THE EVENT HORIZON

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

VOLUME 33, Issue 11
November, 2023

Bringing Back the Stars Over St. Louis
by
Dr. James Lowenthal of Smith College, Northampton, MA

Dr. James Lowenthal of Smith College, Northampton, MA, will be featured at the November meeting of the Saint Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM Friday, November 17 in McDonnell Hall, Room 162, on the Danforth campus of Washington University, Saint Louis, MO 63105. McDonnell Hall is accessible from Forsyth Boulevard via Tolman Way. Free yellow zone and garage parking spaces are available.

How can St. Louis improve public health and safety, protect plants and wildlife, and bring back direct views of the Milky Way? Dr. James Lowenthal presents a tour of the worldwide Dark Sky movement, from local neighborhood groups to the United Nations. One new initiative he'll discuss is protecting dark skies over U.S. colleges and universities via the American Astronomical Society's Campus SHINE program now being developed.

James Lowenthal is the Mary Elizabeth Moses Professor of Astronomy at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, USA. He studies the formation and evolution of galaxies, especially actively star-forming galaxies, as well as exoplanets. He leads the local advocacy group Northampton City Lights. He also holds several positions with national and international Dark Sky advocacy groups and is Vice-President of the International Astronomical Union's Commission on Site Protection (i.e., light pollution)

Upcoming meetings:

December: Tim Russ, Star Trek ActorJanuary: Robert Zubrin, PhD., The Mars Society
February: Angela Speck, PhDUniversity Texas at San Antonio
March: Tom Rathjen, NASA
April: David A Williams, PhD., Arizona St
May: TBA
June: Steven R Gullberg, PhD., U Oklahoma

November 17th Meeting will be In Person and on Zoom

The SLAS meeting for November will be in-person and via Zoom. The Zoom room will be open from 7-10 pm. Meeting starts at 7:30 pm. **To join Zoom Meeting for SLAS Regular Meeting with computer or smartphone: Just click the link: https://zoom.us/j/8604505790** Meeting ID: 860 450 5790. McDonnell Hall is accessible from Forsyth Boulevard via Tolman Way. Free yellow zone and garage parking spaces are available.

How long have you been a member?
Are you due a service pin?
Find out on pages 6-7!

Pins to be distributed at the meeting Friday.
Hope to see you there!

Inside This Issue

President's Corner Memberships Prizes Awards	2
Budget Commentary	3
Budget	4
Service Recognition	6
Board Minutes	7
Board Minutes	8
Financials	9
Events	10
Contacts	11

President's Corner
by Jim Small

This month we recognize members via their service history. 27 people will receive pins at the meeting. Check the list on page 7 to see if you will receive a pin. It would be great to be able to give it to you in person at the meeting!

Our speaker, Dr. James Lowenthal of Smith College, will talk about his initiative to make college campuses more dark friendly. This might be applied locally to campuses and perhaps other areas as well. He has some good ideas to consider.

Next month our speaker will be Tim Russ of Star Trek fame! Congrats to Brad Waller for securing him for our meeting! Be cautioned, we will have a difference zoom link for this one maybe even with a password. Members will receive a copy of the link of course.

There is still time to secure 5 NSN events to qualify for a Night Sky Network pin. Check the calendar for events to attend. Be sure to RSVP if you are interested in attending.

Below are SLAS memberships that are expiring the next two months. Be sure to reup if you are on the list! December is also going to have attendance prizes as shown by the article below. Be sure to attend!

I have to say, my experience with the skywatcher solar mount was super easy! Fired it up for the first time the day of the eclipse with the only issue being having to use batteries instead of a 12v power tank. I'll have to test the connection for that before I take it to the April 8 eclipse. Have you made your plans for the upcoming eclipse? Traveling far? Staying in the area? Would love to hear what your plans are.

I would also love to hear about your star party experiences. Our budget kind of pushed out a couple of articles this month, but they will make it to the pages soon enough.

SLAS worked hard on the budget and we present a quality document here in the newsletter. Be sure to look through it and if you have questions or find errors, please let us know. We present it this month, next month will be the actual membership vote.

Next month we will also present the Special Awards to the membership. Hope you can attend that meeting as well.

Clear skies, Jim Small

SLAS Memberships Expiring in November

Scott	Byassee
Grant	Dachroeden
Tom	Hale
Randy	Harrison
Gail	Keefe
Krista	Knuffman
Frank	Mack
Scott	Noyes
Marco	Spann
John	Taylor
Guy	Vogt
Craig	Walters

SLAS Memberships Expiring in December

Joseph	Ackerman
Maryanne	Angliongto
John	Bower
Brent A.	Buch
Craig	Burlette
George	Cadwallader-
Megan	Dickson-
David	Ebers
Karen	Fajardo
Mark	Fedde
Jamie	Lyon
Tom	Nickelson
Earl	Schultz & Family
|Zeke	Smith
Sallie	Taylor-
James H.	Wells
Caleb	Whitmire
Alan	Whitson

Winter Solstice 2023 Attendance Prizes

Greetings SLAS Collective,

To give an Advance announcement of the Winter Solstice 2023 Attendance Prizes, we have provided a Pictures of the PRIZES!!! Also, a minor sidenote: SLAS Members who attend via "ZOOM" are eligible for the Prizes Enjoy!!

