# Welcome to the



New Member Information

www.slas.us

The Salt Lake Astronomical Society, or SLAS, is a nonprofit corporation formed in the state of Utah, composed of about two hundred members wishing to enjoy "the pleasure and benefits of an association of persons interested in astronomy, promote the science..." and "encourage and coordinate activities with professional research". The Society was formed in 1971 and is governed by a Constitution and yearly elected Board of Directors consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and two Board Members at Large.

Meetings are held monthly, and are open to the public. General Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month. They begin at 7:30pm, ending at approximately 9:00pm. A topic and speaker or other activity is held each month except December, when the annual Solstice Celebration/Party replaces the meeting. The board meets prior to the General Meeting from 6:35 to 7:20 pm. Please check the website for meeting locations.

The NoVA is a newsletter published by the club. It is a bimonthly newsletter which contains minutes of the General and Board meetings, and various articles of interest to the club members. You may request a hard copy or you may find it online at the club's website which is <a href="https://www.slas.us">www.slas.us</a>.

The website gives information on public, private and special star parties along with almost anything you would want to find out about the club. Club members may sign in to the members only area and access information not available to the public.

SLAS is a member society of the Astronomical League. The League's website is <a href="https://www.astroleague.org">www.astroleague.org</a> (See following page)

### WHAT IS THE "ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE"?

To promote interest in astronomy!

- foster astronomical education;
- provide incentives for astronomical observation and research;
- assist communication among amateur astronomical societies.



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The Astronomical League is composed of over 240 local amateur astronomical societies from all across the United States. These organizations, along with our Members-at-Large, Patrons, and Supporting members form one of the largest amateur astronomical organizations in the world.

**Our basic goal** is to encourage an interest in astronomy (<u>and especially amateur astronomy</u>) throughout America. Many people have seen pictures of planets from NASA but have no idea that they too can see these objects with a telescope. We want people to get access to telescopes, whether it is through their local astronomical society, school, or their own instruments, and use them to view the beauty in the heavens.

**What do I get out of it?** The major benefit of belonging to the League is receiving the quarterly newsletter, <u>The Reflector</u>, which keeps you in touch with amateur activities all over the country. The chance to meet the people you read about there occurs during our annual <u>National Convention</u>, or at one of the ten <u>regional conventions</u> that the AL sponsors.

Astronomical League **members can order astronomy-related books** at a 10% discount through the Book Service. Books and other material published by the Astronomical League as well as clothing and jewelry can be purchased from the AL Sales Office.

**The League presents special awards** to deserving people who have advanced the goals of the AL. These include promoting astronomy, contributing to the League, and advancing the science of astronomy. These include The Astronomical League Award, the G. R. "Bob" Wright Service Award, The Leslie C. Peltier Award, The National Young Astronomer Award, and the Jack Horkheimer Award.

**The Observing Clubs** offer encouragement and certificates of accomplishment for demonstrating observing skills with a variety of instruments and objects. These include the Messier Club; Lunar Club; Binocular Messier Club; Planetary Nebula Club; Double Star Club; Globular Cluster Club and the Herschel 400 Club. A full list of these clubs along with requirements can be found at:

http://www.astroleague.org/observing.html.

# The Salt Lake Astronomical Society – 2006

### **Elected Positions**

President Lowell Lyon (Meetings)

bolide@sisna.com

Vice-President Tom Sevcik (Publicity & Public Relations)

sfvlts@hotmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer Erik Hansen (Membership & Meeting Minutes)

erikhansen@thebluezone.net

Board Member-At-Large Rodger Fry (School & Special Star Parties)

rcfry@comcast.net

Board Member-At-Large Bill Kennedy (Public Outreach Director)

