

THE EVENT HORIZON



ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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

**VOLUME 24, Issue 11
November, 2014**

Dark Matter, Dark Energy, and the Accelerating Universe

by

Dr. Bharat Ratra

Library Telescope Program Under Way

by

Jim Small

Mid States Region



Dr. Bharat Ratra of Kansas State University, will be featured at the November meeting of the St. Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM Friday, November 21, in McDonnell Hall, Room 162, on the Washington University campus.

Scientists have discovered that most of the material in the universe is invisible – it neither emits light nor reflects light, so they call it “dark matter”. They have also discovered a strange force that is causing the universe to expand ever faster. The force is apparently due to an unknown phenomenon, which they have called “dark energy”. Dr. Ratra will describe the astronomical data that persuades cosmologists that the dark energy and dark matter, whatever they turn out to be, are by far the main components of the universe at this time. He will also explain how these observations have led to the development of a detailed “standard” model of cosmology. This model describes how the universe has evolved from a small speck at an unimaginably short time after the Big Bang to the immense and complex structures of the cosmos that we see almost fourteen billion years later.

Dr. Ratra is a Professor of Physics at Kansas State University. His research interests involve cosmology and astroparticle physics. He studies the structure and evolution of the universe by devising computer models. These models predict the distribution of matter and energy of the present universe from points in time after its beginning. He then compares the results of the models to the observed universe of today.

The training is over, the advance press work is over, the “Go Live” date has come and gone and the Library Telescope program is under way in St. Louis! Keep on your toes, folks, this program will have a big impact on the activities of our group! At last count, there were something like 49 people on waiting lists to check out the scopes. Library star parties are being requested and programs for libraries have already begun. It is a great opportunity to get involved in all things SLAS.

If you’ve never worked at a star party before, the library programs offer a wonderful opportunity to get involved. You don’t need a telescope, but if you have one, by all means, bring it! The programs are an introduction to the library telescope and it’s operation for patrons who will be checking it out (eventually!). Even if you just attend and help out, it will be a good learning opportunity for you as a volunteer helping people out at our events.

The press for the program has been outstanding. To see all the reports from places like KSDK and FOX 2 News, head for the Library Telescope web page at www.slasonline.org/librarytelescope.html.

To sign up for a star party, head for the website, click on the event you are interested in on the calendar, log in to the Night Sky Network, and RSVP to let us know you are coming! We look forward to working with all of you!

Inside This Issue

President’s Corner, Master Card	2
Star Party Reports	3
SLAS 2015 Budget	4
SLAS 2015 Budget	6
Eclipse Photos	7
Outreach Award	8
October Board Minutes	9
October Financials	9
Events	10
Contact	11

President's Corner

by Jim Small

It's LIVE! Library telescopes were the word for the month of November with all of the press and events taking place. It's an exciting time for SLAS members. This program will likely thrust SLAS forward in both community involvement and in promotion of astronomy in general. I can see down the line that SLAS produces more programs for the library and expands the topics to include the toolkits we have from Night Sky Network. It is a perfect venue for such programs and a willing audience that is coordinated and hosted by others takes a lot of stress off of the setup for such programs, especially since SLAS doesn't have a dedicated classroom space other than the general meeting. I look forward to more cooperation with the libraries, they are a great community to work with!

If you would like to be involved with the Library events and other star parties, they are easy to get started and very rewarding as you will be working with people that signed up for the event specifically to learn how to use the telescopes.

SLAS merchandise is now set up and available at Heads and Threadz at the west end of the Delmar Loop. They also have a store in the Galleria. Simply take any article you would like to have embroidered to the store and they will fix you up! Embroidery is \$10/item. Our logo has been set up at the store and you may choose different colors for various parts. See the ad on the events page for details about locations.

As usual, we have a lot of star parties coming up, so please check night sky network and see if you can volunteer for them. If you have not volunteered for a star party before and you would like some help, don't hesitate to contact me or anyone else whose contact information is on the back page of the newsletter for help.

Don't forget to get your five outreach events in so you are eligible for the NSN outreach pin!

Solar Party at MasterCard

by Rich Jennings

I have been waiting for an opportunity to share my interest in astronomy with co-workers at the MasterCard Headquarters located in O'Fallon, MO near Highway 40/64 and Winghaven. The 23 October solar eclipse was exactly the type of event that I was looking to explore particularly as it would occur in the afternoon as the day shift would be starting home. Obtaining the complete cooperation from our PR department and campus security, the PR folks put together a nice piece in our in-house e-newsletter promoting the event. Scouting the campus, I decided the parking lot overlooking Highway 40/64 offered the best, unobstructed perspective of the western sky. A dry run the week before the event confirmed this location was good and helped me select the best site in which to set up.

On event day I was ready with my 6 inch Orion dob and solar filter, several of the SLAS solar viewers, literature on eclipses, and SLAS flyers. But, Mother Nature thumbed her nose at us all! From our site, we did manage a total 30 minutes of excellent seeing between 4:30 and 5:30 before the Sun sunk into a solid cloud bank. The 35-40 guests that came out during that time were impressed with views through the telescope and the solar viewers. During the down time, I was able to chat with a couple of new telescope owners encouraging them to join us at our first Friday PTV sessions.

