the 1993 Mars Observer, the 1998 Mars Polar Lander, and the 2003 Mars Express: Beagle 2, if the Ghoul is real? They know better. In case you think he has lost his taste for Russian cuisine, the 2011 Fobos -Grunt...it never even left Earth's orbit! As tribute to the Ghoul and his shenanigans, his portrait still hangs at JPL to this day. For those wanting more information about the Ghoul, please read the book Exploring Space by William E Burrows, Chapter 5: "Beauty and the Beast: Mariner-Venus and the Great Galactic Ghoul." Anyone desiring a print of the Ghoul please contact Brad Waller, Borg Collective Member 16.

MISSION UPDATES

by Brad Waller

These updates were pulled from stories on Space.com For further details, please reference the space.com site.

SPACE-X DRAGON

*18 May 2014, CRS-3 undocked from ISS and returned to Earth.

ISEE-3

Members of the group, which met its \$125,000 funding goal last week, have traveled to Puerto Rico, where they'll use the powerful Arecibo Observatory to beam messages to the International Sun-Earth Explorer 3 probe, or ISEE-3. The spacecraft launched in 1978 and ceased science operations in 1997. The ISEE-3 probe has had an itinerant life since entering space in 1978. It originally examined the solar wind and cosmic rays, then chased two comets (including Halley's Comet) in the mid-1980s, then was a sun probe from 1991 until 1997, when it was put into hibernation. The team plans to "talk" to the probe to see which of its 13 instruments are functioning, and then to redirect its path so that it swings around the far side of the moon. Team members will need to make sure the solar-powered ISEE-3 survives this maneuver, which will take it beyond the reach of sunlight for a spell. The group plans to redirect the probe from its current orbit around the sun to the Earth-sun Lagrange Point 1 (ES-1), a gravitationally stable spot about 930,000 miles (1.5 million kilometers) from Earth. But it's unclear what the spacecraft's ultimate fate will be. On, 30 May 2014, a group of space enthusiasts have reportedly made contact with ISEE-3. 12 June 2014, ISEE-3 engines were restarted and all instruments are responding to hails from its new command team, which hopes to send the probe on new adventures in deep space.

SAINT LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:****April 10, 2014**

1. Opening Activities Meeting called to order at 7:03pm Attendees: Jim Small, Larry Campbell, Tom Nickelson, Grant Martin, Brad Waller, Mark Jones

Minutes from April Board meeting were reviewed, corrections made. Motion by Brad to approve the minutes, Tom seconded motion. Minutes were approved.

2. External Business

SLSC: Good First Friday event on May 2nd well attended. Astronomy Day set for May 10th at the Planetarium. Next first Friday will be June 6.

Next board meeting will be 6/12/14. Board meeting dates for the year are confirmed by the YMCA: 7/10, 8/7, 9/11, 10/9, 11/6, 12/11.

3. Director Reports:

President – Jim S **MSRAL 2014** Celestron coming as vendor and imager donated. Lonnie Wege (Celestron) be at First Friday event. Explore Scientific donated a telescope. Stellarvue (\$50), Woodland Hills (2x\$50 and 2x\$25), Bob's Knobs and others donated door prizes. Registration is now over 30. Creve Coeur Camera won't be at the meeting, but may contribute door prizes.

May 10 - Astronomy Day at the Science Center, Setup at 930am. Event goes from 10-4pm. Need solar scopes for outside. Volunteers:

Grant - bringing SLAS sign, SLAS stickers for Galileoscopes

Don - bringing Galileoscopes

Celestron is sending a First Scope for a door prize and 200 brochures: "How to get started in astronomy"

Jim Small - Celestron Firstscope for door prize at Astro day

Mark- ETX-60, meteorites, video microscope

May 10th will also be a Creve Coeur Camera Expo- Jim Small, Thane Bopp are volunteers

Kirkwood Park Star Party will be 8-10pm May 10th.

Vice President – Bill Biermann Speakers: May – Pamela Gay SUI-E "Get Cratered", June - Alex Meshik - Early History of the Solar System

Bill will not be returning next year for vice president.