bkennedy@cusa.com

### **Appointed Positions**

Loaner Telescope Curator Roger Butz

dutchbutz@yahoo.com

Solar Scope Custodian Ron Ford

ronford@xmission.com

SPOC Advisory Committee Chair Ron Ford

ronford@xmission.com

Observatory Director Bruce Grim

bgrim@erda.net

Observatory Training Director Mark Bloomenthal

markbloomenthal@yahoo.com

Member-Only Star Party Coordinator Don Colton

dcoltonsprint@earthlink.net

NOVA Editor Patrick Wiggins

paw@wirelessbeehive.com

Webmasters Ken & Kathleen Warner

ken@warnerit.com

Astronomical League Representative (ALCOR) Erik Hansen

ehansen@networld.com

Night Sky Network Ambassadors Ann House

ann@annhouse.org

Tom Sevcik

sfvlts@hotmail.com

Dark Site Committee Chair Scott Crosby

Librarian Roger Butz

rbutz@trilobyte.net

Historian Lola Warner

princesslolaanne@yahoo.com

New Member Recruitment & Development Bob Moore

bmoore@commercecrg.com

# SLAS 2006 Meeting Schedule

	Presenter/Organization	<u>Topic</u>
January 24	Seth Jarvis, Director Clark Planetarium	Partnering to Promote Astronomy
February 28	Dr. Stacy Palen Weber State University	Dark Energy January AAS Meeting
March 28	U of U Physics Dept.	Physics Family Fun Night (Meet on U of U campus)
April 25	Jerry Foote, President ScopeCraft, Inc.	Cataclysmic Variable Stars Extra Solar Planet Transits
May 23	Talented SLAS members	Summer Observing Kick-Off
June 27	Brent Sorensen Southern Utah University	Spectroscopy & Diffraction Gratings
July 25	Joan Carman Talented SLAS member	Constellation Mythology Star Lore & Meaning
August 22	Nowell Morris Utah Valley State College	Archeoastronomy, Parowan Gap
September 26	Richard Erwin College of Eastern Utah	Photography CCD Imaging
October 24	Dr. Dale Ostlie Weber State University	To Be Announced
November 28	Dr. Clark Christensen Brigham Young University	Astrobiology

### **SLAS ACTIVITIES**

### **Public Star Parties**

 Public star parties are scheduled at various times and sites throughout the year. These star parties are a regular tradition and activity of SLAS. Members are urged to attend, operate a telescope and answer questions whenever possible. Consult the NOVA or the SLAS Website for dates and times. A tentative schedule is presented for approval of the Membership in the November General Meeting.

#### **Public Sun Parties**

 Public sun parties may be scheduled throughout the year. Locations and times are published in the NOVA and on the website. Special equipment is necessary for public solar observing. Contact a current Board Member for more information.

### **Private SLAS Star Parties**

 During warm months, SLAS members plan private star parties for Members and their families. These may be overnight or late night star parties. No public announcement is made. Location and directions are decided upon at the General meeting preceding the event. When possible, information is also published in the NOVA and on the web site The date and length of parties vary, but always occur around new moon. Maps of some of the private star party locations will follow.

### **Special Star Parties**

 Special star parties for schools, groups and special events are arranged through the Board of Directors. A Board Member is assigned to coordinate volunteers and arrangements during the observing year. Contact the designated Board Member or check the NOVA and the website for information on Special Star Parties. Volunteers are always needed! To request a special star party, contact the Board Representative.

### "Rap Sessions" or "Mini-Classes"

 Club members may gather at a member's home or other location periodically to discuss a specific topic of interest to those attending.
 These will be announced on the club's website and at the prior general meeting.

### **SLAStrofest**

 This is an event designed to help new club members get off to a good start. There are seminars and workshops on topics such as how to buy and use a telescope. These events are usually held every 2 to 3 years at a remote location with dark skies.