Despite the weather issue, the crowd was good and very interested in seeing more. I am looking forward to the next event opportunity!

Finally, a "tip of the dob" to Don Flicker for his encouragement and suggestions for this solar party and to Mark Jones for offering the solar viewers!



Left: Rich Jennings with fellow MasterCard Employees and his solar telescope setup.

Right. More employees use the solar viewers while Rich aligns the



Kirkwood Public Library Star Party and Patron Training

Date: Saturday, November 8, 2014

Time: 5:00 - 7:00 pm (2 hours)

SLAS Volunteers: John Beaury, Cook Feldman,
Don Ficken (Lead)

Guests: About 40 adults and kids

Last night was a pleasant star party/library telescope training event at the Kirkwood Public Library. The goal of this event was different than a typical star party. Instead of focusing on finding objects in the night sky, we focused on teaching guests the basics of operating a library telescope and promoting the Kirkwood Public library telescope program.

To accommodate this event, the library extended their normal hours from 5pm to 7pm and supplied coffee and soft drinks to participating guests. Using our trainer telescope and the library telescope that we donated to Kirkwood Library, we started the evening indoors showing library patrons the basics of how to operate the telescope and navigate in the night sky.

After about 30 minutes, the group convened outside where we had our telescopes already setup. The library made a small table available for use with the library telescope. We had a steady crowd all evening of library guests and passersby learning how to operate the telescope. The Moon was not available during our viewing and the street lights were too bright to easily find stars, so we focused on helping guests find street signs as a simple way to learn how to operate the telescope. However, we were able to help the guests find the double star Albiero in the constellation Cyngus the Swan and the bright star Vega in the constellation Lyra. It was discovered that the library had a planisphere, so we added use of the planisphere to our training discussion.

In spite of the difficulty in viewing real objects in the night sky, the guests appeared to enjoy themselves and were very excited about the library telescope being available. They were surprised how easy the library telescope was to operate and how light it was to handle. One guest with pizzas in hand and his family nearby continued to stay and ask questions.

With the pizzas getting cold and his family hungry, the frustrated wife took the pizzas from the husband and took the family home. The husband had to walk home but loved every minute of it.

Library Telescopes become available in participating St. Louis area libraries this Monday. Kirkwood Library reports they already have a wait list of 12 people asking to checkout their library telescope.

Many thanks to the staff of Kirkwood Library who did a fabulous job setting up this event and to John Beaury and Cook Feldman for bringing out their telescopes and making the evening a success.

Clear Skies,

Don_Ficken

St. Louis Public Library – Machacek Branch Star Party/Educational Program.

Date: November 13, 2014 **Time:** 5:30 – 7:30 pm (2 hours)

SLAS Volunteers: John Beaury, Don Ficken (Lead),
Mark Jones, Brian Mills (lead trainer)

Guests: About 30 adults and kids

This was the first public event for the St. Louis Public Library as part of their Library Telescope program rollout. Mother Nature did not cooperate for the star party portion of the program (completely cloudy and cold), but 30 guests participated in our inside program. More than half were pre-teen children and were surprisingly attentive and knowledgeable. Most everyone stayed the entire evening. The staff of the library had graciously provided refreshments which made a perfect setting for the evening. Patty Carleton, the library telescope program coordinator for the St. Louis Public Library, was also in attendance and was delighted by the turnout and interest.

Brian Mills led the initial session of the inside program by taking 30 minutes to explain the handling, operation and use of the library telescope. The guests were able to handle the telescope and get comfortable with its parts. Because the conference room was large, the guests were able to focus the telescope on an object across the room on a wall. They were surprised how easy the library telescope was to pickup and delighted how quickly they were able to find an object in the eyepiece using the red dot finder. They had many questions which led into an extended discussion about navigating the night sky. John Beaury used a planisphere to demonstrate how to find objects in the night sky for various times of the night and year. He even explained how to use the planisphere to find the time when the sun would set.

Mark Jones helped one visitor work out problems on a telescope that they brought along with them.

Interestingly, a small group of students turned the tables on our presenters. They had an idea for an astronomy based science project for their school and had already talked to folks at the Science Center (including Christian Greer, Chief Education and Program Officer for the St Louis Science Center). They wanted our opinion as well and we agreed to listen. They used a poster board with pictures and examples to make a formal presentation to us. The idea was to have an eyepiece with two viewing ports so that a student and teacher could look at an object at the same time. Also, the idea would allow double the number of people to look through an eyepiece during star parties. We had a great discussion on the merits of this idea and the students (and parents) were delighted.

Overall a great evening which was a lot of fun. The guests were very appreciative of the time we spent with them. Many thanks to Molly Pfeiffer, Manager of the Machacek Branch, and to Patty Carleton, Program Coordinator, for arranging a delightful evening with the St. Louis Public Library patrons and guests.

