

# NOVA



## **Official Newsletter of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society**

Volume 40 Number 1    January - February 2010

### **Please Welcome The Newest SLAS Members!**

Baker, William - South Jordan, UT  
Bunker, Roger - Murray, UT  
Campbell, Jared - Salt Lake City, UT  
Ogilvie, James - Brighton, UT  
Shafto, Mark - Riverton, UT



**Tarantula Nebula, NGC 2070.** Image by Kurt Fisher using the GRAS-12 robotic telescope in Australia.

## **2009 Solstice Festival**

by Ann House

The impending snow storm held off long enough for the Salt Lake Astronomical Society to enjoy an evening together on December 12th. We met, once again, at the Golden Corral (40 kind of meats!) in Midvale for a buffet dinner and a raffle to celebrate the year's end and the beginning of winter. About 70 members and their families, festively attired, gathered at the buffet.

The Golden Corral staff set up raffle tables between two large rooms. There was lots of space for eating, talking, and putting one's tickets in the envelopes of their choice. It was fun to be together and to visit.

We had over 50 club-purchased and donated gifts. Many, many thanks to our Solstice Clause, Ann Blanchard, and to Bob Moore. We had a ceiling planet-sphere, a Moon globe, two sky atlases, a NASA tie, books and teddy bears. Once again, Bill again won the Solstice beer. (I think it must be rigged.) Bob's wife got the NASA "I need my space" nightshirt (insert your own joke here). Robin got the mobile. Cindy, the sun and moon planters. One of the big favorites was a NASA apron. That's right, SLASers, a cooking apron! Club president, Dave, acted as our Vanna White. David Hayes, was his side-kick. This year everyone walked away with something as club president, Dave, and Nate gave out space aliens to all.

I have enjoyed my tenure as resident party-giver and I am sure I will do it again. However, Kevin and David Hayes have volunteered to organize next year's festival and I'm happy to relinquish the reins. Mark your calendars for December 11th.

*As the sun and moon renew themselves  
and we honor the closing of circles.  
Once again we learn, that even in the darkest moments.  
Health, serenity, and healing are available.  
Bless our connections with the ancients.  
Bless our connections with each other.  
Bless our connections with future generations.  
Bless our connections with the circles of the seasons.  
Bless our connections with places of beauty and solitude.  
Celebration is at hand.  
Celebrate the renewal of bonds of kinship.  
Celebrate the renewal of bonds of friendship.  
Celebrate those who have touched our lives.  
Celebrate the return of the sun and longer days.  
Rejoice  
PEACE*

--Adapted from old Danish and Celtic Solstice Poems.

## **Minutes of the Salt Lake Astronomical Society**

### **SPOC Advisory Committee Meeting, 07 November 2009**

Committee Chair Ken Harris called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 1:44 p.m. Others in attendance were committee members Dave Bernson, Bruce Grim, Wayne Clarke, Mark Bloomenthal, Roger Butz, Bill Kennedy, Boyd McNeil, and Patrick Wiggins and SLAS members Siegfried Jachmann, Bruno Jachmann, Kevin Hays and David Hays.

Roger was nominated for another 3 year term. Ken was nominated to continue to serve as chair through the end of 2010 (both actions subject to approval by the SLAS board).  
The committee members and the expiration dates of their terms are now:

Ken Harris - January 2012  
Mark Bloomenthal - January 2011  
Roger Butz - January 2013  
Bill Kennedy - January 2012  
Boyd McNeil - January 2012  
Patrick Wiggins - January 2011  
Dave Bernson (SLAS President)  
Kevin Bushnell (Harmons Representative)  
Bruce Grim (Observatory Director)  
Wayne Clarke (Observatory Training Director)

The Ealing focuser is broken. Dave Bernson will investigate a new one. Since this is a maintenance item the cost should come from the SPOC fund.

The committee agreed the following equipment should be purchased and will ask the SLAS board / membership for permission to purchase with general funds:  
Two 40mm Astro Tech Titan 2 eyepieces, \$160 each (one for the Ealing, one for the Bogdan).  
One 30mm Astro Tech Titan 2 eyepiece for the Ealing (\$160).  
One Ultra Block nebula filter for the Ealing (from Bill Kennedy for \$69).  
Two polarizing filters, \$65 each (one for the Ealing, one for the Bogdan).

Future SPOC training, especially initial training, is to cover how to reserve the observatory online.

After hearing about several problems telescope users have experienced using the equipment (because of not being current) it was decided those wishing to use the observatory scopes must first attend a mandatory refresher class each year on each scope they wish to operate.

The observatory will be available for training starting 01 March, weather permitting. It will open for general use beginning 01 April.