### Socials, Star-B-Q and Winter Solstice Parties

- Advance Training –at the end of each General Meeting a social activity, often called advance training session (the only advanced training that goes on at these gatherings is trying not to talk with our mouths full), takes place at a designated site (usually a nearby restaurant). This activity is called by various names depending on the occasion, ie "Truckstop", etc., and may take place after other events as well. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME! Dutch treat of course. Reservations may be necessary depending on location and number attending.
- A summer party Star-B-Q is sometimes held at Stansbury Park
   Observatory Complex, or may be part of a SLAStrofest" new member
   weekend campout. The time and place are announced in the Nova, at
   meetings, or on the website.
- A Winter Solstice party is held in December and replaces the General meeting. The time and place are announced in the Nova and at meetings. Reservations are usually required. Funding for the party may come in part or whole from membership dues. Contest prizes are awarded and entertainment provided.

### **Yearly Events and Programs**

- Messier Marathon held during the Month of March near or on new moon at the Stansbury Park Observatory Complex (SPOC). During the evening, members observe objects from the Messier Catalogue. The event begins as early as possible, and continues until sunrise. This is a private SLAS star party. For the specific date, consult the Nova, or the website.
- National Astronomy Day usually held in late April or early May. Activities
  may be planned as a daytime event for the public. A public star party is
  usually planned for the evening at the club's Stansbury Park Observatory
  Complex. Contact the Board for more information.

- Riverside Telescope Makers Conference not a club activity but is a
  tradition for many club members. The Riverside Telescope Makers
  Conference is a telescope making conference held each year near San
  Bernadino, California. Members individually reserve and pay for
  accommodations and travel for the conference held over Memorial Day
  Weekend. Activities at the Conference include seminars, workshops,
  observing, swap meet, astronomy vendors and award ceremonies. Some
  group activities are planned. Telescope making contests are open to all
  Conference participants. New and used equipment and accessories are
  sold. Some vendors offer exceptional prices on limited quantities.
- ALCon Convention Astronomical League conventions provide an opportunity for amateur astronomers all over the country to gather together to learn and exchange ideas, techniques, and opinions on astronomy. All of these conventions provide professional astronomers the opportunity to address the attendees about their field of expertise. This allows the amateur to learn about the latest discoveries in astronomy directly from the astronomers making the discoveries. To find out more about the Astronomical League and ALCon Conventions, see their web site at www.astroleague.org.

### The Stansbury Park Observatory Complex

The **Stansbury Park Observatory Complex** (SPOC) is located 35 miles west of downtown Salt Lake City in Stansbury Park, Utah. This premier amateur facility houses one of Utah's largest telescopes. Owned and operated by the Salt Lake Astronomical Society (SLAS), SPOC is located in the Ken Sagers Memorial Park on land generously provided by the Stansbury Park Service Agency through a land-use agreement. The club uses SPOC to host public star parties (twice a month during the regular observing season) as well as SLAS members only star parties (such as the club's Messier Marathon in mid-March). The club also conducts training programs at SPOC so that SLAS members can learn to operate, reserve, and use the SPOC telescopes for their own private observing programs. The lawn around SPOC is available for club members to set up their own telescopes during star parties, or at other times for their own observing.

SPOC currently has two observatories and three permanently mounted telescopes.

The **Harmons Observatory** was built in 2001 in large part through generous donations from Harmons Grocery Stores as well as many others. The observatory contains two telescope bays with slide-off roofs and a central computer control room. The east bay houses the 16" Ealing reflector, which was donated to SLAS by the University of Utah's Department of Physics and restored to mint condition by club members. The west bay houses the computer controlled 32" Grim Scope reflector, designed and built by Observatory Director Bruce Grim with optics made by SLAS member and professional optician Steve Dodds. These telescopes are at their best viewing deep sky objects (nebulae, galaxies, and star clusters). They are also capable of delivering remarkable views of the Moon and planets.

Immediately to the west of the Harmons Observatory is the **Donna Pease Wiggins Refractor House**. It was built in 2005 primarily through the generous donations of club member Patrick Wiggins. It has a single telescope bay with a slide-off dome (one of very few in the world). It houses the 200mm Bogdan Refractor. This telescope and pier contain early 20<sup>th</sup> century components made by the world famous telescope manufactures Alvan Clark & Sons. It normally operates with a 200mm Brandt lens, but also can be fitted with the telescope's original 9" Alvan Clark lens. In either configuration, this telescope can provide exquisite views of solar system objects.

