

THE EVENT HORIZON



ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

**VOLUME 27, Issue 2
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Mid States Region



CosmoQuest: Mapping the Moon and Planets On Home Computers *by*

Dr. Pamela Gay
CosmoQuest and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific,

Dr. Pamela Gay will be featured at the February meeting of the St. Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM Friday, February 17, in McDonnell Hall, Room 162, on the Washington University campus, Saint Louis, MO 63130. McDonnell Hall is accessible from Forsyth Boulevard via Tolman Way. Yellow zone and street parking are available to the audience.

CosmoQuest is an organization that sponsors astronomy projects which enable regular citizens to participate in actual scientific research. It seeks to develop a community of people interested in advancing our understanding of the universe by assisting professional astronomers and planetary scientists. With support from NASA, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific hosts the CosmoQuest

project. Dr. Gay will talk about the CosmoQuest organization and some of its projects and services. Current "citizen science" projects include mapping the Moon, Mercury, and the dwarf planet Vesta. Participants use images from NASA spacecraft missions to do mapping and image interpretation on their home computers. The results are passed along to NASA-sponsored scientists.

Dr. Pamela Gay is an astronomer, writer, and podcaster focused on using new media to engage people in science and technology. She is the Principal Investigator for the NASA grant to the Astronomical Society of the Pacific in support of CosmoQuest.org. She is also a co-host of the weekly Astronomy Cast podcast. She received her Doctorate in astronomy from the University of Texas, Austin, in 2002.

Upcoming Meetings:

- March** - Christine Floss, PhD - TBA Wash U
- April** - Kevin Evans, PhD - Weaubleau Impact Structure - Missouri State University
- May** - Kara Kundert - Cosmic Epoch of Re-ionization "Skype" - UC Berkeley

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Homemade Fest 2017

Saturday, February 25, 2017
Kirkwood Community Center

Join fellow SLAS members and guests for our annual winter pot-luck dinner meeting. Doors open at 4:30 pm to unload equipment and food and set up the room. We will begin eating at 6 pm.

Formal Opening and presentations begin at 6:45 pm. This is a show-and-tell meeting. Members are encouraged to present anything of astronomical interest they have bought, built, refurbished, improved or just can't do without. You can present your favorite image or explanation of a concept as well. This is your chance to share with your fellow SLAS members. SLAS will provide the soda, coffee and paper goods. So bring a favorite dish or dessert to share and let's enjoy each other's company and love for Astronomy on this long winter's night.

Attendance prizes will be drawn throughout the evening

If you have questions or wish to present, please contact Bradley Waller at vicepresident@slasonline.org for more information. This event is free to all SLAS members and their families. Guests are \$5 each. RSVP on SLAS Night Sky Network is optional but encouraged.

Presidents Corner - Jim Small

This month we will be recognizing outreach volunteers with the Night Sky Network pins! Please check the list below and try to be at the meeting if at all possible to receive your pin.

I know, I know, I know.... Homemade Fest is on a dark sky weekend. Sorry! We'll try to schedule it next year on a different weekend! At any rate, Homemade Fest will be held Saturday, February 25th at the Kirkwood Community Center from 5-10pm. Doors will be open from 4-11 for us to set up and tear down. Bring your favorite dish! If you wish to present, contact Bradley Waller to let him know. Be sure to RSVP on Night Sky Network so we know how many people to expect.

The Eclipse Expo scheduled for Saturday, June 17 will be a spectacular event. We already have over 1300 people who have booked to come to the event via the Brown Paper Ticket system! In addition, we have many exhibitors who are coming, such as Lunt Solar Systems, Daystar Filters, Vixen Optics, Celestron, and Creve Coeur Camera. There are more vendors we are working on to attend and we are looking forward to the terrific crowds that will be there. In addition to the exhibitors,

there will be a whole area for activities which include a two story tall Earth Globe and a portable planetarium! See the article on page 3 for information about how to sign up for the expo. You may reserve up to 5 tickets per person. You must sign up before the expo to be sure to get in free. There will be a charge if you come the day of the event. In addition to the vendors, there will be booths and displays by people who have events planned for eclipse viewers to attend. If you have any questions, please be sure to contact Don Ficken.

In keeping with the eclipse expo, the June SLAS meeting will be held at the expo on Friday, June 16. We will likely have a very large crowd and a panel of speakers will be the focus for the meeting. Speakers will include Dr. Mike Reynolds, Dr. Angela Speck, Michael Zeiler, Mitzi Adams, John Weis, and Anna Green. This meeting will be covered by the press and represents a great opportunity for us to have a very large crowd at our meeting... AND, the parking is FREE!