Clear Skies ,

Don Ficken

**Assumption Summary – 2015 St. Louis
Astronomical Society Annual Budget**

Work began on the 2015 budget after the financial close for September 2014. The year to date information is therefore through September 30, 2015 with an estimated projection of activity from October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

The budget information was assembled partially based on assumptions developed from the September 2014 year to date actual in areas such as the magazine subscriptions and membership information available at that time. The balances of the budgetary items were prepared on a line by line basis by the individual committees and committee chairpersons.

Revenue / Income:

The primary source of Revenue for the Society stems solely from membership fees that are assessed on an annual basis that is based on the member's individual anniversary date. The current fee structure was adopted in 2004 where the "Family Membership" was created and set at an annual rate of \$40.00 per year. At the same time, the fees for the Youth membership were decreased from \$15.00 to \$10.00 per year.

The total revenue from the membership fees for 2015 is based on:

Regular (Adult) Memberships
100 @ \$25.00/year \$2,500
Youth Memberships 6 @
\$10.00/year 60
Family Memberships 22 @
\$40.00/year 880

As indicated in the budget, this will provide operating revenues in the total of \$3,440 for 2015. The actual revenues that will be realized during the calendar year may be different due to any changes in the actual membership numbers.

Magazine subscriptions are referenced as a memo item. The Society acts solely as an agent in these transactions as a convenience to the membership. It should be noted that the same "Club" rates for the subscriptions are available to each member in good standing through the Night Sky Network for those who choose that option.

Albeit that the Society does receive donations for the outreach activities, these donations have been ignored for the purpose of the 2015 budget due to the uncertainty. The donations are solely for the purpose to contribute to the

cash flow and offset a portion of any deficit.

Operating Expenses:

These are expenses that are incurred to run the Society on a month to month basis to provide goods and services to the membership. Some of the expense categories are required to meet specific obligations that enable Society to function as an organization. The balance of the expense categories are considered discretionary and may be adjusted accordingly. The items that will be discussed in detail are the discretionary items.

For 2015 the printing expenses for both the newsletter and brochures, along with the general administrative printing have been combined into a single item under operating expenses. This change was made in order better track printing resources, since the functions utilize the same printing resources. The overall budget for printing expense has been increased to reflect an anticipated higher volume of brochure printing for 2015.

The Homemade Fest budget remains \$100. This budget is primarily used to purchase refreshments, plates, plastic ware and door prizes. SLAS hopes to continue getting the meeting room free of charge from the Science Center or the Kirkwood Community Center. Kirkwood waived the fee in 2014 because of our hosting telescope viewing at Kirkwood Park at least twice a year.

The Star-B-Que has been kept at a constant level as the previous year budget. This event will again be member pot luck with SLAS providing the meat, paper goods, and trivia quiz prizes. SLAS hopes to continue getting the picnic pavilion free of charge. This is normally a \$80 charge, but Babler has waived the fee because of our hosting Night Skies Over Babler twice a year.

The members in attendance will be asked to provide items as with the Homemade Fest. This will require that the membership provide their RSVP and number of attendees so the event can be planned accordingly.

Library Telescope Program:

The Library Telescope Committee requests \$600 in funding to continue expansion of the library telescope program in the regional St. Louis area. The committee will evaluate the best targets based on the goal of the library telescope program and feedback that we are getting on current deployment. The purchase of additional telescopes would not occur unless a commitment for use was made by the corresponding library system.

2015 Eclipse Workshop:

The American Astronomical Society plans on at least two Eclipse Workshops in 2015. Eight SLAS members

(Continued on page 5)

were able to attend the 2014 workshop held in Columbia MO. In 2015 the workshops will be at more remote locations like Indianapolis, IN. This decreases the likelihood of SLAS attendance without some supplemental support. Therefore, SLAS will budget \$200 for one member's registration fee to attend one of the 2015 conference.

2017 Eclipse Committee:

An eclipse committee will be formed to coordinate SLAS's response to the 2017 total solar eclipse. \$200 has been budgeted for 2015 and will be used to develop and print promotional items and support local workshops sponsored by SLAS and the Science Center. Items being considered are purchasing of eclipse viewers and 2017 eclipse posters by noted artist/astronomer Tyler Nordgren.

Meeting Expense:

Meeting expense is comprised of Meeting Refreshments and Meeting Speaker Fees. The meeting refreshments are self-explanatory and have been budgeted at \$450, unchanged from 2014 budget levels. The Meeting Speaker Fees are used primarily to present honorariums to guest speakers and occasionally to partially offset travel expenses. The speaker budget has ranged between \$250 and \$500 in recent years. The 2015 speaker budget remains unchanged from 2014 at \$250.

