THE EVENT HORIZON





Inside This Issue

President's Corner Volunteer Recognition	2
Gallery	3
Gallery	4
Board Minutes	5
Financials	6
Events	7

Exploring the Spacetime Around Supermassive Black Holes with Gravitational Lenses by Dr. Henric Krawczynski

Washington University

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL

SOCIETY

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

Dr. Henric Krawczynski of Washington University, will be featured at the October meeting of the St. Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM Friday, October 20, in WILSON HALL, Room 214, on the Washington University campus, Saint Louis, MO 63130. Wilson Hall is accessible from Forsyth Boulevard via Tolman Way. Yellow zone and garage parking are available to the audience. Einstein's groundbreaking theory of General Relativity, published in 1915, predicted that the gravity of massive bodies would deflect light. That prediction was confirmed by Sir Arthur Eddington's precise measurement of the positions of stars near the Sun during the total solar eclipse of 1919. An astonishing application of this property is that we can use galaxies in the distant Universe as magnifying glasses to study even more distant objects. Dr. Krawczynski will talk about using this gravitational lensing by a remote galaxy to study the X-ray emission from a quasar. The quasar is a super-

massive black hole at the center of a yet more distant galaxy. The quasar swallows gas and dust, which shines brightly just before falling into the black hole. Interestingly, the X-rays observed with the Chandra X-ray space telescope allow us to map out the curved spacetime close to the black hole. X-ray observations also allow us to constrain the properties of the lensing galaxy. We can actually measure the amount of the mass of dark matter and stars along our line of sight, and calculate the typical masses of the visible stars.

VOLUME 27, Issue 10

October, 2017

Dr. Henric Krawczynski is a Professor of Physics at Washington University. His research involves both experimental and theoretical astroparticle physics. Some of his experiments measure X-rays from space, using instruments aboard high altitude balloons. His experimental and theoretical work use astrophysical observations to test the Standard Model of Particle Physics and to probe General Relativity Theory in regions of space where gravity is extremely strong.

Upcoming Meetings:

November: William McKinnon, PhD PLUTO Wash U December: Amy E Kimball, Radio Quasars & the VLA

** 🏹 * ** 💥 * ** 💥 * ** 💥 * ** 💥 * ** 💥 * ** 💥 * ** 💥 * ** 💥 * **

The first annual **SLAS Membership Recognition Day** will be on **October 20th** this year. Pins and certificates will be presented to those loyal members who have supported us with continuous membership over a time span of 5, 10 15, 20, 25 and 30 [or more] years. A few members have more than 50 years, but they do not have pins for that! The certificates will show the actual time span being recognized. Please make a special effort to attend this meeting to receive your award and / or celebrate the dedication of your fellow SLAS members.

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 10

Presidents Corner - Jim Small

It's been a terrific and busy month. Last meeting we had a great turnout of members who presented about their eclipse experience. 11 presenters and a couple of cakes later, we all had a terrific experience recounting the eclipse. Now we need to move on to further the cause of STEM in our region! There are a myriad of opportunities to accomplish this, starting with volunteering for the next star party you can make! Membership has increased to over 180 members, the highest it's been in years. Now we need to make sure we get our new friends involved and participating in our activities. Be sure to welcome new members and ask what you can do to help them in their interest in astronomy. New members, be sure to ask people questions about what we do and get involved where you can!

We had a number of good activities this month, starting with First Friday and including library telescope programs, Astronomy Day at the McDonnell Planetarium, evening programs in 3 areas that evening, etc. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer for star parties coming up. See the calendar at the end of this newsletter.

The Pleiades National conference of Planetarians (people who run planetariums, not flatworms!) was held in St. Louis this past week and was very well attended by more than 370 persons. The James S. McDonnell Planetarium and the St. Louis Science Center hosted the conference, with Anna Green serving as the Chair for the conference. It was an excellent conference, featuring 5 days of talks, workshops, tours, and demonstrations. I got to participate in a workshop at Seiler Instruments here in St. Louis. Highlights for me included the full dome demonstrations, the constellation shootout and the astronomy update. You can watch all of the talks at the website for the conference at www.pleiades2017.org Just click on the livestreams.

At the meeting we are celebrating our membership with service recognitions. I look forward to passing out many certificates!