The folks at Astral Valley near Bonne Terre have invited any astronomer who is interested to attend their event the weekend of the eclipse in August. They are having an entire weekend of world class musicians for this event and they are welcoming astronomers to attend at no cost. We will have the hill on the property to set up equipment. They are also excited to do some telescope viewing the night before the eclipse as it will be a new Moon weekend!

The International Space Development Conference for 2017 will be located in St. Louis and they have invited SLAS as a cosponsor and would like SLAS members to volunteer to help with the conference in exchange for a reduced rate for attendance. This is a huge conference with around 1000 attendees and hundreds of speakers. It would be fascinating to attend. The conference is 4 days: May 25-29 over Memorial Day weekend.

Link: <http://isdc.nss.org/2017/>



SLAS Doppelganger? Contest!

Greetings SLAS Collective! The Borg Collective has discovered a possible "Doppelganger" in the SLAS Collective. If you are wondering who this is, he is Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, of the Society of St Pius X. If you can identify the SLAS Doppelganger, you will win a gift certificate to have one of your shirts (which YOU supply) embroidered with the SLAS Logo by Heads 'n Threads. If there is more than one correct entry, a drawing will be held at the February SLAS Meeting.

**Outreach Awards for 2016
to be Given at February Meeting
Please Be There!!**

Below are the volunteers for 2016 who will be receiving the Night Sky Network pins for outreach. We had 26 members who have 5 or more events and have qualified for the pin. We have exceeded our 2015 totals of 1396 hours for 150+ events. Any volunteer logging 6 or more hours for a single event is credited for 2 events, such as long events like Astronomy Day, Telescope Building and Sidewalk Solar Observing.

Thank you so much to all our volunteers! We couldn't have done it without you! We look forward to a year of great outreach in this year of the Great American Eclipse!

Pins will be given at the February meeting. It would be terrific if you could attend the meeting and be recognized!



Cook Feldman	200.1 hours;	61 events
Larry Campbell	100 hours;	40 events
John Beaury	133.5 hours;	39 events
Rich Heuermann	105.5 hours;	39 events
Mark Jones	100 hours;	34 events
Frank Mack	60.3 hours;	27 events
James Small	71 hours;	26 events
Rick Menendez	49.3 hours;	16 events
Sharon Bertram	44.5 hours;	15 events
Richard Jennings	35 hours;	14 events
Richard Fefferman	29.5 hours;	12 events
Jim Trull	29 hours;	9 events
Bill Biermann	19.6 hours;	9 events
William Neubert	27.3 hours;	8 events
William Winningham	23 hours;	8 events
Bill Breeden	21.5 hours;	7 events
Robert Drzymala	21.5 hours;	7 events
Michelle Birch	24.5 hours;	6 events
Ann Trull	16.5 hours;	6 events
Edward Frey	16 hours;	6 events
Jeffrey Strauss	17 hours;	5 events
Rita Breeden	15.5 hours;	5 events
Josh Zitko	15 hours;	5 events
Doug Blum	13.5 hours;	5 events
Benjamin Winningham	12.5 hours;	5 events

Member Name	# of Hours	# of events
Donald Ficken	234.5 hours;	100 events



**Rodney Rynearson:
The Most Distant
SLAS Member!**

Hi, I am Rodney Rynearson, I am probably the member of SLAS who lives full-time the farthest away. From my front door to Wash U. it is almost exactly 600 miles. That may explain why you won't usually see me at the meetings.

I joined SLAS sometime before 1998 (I think).

While a member there, I was privileged to learn many skills from members whose names I still recognize in the Event Horizon. Thanks for your help. I also earned 14 awards from the Astroleague and became a Master Observer.

In 2006 I moved to Frankenmuth, Michigan, which is about 80 miles straight north of Detroit. The only Astronomical club near here is not very active. I rejoice that I was invited to join SLAS again.

This is a beautiful Bavarian tourist town. We have two large restaurants that each daily serve more than a thousand persons.

What I also enjoy about Michigan are two dark-sky state

parks near here and the international Dark Sky Park near the Big Mackinaw bridge about 150 miles north of here. There is an annual Great Lakes Star Gaze, but so far I have been unable to go.