Membership Initiatives:

Historically membership initiatives has included component for merchandise, membership recognition and general membership initiatives. For 2015 these items are being tracked as separate categories to improve clarity to both the membership and for budget tracking purposes. The membership initiatives program focuses on growing membership. The \$200 budget will include \$50 for two SLAS memberships to be raffled at Astronomy Day 2015 and \$150 for promotional materials including handouts to be given away as part of the Library Telescope training and Outreach activities

Membership Recognition:

Two special membership programs have been budgeted for 2015, which are the same programs that were provided for 2014. The membership recognition will budget \$200. This will include \$100 for Night Sky Network pins and certificates. Last year 14 members were recognized for their Outreach activities. An additional \$100 will be budgeted for recognition of members for contributing their time for other SLAS functions.

Merchandise:

A budget of \$120 has been established to cover the setup fees for embroidery/silkscreen. Several local retailers are

being considered based on overall price, quality, and convenience.

Library:

Library expenses for 2015 will be for the purpose of purchasing the latest CDs available for both Sky & Telescope and Astronomy Magazine at an estimated cost of \$30 each. In addition the Library will carry the "Best of the ATM Journal" and other publications at an estimated cost of \$240.

Loaner Scope Program:

SLAS has in its inventory, telescopes ranging from 13" to 75mm. This includes five Dobsonian reflectors, two Refractors, two ETX Maksutovs, one Schmidt-Cassegrain, one 20x80mm binocular and one Hydrogen-alpha and one white light solar telescope. These are housed in a storage shed when not checked out by members. The current year Loaner Scope budget will be \$200 for maintenance/repair of the shed, telescopes and upgrade of some accessories. Projected purchases for 2015 include new storage case for the Unitron Refractor, Solar filters for the EPX-90 and ETX-125, and two collapsible, 2-wheel dollies for handling the larger Dobsonian scopes.

SLAS Brochures:

Brochure printing expense has been combined with the newsletter printing expense for 2015. The brochures contain information about the Society that is distributed to the general public at all outreach events. Brochure paper requirements are estimated at 12 reams of "astro-bright" premium paper at a cost of \$156.

Summary:

The 2015 budget as presented equals a net loss of \$2,068 for 2015. Meeting the projected expenses for the upcoming year will require supplementing the operations from cash reserves to the extent donations do not make up the shortfall. All attempts have been made during this process to provide equivalent programs for the membership as had been provided in previous years.

If you have questions about the amounts presented in this budget, please direct them to the individual committee chairs. They will be the best source to address these questions.

Respectfully,

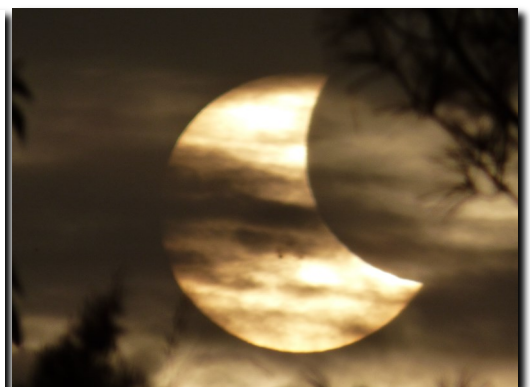
Bill Winningham,
Treasurer

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY						
PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGET - 2015						
	Actual	Budget	Projection		Budget	
	Year to Date	Year to Date	Oct-14 to	Year to date	Annual	Annual
	Sep-14	Sep-14	Dec-14	Dec-14	2014	2015
Income						
Magazine Subscription						
Astronomy Magazine Sales	\$ 272.00	\$ 1,564.00	\$ 510.00	\$ 782.00	\$ 2,074.00	\$ 782.00
Sky & Telescope Sales	428.35	1,977.00	395.40	823.75	2,372.40	1,252.10
Total Magazine Subscription	\$ 700.35	\$ 3,541.00	\$ 905.40	\$ 1,605.75	\$ 4,446.40	\$ 2,034.10
Membership Dues	\$ 2,390.00	\$ 2,525.00	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 3,415.00	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 3,440.00
Merchandise Sales					-	-
Total Income	\$ 3,090.35	\$ 6,066.00	\$ 1,930.40	\$ 5,020.75	\$ 7,996.40	\$ 5,474.10
Cost of Goods Sold						
Magazine Subscriptions						
Astronomy Magazine Cost	\$ 272.00	\$ 1,564.00	\$ 510.00	\$ 782.00	\$ 2,074.00	\$ 782.00
Sky & Telescope Cost	428.35	1,977.00	395.40	823.75	2,372.40	1,252.10
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 700.35	\$ 3,541.00	\$ 905.40	\$ 1,605.75	\$ 4,446.40	\$ 2,034.10
Gross Profit	\$ 2,390.00	\$ 2,525.00	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 3,415.00	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 3,440.00
Operating Expense						
Programs & Events						
Trout Lodge 1000 yd. model (2014 Only)					200.00	-
Astronomy Day (2014 Only)		200.00	-	-		
Home Made Fest	54.99	100.00	-	54.99	100.00	100.00
Star BBQ Expense	136.75	175.00	-	136.75	175.00	175.00
Library Scope Program Escrow	-	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00 *	600.00
Eclipse Workshop Dues	-	150.00	-	-	150.00 **	200.00
2017 Eclipse Committee						200.00
Meeting Expenses						
Meeting Refreshments	186.64	337.50	52.17	238.81	450.00	450.00
Meeting Speaker Fees	139.57	187.50	60.00	199.57	250.00	250.00
Total Meeting Expenses	\$ 326.21	\$ 525.00	\$ 112.17	\$ 438.38	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Membership Initiatives	\$ 30.00	\$ 393.75	\$ 87.68	\$ 117.68	\$ 325.00	\$ 200.00
Merchandise						120.00
Membership Recognition			15.03	15.03	200.00	200.00
Programs & Events	\$ 547.95	\$ 1,543.75	\$ 1,214.88	\$ 1,762.83	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 2,495.00
Newsletter Postage	\$ 117.60	\$ 112.50	\$ 10.00	\$ 127.60	\$ 150.00	\$ 180.00
Newsletter Printing (see combined for 2015)	230.26	101.25	90.00	320.26	135.00	-
Newsletter - Other / Printer Depreciation					-	-
Total Newsletter	\$ 347.86	\$ 213.75	\$ 100.00	\$ 447.86	\$ 285.00	\$ 180.00
Library expense	\$ 88.62	\$ 225.00		\$ 88.62	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Astronomical League Dues	650.00	660.00	-	650.00	660.00	650.00
Loaner Scopes	155.25	225.00		155.25	300.00	200.00
Brochures (see combined printing for 2015)	43.69	187.50		43.69	250.00	-
Insurance	380.00	380.00	-	380.00	380.00	380.00
Website	113.88	108.00	-	113.88	108.00	135.00

