THE EVENT HORIZON

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

VOLUME 29, Issue 5
May, 2019

Gravitational Lensing and the Dark Side of the Universe

by

Dr. Andrés Plazas
Princeton University

Dr. Andrés Plazas will be featured at the May meeting of the Saint Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM Friday, May 17 in McDonnell Hall, Room 162, on the Washington University campus, Saint Louis, MO 63105

"Gravitational lensing" is the very slight bending of light by any clump of matter. The matter's gravity acts like a lens to create magnifications and distortions of galaxies that lie far behind the clump in space. The magnification is predicted by Einstein's General Relativity Theory. The lensing has been identified as one the most powerful techniques to learn more about the distribution of dark matter in galaxies and galaxy clusters. The study of the evolution of dark matter provides some clues about how dark energy is causing the expansion of the Universe to accelerate. Dark matter and dark energy add up to nearly 95% of the Universe, but their natures are largely unknown. Dr. Plazas will talk about the fundamental role that gravitational lensing has played and will play in current and future galaxy surveys such as the Dark Energy Survey (DES), the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST), and NASA's Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST).

Andrés Plazas received a Doctorate in Physics and Astronomy from the University of Pennsylvania in 2012. He is now an associate research scholar in the Department of Astrophysical Sciences of Princeton University and also serves as a NASA Solar System Ambassador.

Presentations for 2019

June 2019 Josiah Lewis, PhD Pre-Solar Grains: Solids from Other Stars Studied in the Lab - Wash U
July 2019 Craig O'Mara Flying SOFIA - NASA
August 2019 Marco Cavaglia, PhD Gravitational Waves - UM: Science & Technology
September 2019 Don Hampton,PhD Aurora Borealis & Steve - University of Alaska: Fairbanks (Skype)
October 2019 Abigail Bollenbach Edwin Hubble and his Telescope - Bartlesville Astronomical Society
November 2019 Claire Chandler, PhD Super-Earths and the Formation of the Solar System - National Radio Astronomy Observatory (Skype)
December 2019 Duncan Lorimer, PhD Fast Radio Bursts: "Lorimer Bursts" - University of West Virginia (Skype)

Get Involved!

Nominations are Still Open and Volunteers are Needed!

Annual election for Executive Board members will take place at the May 2019 SLAS meeting. Nominations for SLAS offices will begin at the April meeting. If you would like to run for one of the elected positions or volunteer for a committee leadership role, please contact us at board@slasonline.org or volunteer@slasonline.org

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Presidents Corner *by* Jim Small

Elections are this month and nominations are still open. If you are interested, please let us know about it at the meeting!

The NCRAL conference was terrific. One of the best I've attended in a while. John Beaury and myself were in attendance from SLAS. More on the conference next month!

MSRAL is coming up June 14-16 in Kansas City. Registration is open and you can find current information at www.msral.org The conference schedule is now complete and is posted.

The AAS national meeting will be held in St. Louis at Union Station from Sunday June 9-Thursday, June 13. How convenient that it ends the day before MSRAL starts! Tons of professional astronomers will be in attendance.

YOU can volunteer to help out for 10 hours during the conference and possibly attend for FREE! (the astronomers favorite word!) For information on the conference and possibly volunteering to help out, visit their website and see if you are interested!

Meeting website: https://aas.org/meetings/aas234

Volunteer information: https://www.cognitoforms.com/AAS5/_234thAnnualMeetingVolunteerInterestForm

ALCON 2019 is coming up in July, but if you want to go, you need to sign up by May 8th.
https://alcon2019.astroleague.org/

There are lots of events coming up that need volunteers. Be sure to sign up and let us know you are coming via Night Sky Network.

Above: Youth Panel at the NCRAL conference. They provided good insight into how to communicate with youth to inform them of events and meetings. "Not Facebook" was the number one comment! The preferred social platform is Instagram.

Left: The Popular Astronomy Club Mobile Observatory or PACMO. More on this fine observatory design in the next newsletter!

(Continued from page 1)

The following elected positions are open for nomination this month. Current nominations are listed

President - 1 year term - Jim Small

Vice-Presisdent - 1 year term - Bradley Waller

Treasurer - 1 year term - Bill Winningham

Recording Secretary - 1 year term - Mark Jones

Membership and Hospitality- 1 year term - Larry Campbell

Board member at large - 3 year term - John Newcomer

Here are the descriptions from the SLAS constitution and by-laws for each position

ARTICLE VII – THE ELECTIVE OFFICERS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES

SHALL BE: (Amendment XXII - Adopted 11-16-2007)

The elective officers of the Society shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership and Hospitality, and three Board Members at Large. All officers must be at least 21 years of age. No member shall hold more than one elective office at a time. Any officer may be removed from office only by vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all members present at the monthly meeting. Such proceedings can only be initiated by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the remaining Elective Officers.