About four miles away I can use an interior farm road and have quite dark skies. In November I observed all the requirements for Lunar II, right in my own driveway.

I have received 6 more awards here, plus I received my Advanced Observer certificate dated 1-1-2017. As you can see I still deeply love to observe celestial objects.

I rejoice in your many programs of outreach especially with the Library scopes. Dan has helped me build one and I hope to place it in a Library near here.

I have had two outreach programs with a local school and scheduled two more that were not possible because of clouds. I hope to have a village wide telescope party in April and then maybe see if I can offer to some of the tourists on the tourist traveling busses a chance to see through my scopes.

I miss the Monthly Speakers and I hope that soon I can "hear" them by streaming.

If I can help any of you learn more about observing, please let me know. My e-mail address is:
rod1118ryn@gmail.com.

Clear Skies ,
Rodney

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!

A RAFFLE for

**Dr Neil deGrasse Tyson
Peabody Opera House
Wednesday, May 18,
2017, 7:30pm**



For SLAS members only

The raffle is for TWO tickets to this event. The drawing will be held at the April SLAS monthly meeting. You do not need to be in attendance to win.

Contact person:

Bradley R Waller

SLAS Vice President

bwaller@stlouisco.com

314-481-7250

1 ticket: \$2.00

Buy 5 tickets for \$10.00 and
get a 6th one free!!!

Eclipse Expo!

Saturday, June 17, 2017

www.eclipseexpo.org

This is one event you DON'T want to miss! We already have great exhibitors and speakers like nothing St. Louis has seen before. Be sure to sign up on the website for your FREE tickets for the expo! They are free as long as you sign up before the day of the expo! We already have more than 1300 people signed up to attend! Here is the link for tickets!

<http://eclipseexpo.org/index.php/tickets>

SLAS Reflective Vests for Outreach Events by Bradley Waller

Greetings again SLAS Collective!

As a way to identify SLAS Members at Star Parties, the board came up with the idea of Reflective Vests. Various ideas were suggested, such as SLAS Shirts. Good, but, what happens if it is cold and you wear a coat?? How about back to back nights at Star parties?? And, it would be difficult to get everyone a SLAS shirt. So, we came up with the idea of vests. The vest has the advantage of being transferable, it may be worn over coats, and you can wear them on back to back events!!! It also relieves the SLAS Member of purchasing a SLAS shirt for star party events. The idea is to purchase 20 vests of various sizes and have them screen printed with the SLAS logo and "SLAS Volunteer" on the back. Pictures 1 and 2 are the ones we plan for SLAS. If you are wondering what picture #3 is, it is for SLAS Members who want one with pockets... (JIM SMALL...).



Front



Back



Pocket Vest

Members may purchase a pocket vest for \$26 and SLAS will have it screen printed for them. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Bradley Waller (vicepresident@slasonline.org) We are looking for an order date of 28 Feb 2017. Please respond by then.

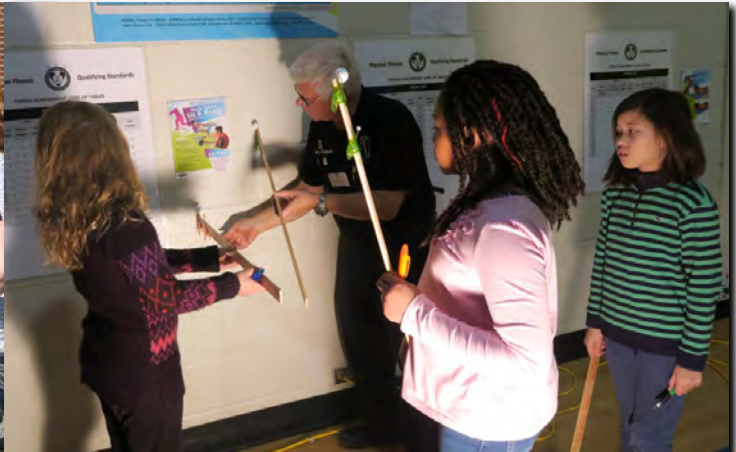


Above: Crowd at the January Eclipse Task Force meeting.



Below: Michelle Nichols from Adler Planetarium presenting inexpensive eclipse activities Above Right: Mark Jones presenting the significant astronomical events for 2017. Below Right: Dr. Peter Plavchan receives the SLAS mug.