As a club member you are eligible to learn to operate any of the observatory telescopes!

**Training Program at SPOC**: The club conducts the following training classes at SPOC. All classes are free of charge.

200mm Bogdan Refractor Level 1: This class provides an introduction to observatory procedures and the handling of the 200mm Bogdan Refractor. The class is open to SLAS Members and consists of a single 1-2 hour session. The class may be repeated by a student if desired. There are no prerequisites for taking this class.

16" Ealing Reflector Level 1: This class provides an introduction to observatory procedures and the handling of the 16" Ealing Reflector. The class is open to SLAS Members and consists of a single 1-2 hour session. The class can be repeated by a student if desired. There are no prerequisites for taking this class.

200mm Bogdan Refractor Level 2: This class provides hands-on training for students wanting to learn to operate the 200mm Bogdan Refractor on their own. The number of sessions required by a student is determined by the instructor. Prerequisites: SLAS membership and 200mm Bogdan Refractor Level 1.

16" Ealing Reflector Level 2: This class provides hands-on training for students wanting to learn to operate the 16" Ealing Reflector on their own. The number of sessions required by a student is determined by the instructor. Prerequisites: SLAS membership, 200mm Bogdan Refractor Level 2, and 16" Ealing Reflector Level 1.

32" Grim Reflector Level 2: This class provides hands-on training for students wanting to learn to operate the 32" Grim Scope on their own. The number of sessions required by a student is determined by the instructor. Prerequisites: 16" Ealing Reflector Level 2, SLAS membership, and current SPOC key-holder status.

To become a SPOC key-holder you must complete a Level 2 telescope class to the satisfaction of the Level 2 instructor, pay the annual SPOC user fee, and have been a member of SLAS for at least 6 months. Students should not pay the annual SPOC user fee until they have graduated a Level 2 telescope class.

### **Public Star Party Schedule**







The Salt Lake Astronomical Society invites you to join us at a FREE public Star Party or Sun Party! Enjoy views of the Sun, Moon, Planets, Stars, Nebulae, and Galaxies through some of Utah's largest telescopes.

### 2006 Sun & Star Party Schedule

APR 7 <sup>th</sup>	◆ Harmons – Midvale (7755 S. 700 E.)
APR 8 <sup>th</sup>	◆ SPOC*
APR 15 <sup>th</sup>	<ul> <li>Sun Party – Jordan River Parkway</li> </ul>
APR 22 <sup>nd</sup>	◆ SPOC*
MAY 5 <sup>th</sup>	<ul> <li>Harmons – <u>Taylorsville (5454 S. Redwd. Rd.)</u></li> </ul>
MAY 6 <sup>th</sup>	<ul> <li>◆ Astronomy Day</li> </ul>
MAY 6 <sup>th</sup>	◆ SPOC*
MAY 13 <sup>th</sup>	<ul> <li>Sun Party – Jordan River Parkway</li> </ul>
MAY 20 <sup>th</sup>	◆ SPOC*
JUN 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul> <li>◆ Harmons – Midvale (7755 S. 700 E.)</li> </ul>
JUN 3 <sup>rd</sup>	◆ SPOC*
JUN 10 <sup>th</sup>	<ul> <li>Sun Party – Jordan River Parkway</li> </ul>
JUN 17 <sup>th</sup>	◆ SPOC*
JUN 30 <sup>th</sup>	<ul> <li>Harmons – <u>Kearns (4874 W. 6200 S.)</u></li> </ul>
JUL 1 <sup>st</sup>	• SPOC*
JUL 8 <sup>th</sup>	• Sun Party – Jordan River Parkway
JUL 15 <sup>th</sup>	• SPOC*
AUG 4 <sup>th</sup>	• Harmons – Midvale (7755 S. 700 E.)
AUG 5 <sup>th</sup>	• SPOC*
AUG 12 <sup>th</sup>	• Sun Party – Jordan River Parkway
AUG 19 <sup>th</sup> SEP 1 <sup>st</sup>	• SPOC*
nd	• Harmons – <u>Brickyard (3200 S. 1300 E.)</u>
	• SPOC*
4 la	Sun Party – Jordan River Parkway     Spock
SEP 16 <sup>th</sup>	• SPOC* • Harmona Midwala (7755 S. 700 E.)
SEP 30 <sup>th</sup>	<ul><li>Harmons – Midvale (7755 S. 700 E.)</li><li>SPOC*</li></ul>
OCT 7 <sup>th</sup>	◆ Sun Party – Jordan River Parkway
OCT 14 <sup>th</sup>	• SPOC*
OCT 28 <sup>th</sup>	• SPOC*
NOV 8 <sup>th</sup>	◆ Mercury Transit – Harmons - Midvale
140 0	Moroary Hariott Harrinoria Midvale