Section 1. PRESIDENT

The president shall be the executive officer of the society, shall preside over all meetings of the society and the executive council, and shall be ex-officio member of all standing committees.

Section 2. VICE-PRESIDENT

The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, preside over all meetings of the society and of the executive council. He shall perform such duties as usually pertain to that, or which may be assigned to him by the President or the executive council.

Section 3. TREASURER (Amendment IX - Adopted 5-16-1975)

The Treasurer shall receive all funds paid to the society and shall deposit same in an official depository as approved by the executive council and shall disburse same on the approval of the President or the executive council. He shall sign all checks. He shall keep the society's financial records and his books shall be open to inspection by the executive council at all times. He shall make a report at the annual election meeting of the society and at such other times as the executive council may require.

Section 4. RECORDING SECRETARY (Amendment III - Adopted 1-18-1957) (Amendment VII - Adopted 1-18-1968) (Amendment X - Adopted 5-16-1975)

The Recording Secretary shall keep minutes of business portions of any regular monthly meetings and minutes of all executive council meetings.

Section 5. MEMBERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY (Amendment VIII - Adopted 10-18-1968) (Amendment XI - 5-16-1975) (Amendment XXIII - Adopted 11-16-2007)

The Membership and Hospitality officer shall maintain a program of securing new members for the society and retaining current members. The Membership and Hospitality officer shall plan and coordinate social activities of the society as requested by the executive council or the membership.

Section 6. BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE (Amendment XII - Adopted 5-16-1975)

Three Board Member at Large shall be elected at the time of the annual election of officers. At the first election of the Board Members at Large in September, 1975, one shall be elected to a one-year term, one to a two-year term, and one to a three-year term. In succeeding years the vacant position created by the retiring Board Member at Large will be filled by a member being elected for a three-year term.

Left: Bill Winningham explaining that the globe of the Moon is pre-Apollo landings!

"Astro Bob" Bob King in Wilson Hall via Skype at last months SLAS Regular Meeting

Above: Astronomy Day at the James S. McDonnell Planetarium **Below Left:** John Beaury explaining the Library Telescope Modifications at the North Central Region of the Astronomical League Conference. **Below Right:** At the observatory for the Popular Astronomy Club featuring a 14" Celestron Edge HD telescope. **Bottom:** Group shot for the NCRAL Conference

FOR SALE!

Celestron Nexstar SE 6 inch GOTO Telescope and tripod

Hard shell carrying case

25mm Plossl eyepiece

1.25 Star Diagonal

6 inch Bahtinov mask

Bought new June 2016

Excellent condition - limited use

Price $600

Skywatcher 12 inch f/4.9

Collapsible GOTO telescope

Fitted with laser pointer

Nylon cover

Bought new October 2017

Excellent condition - limited use

Price $1,300

Jim Morrison 401-486-9728

We could use articles for the newsletter. The following topics are fine for submission.

1. Star party reports. Let us know how a star party you attended went! Photos would be most welcome in addition to the article.

2. Observing reports. Actually made it out observing? Let us know how it went. Taken some astro photos? Please submit!

3. Bought something or built something? How about a review or an article!

Send to newsletter@slasonline.org

St. Louis Astronomical Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes March 7, 2019

1. Opening Activities: Attending: Jim Small, Rich Heuermann, Bradley Waller, Brent Buch, Bill Winningham, Mark Jones, Larry Campbell Meeting called to order at 7:00pm Minutes from March meeting were distributed before the meeting. Comments received and incorporated. Motion to approve minutes by Bill seconded by Brad. Minutes were approved

2. External Business: MSRAL 2019 (Kansas City) registration is up online. NCRAL 2019 conference (Moline IL) info also available.
Next board meeting: Meetings are posted on NSN Board meetings will be held at Nicoletti's Restaurant in Valley Park until further notice. Dates left for 2019: May 2, Jun 6, Jul 11 (4th is 1st Thursday), Aug 1, Sep 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5

3. Director Reports:

President: Jim Small NSN pins distributed at March general meeting. Remaining pins will be distributed at this month's meeting. Nominations for elections will take place at April and May meeting. Elections in May Pres – Jim Small VP – Bradley Waller Treas – Bill Winningham Sec- Mark Jones Hosp – Larry Campbell BMAL – John Newcomer