Rich Heuermann describes eclipse activities to teachers at the MySci Eclipse Workshop held at Washington University

Larry Campbell helps students at Riverbend Elementary discover how eclipses form with a yardstick activity at a STEM day. Students in grades 3-5 attended.



Above left: Tom Keutzeer shows a group of students and parents the crescent planet Venus at the Ferguson Middle School Family Science Night. **Above Right:** The crowd at the last Eclipse Task Force meeting listening to Dr. Robert Pasken speak about his weather balloon project for the day of the eclipse. **Below:** A crowd from the Festus Public Library event listening to Don Ficken.



SLAS Executive Board Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2017

1. Opening Activities: Meeting started 7:01pm Attending: Jim Small, Larry Campbell, Bill Winningham, Tom Nickelson, Brad Waller, Mark Jones, and Rich Heuermann. Dec meeting minutes were distributed prior to meeting. Brad W. motioned to approve the December minutes, second by Tom N. Minutes were approved.

2. External Business Next board meetings: Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 6, May 4, Wed, Jun 7, Jul 6, Wed, Aug 9, Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 9, Dec 7 There are two outreach events the same night as the February Board meeting. Board discussed moving the meeting to Feb 2. **Tom motioned to move Feb BD from Feb 9 to Feb 2, if YMCA room is available. Motion approved. Jim Small will check YMCA for room**

3. Director Reports:

President – Jim Small: December meeting attendance was impacted by bad winter weather. Speaker came and gave good talk. Jim video recorded the presentation. SLAS membership voted and approved the 2017 Budget. Feb 25 Homemade Fest. It might be good idea to add solar eclipse photography to the call for speakers. Jim will add the Homemade Fest to the NSN calendar. Brad W will write Homemade Fest article for newsletter.

Vice President - Bradley R Waller: Speakers for 2017: "January: Peter Plavchan, PhD *"The Golden Age of Exoplanet Discovery"* *February: Pamela Gay, PhD *"Super-Secret Squirrel Stuff"* *March: Christine Floss, PhD *"Astronomy with a Microscope: Studying Stardust in the Laboratory"* *April: Kevin Evans, PhD *"Weaubleau Impact Structure"* *May: Kara Kundert *"Skype Event" "First Light: Observing the Cosmic Dawn with Paperclips and a Supercomputer"* *June: Possible Expo Speaker *July: Ryan Clegg-Watkins, PhD *"Exploring the Moon from Orbit: Paving the Way for Future Astronaut Explorers"* *August: TBD *September: *"Results from TSE"* *October: Carl Bender, PhD *"Black Holes and Hawking Radiation"* *November: William McKinnon, PhD *"PLUTO"* *December: Amy E Kimball, Skype Event *"Radio Quasars & the VLA"* Brad will start working on buying the volunteer vests described in the 2017 budget. Budget is \$300 and should buy 20 vest plus screen printing. Brad will begin contact the out of town January speaker, and send him directions, and hotel reservations. Honorarium and limited expenditures will be paid after meeting.

Membership initiatives - Membership Initiative Prizes: Inventory *4 Books: "How I Killed Pluto..." Mike Brown (Signed) *2 Eris photos signed by Mike Brown *1 book: "An Astronauts Guide to Life on Earth" Chris Hadfield (Signed) *1 CD: "Space Sessions" Chris Hadfield (Signed) Jim and Mark may have some books for give away *Neil deGrasse Tyson at the Peabody 18 May 2017. Brad bought 2 tickets for a raffle event in April. Welcome aboard new members meeting still planned for each month.

Secretary – Mark Jones: No report

Treasurer/ALCor – Bill Winningham: Budget See separate report Membership dues down \$250. Balance sheet, total equity at end of 2016 is \$62,951. Profit loss for 2016. Total expense for 2016 was under spent by \$1200. Donations for 2016 is \$1479. Total income was \$55,307. Net income was \$32,885. If our total income averages more than \$50,000 for 3 years before long form IRS filing will be necessary. Some refunds for Astronomy magazine due to some members 2017 Budget was voted on and passed at the December SLAS meeting

Hospitality – Larry Campbell: LTP 2nd anniversary cake planned for December meeting was saved until January meeting. Sample pins for years of service. Pins are \$3.2 each. 2017 recognition budget is \$300. Minus NSN pins for \$46

Board Member at Large reports

Tom Nickelson: (2017) No report

Brent Buch (2018) December meeting which was recorded by Jim in my absence has been uploaded to YouTube but has not been distributed yet. Feedback from November YouTube video: Brent had two people in the test group who found it difficult to access the November meeting. We also had a report of sound out of sync with video and somewhat fuzzy quality. I'm taking the suggestions and will try to improve the recording. Quality should improve with higher record quality but sound problems may be specific to the User's PC in some cases. Two members reported getting a "no content" error when attempting to play video. One member was successful after switching to gmail account

Rich Heuermann (2019) Knight Center will charge Rich's credit card for both 2017 speakers. Still not sure if we get the department rate. Rich will check the application box to bill room expenses only. Rich will be reimbursed from Speaker budget.