3 events: 11.5 hours

1 events; 5 hours

1 events: 4.5 hours

Outreach volun	iteers Jan - Oct 0, 2017	Raymond Muener	5 events, 11.5 nouis	
	ogged 1440.8 hours so far this year	Robert Drzymala	3 events; 10.8 hours	
for NSN outreach event		William Winningham	3 events; 13 hours	
	e events for 2017 qualify for the Check the SLAS calendar on NSN	Alan Sapia	2 events; 8 hours	
for opportunities and sig		Angelika Buckley	2 events; 2 hours	
Thank you to all our vol	lunteers!	Anthony Russo	2 events; 6 hours	
Donald Ficken	94 events; 176.2 hours	Benjamin Winningham	2 events; 4 hours	
Cook Feldman	47 events; 167.5 hours	Bill Biermann	2 events; 4 hours	
Rich Heuermann	45 events; 124.3 hours	Brian Mills	2 events; 12.5 hours	
Bradley Waller	37 events; 108.5 hours	Chris Nobbe	2 events; 10 hours	
Larry Campbell	27 events; 70.5 hours	Edward Frey	2 events; 4.5 hours	
Mark Jones	26 events; 82 hours	John Boncek	2 events; 5 hours	
John Beaury	25 events; 109.5 hours	Kevin Koontz	2 events; 4.5 hours	
Frank Mack	23 events; 69 hours	Tom Keutzer	2 events; 6.5 hours	
James Small	20 events; 103 hours	Cathy Hooper	1 events; 4 hours	
Sharon Bertram	19 events; 50 hours	Daniel Corso	1 events; 3 hours	
Richard Jennings	17 events; 42 hours	david barry	1 events; 4 hours	
Rick Menendez	14 events; 42.5 hours	Donald Snyder	1 events; 6 hours	
William Neubert	10 events; 32.5 hours	Jeffrey Strauss	1 events; 4 hours	
Bill Breeden	9 events; 31.5 hours	Joshua Bradshaw	1 events; 1 hours	
Richard Fefferman	8 events; 18 hours	Murray Fishman	1 events; 3 hours	
Rita Breeden	7 events; 25.5 hours	Rosanne Naunheim	1 events; 3 hours	
Josh Zitko	4 events; 13 hours	Shanna Ramirez	1 events; 4 hours	
Ann Trull	3 events; 6 hours	Thane Bopp	1 events; 8 hours	

Timothy Hulla

Vicky Boncek

Raymond Mueller

Outreach Volunteers Jan - Oct 8, 2017

3 events: 10 hours

3 events; 7.5 hours

Jim Trull

John Edwards

	O	C	Τ	0	B	E	R	,	2	0	1	7		
					_								-	

Page 2

THE EVENT HORIZON



Top left: Celebrating the eclipse and sharing stories Top right First Friday at the Planetarium Above: Presenters at the September meeting Right: Don Ficken is presented a gift by Don Snyder in recognition of his work with the eclipse sundial. Below: cakes made from photos by Jim Small and Grant Martin









Left: "Looking Up", a new sculpture at the Planetarium **Above and Right:** Solar viewing on Astronomy Day

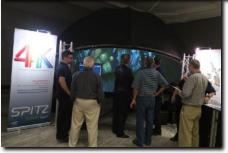


VOLUME 27, ISSUE 10 OCTOBER, 2017





Above and Right: Crestwood Star Party. Right is Jim and Ann Trull with the Teapot in the background. Above right is Cook Feldman. Above is the line at a refractor aimed at the Moon. **Below**: Workshop at Seiler, Anna Green recognized for her work as the conference chair for the Pleiades Conference. **Bottom**: Astonomy update talk at the conference









SLAS Executive Board Meeting Minutes September 7, 2017

1. Opening Activities: Attending: Jim Small, Rich Heuermann, Larry Campbell, Brad Waller, Tom Nickelson, Mark Jones Meeting call to order at 720pm

2. External Business Next board meeting: Oct 5, Nov 9, Dec 7 SLSC: Astronomy Day set for September 30th, 10-4pm. SLAS will either have a table outside or inside if weather doesn't cooperate.

3. Director Reports:

President – Jim Small: The program for September meeting will be SLAS members presenting eclipse results. Forest Park Balloon Glow is the same night as always. We had request to provide telescope viewing for a child's birthday party on September 23. Rich Heuermann has volunteered and will make contact with parents.