Mark will work with SLAS Webmaster Ken Warner to update the SPOC related portions of the club's website. Updates will include:

- 1) Adding the SPOC General Policies and Procedures.
- 2) Adding the ability to document when each operator has completed the now mandatory annual refresher class on the Ealing and Bogdan (this capability already exists for the Grim).
- 3) Adding the "Red Light Policy" to the SPOC General Policies and Procedures.

The committee will suggest to the board that a special "Mars Opposition Watch" using only the Bogdan be held the night of 12 February with a rain date of the following night.

The 2010 SPOC fee will remain \$25.00.

Roger noted that some members have reserved more than one SPOC scope at a time even though that's a violation of SPOC policy. Roger will check with the webmaster to see about making it so that operators may only use the website to reserve one scope at a time.

Dave will see about framing and hanging some star lists in the observatory bays.

The committee thought it would be a great idea to frame and hang a set of the University of Arizona's Lunar Quadrant Maps in the Refractor House. However, the maps are apparently long out of print. Committee members will see if a set can be located.

Mark will investigate ways of changing the brightness of the Grim's computer monitor.

It's difficult for some SPOC Committee members to attend Saturday afternoon meetings. Future committee meetings will be held on midweek evenings.

The date(s) of the next SPOC Advisory Committee meeting(s) will be set at next month's Transitional Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

## **Board Meeting, 12 November 2009**

SLAS President Dave Bernson called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 7:24 p.m. Others in attendance were Vice-President Siegfried Jachmann, Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins, Board Member at Large Nate Goodman and members Ann House, Bruce Grim, Roger Butz, Kurt Fisher, David Hays and Kevin Hays.

The following proposed SLAS 2010 public star party schedule was set and will be submitted to the membership at next week's General Membership meeting for discussion and approval.

### **April**

02 Wheeler Farm  
03 SPOC  
16 Harmons in Midvale  
17 SPOC  
24 Sun party in Winchester Park  
30 Wheeler Farm

### **May**

01 SPOC (Astronomy Day)  
21 Harmons Brickyard  
22 SPOC  
29 Sun party in Winchester Park

### **June**

04 Wheeler Farm  
05 SPOC  
18 Harmons in Midvale  
19 SPOC  
26 Sun party in Winchester Park

### **July**

02 Wheeler Farm  
03 SPOC  
16 Harmons Bangerter Crossing  
17 SPOC  
24 Sun party in Winchester Park  
30 Wheeler Farm  
31 SPOC

### **August**

13 Harmons Midvale  
14 SPOC  
21 Sun party in Winchester Park  
27 Wheeler Farm  
28 SPOC

### **September**

17 Harmons 5400 S Redwood  
18 SPOC  
25 Sun party in Winchester Park

### **October**

01 Wheeler Farm  
02 SPOC  
15 Harmons in Midvale  
16 SPOC  
23 Sun party in Winchester Park

In addition to the above SLAS will also support the annual Bryce Canyon Astronomy Festival to be held 07-10 July. SLAS will also hold a private star party for the residents of Stansbury Park (home of the club's observatory) at SPOC on Saturday, 21 August as part of the community's Stansbury Days celebration.

Setting the schedule early makes it possible to get the star party fliers printed for free.

Dave offered to chair SLAS's 2010 Astronomy Day committee. Offer accepted. The committee will coordinate SLAS's Astronomy Day activities with other organizations. Members wishing to serve on the committee should contact Dave.

It was noted that the Astronomical League has scheduled the April 2010 Astronomy Day to coincide with the full Moon. SLAS will hold its Astronomy Day events on the first of May when the Moon will not be a problem.

The SPOC Advisory Committee had asked about spending General funds on SPOC. Following a lengthy discussion it was decided that General funds can only be spent on SPOC in an emergency. Since no emergency exists the purchases currently being considered (eyepieces and filters) must come from the SPOC account.

Ann reported that all is set for this year's Solstice Festival at Golden Corral in Midvale and that she will be issuing a SLAS blast to remind members about the event. In addition to tips that members would normally leave, SLAS will give an additional \$100.

Bruce announced that Observatory Training Director Wayne Clarke had asked to be relieved of his duties and that Mark Bloomenthal had agreed to take over the position (a position Mark has held before). The board and all others present expressed appreciation to Wayne for the great job he's done.

Bruce said the parts to repair the Grim Scope's electronics have been received and that they will be installed before the observatory reopens early next year.

Ann said the club still has several SLAS patches for sale for \$4 each. Anyone wanting a patch should contact Ann.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

#### **General Meeting, 17 November 2009**

SLAS President Dave Bernson called the meeting to order in room 105 of the University of Utah's Engineering/Mines building at 7:35 p.m. Approximately 48 people attended the meeting.