4. Committee Reports:

Membership – see revised membership report, We are now at 159 members.

Newsletter – send articles in ready to go format! Plan to have newsletter out Sunday.

Website – New SLAS website still in work www.slasonline.org/joomla

Facebook page created, open to members only <https://www.facebook.com/groups/slasonline/>

Eclipse Expo website created, <http://www.eclipseexpo.org/>

Night Sky Network – NSN 2017 Outreach pins have been ordered by Jim. Brad will print the NSN recognition certificates.

Publicity – Rich H sent out the press release for the January SLAS meeting.

Star Parties: See separate report.

5. Old Business ISDC – Rich H. coordinating with Christine Nobbe. ISDC's parent organization does lobbying. Board agreed we should support ISDC like we support IDA which conducts lobbying. Christine to present A101 to SLAS in Feb. Need Rich H to prepare overview of ISDC and SLAS contribution and benefits to SLAS members. Possible prizes include: Solar binocular, or LTP. Rich is going to talk to Christine about prize ideas. Draft proposal from Dec 2016: The Board proposes that SLAS participate in the following way: sponsor one exhibitor table (\$100), make monetary donation \$150, conduct one or more of star/solar parties, publicizing on our website and newsletter and our communication, contribute one or more door prizes (need \$ amount), provide volunteers for conference logistics including registration.

Recognition Proposal from December 2016. An annual membership recognition award called "The Lois Fitter Lifetime Outreach Award" should be created to recognize long-time outreach volunteers who have volunteered for 5 or more years of outreach for the society with a minimum of 5 events per year. A nomination form and selection committee will be created by the membership recognition chair and the award will be presented (if nominations are available) when outreach volunteer recognition pins are presented. Discussion took place with Board. Proposal was moved to Recognition Committee for development of a comprehensive recognition program that goes beyond Outreach. Prior to meeting Mark Jones sent out the following ideas for recognition awards for members and non-members who support our mission:

The Lois Fitter Outreach Award - given to most dedicated or most improved outreach participant or coordinator must be a SLAS member
The Stuart O'Byrne Founders Award - given to board or committee person for service to SLAS, must be a SLAS member
The Dick Schwartz Supportive Faculty Award - given to local educator at HS or college level who support SLAS mission don't have to be SLAS member
The Robert Cox Popular Astronomy Award - given to person having major contribution to popularizing astronomy does not have to be SLAS member
The Al Woods Mentoring Award - given to local amateur contributing to mentorship in astronomy, telescope and gadget making.

6. New Business

Eclipse Expo Committee. See report from Don Ficken. Bill will set up new checking account for Expo. Bill will coordinate with Don about who should be on account. Insurance fee must come out of Expo budget not SLAS. Motion: That Don Ficken be named eclipse Expo Committee head and is authorized to sign contracts related to the eclipse Expo project. That the Expo Committee is chartered with creating and maintaining a budget that does not to create loss for SLAS and stays within the money currently available from the Eclipse Taskforce Committee Escrow and 2017 Eclipse Committee budget. Current funds on hand are approximately \$6500. Additional revenue and donations from this Expo will go into the Eclipse Expo Committee account and be available to the committee for additional Expo expenditures only. Additionally, the Expo committee will require all participating volunteer organizations, outside of SLAS, to solicit their own membership so those individuals are acting as an agent of that organization, not SLAS, and therefore will not be covered by SLAS insurance policies. Also, that the SLAS Treasurer and President will be on all Expo accounts. Motion by Mark second by Tom. Motion passed.