Vice President: Bradley R Waller
SLAS Monthly Meetings **Presentations 2019**

Month	Name	Topic	Sponsor
19-Apr-2019	Bob "Astro Bob" King	A Space Cornucopia: From Quasars to Green Flashes	AAS (SE)
17-May-2019			
21-Jun-2019	Josiah Lewis, PhD	Pre-Solar Grains: Solids from Other Stars Studied in the Lab	Wash U
19-Jul-2019			
16-Aug-2019	Angela Speck, PhD	2019 Solar Eclipse Results	Mizzou
20-Sep-2019	Don Hampton, PhD	Aurora Borealis & Steve	UAF (SE)
18-Oct-2019	Abigail Bollenbach	Edwin Hubble and his Telescope	BAS
15-Nov-2019	Claire Chandler, PhD	Super-Earths and the Formation of the Solar System	NRAO (SE)
20-Dec-2019	Duncan Lorimer, PhD	Fast Radio Bursts: "Lorimer Bursts"	UWVA (SE)

SE: Skype Event UWVA: University of West Virginia AAS: Arrowhead Astronomical Society
UAF: University of Alaska: Fairbanks NRAO: National Radio Astronomy Observatory BAS: Bartlesville Astronomical Society
***Astro 101:** Equinox prize give away
*Welcome Aboard Meetings for new members are still planned for each month.

Secretary: Mark Jones: Jefferson College Observatory update. Committee meeting scheduled for April 29th

Treasurer/ALCor: Bill Winningham Financials Bill got bounced check fee reversed Next $10,000 CD will be at 2.3% Insurance policy renewal every May 1st. Should we add property coverage. $100/year to get $10,000 coverage no deductible. Board discussed and decided current SLAS property will not be insured. Will address if property values increase

Hospitality: Larry Campbell The 40 Year Certificate for continuous SLAS membership was sent to Larry Doepke. April SLAS meeting will be in 214 Wilson Hall for April. We will not have refreshments due to location of SLAS cart in McDonnell Hall.
Membership recognition: Larry gave Bill W the 2019 recognition pins for mailing with renewal letters. We discussed special recognition for John Beaury's effort in maintenance of library telescope. Motion for special recognition to John Beaury for his work as maintaining and repairing LTP. Recognition will be paid for from recognition budget. Motion was made by Larry and second Bill. Motion was approved.

Board Member at Large Reports

Rich Heuermann (2019): April press has been released Wilson Hall will be meeting place. Go in north doors. West door has wheelchair access. Jim, and Rich will make signs and send out directions to find Wilson Hall. Rich reported that one member got parking ticket at last meeting but was able to appeal successfully. It looks like Wash U will begin to ticket red parking spots again. Rich will contact university. Trout Lodge- Cook Feldman has delivered equipment to TL. Some binoculars still on order
Tom Nickelson (2020): No report
Brent Buch (2021): no report

4. Committee Reports:
Library Telescope Program: LTP maintenance took place Saturday March 30th at Oak Bend Library
Membership: The latest membership report shows that we have 180 members which is a big improvement over the 169 reported last month. We are just below the 183 members reported last year at this time. Many thanks to Treasurer Bill Winningham for staying on top of mailing renewal notices.
Newsletter: Please forward articles to newsletter@slasonline.org Editor. New *Event Horizon* newsletter logo is in works
Website: Current speaker listed on website, 2019 speakers updated.
Social Networking: SLAS public FaceBook page has over 350 followers
Dark Site: Spring events listed on calendar
Loaner Scopes: SLAS received two donated telescopes this month: Meade goto reflector 114mm f/8; and Meade ETX-90 with tripod
Publicity: Press release for April has been released
Observing Programs: Member John Strebeck submitted his observations to the AL for the Constellation Hunter for the Northern Skies award. Mark plans to present the AL pin to John at the May meeting
Star Parties: See Bill Breeden's separate report. There are 6 events pending looking for SLAS member to lead the event, we have 50 events scheduled between now and August 1st

