THE EVENT HORIZON

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

VOLUME 32, Issue 6
June, 2022

Cahokia in Chesterfield
The Sun, Moon & Milky Way
by
Mark Leach

Mark Leach, local author and Native American burial mound preservationist will be featured at the June meeting of the Saint Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will be held ***IN-PERSON AND*** via Zoom online conference. The meeting and lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 17 at McDonnell Hall, room 162. Zoom access information is posted on the Society's website, www.slasonline.org.

Nearly 1,000 years ago, a vibrant Cahokian community filled the entire Chesterfield Valley. Like Illinois's Cahokia, this civic, ceremonial, and market center was precisely planned and constructed to reflect important celestial alignments of the sun, moon, and Milky Way. Though only a small portion of the community has been professionally studied, over 100,000 artifacts have been discovered. Included are exotic materials from the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. A massive Calendar of the Sun, involving three temples and two earthen pyramids, stretched 3.56 miles across the valley. Cahokia in Chesterfield has been the focus of professional archaeological research for over 70 years. Research is ongoing, and the heart of the ancient city lies well preserved under six feet of flood deposited soil.

Mark Leach is a local author and Native American burial mound preservationist. He serves as the Restoration & Research Coordinator of the Blake Mound & Cave Site and as a long-standing trustee of the Missouri Archaeological Society.

SLAS Returns to In-Person Meetings!

The meetings for June and July have been scheduled for McDonnell Hall, room 162. It's been too long! The room will be open by 6 pm to allow setup and will remain open till 11.
You still ***cannot park in any red spaces***, BUT there are now 14 handicap slots right in front of McDonnell Hall. There are also 18 yellow slots on Forsyth which are ok after 5 pm Friday. There are also many Car Pool slots by the greenhouses west of McDonnell that are eligible after 5 pm. There is also an underground parking garage east of McDonnell at Wrighton Way. Park in any yellow slot. There are also two car chargers near McDonnell and several in the garage.

Can't wait to see everyone in a meeting again! Friday night, 7:30 pm!

Joining a Zoom Conference Meeting: Everyone can join! No Computer Required!

Joining us for a Zoom Conference is easy! All you need is any of the following: Computer, desktop or laptop, smartphone, **OR** any regular phone! The meeting will be open from 6:30-11pm. The extra time is to allow socializing before or after the meeting
Below is the invitation to join:
To join Zoom Meeting for SLAS Regular Meeting with computer or smartphone:
Just click the link below:
https://zoom.us/j/8604505790
Meeting ID: 860 450 5790
Dial by ANY phone using your location (any phone will work)

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President's Corner

by

Jim Small

Wow, what a month so far. New board member Randy Harrison has joined us. The board meeting was the day before MSRAL. Despite a few logistics glitches on Saturday morning, MSRAL was a resounding success! The Star B Q Friday night was great and got started with some grear food from Kettelhut Smokehouse. Brisket, chicken, pork, baked beans, potato salad, slaw, and 3 desserts! Pineapple upside down cake, carrot cake and bread pudding. We had-leftovers, but there was no trouble donating them to the Jefferson College police that were locking up after us. Mark Jones gave a good talk about the observatory then a fabulous night was spent doing some viewing after the talk. Multiple scopes were set up.

Saturday got off to a little bit of an issue regarding doors, but other than that, no problems! Wil Snyder from the Planetarium started us off with a great talk, then it was nothing but good talks the rest of the day. At noon, we broke for lunch and the AOY meeting, then came back for more talks. Just before lunch, a lucky group got to tour the Data archive for NASA that is in the Earth and Planetary Sciences department. More talks afterward that went a little long because of some time mistakes, but they were great none the less. Open cash bar at 6 pm before the banquet at the Knight Center, always a classy place, and a good meal was served at 6:30; Italian Bistro buffet. After dinner, a great talk about the Mars return missions by Scott VanBomme, PhD. After the talk, Peggy Walker was awarded the Amateur of the Year for 2022. We then gave away one of the better prizes a very nice mount from Explore Scientific. The winner was Yang Yang.

Sunday saw more talks and the program concluded by around noon. All in all, it was a terrific conference and many people were glad to be back in person again! It was a resounding success as we had set the break even point at 50 attendees and we ended up with 77 in all. That leads to a profit of over $1700 for both SLAS and the MSRAL region.

THANK you to ALL who helped put this conference together. We could not have pulled it off without you! Thanks as well to Jeff Gillis-Davis, our sponsor in the physics department at Washington University. We will have a more detailed story in next month's newsletter.