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY						
PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGET - 2015						
	Actual	Budget	Projection		Budget	
	Year to Date	Year to Date	Oct-14 to	Year to date	Annual	Annual
	Sep-14	Sep-14	Dec-14	Dec-14	2014	2015
Administrative Expenses						
Corporate Filings	20.00	20.00	-	20.00	20.00	-
Office Supplies		182.00	40.00	40.00	245.00	165.00
Other Expenses	110.18		-	110.18	-	-
PayPal Fees	29.14	26.00	10.00	39.14	35.00	40.00
Postage	39.20	112.50	30.00	69.20	150.00	75.00
Printing / Copying Expense (combined 2015)					-	888.00
Administrative Expenses	\$ 198.52	\$ 340.50	\$ 80.00	\$ 278.52	\$ 450.00	\$ 1,168.00
Total Operating Expense	\$ 2,525.77	\$ 3,883.50	\$ 1,394.88	\$ 3,920.65	\$ 5,583.00	\$ 5,508.00
Net Income/(Loss) From Operations	\$ (135.77)	\$ (1,358.50)	\$ (369.88)	\$ (505.65)	\$ (2,033.00)	\$ (2,068.00)
Other Income / Expense						
Other Income						
Donations						
Girl Scouts of E. Mo. Dist. 4	\$ 50.00			\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -
LaSalle Springs Middle School	100.00			100.00	-	-
City of Crestwood	150.00			150.00	-	-
Webster Groves Nature Society	200.00			200.00	-	-
Halls Ferry Elementary	200.00			200.00		
SLAS Club Members	6.33			6.33	-	-
Donations - Other	5.00			5.00	-	-
Total Donations	\$ 711.33		\$ -	\$ 711.33	\$ -	\$ -
Interest Income	\$ 28.57	\$ 75.00	\$ 38.09	\$ 66.66	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Non-Operating Income	1,032.66			1,032.66	-	-
Total Other Income	\$ 1,772.56	\$ 75.00	\$ 38.09	\$ 1,810.65	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Other Expense						
Physical Inventory Adjustment	\$ 92.93			\$ 92.93	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Expense	\$ 92.93		\$ -	\$ 92.93	\$ -	\$ -
Net Other Income / (Expense)	\$ 1,679.63	\$ 75.00	\$ 38.09	\$ 1,717.72	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Net Income / (Loss)	\$ 1,543.86	\$ (1,283.50)	\$ (331.79)	\$ 1,212.07	\$ (1,933.00)	\$ (1,968.00)



Enjoy a couple of photographs from the October 23rd Partial Solar Eclipse! These were taken by Grant Martin using a Pentax K20 coupled directly to an Orion ED80 telescope. Focal length is about 600mm. The December meeting will feature member photographs from both the lunar and solar eclipses from October.



ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY						
PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGET - 2015						
	Actual	Budget	Projection		Budget	
	Year to Date	Year to Date	Oct-14 to	Year to date	Annual	Annual
	Sep-14	Sep-14	Dec-14	Dec-14	2014	2015
Required versus Discretionary Spending						
Gross Profit	\$ 2,390.00	\$ 2,525.00	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 3,415.00	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 3,440.00
Required Expenses						
Newsletter Postage	\$ 117.60	\$ 112.50	\$ 10.00	\$ 127.60	\$ 150.00	\$ 180.00
Newsletter Printing	230.26	101.25	90.00	320.26	135.00	-
Astronomical League Dues	650.00	660.00	-	650.00	660.00	650.00
Insurance	380.00	380.00	-	380.00	380.00	380.00
Website	113.88	108.00	-	113.88	108.00	135.00
Corporate Filings	20.00	20.00	-	20.00	20.00	-
Office Supplies		182.00	40.00	40.00	245.00	165.00
PayPal Fees	29.14	26.00	10.00	39.14	35.00	40.00
Postage	39.20	112.50	30.00	69.20	150.00	75.00
Printing / Copying Expense					-	888.00
	\$ 1,580.08	\$ 1,702.25	\$ 180.00	\$ 1,760.08	\$ 1,883.00	\$ 2,513.00
Balance for Discretionary Items	\$ 809.92	\$ 822.75	\$ 845.00	\$ 1,654.92	\$ 1,667.00	\$ 927.00
Discretionary Spending						
Home Made Fest	54.99	100.00	-	54.99	100.00	100.00
Meeting Refreshments	186.64	337.50	52.17	238.81	450.00	450.00
Meeting Speaker Fees	139.57	187.50	60.00	199.57	250.00	250.00
Membership Initiatives	30.00	393.75	87.68	117.68	325.00	200.00
Merchandise						120.00
Membership Recognition			15.03	15.03	200.00	200.00
Carlisle Campout/Astronomy Day		200.00	-	-	200.00	-
Star BBQ Expense	136.75	175.00	-	136.75	175.00	175.00
Library expense	88.62	225.00	-	88.62	300.00	300.00
Loaner Scopes	155.25	225.00	-	155.25	300.00	200.00
Brochures	43.69	187.50	-	43.69	250.00	-
Other Expenses	110.18		-	110.18	-	-
Library Scope Program Escrow			1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	* 600.00
Eclipse Workshop Dues					150.00	** 200.00
2017 Eclipse Committee						200.00
	\$ 945.69	\$ 2,031.25	\$ 1,214.88	\$ 2,160.57	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 2,995.00
Net Income/(Loss) From Operations	\$ (135.77)	\$ (1,208.50)	\$ (369.88)	\$ (505.65)	\$ (2,033.00)	\$ (2,068.00)

* Membership approved expenditure for 3 library telescopes with funds available through 2015

** Membership approved reimbursement for Mark Jones 2014 Eclipse Conference dues, to date the conference has not accepted payment from Mark Jones

Get Your Outreach Award! If you have participated in a minimum of 5 star parties (minimum of two hours each), all you need to get your **AL Outreach Award** is to: Document each event with the following information: Date, time (started and ended), location; What you did for the outreach; Estimate of the number of people attending. Most of this information can be recorded under Night Sky Network.

To reach the Stellar Level, you need an additional 50 outreach hours, again recording the same data as above and an article reporting on one of the events, similar to the articles in this newsletter by Don Ficken or Rich Jennings.

To reach the Master Outreach Award you will need an additional 100 outreach hours, all documented, and report on what seems to work best for their outreach efforts; this can be specific activities, locations, etc. This is more than a simple star party report, it is more like sharing techniques for outreach.k

Don't forget, to qualify for the **Night Sky Network Outreach Awards** for the year, you must participate in FIVE events!

SLAS Executive Board Minutes - October 9, 2014

1. Opening Activities Meeting called to order 7:04pm Attending: Grant Martin, Jim Small, Bill Winningham, Paul Baldwin, Mark Jones. Paul motion to accept the September minutes second by Jim Small. Minutes were approved.

2. External Business SLSC First Friday: Nov 7: The Science of Sherlock Holmes, Dec 5th: Battlestar Galactica – So Say We All. **Next board meeting:** 11/6 Board meeting dates for the year are confirmed from the YMCA: 12/11. Board agreed with those dates and Jim will forward these dates to Don Ficken to schedule with the YMCA. Suggested dates for 2015: Jan 8, Feb 12, March 12, April 9, May 7, June 11, July 9, August 6, Sept 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10.

3. Director Reports:

President: Library Telescope Program: Library meetings a success. 18 total telescopes requested. October 4 build party a success. Kirkwood scope delivered. Star party for Kirkwood Library set up for Nov 8th. Library training sessions to take place in the next month. November 10 press release. Orion Telescope magazine doing a feature article. The Reflector wants an article.

Vice President –Paul Baldwin: September: Catarina Ubach for October on Exoplanets, Nov. Dr Bharat Ratra on Dark Matter; Dec. Open, possible Telescopes for Christmas. **Astro 101: Topic:** Upcoming Solar Eclipse, free eclipse viewers for SLAS members and for sale to non-members for \$1.00. SLAS members are also invited to observe eclipse from top of Monk’s Mound.