5. Old Business: None

6. New Business: None

7. Closing Activities: Motion to adjourn made by Mark, second by Bill. Meeting adjourned 8:25pm

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through April 2019

	Jan - Apr 19	Budget	$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Events Income			
Events Income - Other	75.00	0.00	75.00
Total Events Income	75.00	0.00	75.00
Magazine Subscription			
Astronomy Magazine Sales*	203.65	247.70	(44.05)
Sky & Telescope Sales	359.50	230.65	128.85
Total Magazine Subscription	563.15	478.35	84.80
Membership Dues	1,800.00	1,770.00	30.00
Total Income	2,438.15	2,248.35	189.80
Cost of Goods Sold			
Magazine Subscriptions			
Astronomy Magazine Cost*	211.45	247.70	(36.25)
Sky & Telescope Cost	359.50	230.65	128.85
Total Magazine Subscriptions	570.95	478.35	92.60
Merchandise		100.00	(100.00)
Total COGS	570.95	578.35	(7.40)
Gross Profit	1,867.20	1,670.00	197.20
Expense			
1-Programs & Events	205.01	945.33	(740.32)
2-Newsletter	93.62	169.00	(75.38)
3-Library expense	80.00	235.00	(155.00)
5-Loaner Scopes		33.00	(33.00)
6-Brochures		210.00	(210.00)
7-Insurance	825.00	825.00	
8-Website	179.40	285.00	(105.60)
9-Administrative Expenses	70.11	93.34	(23.23)
Total Expense	1,453.14	2,795.67	(1,342.53)
Net Ordinary Income	414.06	(1,125.67)	1,539.73
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Total Donations	460.05	0.00	460.05
Interest Income	117.41	33.00	84.41
LTP Receipts	3,254.38	0.00	3,254.38
YMCA Trout Lodge Scope Proceeds	450.00	0.00	450.00
Total Other Income	4,281.84	33.00	4,248.84
Other Expense			
LTP Disbursements	2,937.22	0.00	2,937.22
LTP Escrow Funding	500.00	500.00	0.00
YMCA Trout Lodge ESCROW Expense	838.50	0.00	838.50
Total Other Expense	4,275.72	500.00	3,775.72
Net Other Income	6.12	(467.00)	473.12

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Balance Sheet
As of April 30, 2019

	Dec 31, 18	Apr 30, 19
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Checking - First Bank	9,990.59	10,382.58
Deposit, Certificate of	20,239.11	15,682.68
Library Telescope Escrow	91.35	453.35
PayPal	0.00	87.12
Savings - First Bank	46,379.35	51,053.19
YMCA Trout Lodge Escrow	627.87	194.53
Total Checking/Savings	77,328.27	77,853.45
Other Current Assets		
Inventory Asset	821.53	821.53
Undeposited Funds	105.00	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	926.53	821.53
Total Current Assets	78,254.80	78,674.98
Total Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	78,254.80	78,674.98
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	8,497.66	8,497.66
Retained Earnings	65,418.58	69,757.14
Net Income	4,338.56	420.18
Total Equity	78,254.80	78,674.98
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	78,254.80	78,674.98

ALCon 2019 - July 25-29, 2019 Kennedy Space Center,FL and Southern Skies Cruise to Bahamas

https://www.astroleague.org/images/solar/alcon-2019-july-25-29-2019-kennedy-space-centerfl-and-southern-skies-cruise-bahamas

Join the Astronomical League to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing! First, tour the Kennedy Space Center, the site of the Apollo 11 launch. Then, enjoy a three-day cruise to the Bahamas on a ship by Royal Caribbean and see the southern Milky Way of Sagittarius and Scorpius! Thursday July 25, after the KSC tour, stay on-shore at a hotel in Titusville (to be arranged). You will need a passport valid through January 2020 or later. (Yes, at least six months after the cruise!) Royal Caribbean cruise ship leaves Port Canaveral Friday afternoon July 26 and returns Monday morning July 29.Cruise cabins are limited. Reservations are being accepted, with a $100 initial down payment. Pricing (based on double occupancy) for the whole weekend cruise including meals is set at $399 per person (PP) for inside cabins, $579 PP for outside cabins, and $589 PP for Balcony cabins. Singles, triples, and quad rates are available upon request with our agent.Members of the Astronomical League only: To reserve your cabin with a $100 deposit, and for additional cruise details, please contact Marsha at Lin-Mar Travel, 631-736-1049 or marsha@travelwithlin-mar.com.

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 Nicoletti's Restaurant in Valley Park* All meetings are on First Thursdays unless noted.
Jun 6, Jul 11 (4th is 1st Thursday), Aug 1, Sep 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5

Dark Sky Observing Dates

Francis Park Events: These events are on Wednesdays of the week nearest the first quarter Moon
6/5, 7/10, 8/7, 9/4, 10/2, 10/30

Sky Orienteering Events For members who want to gather and do some relaxed observing at Babler State Park

5/26, 6/23,
Please RSVP if you plan to come!