Meanwhile, keep lookin up! And we'll see you IN PERSON tomorrow night at the meeting!

MSRAL Convention is a Big Hit!!

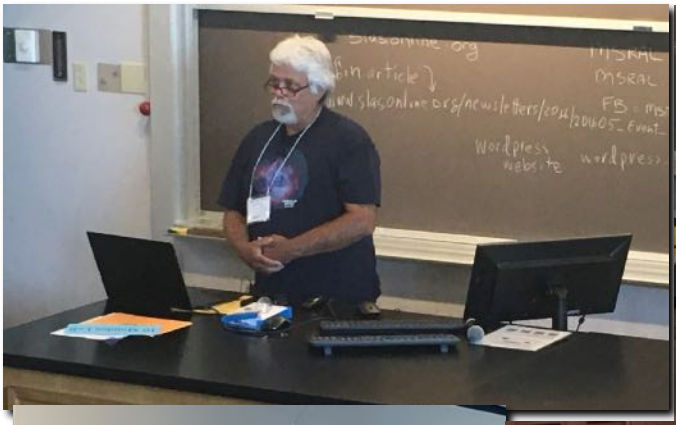
The Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League Annual Convention was a great success! There will be a full article next month, but here are some of the highlights of the meeting. 77 people attended, lots of great talks, lots of great social interaction, good weather! for the Star B Q and observing, minimal mishaps, great banquet, great keynote address, AND a good profit for the society and the region; even better than the 2014 MSRAL we last held! Below are a number of photos of the event. Enjoy the gallery! Jim Small

Enjoying the Star B Q catered by Kettelhut BBQ

Terrific food! Esp the brisket and the desserts!

After the Star B Q, many scopes were set up at the observatory. Below, Bill and Rita Breeden are enjoying their 8", Left, Randy Harrison has his EAA rig showing nice views.

Above: Mark Jones: History of Jefferson College Observatory. Enjoying the Star B Q.
Left: Wil Snyder leads off the conference on Saturday with a talk about the Planetarium.
Below Left: Jesus Alberto Ponce de Leon compares MANY refractors (no, they AREN'T door prizes! :-) **Below:** Group waiting for the PDS tour.
Bottom right: Dennis Latinette evaluates the Orion 6" Intelli-scope
Bottom left: Larry Campbell in charge of the drinks!



Top left: Randy Harrison EAA

Top right: Don Ficken 3D printing

Left: Peggy Walker presents at the conference.
Above, right and below:
Keynote Speaker:

The Pale Red Dot: Approaching the Horizon of Mars Sample Return
Scott VanBomme, PhD

Top left: Jerel Williams reads the letter of nomination for Amateur of the Year.

Top center: Jerel and this year's winner of Amateur of the Year, Peggy Walker of BA Sidewalk Astronomers

Top right: Randy Harrison presenting the top door prize (an EXOS2-GT Equatorial Mount with PMC-Eight Gogo System) to Yang Yang. Now all he needs is a great scope to put on it !!

Below: MSRAL Group shot

Left: What happens when you tell a group to do anything crazy… I like the Rigelmans kissing at the top :-)

Below: SLAS contingent at MSRAL

Bottom left Crowd at the St. Louis Air Show

Bottom right: Mark Jones helps kids use the glove box for meteorites

Bottom Don Ficken sets up imaging through his Lunt Ha scope with a view of the Sun.

Bottom right: Rick Menendez helps people view through either the PST solar telescope or the Sun-spotter (behind him on the table.

Francis Park Stargazing Report

by Bill Breeden

FRANCIS PARK – June 8 was to be our third Francis Park Stargazing session this year, but it turned out to be our first! After the weather forced me to cancel the April and May sessions, I was eager to get one in by now! The forecast was not perfect by a long shot; we had to dodge a few rain drops at the end, but we got in some safe solar observing and nice views of the 8-day old Moon high up in the sky.

The evening forecast was for mostly clear skies, but it was situated right between unfavorable periods of clouds and rain. It was one of those evening where even a slight shift in the weather would have socked us in. We all packed up before 9PM when a big ol' dark gray cloud came at us from the northwest and delivered a few stray rain drops.

I arrived at the park at 6:30PM and set up my 8-inch LX-90 and safe solar filter. The Sun displayed a really interesting sunspot near the center, with a crescent shaped series of smaller spots coming off of it. The crescent looked like it could have been the outer perimeter of a larger, fainter sunspot. What a nice treat! Several visitors got a chance to view the Sun as well. Remember to always use a full-aperture safe solar filter when observing the Sun with any optics, and cover (or leave off) any finderscope or telrad device.