After the usual introduction of board members and new members Dave introduced the evening's speaker Wayne Springer from the U of U's department of Physics and Astronomy. Wayne spoke about the U's new observatory on Frisco Peak in Southern Utah. Wayne noted that the U will consider proposals from SLAS to station equipment at the site and that SLAS will have online access.

Sec/Treas Patrick Wiggins displayed the treasurer's report. It showed:

General Fund	\$ 4,396.90
Postage & Printing	203.03
Entertainment	552.49
Astronomical League	295.00
Insurance	1,215.50
Outreach	826.00
SPOC	3,724.02
H-Alpha	110.00
ZAP Grant	2,568.59
Total	\$13,891.53

Patrick then showed several aerial shots of the U's new observatory which he took recently. Patrick said that Bill Kennedy will be in charge of distributing the 2010 calendars and Observer's Handbooks.

Jordanelle State Park is looking for help with a star party next month. Many wondered if it might be better to move that to the warmer nights of spring.

Dave went over the public star party schedule for next year (see the board meeting minutes above). He added that there will be a members only Mars Watch using the Refractor House at SPOC in February.

He also went over many of the things discussed at the recent meeting of the SPOC Advisory Committee meeting (see minutes above).

Motions were made and passed to spend ZAP funds for a 12" Sky Quest Dobsonian and a Coronado PST 40mm solar scope and mount. An additional motion passed to spend up to \$500 from general funds to supplement the scope purchases if needed.

The meeting was adjourned to "Advanced Training" at Village Inn on 900 East 400 South at 9:19 p.m.

### **Transitional Board Meeting, 10 December 2009**

SLAS President Dave Bernson called the meeting to order in the Denny's restaurant located at 250 West 500 South in SLC at 7:00 p.m. Others in attendance were Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Wiggins, Board Member at Large Nate Goodman, members Ann House, Bruce Grim, Roger Butz, Kevin Hays, David Hays, Bill Kennedy, Mike Wilson, Ray Druian and Fletcher Gross.

Dave thanked the outgoing board members for their service and the new board members for their willingness to serve.

The dues for next year were proposed to remain at \$20.00 with \$10.50 going to the General Fund, \$2.50 to Entertainment, \$5.00 to the Astronomical League and \$2.00 to Outreach.

Patrick's phone number will continue to be listed as the club's "Contact Us" number on the club's website.

Dave went over the form that SLAS must fill out for each meeting it holds on the U of U campus.

2010 Board Meetings were proposed for the 2nd Tuesday of each month (including the Transitional Board Meeting in December). Time (7:00 p.m.) and venue (Denny's at 250 W 500 S in SLC) to remain the same as in 2009.

2010 General Membership Meetings were proposed to continue to be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except December) starting at 7:30 p.m. at the U of U's Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.

The annual Solstice Festival will be held on 11 December with time and venue TBD.

Dues and meeting schedules will be voted on by the membership at next month's General Membership Meeting.

Duties of board members remain unchanged from last year. See the "2010 SLAS Board of Directors" section below for details.

Nate Goodman will be responsible for the content of the club's website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

## SLAS Meeting Parking

When parking at the University of Utah for SLAS meetings only those parking lots marked with a "U" are free after 6:00 p.m. Parking is also permitted in the "A" lot north of the Kennecott Building after 6:00 p.m. Map: <http://slas.us/location.htm>

## 2010 SLAS Member Information

The SLAS Member Information file is available at <http://slas.us/docs/NEWMEM.PDF>.

## Loaner Telescopes For SLAS Members

SLAS has several scopes available for loan to current SLAS members. Contact Roger Butz at 435.830.4684 for details. Or look on the SLAS web site under "[Membership Benefits](#)".

## 2010 SLAS Board of Directors

President	David Bernson	801.263.9264	<a href="mailto:dustynebula@juno.com">dustynebula@juno.com</a>
Meetings			
Vice President	Rodger Fry	801.268.0851	<a href="mailto:rcfry@comcast.net">rcfry@comcast.net</a>
Publicity & Public Relations			
Secretary-Treasurer	Joe Bauman	801.583.7935	<a href="mailto:josephmbauman@yahoo.com">josephmbauman@yahoo.com</a>
Membership Dues & Renewals			
Board Member at Large	Mike Wilson	801.966.4981	<a href="mailto:astro_outwest@yahoo.com">astro_outwest@yahoo.com</a>
School & Special Star Parties			
Board Member at Large	Nate Goodman	801.964.6199	<a href="mailto:ngoodman@lgcy.com">ngoodman@lgcy.com</a>
Public Outreach Director, Web content			

