Building Your Own
(Really Big) Telescope

By
Mike Clements

Amateur telescope maker Mike Clements, will be featured at the August meeting of the St. Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM Friday, August 21, in McDonnell Hall, Room 162, on the Washington University campus, Saint Louis, MO 63130.

Mike Clements has been interested in amateur astronomy and telescope making for forty years. His best known achievement is construction of a telescope 70-inches (1.8 meters) in diameter and 35 feet long. That is the largest amateur telescope in the nation and the largest modern-day amateur telescope in the world - which is why he is now known as “1.8 Meter Mike”. Mr. Clements will talk about building large telescopes and about his plans to make an observatory-sized instrument mobile. His future plans are to put the 1.8 meter telescope on a trailer and then transport it around the country for public viewing of celestial objects that only a very large telescope can display in detail.

Welcome Aboard!
New Members Meeting
6:30 p.m. Friday, August 21st.
McDonnell Hall, Room 162

There will be a meeting for new members prior to the regular meeting this month beginning at 6:30 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to help new members get started using SLAS resources and getting to know each other and SLAS members. If you have joined SLAS in the last year, please feel free to attend. If you joined more than a year ago but want to come, you are still welcome! SLAS members who would like to assist new members are also invited to attend if they like.

A welcome packet with maps, resources and other aids will be passed out during the meeting. People are urged to attend and bring their questions and any other needs to the meeting. We look forward to meeting you at the meeting!

Bring Your Cash!
Bargains to be had!

SLAS Auction after the regular meeting

SLAS will hold an auction of telescopes, books, charts and other materials after the regular meeting this month. Be sure to bring your checkbook or cash to pay for anything you would like to bid on at the auction.

Here are some of the items that will be auctioned off. Photos of each item were included in the June newsletter, which may be found here:

Here is a list of some of the items which will be for sale:
1. The first scope is a Meade Polaris Digital DS-60mm Refractor. It came with a tripod, accessory tray, a 90-degree angle diagonal,
I am looking forward to our meeting Friday because it will be our first attempt at a meeting via Skype. Mike Clements will come to us via Skype and his slides will be presented on the second screen via a second projector. Mike is a dynamic speaker and really enjoys interacting with his audience. We are looking forward to making this a great event for SLAS!

We are also implementing our new member meetings at 6:30 p.m. before the regular meeting in the same room. Please attend if you are a member who has joined in the last year or so. Packets will be handed out to those attending. We will also have the SLAS Auction after the meeting. Bring your cash or checks!

We are looking forward to a great month. Be sure to RSVP for upcoming star parties and it would be great if you had some photos or a write up about the event you attend.

25mm, 12.5mm and 4mm eyepieces and a 3X Barlow. All eyepieces are the 0.965” Japanese standard size. It did not come with the optional electronic controller. The dew shield is missing off from objective lens and there is no dust cap.

2. Red Tasco 40x40mm refracting telescope and tripod.
3. White 45x40mm refracting telescope and tripod.
4. Binocular Mount and camera tripod. Mounts to any binocular with ¼”-20 mounting hole
5. 6-inch f/8 Dobsonian Reflecting telescope
6. Below: 2-inch glass solar filter mounted for use with 8-inch telescope
7. Kodak 35mm Slide Projector with 2 trays and dozens of Astronomy Related Slides
8. Astronomy Books
10. Sky Atlas 2000 Laminated Star Charts. 26 charts covering the entire sky
11. Tasco 50mm 20x-60x Zoom Spotting Scope. (no tripod, but leather case with shoulder strap included.)

Enchanted Space Studies: An insightful lecture and discussion about key insights and emerging trends related to outer space development for children and young learners (ages 5-18, adults should accompany small children) Science and High Technology NASA site: https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/index.cfm
- The Milky Way Galaxy: Our Home
- Interplanetary Exploration: Our Solar System & Planets Around Other Stars
- Discovery of Earthlike Planets, Kepler and Hubble Telescopes
- Interstellar Travel and New Spaceships
- Asteroid Mining Missions
- Future Careers in Space
- About Research, Writing and Publishing and Developing a Specialized Expertise
- Spacecraft Trajectory Optimization
- International Relations and History of Outer Space
- Social and Behavioral Sciences for Space Travel
- The Outer Space Treaty: International Space Law
- RSVP https://www.eventbrite.com/e/enchanted-space-

New Loaner Telescope

SLAS has received another generous telescope donation. The newest addition is an Orion SkyView 8 Inch Deluxe EQ telescope. This telescope has an 8” f/4 primary mirror and only a 800mm focal length for a very wide field of view. The telescope includes a German equatorial mount and tripod with built-in polar alignment scope. The accessories include a 6x30mm finder and three eyepieces with focal lengths of 9mm, 12.3mm and 40mm. SLAS plans to add this to the Loaner Scope Program in the near future.
13th Annual SLAS Star-B-Q
Saturday, September 12, 2015
Cochran Picnic Shelter
New Location!!!