NSF Grant Proposal. I make a motion that the SLAS Board authorizes members Rich Heuermann and Don Ficken to submit a National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant Proposal by the deadline of Jan 13, 2017. The submittal is in response to the American Astronomical Society "Call for Proposals: Engaging the Public with the Solar Eclipse", Julena Steinheider Duncombe Mini-Grants Program. See <https://eclipse.aas.org/grants-program/call-proposals>. The proposal will ask for up to \$5000 to expand the highly successful SLAS Library Telescope Program into daytime astronomy education. Funds would be used to buy Sunspotter telescopes, spectroscopes and associated Solar astronomy materials that would be used by SLAS and its partners for outreach education. If the NSF grant is awarded, the Library Telescope Committee will oversee the funds and make the necessary purchases. The Committee will also provide any re-

(Continued on page 7)

7:21 PM
02/14/17
Accrual Basis

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January 2017

	Jan 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Total Magazine Subscription	95.85	0.00	95.85
Membership Dues	635.00	140.00	495.00
Total Income	730.85	140.00	590.85
Cost of Goods Sold			
Total Magazine Subscriptions	95.85	0.00	95.85
Total COGS	95.85	0.00	95.85
Gross Profit	635.00	140.00	495.00
Expense			
1-Programs & Events	166.18	475.00	(308.82)
2-Newsletter	4.70	14.00	(9.30)
3-Library expense		25.00	(25.00)
5-Loaner Scopes	5.00	25.00	(20.00)
8-Website	179.40	170.00	9.40
9-Administrative Expenses	44.40	174.50	(130.10)
Total Expense	399.68	883.50	(483.82)
Net Ordinary Income	235.32	(743.50)	978.82
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Donations	50.00	0.00	50.00
Eclipse Escrow Receipts	3,985.69	0.00	3,985.69
Interest Income		8.34	(8.34)
LTP Receipts	1,015.00	0.00	1,015.00
Total Other Income	5,050.69	8.34	5,042.35
Other Expense			
Eclipse Escrow Funding	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
LTP Escrow Funding	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Net Other Income	3,050.69	(1,991.66)	5,042.35
Net Income	3,286.01	(2,735.16)	6,021.17

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2017

	Dec 31, 16	Jan 31, 17
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Checking - First Bank	3,957.19	2,164.87
Deposit, Certificate of	20,148.49	20,148.49
Library Telescope Escrow	799.33	1,814.33
PayPal	126.42	501.75
Savings - First Bank	29,755.97	29,755.97
SLAS Eclipse Conference Escrow	6,259.97	9,607.97
YMCA Trout Lodge Escrow	542.87	482.87
Total Checking/Savings	61,590.24	64,476.25
Other Current Assets		
Inventory Asset	1,360.92	1,360.92
Undeposited Funds	0.00	400.00
Total Other Current Assets	1,360.92	1,760.92
Total Current Assets	62,951.16	66,237.17
Total Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	62,951.16	66,237.17
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	8,137.66	8,137.66
Retained Earnings	24,813.26	54,813.50
Net Income	30,000.24	3,286.01
Total Equity	62,951.16	66,237.17
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	62,951.16	66,237.17

(Continued from page 6) **BOARD MEETING, JANUARY, 2017**

porting back to the NSF as required. No additional SLAS budget is required for this expanded outreach. Excess funds already in the SLAS Library Telescope Program escrow account may be used to support the expanded program as long as the initial objectives of the escrow are met for 2017. **Motion by Mark Jones, second by Tom. Motion passed.**

June SLAS Meeting location. Proposal by Don Ficken. The evening of Friday, June 16th is our regular SLAS meeting and is also setup night for the Eclipse Expo on June 17th. Either some folks will not be able to attend the regular meeting or we will need to schedule setup of the facility in mid-afternoon. With a lot of vendors flying into town, it might an interesting option to use the (already rented) facility for the Friday night regular SLAS meeting. **Motion by Brad second by Tom. Motion passed. Jim will coordinate with Don Ficken on details. Need to announce at meeting, NSN and in normal press releases**

Library Telescope Program for K-12. Proposal by Don Ficken to transfer the four library telescopes available for SLAS member checkout to the pilot K-12 library telescope checkout program. This will allow us to get the pilot school program underway quickly. We would build four new library telescopes and replace the four borrowed telescopes from the member checkout program. These telescopes would be replaced into the member checkout pool no later than April 1st. Very little time will be lost for member checkout of the telescopes and the immediate availability of telescopes would help us get the trial K-12 program underway quickly. Board was concerned about pulling the 4 LTP from our Loaner Program, two of the scopes are currently checked out by members. **Motion was withdrawn by Don**

7. Adjourn. Motion made to adjourn meeting by Brad W, second by Brent B. Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm

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* All meetings are on Thursdays unless noted.