SLSC Public Telescope Viewing Events: These events are held the first Friday of the month Planetarium shows start at 7pm
Jun 7, Jul 5, Aug 2, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6

Pattonville Observatory Public Viewing Dates
5-24 Last day for the season!

Broemmelsiek Astronomy Park Public Viewing

Every Friday night with ASEM members

UMSL Observatory
For directions and map
http://www.umsl.edu/~physics/About%20the%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

May

17 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
18 Sat	Sidewalk Solar Viewing SLSC
18 Sat	Stargazing at the Arch
25 Sat	Moon and Stars
25 Sat	Hawn State Park
25 Sat	Moon and Stars: From You
26 Sun	SLAS Sky Orienteering
29 Wed	A Tourist Guide to Mars
30 Thur	A Warp 10 Tour of the Universe
30 Thur	A Tourist Guide to Mars

June

1 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky Observing
1 Sat	Backyard Campout
4 Tue	Ferguson Public Library
5 Wed	Francis Park
6 Thur	SLAS Board Meeting
7 Fri	SLSC Public Telescope Viewing
8 Sat	Great Rivers Greenway Festival
11 Tue	Flag on the Moon
13 Thur	U-City Public Library
14-16	MSRAL
15 Sat	Sidewalk Solar Observing
15 Sat	Stargazing at The Arch
17 Mon	Lewis and Clark Library
18 Tues	Rock Hill Public Library
20 Thur	Moon and Stars
21 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
23 Sun	SLAS Sky Orienteering
24 Mon	Jefferson County Library
25 Tues	A Tourist Guide to Mars
26 Wed	Festus Library Summer Reading
27 Thurs	Moon and Star
29 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky Observing

July

1 Mon	Flag on the Moon—NASA
2 Tues	Moon and Stars
3 Wed	Flag on the Moon
5 Fri	SLSC Public Telescope Viewing

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

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 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: Last _____

First, Middle Initial _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

email address _____

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

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!***

SLAS OFFICERS

President ***Jim Small*** 314-307-0692
president at slasonline.org

Vice President ***Bradley R Waller*** 314-481-7250
vicepresident at slasonline.org

Secretary ***Mark Jones*** 636-394-2342
secretary at slasonline.org

Treasurer ***Bill Winningham, (Don Ficken - membership)***
treasurer at slasonline.org 636-357-2763

Hospitality ***Larry Campbell*** 636-244-2867
hospitality at slasonline.org

Board Members at Large:

Rich Heuermann 314-962-9231
board19 at slasonline.org

Tom Nickelson 314-346-9565
board20 at slasonline.org

Brent Buch 314-239-0329
board21 at slasonline.org

ALCOR ***Bill Winningham*** 636-357-2763
(Astronomical League Correspondent)
treasurer at slasonline.org

MSRAL Rep. ***Jim Small*** 314-909-7211
msral_rep at astroleague.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Dark Site Coordinator ***Mark Jones*** 636-394-2342
darksite at slasonline.org

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librarian at slasonline.org

Library Telescope Program ***Don Ficken*** 636-851-9630
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Loaner Equipment ***Greg Gaines*** 314-277-3082
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Social Media *Vacant*

'SLASdialogs' Moderator ***Mark Jones, Rhonda Whelan***
dialogsmoderator at yahoo.com

Star Party Coordinator ***Bill Breeden*** 314-276-3613
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Telescope Making ***Bill Davis, Jim Melka*** 314-469-3061
telescope at slasonline.org

Webmaster ***Jim Small*** 314-909-7211

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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

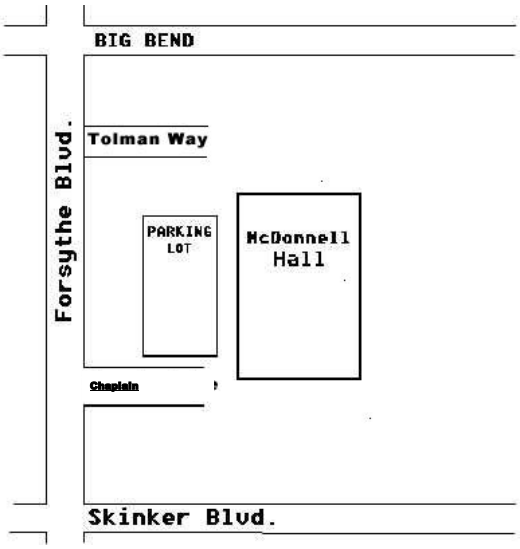
Follow us on
Twitter: @stlastro
Facebook: @stlastro

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 any-one 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

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