Vice President: Bradley Waller *15-Sep-2017 SLAS Collective Solar Eclipse Results *20-Oct-2017 Henric Krawczynski, PhD Exploring the Space-time around Supermassive Black Holes w/ Gravitational Lenses *17-Nov-2017 William McKinnon, PhD PLUTO Wash U *15-Dec-2017 Amy E Kimball Radio Quasars & the VLA "Skvpe" NRAO 2018 Speakers *19-Jan-2018 Carl Bender, PhD Black Holes and Hawking Radiation Wash U *16-Feb-2018 Ryan Ogliore, PhD From Stardust to the Solar System Wash U *16-Mar-2018 Discovering Planet 9 (10) "Skype" Berkeley Michael Medford *20-Apr-2018 Kun Wang, PhD New Evidence for the Origin of the Moon Wash U *18-May-2018 Ryan Clegg-Watkins, PhD Exploring the Moon from Orbit: Paving the Way for Future Astronaut Explorers *20-July-2018 Erika Gibb, PhD Comets, University Mo ST Louis Wash U *21-Sept- 2018 Francesc Ferrer, PhD In the wake of the Higgs, what will the next breakthrough at the LHC? Wash U *19-Oct-2018 Mao Xiaochen. The Dawn Mission. Vesta and Ceres *16-Nov-2018 Michael C Bouchard Mars 2020 Rover Wash U

2017 budget of \$300 to buy member vests for SLSC First Fridays. SLSC is no longer requiring us to identify our members at First Friday events. Therefore would like to reallocate budget as follows: Motion: I propose we re-allocate the 2017 \$300 budget for SLAS vests to instead buy SLAS Eclipse coffee mugs for sale to members and as gifts to monthly speakers. Motion by Brad W second by Tom N. Board passed motion, motion to be taken to vote general membership at September meeting. August telescope viewing at the Arch. Brad volunteered but there were not enough parking spots at the Arch so Brad parked in a pay lot. Brad seeks reimbursement for parking this time. Motion I make motion the SLAS reimburse Brad Waller for his parking at the Sep 5 Arch Outreach event. Parking fee was \$16. This will not set a precedent of future reimbursement. Motion Tom N seconded Rich Heuermann. Motion passed. Eclipse photo contest award winner would be featured on new SLAS mug. Equinox prizes will be given out in September **Astro 101 –** none for September **Welcome aboard** new members meeting still planned for each month.

Secretary – Mark Jones: SLAS Star-B-Q September 16th. Spread the word! Rick Menendez has volunteered to do the quiz for the Star-B-Q. Mark will purchase prizes and main food items

Treasurer/ALCor – Bill Winningham: Total assets through August 31 about \$74,000 AAS payment for \$5000 grant was received. Don Ficken and Rich Heuermann reimbursed for their expenses \$1450 in donations received so far, this year SLAS is under budget for general expenses by \$1860 SLAS needs to set up 2018 Budget development schedule. Needs to be presented to SLAS membership at the November and December meetings. Therefore, budget must be voted by Board at Nov Board meeting. Budget meeting schedule for 4pm Sept 24th at Young's Restaurant

Hospitality – Larry Campbell: Eclipse Cake for September. Will plan to use Jim Small's eclipse photo for cake. Need a photo for cake. **Membership recognition** – October meeting will be used for SLAS pins.

Board member at large reports

Brent Buch (2018) no report

Rich Heuermann (2019) AAS grant received AAS requires final grant report Press release - Task Force wants to recycle eclipse glasses through Astronomers without Borders.

Tom Nickelson: (2020) Flash drives with SLAS meeting videos will be copied onto DVDs.

4. Committee Reports: If needed

Library Telescope Program: Sunspotter scopes and Galileoscopes for solar use have been deployed in to Public libraries **Membership** – Report received by Don Ficken. Current membership is 177.

Merchandise - Infini-tees shirts for sale - \$20, Brad write up plans for TSE mugs.

Newsletter – Articles and pictures (especially pictures) are welcome to beef up the newsletter and our social media outlets. Please forward to <u>newsletter@slasonline.org</u> Discussion about redesign of brochure and what to do with them.(content, replace with cards, supplement with cards, reduce to front and back handout, etc.) All articles for newsletter due by Saturday 10am

Website SLAS website crashed Aug 17th due to internet traffic and downloads. Corrected problem by deleting certain large size photos that were taking up bandwidth.