Secretary – Mark J No report

Treasurer/ALCor – Books for MSRAL 2014 closed. Reports submitted. 2015 Budget requests mostly in. Budget meeting to be scheduled Board discussed 2015 Budget, we will have separate budget meeting. Oct 20th 630pm Young’s

Hospitality – Grant M no report submitted

Board member at large reports

Larry Campbell no report

Tom Nickelson: no report

Brad Waller: no report

4. Committee Reports: If needed

Membership – Report submitted SLAS is holding at 150 members, just down 1 from beginning of the year.

Merchandise – Grant needs to step down. Jim will ask Brad if he wants to take over for Merchandise.

Telescope Making – no report submitted

Librarian – No changes

Newsletter – budget submitted

Website – budget submitted

Night Sky Network – no report

SLASdialogs – no report

Dark Site – Oct 25 last official date for the season

Loaner Equipment – budget submitted

Publicity – release sent for October Meeting

Observing Programs – no report

Star Parties: Mike Malolepszy needs to step aside or reduce duties to help take care of his father. Upcoming star parties: Oct 18 – Babler, Oct 25 Dark Site, Oct 29 Francis Park, Oct 30 Science Center, Nov 1 Larson Park, Nov 7 Science Center,

5. Old Business

6. New Business Any new business to bring before the board.

7. Closing Activities Motion to adjourn by Paul Baldwin, seconded by Grant Martin meeting adjourned at 9:00

St. Louis Astronomical Society Balance Sheet As of October 31, 2014		
	Dec 31, 13	Oct 31, 14
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Checking - First Bank	3,263.28	4,890.23
Deposit, Certificate of	20,027.97	20,057.94
Library Telescope Escrow	0.00	660.10 *
Merchandise Change Fund	20.00	20.00
PayPal	24.15	144.90
Savings - First Bank	3,357.60	3,358.85
YMCA Trout Lodge Escrow	877.87	542.87
Total Checking/Savings	27,570.87	29,674.89
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable	0.00	5.00
Total Accounts Receivable	0.00	5.00
Other Current Assets		
Inventory Asset	1,707.15	1,614.22
Investment in Mid-States 2014	2,000.00	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	3,707.15	1,614.22
Total Current Assets	31,278.02	31,294.11
Fixed Assets		
Total Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	31,278.02	31,294.11
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
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	22,221.50
Net Income	3,885.22	934.95
Total Equity	31,237.03	31,294.11
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	31,278.02	31,294.11

* includes \$335 receivable from U. City Library

St. Louis Astronomical Society Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January through October 2014			
	Jan - Oct 14	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Magazine Subscription	733.30	3,941.65	(3,208.35)
Membership Dues	2,730.00	3,065.00	(335.00)
Total Income	3,463.30	7,006.65	(3,543.35)
Cost of Goods Sold			
Magazine Subscriptions	733.30	3,941.65	(3,208.35)
Total COGS	733.30	3,941.65	(3,208.35)
Gross Profit	2,730.00	3,065.00	(335.00)
Expense			
1-Programs & Events *	1,789.68	2,495.83	(706.15)
2-Newsletter	377.69	237.50	140.19
3-Library expense	88.62	225.00	(136.38)
4-Astronomical League Dues	650.00	660.00	(10.00)
5-Loaner Scopes	155.25	225.00	(69.75)
6-Brochures	43.69	208.33	(164.64)
7-Insurance	380.00	380.00	
8-Website	113.88	108.00	5.88
9-Administrative Expenses	203.62	377.00	(173.38)
Total Expense	3,802.43	4,916.66	(1,114.23)
Net Ordinary Income	(1,072.43)	(1,851.66)	779.23
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Donations	711.33		711.33
Interest Income	31.22	83.00	(51.78)
LTP Receipts	6,025.00	0.00	6,025.00
Non-Operating Income (MSRAL)	1,032.66	0.00	1,032.66
Total Other Income	7,800.21	83.00	7,717.21
Other Expense			
LTP Disbursements	5,364.90	0.00	5,364.90
Non-operating Expense	92.93	0.00	92.93
YMCA Trout Lodge ESCROW Expense	335.00	0.00	335.00
Total Other Expense	5,792.83	0.00	5,792.83
Net Other Income	2,007.38	83.00	1,924.38
Net Income	934.95	(1,768.66)	2,703.61

* Includes \$1,000 approved by membership for the Library Telescope Program

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*

12/11/2014

Dark Sky Observing Dates

See you in March!

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

See you in March!

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

December 5

YMCA Edward Jones Star Parties

Pattonville Observatory Public Viewing Dates

December 5, 2014	Friday 7:00-9:00 p.m.
December 12, 2014	Friday 7:00-9:00 p.m.
January 9, 2015	Friday 7:00-9:00 p.m.
January 23, 2015	Friday 7:00-9:00 p.m.
February 13, 2015	Friday 7:00-9:00 p.m.
February 27, 2015	Friday 7:00-9:00 p.m.
March 13, 2015	Friday 8:00-10:00 p.m.
March 27, 2015	Friday 7:00-9:00 p.m.
April 10, 2015	Friday 8:30-10:30 p.m.
April 24, 2015	Friday 9:00-11:00 p.m.
May 1, 2015	Friday 9:00-11:00 p.m.
May 22, 2015	Friday 9:00-11:00 p.m.