Once the Sun set, all telescopes were then pointed at the Moon, now just one day past First Quarter. If you are new to observing the Moon, phases near First Quarter are best: The terminator is very visible, and the Moon is up at a convenient time in the evening. We plan our Francis Park Stargazing events around the First Quarter Moon each month. When the Moon is less than 3 days old, it is too thin to see easily. More than 9 days old puts it too far to the east from our observing location.

No planets were in the sky this evening, which limited us to the Sun and Moon. Had the sky remained clear after dark, I would have presented views of some bright double stars and perhaps a Messier object or two. Alas, the sky did not cooperate for that. Maybe next time!

This was a successful evening at the park, considering it was not even dark yet when we packed up to avoid the rain drops. We had about 40 visitors (adults and kids) throughout the two hours we were there. It was nice to be doing outreach again!

Cook Feldman (left) preparing for an evening of outreach at Francis Park. Note the fickle sky in the background! Photo by Bill Breeden

This year, stargazing at Francis Park is presented in memory of ***Glennon E. Greenway (1947-2016)****. Long time member of the St. Louis Astronomical Society, Glenn could always be found with his telescope set up at many locations around the city. He actively supported the Society's astronomy outreach programs and was always willing to share a view through his portable refractor. He favored observing the Moon and planets, and he had an uncanny ability to find illusive Mercury just after the sun had set. Francis Park Stargazing was one of his favorite events.*

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy
Executive Board Meeting Minutes 5/5/2022

1. Opening Activities a. Attendance: Small, Waller, Snyder, Harrison, Carpentier, Buch, Winningham b. Open Meeting: 7:10pm
c. Approval of last month's meeting Motion by Brad to approve April minutes, second by Bill, motion passed
d. Next Board meeting date: Dates for 2022: Jun 2, Jul 7, Aug 4, Sep 1, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1 Meetings will be via Zoom until further notice:
Action: put posting on Dialogs and NSN for 2022 elections
2. Upcoming General Membership meeting topics:
Upcoming elections and are all slots filled? yes
a. **Speaker**: George Silvis, AAVSO
Action: Mark to get speaker info for press release and contact phone number
b. Special Awards needed: perpetual coming
c. Speaker Press Release:
d. Special Business needed: Motion: Eclipse Glasses
e. A101: None
3. SLAS Financial Report a. Balance Sheet b. Profit/Loss report
c. Annual Budget meetings d. Corporate filings:
4. Speaker Committee a. Budget - $400 b. Upcoming speakers:
Action: Jim to provide Brad with shipping address and phone numbers for Jon Lomborg and Nick Goldberg
Action: Brad to contact EPS secretary getting speakers. No response.

SLAS Monthly Meetings

Presentations 2021-2022

Month	Name Sponsor	Topic
UPDATED NAMES NEEDED		
15-Apr-2022	Tyler Linder	Do Main-Belt Asteroids Change Colors? Astronomical Research Institute
20-May-2022	George Silvis AAVSO member	Very bright Milky Way supernova
19 Aug-2022	Panel	JWST First Image
18-Nov-2022	Brett McGuire MIT	TBD

d. Topics of interest James Webb Space Telescope, Katie Bouman
e. Stipends f. Travel
Action: Brad to send mugs to previous speakers

5. Membership Initiatives a. Budget - $450 b. Welcome Aboard Meetings c. Raffles d. Attendance prizes this month

6. Membership Recognition a. Total Budget $420
b. NSN Outreach Awards:
Action: Brad and Jim Small to distribute the certificates and pins.
c. Membership Report: Report by Don Ficken. 242 members as of 4/30/22.
Action: Bill sent out second renewal notices for 2022, but not for older Jan-Nov 2021 expired memberships.
Action: Expired members, Jim to ask Don and Bill if it would be good idea to created a distribution list for each month. Don and Bill would need to add all new members to already created distribution lists.
d. Member anniversary
Action: Larry will submit expenses for 35yr pins, about $32
e. New Award program - $600 budget
1. Special Award Committee report: Chairman – Larry Campbell, Jim Small, Mark Jones, Cook Feldman, Sharon Bertram, Fred Schovanez, Bill Neubert
2. New Award Policy and nomination process **–**
3. Submittal deadlines
4. Nomination reviews:
5. Award selection:
6. Plaques purchased:
7. Awards presented:

7. Outreach - a. Budget - $700
b. Member Training Program Status: on hold for the time being.
c. Purchase of T-shirts for volunteers completed training
d. Purchase of lawn signs:
e. Upcoming outreach events:
f. Awards/recognitions
g. NSN Outreach hours YTD

8. Old Business: a. Training Program start a committee

9. New Business: Ordering Eclipse Glasses, need motion to go to membership for the expenditure
The board moves to purchase 10,000 eclipse glasses in preparation for the 2023 and 2024 eclipses at the cost of $0.30 each plus $150 shipping for a total of $3150. Prices for sale of glasses etc, will be set later. Motion will be presented to the membership for approval.