Social Networking – Public Facebook page is growing thanks to efforts by Michelle B. to add content **Publicity** – Press Release out for September Meeting

Star Parties: Review of outreach events next 3 months. September 16th with Solar Saturday during the day until 2 pm and the Star-B-Q that afternoon and evening. September 30 is very busy, Astronomy Day during the day, 3 evening events.

5. Old Business None

- 6. New Business None.
- 7. Closing Activities Motion to adjourn meeting by Bill W. and Tom N. Meeting adjourned at 915pm

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 10 OCTOBER, 2017

8:22 AM 10/17/17 Accrual Basis		Astronomical S ss Budget vs	-							
		January through September 2017								
		Jan - Sep 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget						
0	rdinary Income/Expense									
	Income									
	Total Magazine Subscription	1,401.34	638.00	763.34						
	Membership Dues	3,435.00	2,155.00	1,280.00						
	Total Income	4,836.34	2,793.00	2,043.34						
	Cost of Goods Sold									
	Total Magazine Subscriptions	1,335.90	638.00	697.90						
	Merchandise		45.00	(45.00)						
	Total COGS	1,335.90	683.00	652.90						
	Gross Profit	3,500.44	2,110.00	1,390.44						
	Expense									
	1-Programs & Events	1,658.41	2,097.00	(438.59)						
	2-Newsletter	120.83	131.00	(10.17)						
	3-Library expense ¹	49.95	225.00	(175.05)						
	4-Astronomical League Dues	740.00	670.00	70.00						
	5-Loaner Scopes	5.00	50.00	(45.00)						
	7-Insurance	825.50	380.00	445.50						
	8-Website	179.40	170.00	9.40						
	9-Administrative Expenses	296.96	1,223.50	(926.54)						
	Total Expense	3,876.05	4,946.50	(1,070.45)						
N	et Ordinary Income	(375.61)	(2,836.50)	2,460.89						
0	ther Income/Expense									
	Other Income									
	Donations	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00						
	Eclipse Escrow Receipts	18,559.24	0.00	18,559.24						
	Interest Income	43.96	75.00	(31.04)						
	LTP Receipts ⁸	8,359.84	0.00	8,359.84						
	Proceeds from Lens Sales	16,518.81	0.00	16,518.81						
	Total Other Income	45,081.85	75.00	45,006.85						
	Other Expense									
	Eclipse Escrow Dispursements	22,673.47	0.00	22,673.47						
	Eclipse Escrow Funding ³	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00						
	LTP Disbursements ⁸	8,618.89	0.00	8,618.89						
	LTP Escrow Funding	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00						
	Total Other Expense	33,792.36	2,500.00	31,292.36						
N	et Other Income	11,289.49	(2,425.00)	13,714.49						
Net In	come	10,913.88	(5,261.50)	16,175.38						

1 Reflects expanded insurance coverage over prior years

2 Outreach budget reflects \$150 approved by membership vote as a donation towards the International Space Development Conference.

3 Includes \$500 inSt. Louis County Library donations associated with Eclipse related events.

4 Speaker fees include an additional \$200 as voted on by Club Membership (for the August Speaker)

5 Reflects \$5,000 grant from the American Astronomical Society, the grant funds have been spent in accordance with the grant proposal

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!

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Balance Sheet
As of September 30, 2017

	Dec 31, 16	Sep 30, 17
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Checking - First Bank	3,957.19	2,482.78
Deposit, Certificate of	20,148.49	20,178.63
Library Telescope Escrow	799.33	349.76
PayPal	126.42	395.72
Savings - First Bank	29,755.97	46,288.60
SLAS Eclipse Conference Escrow*	6,259.97	2,250.76
YMCA Trout Lodge Escrow	542.87	482.87
Total Checking/Savings	61,590.24	72,429.12
Other Current Assets		
Inventory Asset	1,360.92	1,360.92
Undeposited Funds	0.00	75.00
Total Other Current Assets	1,360.92	1,435.92
Total Current Assets	62,951.16	73,865.04
Total Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	62,951.16	73,865.04
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	10,913.88
Total Equity	62,951.16	73,865.04
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	62,951.16	73,865.04

* Any excess Eclipse Escrow funds will revert to SLAS in 2017 after all accounts are settled.

WANTED: Newsletter Articles and Pictures!

The Event Horizon needs articles and pictures from people like YOU!