<sup>\*</sup>Stansbury Park Observatory Complex

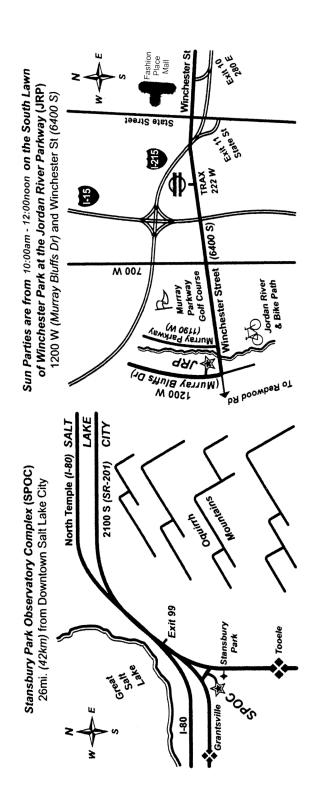
Star Parties begin at dusk.

Sun Parties are from 10AM – Noon.

All Sun & Star Parties are weather permitting.

See reverse side for Maps to SPOC and the Jordan River Parkway. See you under a clear sky!!

## Stansbury Park & Sun Party Maps

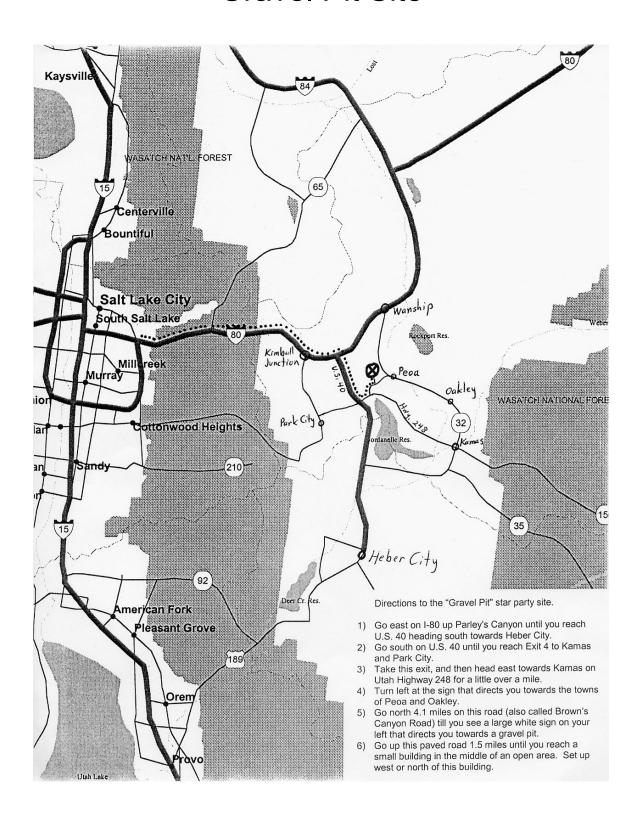


# Private

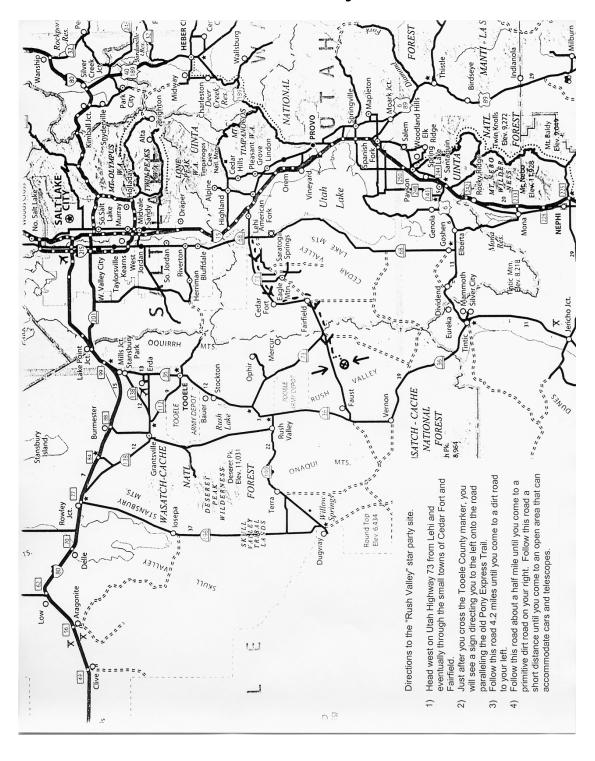
Star Party

Sites

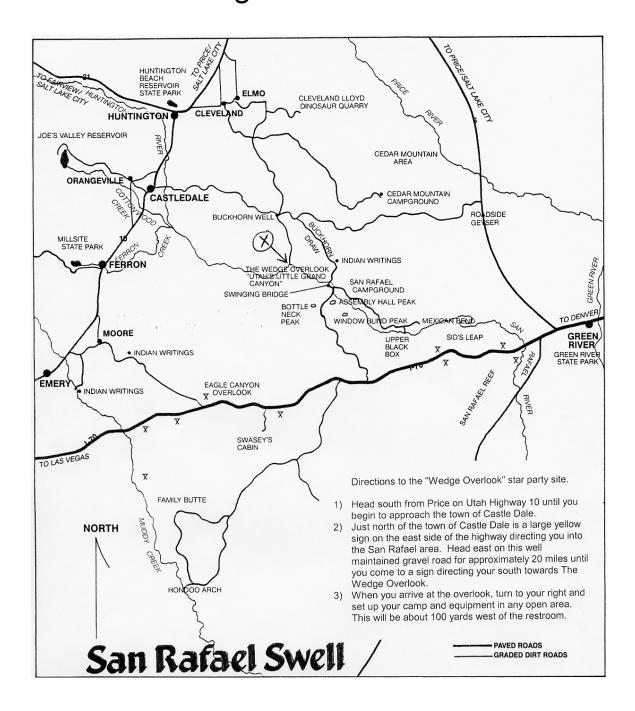
### **Gravel Pit Site**



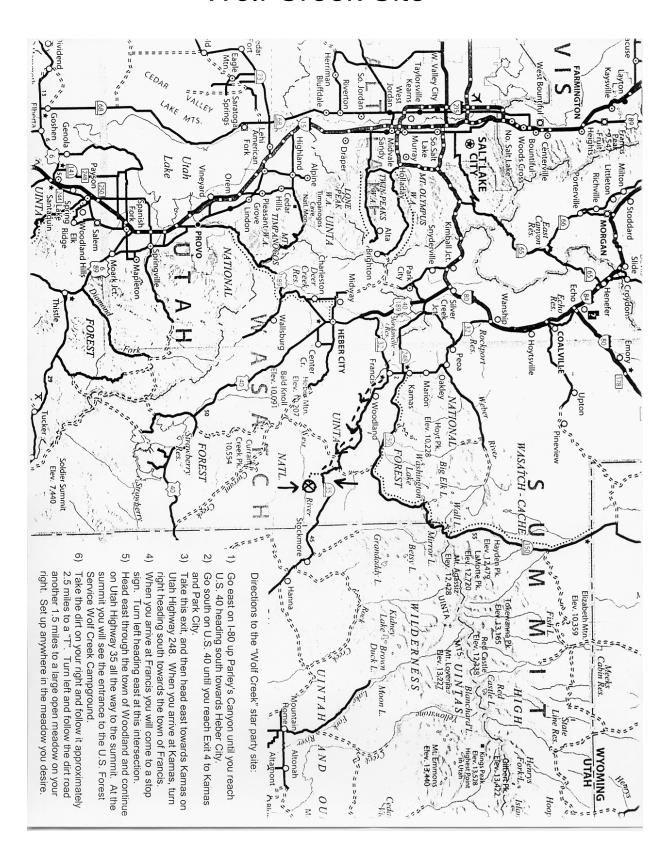
# Rush Valley Site



# Wedge Overlook Site



## Wolf Creek Site



### Constitution of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society

### Preamble

We the undersigned, desiring to secure the pleasures and benefits of an association of persons interested in astronomy; to promote the science of astronomy and its associated sciences; to encourage and coordinate activities with professional research, do hereby organize and constitute ourselves as the Salt Lake Astronomical Society, a non-profit organization.

#### Article I Name

The name of this organization shall be the Salt Lake Astronomical Society, hereafter referred to as "the Society".

### Article II Membership

- A. Any person and/or family with an interest in astronomy shall be admitted to membership upon the payment of membership dues.