## 2010 Appointed Positions

Astronomical League Contact	Erik Hansen	801.253.2201	<a href="mailto:zaurak@digis.net">zaurak@digis.net</a>
Dark Sky Committee Chair	Scott Crosby	801.295.5798	<a href="mailto:scott.crosby@hill.af.mil">scott.crosby@hill.af.mil</a>
Equipment Manager	Roger Butz	435.830.4684	<a href="mailto:dutchbutz@yahoo.com">dutchbutz@yahoo.com</a>
Historian	Ann Blanchard	801.485.6629	<a href="mailto:a.blanchard@ugs.utah.edu">a.blanchard@ugs.utah.edu</a>
Inreach Director	Rodger Fry	801.268.0851	<a href="mailto:rcfry@comcast.net">rcfry@comcast.net</a>
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Ann House	801.671.8447	<a href="mailto:ann@annhouse.org">ann@annhouse.org</a>
NASA Night Sky Ambassador	Troy Stratton	801.647.5142	<a href="mailto:tmstratton@comcast.net">tmstratton@comcast.net</a>
New Member Director	Bob Moore	801.580.0466	<a href="mailto:bmoore@commercecrg.com">bmoore@commercecrg.com</a>
Nova Newsletter Editor	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	<a href="mailto:paw@beehivewireless.com">paw@beehivewireless.com</a>
Observatory Director	Bruce Grim	435.882.5237	<a href="mailto:bmargrim@msn.com">bmargrim@msn.com</a>
Observatory Training Director	Mark Bloomenthal	801.842.1242	<a href="mailto:markbloomenthal@yahoo.com">markbloomenthal@yahoo.com</a>
Private Star Party Coordinator	Don Colton	801.571.9757	<a href="mailto:dcolton@sprint@earthlink.net">dcolton@sprint@earthlink.net</a>
Solar Scope Manager	Rodger Fry	801.268.0851	<a href="mailto:rcfry@comcast.net">rcfry@comcast.net</a>
Webmasters	Ken & Kathleen Warner		<a href="mailto:webmaster@slas.us">webmaster@slas.us</a>
ZAP Grant Committee Chair	Erik Hansen	801.253.2201	<a href="mailto:zaurak@digis.net">zaurak@digis.net</a>

## 2010 SPOC Advisory Committee

Chair serves through JAN 2012	Ken Harris	801.572.3457	<a href="mailto:kharris@earthlink.net">kharris@earthlink.net</a>
Member serves while SLAS Pres.	Dave Bernson	801.263.9264	<a href="mailto:dustynebula@juno.com">dustynebula@juno.com</a>
Member serves through JAN 2011	Mark Bloomenthal	801.842.1242	<a href="mailto:markbloomenthal@yahoo.com">markbloomenthal@yahoo.com</a>
Member Harmons Representative	Kevin Bushnell		
Member serves through JAN 2013	Roger Butz	435.830.4684	<a href="mailto:dutchbutz@yahoo.com">dutchbutz@yahoo.com</a>
Member SPOC Training Director	Wayne Clarke	801.942.4685	<a href="mailto:waynesclarke@msn.com">waynesclarke@msn.com</a>
Member Observatory Director	Bruce Grim	435.882.5237	<a href="mailto:bmargrim@msn.com">bmargrim@msn.com</a>
Member serves through JAN 2012	Bill Kennedy	801.964.6199	<a href="mailto:truss_tube@hotmail.com">truss_tube@hotmail.com</a>
Member serves through JAN 2012	Boyd McNeil	435.882.1901	<a href="mailto:bmcneil@wirelessbeehive.com">bmcneil@wirelessbeehive.com</a>
Member serves through JAN 2011	Patrick Wiggins	435.882.1209	<a href="mailto:paw@beehivewireless.com">paw@beehivewireless.com</a>

NOVA is a publication of the [Salt Lake Astronomical Society](#), a non-profit organization. Nova contains minutes of meetings, Board member names & contact info, activities, reports, special club events. The editor of NOVA is appointed by the Board. Members are encouraged to contribute content. Current NOVA editor is Patrick Wiggins, [paw@wirelessbeehive.com](mailto:paw@wirelessbeehive.com), 435.882.1209.

## **Events Calendar**

### **January 2010**

12 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Denny's, 250 W 500 S, SLC.

19 General Meeting 7:30 p.m. U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.

### **February 2010**

09 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Denny's, 250 W 500 S, SLC.

12 Private Mars Watch. Refractor House at SPOC. Starts at sunset.

13 Private Mars Watch rain date. Refractor House at SPOC. Starts at sunset.

16 General Meeting 7:30 p.m. U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.

### **March 2010**

09 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Denny's, 250 W 500 S, SLC.

16 General Meeting 7:30 p.m. U of U Engineering/Mines Classroom Building, Room 105.

**Salt Lake Astronomical Society**  
**P.O. Box 26114**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah 84126-0114**  
**<http://www.slas.us>**