10. Other Committee Reports: If needed

MSRAL 2022: Dates will be June 3-5 at Washington University. Facility confirmed. Jeff Gillis-Davis will host with physics dept. Next committee meeting May 9th

SLSC Business:
a. First Friday actions
b. Other immediate business - Are there any type of meetings that SLAS **Notes from Meeting with Will Synder at Board meeting.** SLSC open Sun-M, Th-Sat. Best evening would probably Thursday. No rental fees for SLAS. For banquets there would be catering. Indoor sky orienteering in starbay. Annual new member meeting. Try to have JWST panel at Planetarium, August 19th Action: Invite Will Synder to monthly SLAS Board Meeting Action: start email thread on ideas for SLSC hosting events

B. SLCL Business a. Annual contract – b. Upcoming events -

C. Jefferson College Business: a. Committee Meeting report:
b. Upcoming Outreach Event: Sunday at the Observatory: 2022 will be 1st Sunday of the month. Add some special events.

D. Library Telescope Committee a. Budget – $300
b. Upcoming builds or maintenance events
c. Maintenance budget - $100
d. Mileage re-imbursement – see above
e. Promotional materials - $200

E. SLAS Social Events a. Budget - $300
b. Homemade Fest - $100 budget
c. Star-B-Q - $200 budget
d. Promoting Dobson-Fest event on Sep 17th
Action: Mark will send Dobson-Fest Flier to Board and Jim will create a webpage for Dobson-Fest, QR code

Other
F. SLAS Brochures a. Budget $200 b. Quarter cards - New quarter cards with Arch events Action: Brad to get quarter cards printed

G. Loaner scope Program a. Budget - $100 b. New donations
Action: Jim to send scopes for sale to Randy Harrison for valuation
c. Replacement Parts for the LPTs d. Items for sale **several:**
H. SLAS Library a. Budget - $500 b. Other –
I. Merchandise
J. Telescope Making
K. Newsletter a. Budget $600
L. Website - a. Budget $690
M. Social Networking
N. Night Sky Network
O. SLASdialogs
P. Dark Site
Q. Observing Programs
R. Star Parties Donation:

11. Closing Activities Motion to adjourn by Brent, second by Mark. Meeting closed 9:11pm

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through May 2022

	Jan - May 22	Budget	$ Over Bud...
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Events Income	135.00		135.00
Magazine Subscription	1,277.05	1,982.75	(705.70)
Membership Dues	2,255.00	2,240.00	15.00
Merchandise Sales		325.00	(325.00)
Total Income	3,667.05	4,547.75	(880.70)
Cost of Goods Sold			
Magazine Subscriptions	1,321.00	1,982.75	(661.75)
Total COGS	1,321.00	1,982.75	(661.75)
Gross Profit	2,346.05	2,565.00	(218.95)
Expense			
1-Programs & Events	465.50	1,355.00	(889.50)
2-Newsletter		175.00	(175.00)
3-Library expense		250.00	(250.00)
6-Brochures	56.35	250.00	(193.65)
7-Insurance	1,049.50	1,050.00	(0.50)
8-Website	215.28	500.00	(284.72)
9-Administrative Expen...	367.45	1,569.50	(1,202.05)
Total Expense	2,154.08	5,149.50	(2,995.42)
Net Ordinary Income	191.97	(2,584.50)	2,776.47
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Donations	477.45		477.45
Interest Income	1.01	20.00	(18.99)
LTP Receipts	106.20		106.20
Proceeds from Lens Sales	2,151.96		
Total Other Income	2,736.62	20.00	2,716.62
Net Other Income	2,736.62	20.00	2,716.62
Net Income	**2,928.59**	**(2,564.50)**	**5,493.09**

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Balance Sheet
As of May 31, 2022

	Dec 31, 21	May 31, 22
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Checking - First Bank	7,447.09	10,426.62
Deposit, Certificate of	15,952.97	15,952.97
Library Telescope Escrow	797.00	797.00
PayPal	705.80	160.75
Savings - First Bank	41,149.86	41,150.87
Total Checking/Savings	66,052.72	68,488.21
Other Current Assets		
Inventory Asset	675.61	675.61
Investment in Mid-States 2...	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Other Current Assets	2,675.61	2,675.61
Total Current Assets	68,728.33	71,163.82
Fixed Assets	15,783.04	15,506.14
TOTAL ASSETS	**84,511.37**	**86,669.96**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	770.00	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	770.00	0.00
Total Liabilities	770.00	0.00
Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	8,497.66	8,497.66
Retained Earnings	74,279.95	75,243.71
Net Income	963.76	2,928.59
Total Equity	83,741.37	86,669.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**84,511.37**	**86,669.96**

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 astrophotos? Please submit!