- B. A membership is a person or a family that has paid membership dues. Individual family members have membership privileges but the entire family shall comprise one membership (hereinafter called a "membership").

### Article III Meetings

- A. Regularly scheduled general meeting will be held at least monthly as scheduled by the Board. Times and locations of at least the next three general meetings will be published in each edition of the Society's journal.
- B. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least quarterly. The time and place of regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be published in the Society's journal in advance of the meeting.

- C. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Chairman of the Board as required. No meeting of the Board of Directors may be held without all Board members having been given proper notice.
- D. Minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors will be published in the following edition of the Society's journal and read at the following general meeting.
- E. Any decision of the Board may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the memberships present at the general meeting following publication of the minutes. Suspended decisions shall be submitted to the entire membership for final disposition.

#### Article IV Officers

- A. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following five officers (hereinafter called "the Board"):
  - 1. President/Chairman of the Board
  - 2. Vice-President
  - 3. Secretary/Treasurer
  - 4. Board Member
  - 5. Board Member
- B. Terms of office shall be one year beginning the first of January following the general election of officers and ending the 31st of December of the same year. No member may serve on the Board for more that two out of any three consecutive years. Board vacancies shall be filled within 30 days by the remaining Board.
- C. Duties of Officers:
  - 1. President/Chairman of the Board
    - a. Administers the affairs of the Society
    - b. Presides at meetings.
    - c. Responsible for meeting content.
    - d. Responsible for all the assets of the Society.
  - 2. Vice-President
    - a. Assumes duties of the President/Chairman in his/her absence.
    - b. Becomes President/Chairman in the event that office becomes vacant.
    - c. Responsible for publicity and public relations.
  - 3. Secretary/Treasurer
    - a. The Secretary/Treasurer is responsible for all the books and records of the Society.

#### 4. Board Members

- a. Advisors to the Board
- b. May accept duties and responsibilities as agreed upon by the Board.

### Article V Elections and Voting Procedures

### A. Eligibility

- 1. Persons wishing to run for and hold office in the Society must:
  - a. Be a member of the Society and maintain membership status throughout their term of office; and
  - b. Be at least 18 years of age.
- 2. No more than one person per membership may run for office for any given term.
- 3. No more than one person per membership may serve on the Board during any given term.