Come join fellow members of the SLAS in Babler State Park at the Cochran Picnic Shelter for a day of food, games, and observing. SLAS will once again provide the hamburgers and hotdogs. We ask for you to bring your favorite drinks and side dish or dessert.

Activities will include: games, prizes, solar viewing and plenty of socializing! Then we pack up and move to the Babler Monument area where we will observe from 8-Midnight. Don't have a telescope? Don't worry this is a great chance to see other member's equipment.

2pm – Picnic begins
3pm-5pm Food line open
5pm-6pm Trivia Contest (with prizes)
6pm-7pm- cleanup shelter
7pm-midnight- Observing at Monument Area

Special Note: There will be solar viewing during the day
Don Ficken Flies Out of the Solar System!

What??? You didn’t hear about this flight during Mission Updates?? Well, if you were at the Rockhill Starwars Party, you too could have taken a ride in the space ship they created at this fun event. You haven’t attended a Library Star party as a volunteer yet? You need to get involved! See our calendar or Don Ficken to sign up for one of these events sponsored by the enthusiastic libraries that have one of our Library Loaner Telescopes in their system. We hope to see YOU in a ship flying through the Solar System sometime soon! Thanks to Shelley Dieterichs at the Rockhill Library for setting up this event!

Solar Party at the James S. McDonnell Planetarium Friday Afternoon to Begin the countdown to the 2017 Eclipse

WHAT The countdown begins for the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse! On August, 21, 2017, the St. Louis region will experience a total solar eclipse when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, blocking the Sun for more than two minutes.

To help you get ready for one of nature’s most amazing events, the St. Louis Astronomical Society is hosting a solar viewing day at the Saint Louis Science Center’s James S. McDonnell Planetarium on Friday, August 21, 2015. Members of the St. Louis Astronomical Society will set up solar scopes and answer all your questions about the total solar eclipse in 2017.

WHEN August 21, beginning 1 p.m.
WHERE James S. McDonnell Planetarium in Forest Park
MEDIA CONTACT Margie Walsh, Saint Louis Science Center, 314.286.4621, mwalsh@slsc.org

FOR SALE: 12.5’ STARMASTER

12.5” StarMaster ELT truss-tube Dobsonian w/ Zambuto f/4.5 mirror, secondary heater, Starlight 2-speed focuser.

Purchased new in 2002 or 2003. It has seen light maybe 12-15 times. Needs collimation, mirrors may be a slight bit dusty - otherwise excellent condition. Last used at a River Bend Astronomy Club star party in March 2015.

Includes TeleVue visual ParaCorr, 2” 35mm Panoptic eyepiece, Desert Storm cover, Rigel QuickFinder. Asking $2,000.

Contact Lynn Fee at lynnfee09@gmail.com or 618-337-8135
Wanted: Newsletter Articles!
The Event Horizon needs articles from people like YOU!
Interviews, current astronomy topics, historical articles, you name it, we can use it!
Send what you have to

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!
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
9/10/2015
10/8/2015
11/12/2015
12/10/2015

Dark Sky Observing Dates

See you in April!

Francis Park Events: These events are on Wednesdays the week nearest the first quarter Moon
8/19/2015
9/16/2015
10/21/2015

SLSC Public Telescope Viewing Events: These events are held the first Friday of the month
Planetarium shows start at 7pm
9/4/2015
10/2/2015
11/6/2015
12/4/2015

YMCA Edward Jones Star Parties
9/7/2015
10/5/2015

SLAS Merchandise
Available

SLAS merchandise is now set up for embroidery at Headz n Threadz at https://hnt.threadthis.com/

There are two locations:
Galleria: 2495 St. Louis Galleria, St. Louis, MO 63117
Telephone: 314.862.2695
galleria@headznthreadz.com

Delmar: 6662C Delmar Blvd St. Louis, MO 63130 Telephone: 314.863.2695 delmar@headznthreadz.com

Delmar Map

Simply take the garment, hat, etc you wish to have embroidered and they will take care of it. They have the SLAS logo on file. You may make modifications to the colors if you wish.

SLAS Logo is also available at Infini-tees and Johnny Mac’s

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 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: Last ____________________________________________________________
First, Middle Initial _______________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip Code _______________________________________________________
e-mail 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 $____________

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

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

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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.