SLAS EVENTS

November

21 Fri SLAS Regular Meeting
24 Mon Parkway North

December

4 Thurs St. Louis Public Library
5 Fri Public Telescope Viewing SLSC
5 Fri Pattonville Observatory
11 Thurs SLAS Board Meeting
12 Fri Pattonville Observatory
19 Fri SLAS Regular Meeting

January

2 Fri Public Telescope Viewing SLSC
8 Thurs SLAS Board Meeting
9 Fri Pattonville Observatory
16 Fri SLAS Regular Meeting
22 Wed Lewis and Clark Library SLCL
23 Fri Pattonville Observatory
26 Mon St. Louis Public Library
28 Wed Tesson Ferry Library SLCL

February

2 Mon Thornhill Branch Library SLCL
6 Fri Public Telescope Viewing SLSC
12 Thurs SLAS Board Meeting
13 Fri Pattonville Observatory
20 Fri SLAS Regular Meeting
27 Fri Pattonville Observatory

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.

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, Membership
 13024 Barrett Crossing CT
 St. Louis, MO 63122

Check all that apply:
 Renewal
 Address Change Only
 Please send my newsletter by regular mail
 New Member!

SLAS OFFICERS

President	Jim Small	314-307-0692
president at slasonline.org		
Vice President	Paul Baldwin	314-781-4080
vicepresident at slasonline.org		
Secretary	Mark Jones	636-394-2342
secretary at slasonline.org		
Treasurer	Bill Winningham, (Don Ficken - membership)	636-225-0269
treasurer at slasonline.org		
Hospitality	Grant Martin	
hospitality at slasonline.org		
Board Members at Large:		
	Tom Nickelson	
board17 at slasonline.org		
	Larry Campbell	636-244-2867
board15 at slasonline.org		
	Bradley Waller	314-481-7250
board16 at slasonline.org		
ALCOR	Bill Winningham	636-225-0269
(Astronomical League Correspondent) treasurer at slasonline.org		
MSRAL Rep.	Jim Small	314-909-7211
msral_rep at astroleague.org		

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership	Don Ficken	636-225-0269
membership at slasonline.org		
Publicity	Rich Heuermann	314-962-9231
publicity at slasonline.org		
'SLASdialogs' Moderator	Mark Jones, Rhonda Whelan	
dialogsmoderator at yahoo.com		
Webmaster	Jim Small	314-909-7211
webmaster at slasonline.org		
Newsletter Editor	Jim Small	314-909-7211
newsletter at slasonline.org		
Loaner Equipment	Greg Gaines	314-277-3082
loaner at slasonline.org		
Merchandise	Vacant	
merchandise at slasonline.org		
Librarian	Jim Small	314-909-7211
librarian at slasonline.org		
Library Telescope Program	Don Ficken	636-851-9630
librarytelescope at slasonline.org		
Star Party Coordinator	Mike Malolepszy	314-781-4701
starparty at slasonline.org		
Dark Site Coordinator	Mark Jones	636-394-2342
darksite at slasonline.org		
Observing Programs	Mark Jones	636-394-2342
observing at slasonline.org		
Telescope Making	Bill Davis, Jim Melka	314-469-3061
telescope at slasonline.org		

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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

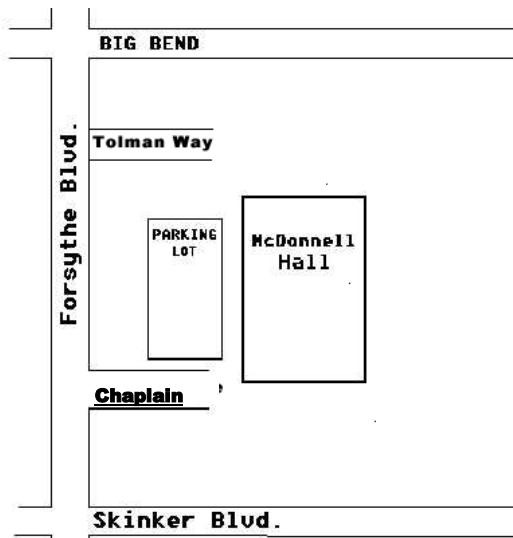


Who We Are and What We Do

St. Louis Astronomical Society is a not-for-profit organization established in 1936. SLAS is devoted to the interest and advancement of the science of astronomy. Our mission is to promote an understanding of the science of astronomy to our members and to the public. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in astronomy.

For more information contact any SLAS officer or visit our website listed above. SLAS is affiliated with the Astronomical League, Night Sky Network and the Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League.

Meetings are held the 3rd Friday of each month at McDonnell Hall at Washington University. See the map to the right for directions.



St. Louis Astronomical Society

Jim Small
13128 Cozyhill Drive
St. Louis, MO 63122