Interviews, current astronomy topics, historical articles, star party reports, you name it, we can use it! Send what you have to: newsletter@slasonline.org

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 10 OCTOBER, 2017

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: 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 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!

2017-11-12 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 11-3, 12-1

YMCA Edward Jones Star Parties (generally third Mondays) Finished for the year

Pattonville Observatory Public Viewing Dates 10-26, 11-3, 11-10, 12-1, 12-8

Broemmelsiek Astronomy Park Public Viewing Every Friday night with ASEM members

UMSL Observatory

For directions and map <u>http://www.umsl.edu/~physics/About%20the%</u> 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

Octobei

20 Fri 21 Sat 21 Sat 23 Mon 25 Wed 25 Wed 25 Wed 28 Sat November	
1 Wed 2 Thur 2 Thur 3 Fri 4 Sat 6 Mon 8 Wed 9 Thur 12 Sun 13 Mon 14 Tue 17 Fri 18 Sat 30 Thur	North Glendale Cub Scouts SLSC Public Telescope Viewing STEAM Fair Thornhill Library Telescope Bridgeton Trails Library Telescope
December	
1 Fri 5 Tue 7 Thur	SLSC Public Telescope Viewing Oak Bend Telescope SLAS Board Meeting

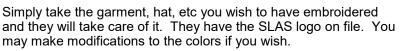
7 ThurSLAS Board Meeting10 SunSLAS Sky Orienteering Event13 WedDaniel Boone Library Telescope15 FriSLAS Regular Meeting

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**



SLAS Logo is also available at Infini-tees



T. LOUIC Name: Last First, Middle Initial Address ___ City, State, Zip Code email address Please send completed form with check (no cash please) made payable to Youth @ \$10.00 / 1 year (18 yrs or younger) \$ St Louis Astronomical Society Individual @ \$25.00 / 1 year \$ Don Ficken, Membership 13024 Barrett Crossing CT Family @ \$40.00/1 year \$ St. Louis, MO 63122 Publications with discount available with your SLAS membership: Sky and Telescope @ \$32.95 / 1 year \$ (S&T may also be renewed at their website: http://www.skyandtelescope.com) Check all that apply: Renewal Astronomy @ \$29.95 / 1 year \$ Address Change Only Please send my newsletter by regular mail **TOTAL ENCLOSED** New Member!

SLAS OFFICER	S	COMMITTEE CHAIRS				
President Jim Small president at slasonline.org	314-307-0692	Dark Site Coordinator Mark Jones	636-394-2342			
<u>Vice President</u> Bradley R Waller vicepresident at slasonline.org	314-481-7250	darksite at slasonline.org	314-909-7211			
Secretary Mark Jones secretary at slasonline.org	636-394-2342	librarian at slasonline.org				
Treasurer Bill Winningham, (Don Ficke	n - membership) 636-225-0269	Library Telescope Program <i>Don Ficken</i> lirbrarytelescope at slasonline.org	636-851-9630			
treasurer at slasonline.org <u>Hospitality</u> Larry Campbell	636-225-0269	Loaner Equipment Greg Gaines loaner at slasonine.org Ioaner at slasonine.org	314-277-3082			
hospitality at slasonline.org	000 2 11 2001	Merchandise Vacant merchandise at slasonline.org				
Board Members at Large: Rich Heuermann	314-962-9231	Membership Don Ficken membership at slasonline.org	636-225-0269			
Board19 at slasonline.org	314-902-9231	<u>Newsletter</u> Editor Jim Small	314-909-7211			
Brent Buch	314-239-0329	newsletter at slasonline.org				
Board18 at slasonline.org Tom Nickelson	314-346-9565	Observing Programs Mark Jones observing at slasonline.org	636-394-2342			
board17 at slasonline.org		Publicity Rich Heuermann publicity at slasonline.org	314-962-9231			
ALCOR Bill Winningham (Astronomical League Correspondent) treasurer at slasonline.org	636-225-0269	Recognition Larry Campbell recognition at slasonline.org	636-244-2867			
MSRAL Rep. Jim Small msral rep at astroleague.org	314-909-7211	Social Media Michelle Birch social at slasonline.org	636-373-1102			
		<u>'SLASdialogs' Moderator</u> Mark Jones, R dialogsmoderator at yahoo.com	Rhonda Whela			

SLAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



Skinker Blud.

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.