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

Send to newsletter@slasonline.org

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 All meetings are on First Thursdays unless noted. ***Note: Board meetings will be via Zoom until further notice.*** Dates for 2022: Jul 7, Aug 4, Sep 1, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1

SLAS Dark Sky Observing Dates July 23, July 30, Aug 27, Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 26, Dec 17

Francis Park Events: These events are on Wednesdays of the week nearest the first quarter Moon
July 6, August 3, August 31, Sept 28, Oct 5,

Aim for the Stars Public events held on 1st Sundays at the Jefferson College Observatory and Patio.
July 3, Aug 7, Sept 4, Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4

Stargazing at the Arch Events for the public held at the Gateway Arch
July 10, Aug 14, Sept 3, Oct 8

Sky Orienteering Events For members who want to gather and do some relaxed observing at Babler State Park (BSP) or at the Jefferson College Observatory (JCO) Please RSVP if you plan to come!
July 3 (JCO), Sept 4 (JCO),
Nov 6 (JC)),

SLSC Public Telescope Viewing Events: These events are held the first Friday of the month Planetarium shows start at 7pm
On hold until further notice due to Covid 19

Pattonville Observatory Public Viewing Dates
See you next year! Maybe!
Broemmelsiek Astronomy Park Public Viewing
Every Friday

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

June

17 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
20 Mon	Constellation Tour 87
25 Sat	Des Peres Park Campout
27 Mon	Constellation Tour 88

July

3 Sun	Aim for the Stars
6 Wed	Francis Park
7 Thur	SLAS Board meeting
7 Thur	Library Telescope Program
8 Fri	Morrison Talbot Public Library
10 Sun	Stargazing at the Arch
15 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting

August

3 Wed	Francis Park
4 Thur	SLAS Board Meeting
7 Sun	Aim for the Stars (JCO)
13 Sat	Night Skies Over Babler
14 Sun	Stargazing at the Arch
19 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting NOTE: special meeting at McDonnell Planetarium
20 Sat	Annual Star-B-Q
31 Wed	Francis Park

September

1 Thur	SLAS Board Meeting
3 Sat	Crestwood Park
3 Sat	Stargazing at the Arch
4 Sun	Aim for the Stars (JCO)
16 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
17 Sat	First Annual Dobson-Fest
20 Tues	Missouri Master Naturalists
24 Sat	Scouts at Babler
28 Wed	Francis Park
28 Wed	Cedar Hill Homeschoolers

For other events, watch the calendar on the website. Virtual stargazing events and other online activities will be registered there. We hope you can join us for some of these activities!

SLAS Merchandise Available

SLAS merchandise is now set up for embroidery at **Headz n Threadz at www.headznthreadz.com**

There is now only one location:
1065 Regency Parkway, St. Charles MO 63303
Telephone: 314.528-8100
sales@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 Logo is also available at www.Infini-tees.com

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 @ $43.95 / 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

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president at slasonline.org

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

Secretary ***Mark Jones*** 636-394-2342
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Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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

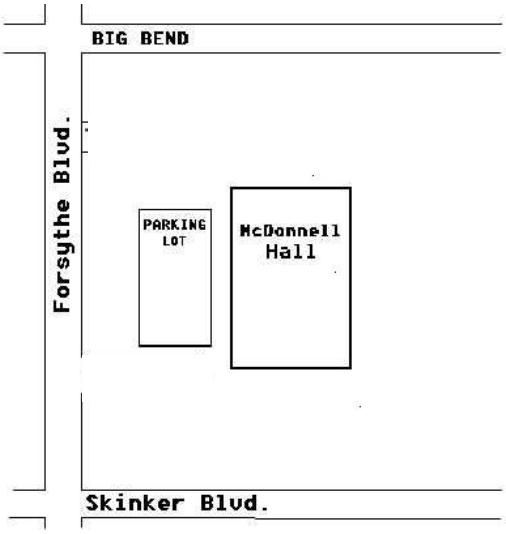
Follow us on
Twitter: @stlastro
Facebook: @stlastro

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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