Secretary – Mark J no report

Treasurer/ALCor – report sent to Board. Expenses over budget about \$85 YTD

Hospitality – Grant M no report

Board member at large reports

Larry Campbell no report

Tom Nickelson: Orion 80mm with case telescope has arrived. Will pick it up from Washington U. on Friday

Brad Waller: Received autograph from Capt. James Kirk, from the USS Zumwalt. Brad to provide photo for newsletter. Starfleet report for next newsletter.

4. Committee Reports:

Membership – Don has been submitting renewals. 148 members as of 3/31/14

Newsletter - articles due by 5/12/14

Website – MSRAL page and registration form is updated. More updates to come

Night Sky Network – Website has been updated. Some glitches. A101 for May will talk about them

Dark Site – Dark Site Observing Dates are May 24 (Memorial Day weekend), May 31 (new moon), June 28, July 26, Aug 30, Sep 27, Oct 25

Loaner Equipment – Red Coulter 13" delivered to Greg Gaines for SLAS Loaner scope. Blue Coulter has been scrapped, left over parts boxed up and taken to Greg. Procured new suitcase for 100mm Celestron Refractor. Picked up ETX 90 to repair.

Publicity – no report submitted

Observing Programs – no report submitted

Star Parties: Details for the next month's confirmed events below.

May 8, 2014 (THUR) Manchester Parks and Recreation, May 9, 2014 (FRI) Stargazing at the Gateway Arch, May 10, 2014 (SAT) National Astronomy Day, May 10, 2014 (SAT) Kirkwood Park, May 15, 2014 (THUR) MICDS Adventure Night, May 17, 2014 (SAT) Night Sky over Babler, June 2, 2014 (MON) Edward Jones Family YMCA, June 3, 2014 (TUE) Children's Hospital, June 4, 2014 (WED) Francis Park, June 6, 2014 (FRI) SLSC PTV, June 13, 2014 (FRI) Stargazing at the Gateway Arch, June 19, 2014 (THUR) Maplewood Public Library

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

May Elections need nominees for Vice-President and Treasurer.

7. Closing Activities

Motion to adjourn made by Brad, seconded by Larry. Meeting adjourned 845pm

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*

- 7/10/2014
- 8/7/2014
- 9/11/2014
- 10/9/2014
- 11/6/2014
- 12/11/2014

Dark Sky Observing Dates

- June 28
- July 26
- Aug 30
- Sep 27
- Oct 25

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

- July 2 (4 day old Moon) (1st Wed.)
- August 6 (9 day old Moon) (1st Wed.)
- September 3 (8 day old Moon) (1st Wed.)
- October 1 (7 day old Moon) (1st Wed.)
- October 29 (6 day old Moon) (5th Wed.)

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

- Planetarium shows start at 7pm
- July 3, 4, 5
- August 1

YMCA Edward Jones Star Parties

- 6/30/2014
- 8/14/2014

SLAS EVENTS

June

- 13 Fri** **Stargazing at the Gateway Arch**
- 19 Thur** **Maplewood Public Library**
- 21 Sat** **Great American Backyard Campout - Des Peres Park**
- 30 Mon** **Edward Jones YMCA**

July

- 2 Wed** **Francis Park**
- 3 Thurs** **Public Telescope Viewing**
- 4 Fri** **Public Telescope Viewing**
- 5 Sat** **Public Telescope Viewing**
- 9 Wed** **Girl Scouts Camp Fiddlecreek**
- 10 Thur** **SLAS board meeting**
- 11 Fri** **Gateway Arch**
- 18 Fri** **SLAS Regular Meeting**
- 26 Sat** **SLAS Dark Sky Observing**

Edward Jones YMCA Star Party

Event: Edward Jones YMCA Stargazing

Date: Monday, June 2, 2014

Setup Time: 7pm – 7:30 pm

Time: 7:30 – 10:15 pm (2.75 hours)

SLAS Volunteers:

Cook Feldman
Larry Campbell
Don Ficken (Lead) accompanied by Donna Ficken

Guests: About 107 adults and kids

Notes: A great evening in the front of the Edwards Jones YMCA with temperatures in the upper 70's and a mostly clear night (although some clouds were present on the southern horizon). We setup our telescopes around 7:30 pm with a 30% waxing crescent Moon visible even before sunset. The evening's guest count was the largest star party yet at the facility with some 107 adults/kids. Guests starting arriving as we setup our telescopes and a steady crowd continued through the evening with a large group ending the evening just after 10:00 pm. Several guests left and returned with their families and several also commented they have also attended previous star parties at the facility making them "regulars" at these events. The Moon, Saturn and Jupiter were favorite targets of the evening along with some basic star hopping (Big Dipper, North Star, Arcturus). Similar to previous events, the guests had lots of questions about the night sky and spent much of the time away from the telescope discussing the night sky and how telescopes work. Guests were very appreciative of the outreach event and wanted to know when the next event at the Edward Jones YMCA would be scheduled (Monday, June 30). Overall, a delightful evening with many thanks to the SLAS volunteers who participated and to Edwards Jones YMCA for hosting the event.

Clear Skies
Don_Ficken
St. Louis Astronomical Society
Edward Jones YMCA Stargazing Lead



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. For more information about events, such as Moon phase, clear sky clock, weather report or a map of what's up, see the calendar online.

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, Treasurer
 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		201309.pub
President <i>Jim Small</i>	president at slasonline.org	314-307-0692
Vice President <i>Bill Biermann</i>	vicepresident at slasonline.org	314-596-6738
Secretary <i>Mark Jones</i>	secretary at slasonline.org	636-394-2342
Treasurer <i>Rhonda Whelan, Cook Feldman, Don Ficken (membership)</i>	treasurer at slasonline.org	636-225-0269
Hospitality <i>Grant Martin</i>	hospitality at slasonline.org	
Board Members at Large:		
<i>Tom Nickelson</i>	board14 at slasonline.org	
<i>Larry Campbell</i>	board15 at slasonline.org	636-244-2867
<i>Bradley Waller</i>	board16 at slasonline.org	314-481-7250
ALCOR <i>Rhonda Whelan</i> (Astronomical League Correspondent)	treasurer at slasonline.org	314-750-0262
MSRAL Rep. <i>Jim Small</i>	msral_rep at astroleague.org	314-909-7211

COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Membership <i>Don Ficken</i>	membership at slasonline.org	636-225-0269
Publicity <i>Rich Heuermann</i>	publicity at slasonline.org	314-962-9231
'SLASdialogs' Moderator <i>Mark Jones, Rhonda Whelan</i>	dialogsmoderator at yahoo.com	
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Merchandise <i>Grant Martin</i>	merchandise at slasonline.org	
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Star Party Coord <i>Mike Malolepszy</i>	starparty at slasonline.org	314-781-4701
Dark Site Coord. <i>Mark Jones</i>	darksite at slasonline.org	636-394-2342
Observing Programs <i>Mark Jones</i>	observing at slasonline.org	636-394-2342
Telescope Making <i>Bill Davis, Jim Melka</i>	telescope at slasonline.org	314-469-3061

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

We're on the Web!
<http://www.slasonline.org>

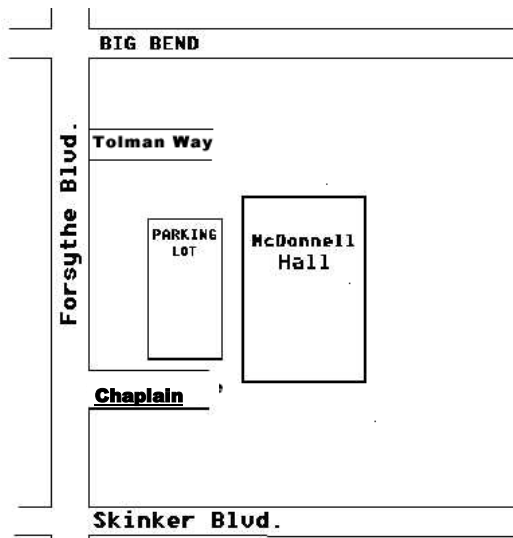


Who We Are and What We Do

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

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