#### B. The Election Process:

- Members wishing to run for office shall file their candidacy with the Secretary during August but no later than the end of the August general meeting.
- 2. All candidates will be announced during the August general meeting.
- 3. If necessary, primary elections will be held during the September general meeting by the memberships present for the purpose of narrowing the number of candidates to two for each office.
- 4. An election committee comprised of three non-candidate members shall be appointed by the President during the September meeting.
- 5. Final candidates shall be announced in the September issue of the Society's journal and be given 1/4 page therein to make a statement.
- 6. Absentee ballots will be included with the September issue of the Society's journal.
- 7. All memberships of record as of the previous 1st of September will be eligible to vote in a general election.
- 8. A general election will be held by secret ballot at the beginning of the October general meeting. The results shall be announced before the end of that meeting.

#### C. Votina:

- 1. There shall be one vote per membership.
- 2. Proxies shall not be accepted for any purpose.
- 3. Motions will carry with a simple majority of those memberships present at a regularly scheduled meeting unless otherwise specified.

#### Article VI Finances

- A. Annual memberships dues shall be as recommended by the Board of Directors and ratified by a 2/3 majority of those memberships present at a regularly scheduled general meeting. All memberships shall pay the same dues.
- B. The Board is authorized to make all contracted magazine subscription expenditures.
- C. The Board shall prepare a budget for their term of office, to be presented for approval at the January general meeting and to be published in the journal prior to the meeting.
- D. The budget will be adopted upon approval of the memberships present.
- E. The Board is authorized to disburse the budget as approved.
- F. All non budgeted funds shall be kept in a general fund which the Board is authorized to spend in a prudent manner so long as no item exceeds an amount to be approved in the January meeting. Items exceeding the approved amount shall be submitted for approval at a general meeting.
- G. Two Board member's signatures are required on all Society checks.

### Article VII Removal of Board Members

Any member of the Board may be removed from the Board by a 2/3 majority vote of the memberships present at any regularly scheduled general meeting.

### Article VIII Constitutional Amendments and Bylaws

- A. Any member may propose amendment(s) and/or bylaws.
- B. The amendment and adoption process shall be:
  - 1. The proposed amendment(s) and/or bylaw(s), hereinafter called "amendment", shall be published in the journal along with notice that the proposed amendment will be discussed at the next general meeting.
  - 2. The proposed amendment shall be discussed at the next general meeting.
  - 3. The following journal will include:

- a. The pros and cons concerning the proposed amendment written by advocates on each side.
- b. Notification that a vote on the proposed amendment will take place at the next general meeting.
- c. Absentee ballots for the amendment.
- 4. The proposed amendment will be voted on during the next general meeting by the memberships present and absentee ballots.
- 5. The proposed amendment will be adopted if 2/3 of the votes cast favor adoption.

### Article IX General Procedures

- A. On procedural matters not covered by this constitution, Roberts Rules of Order will be followed.
- B. The Society is and shall remain a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Utah and shall be subject to all nonprofit corporate laws of said state.

### Article X Political Activity

The Society is organized as an educational and scientific organization and will take part only in activities that are scientific/educational in nature. No substantial part of the activities of the Society shall be carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the Society shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf on any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the Society shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

### Article XI Dissolution of the Society

Upon the dissolution of the Society, the Board shall, after paying or making provisions for payment of all the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all of the assets of the Society exclusively for the purpose of the Society in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the

Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board shall determine. Any of such asset not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas in the county in which the principle office of the Society is then located, exclusively for such purposed or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

#### Article XII Enactment

- A. Upon ratification of this constitution by at least 2/3 of the eligible voters of the Society, this constitution shall be adopted as the constitution of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society and all previously adopted constitutions and bylaws shall become null and void.
- B. The existing Board of Directors shall remain intact and the governing body of the Society until the first elections under this constitution are held.

Ratified 16 June 1980