2017: Feb 2; Mar 9; Apr 6; May 4; Jun 7 (Wed); Jul 6; Aug 9 (Wed); Sep 7; Oct 5; Nov 9; Dec 7

Dark Sky Observing Dates

See you when it gets warmer!! Use SlasDialogs or Facebook to coordinate winter events!

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

Moon April 5, May 3, May 31, June 28, July 26, August 30, September 27, October 25

Sky Orienteering Events For members who want to gather and do some relaxed observing at Babler State Park orienteering. Please RSVP if you plan to come!

2017-02-19	6:00 PM		
2017-03-19	6:30 PM	2017-04-23	7:30 PM
2017-05-21	8:00 PM	2017-06-18	8:30 PM
2017-07-16	8:00 PM	2017-08-13	8:00 PM
2017-09-17	7:00 PM	2017-10-15	6:30 PM
2017-11-12	6:00 PM	2017-12-10	5:30 PM

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

YMCA Edward Jones Star Parties (generally third Mondays)

Pattonville Observatory Public Viewing Dates

Broemmelsiek Astronomy Park Public Viewing
Every Friday night with ASEM members

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:

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 EVENTS

February

17 Fri SLAS Regular Meeting
18 Sat Sidewalk Solar Observing - SLSC
18 Sat Brentwood Recreation Complex
19 Sun SLAS Sky Orienteering Event
24 Fri Parkway STEM Expo
25 Sat SLAS HOMEMADE FEST!

March

2 Thur STEAM FEST LaSalle Springs Middle School
3 Fri Public Telescope Viewing SLSC
6 Mon Oak Bend Library
7 Tues St. Louis County HQ
8 Wed SLCL Sachs Library
9 Thur Berkely Middle School
9 Thur SLPL Machacek Library
9 Thur SLAS Board Meeting
10 Fri SLCL Meramec Valley Library
13 Mon Willow Brook Science Night
14 Tue Ferguson Library
16 Thur Premier Charter School
17 Fri SLAS Regular Meeting
18 Sat Sidewalk Solar Observing
18 Sat Mastodon Science Fair
19 Sun SLAS Sky Orienteering Event
20 Mon Edward Jones YMCA
22 Wed Visitation Academy MS STEM Night
25 Sat SLAS Dark Sky Observing
29 Wed SLCL Grand Glaize Library Eclipse Awareness Program
30 Thur Pacific Library Star Party
30 Thur Cliff Cave Library Star Party
31 Fri Webster Groves Library Star Party

April

4 Tue Glen Carbon Library Star Party
4 Tue Sullivan Library Star Party
5 Wed Francis Park Stargazing
6 Thur SLAS Board Meeting

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



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 @ \$29.95 / 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>Brad Waller</i>	314-481-7250
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:	
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Board19 at slasonline.org	
<i>Brent Buch</i>	314-239-0329
Board18 at slasonline.org	
<i>Tom Nickelson</i>	314-346-9565
board17 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	

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librarytelescope at slasonline.org	
Loaner Equipment <i>Greg Gaines</i>	314-277-3082
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Merchandise <i>Vacant</i>	
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'SLASdialogs' Moderator <i>Mark Jones, Rhonda Whelan</i>	
dialogsmoderator at yahoo.com	
Star Party Coordinator <i>Bill Breeden</i>	314-276-3613
starparty at slasonline.org	
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Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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

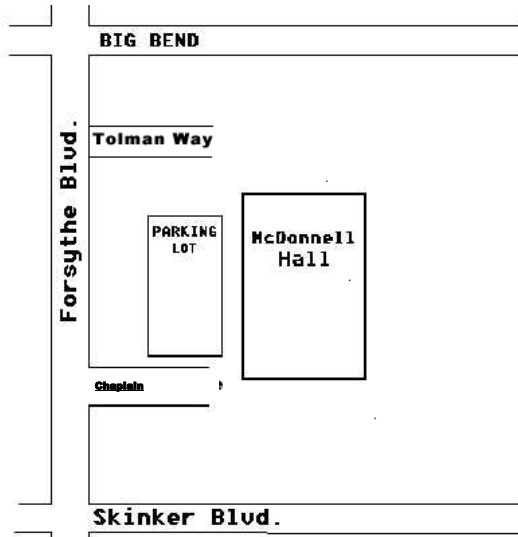


Who We Are and What We Do

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

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