- Celestron Sky Maps Book
- Celestron Basic Smart Phone Adapter
- Celestron Lens Cleaning Kit
- LED Rechargeable TEK-Light (Cylon eye)
- Night Reader Pro

Star Date Magazine Subscription (2)

Bradley Waller

SLAS Special Awards Nominations for 2023 are Open

The annual SLAS Special Awards nominations are open for 2023. There are five awards to be presented as follows:
The Albert M. Obrecht, Founders Award
The Lois D. Fitter Outreach Award
The Richard D. Schwartz Supportive Faculty Award
The Robert E. Cox Popular Astronomy Award
The Alfred L. Woods Mentoring Award

The Obrecht, Fitter and Woods awards must be SLAS members, the Schwartz and Cox awards are not restricted to SLAS. For the full form to nominate, including definitions of awards, see this link: **https://www.slasonline.org/files/award/SLASAwardNominationForm.doc**
The deadline for nominations is Sep 1st
The completed form should be attached to an email and sent to awards@slasonline.org with the subject line Award Nomination Form Submission. Committee members are Chairman – Larry Campbell, Sharon Bertram, Bill Biermann, Richard Heuermann, Mark Jones, Joe Marcus, Grant Martin, Fred Schovanez, Jim Small, and Bill Neubert

Assumption Summary – 2024

St. Louis Astronomical Society Annual Budget

Work began on the 2024 budget after the financial close for August 2023. The year-to-date information is therefore through August 31, 2023 with an estimated projection of activity from September 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

The budget information was assembled partially based on assumptions developed from the August 2023 year to date actual in areas such as membership information available at that time. The balances of the budgetary items were prepared on a line-by-line basis by the individual committees and committee chairpersons.

Revenue / Income:

The primary source of Revenue for the Society stems from membership fees that are assessed on an annual basis that is based on the member's individual anniversary date. The current fee structure was adopted in 2004 where the "Family Membership" was created and set at an annual rate of $40.00 per year. At the same time, the fees for the Youth membership were decreased from $15.00 to $10.00 per year.

The total revenue from the membership fees for 2024 is based on:

Regular (Adult) Memberships	139 @ $25.00/year	$3,475
Youth Memberships	7@ $10.00/year	70
Family Memberships	37@ $40.00/year	1,480

The Society does receive donations for the outreach activities, these donations have been ignored for the purpose of the 2024 budget due to the uncertainty.

As indicated in the budget, this will provide operating revenues in the total of $5,025 for 2024. The actual revenues that will be realized during the calendar year may be different due to any changes in the actual membership numbers.

Magazine subscriptions are referenced as a memo item. The Society acts solely as an agent in these transactions as a convenience to the membership. It should be noted that the same "Club" rates for the subscriptions are available to each member in good standing through the Night Sky Network for those who choose that option.

Operating Expenses:

These are expenses that are incurred to run the Society on a month-to-month basis to provide goods and services to the membership. Some of the expense categories are required to meet specific obligations that enable Society to function as an organization. The balance of the expense categories are considered discretionary and may be adjusted accordingly. The items that will be discussed in detail are the discretionary items.

Newsletter Expense:

The newsletter expense consists of $400 for paper, toner and other supplies and $200 for postage.

Events

The Homemade Fest budget was increased from $125 to $150. This budget is primarily used to purchase refreshments, plates, plasticware and door prizes. SLAS hopes to continue getting the meeting room free of charge from the Science Center or the Kirkwood Community Center. Kirkwood waived the fee in the past because of our hosting telescope viewing at Kirkwood Park at least twice a year.

The Star-B-Que budget was increased from $200 to $240. This event will again be member potluck with SLAS providing the meat, paper goods, and trivia quiz prizes. SLAS hopes to continue getting the picnic pavilion free of charge. This is normally an $80 charge, but Babler has waived the fee because of our hosting Night Skies Over Babler twice a year.

The members in attendance will be asked to provide items as with the Homemade Fest to complement the main course provided by SLAS. This will require that the membership provide their RSVP and number of attendees so the event can be planned accordingly.

Library Telescope Program:

The SLAS Library Telescope program was launched into the St. Louis area on November 2014. In just a few short years, the program has grown to one of the largest and most successful programs in the country. On all fronts, the library telescope program is demonstrating success. The LTP committee is not requesting any funds for 2024 as there are sufficient funds in the LTP Escrow to cover expected costs.

Meeting Expense:

Meeting expense is comprised of Meeting Refreshments and Meeting Speaker Fees. The meeting refreshments are self-explanatory and have been budgeted at $360 same as the 2023 budget level. The Meeting Speaker Fees are used primarily to present honorariums to guest speakers and occasionally to partially offset travel expenses. The speaker budget has ranged between $250 and $600 in recent years. The 2024 speaker budget will be $600, which includes expected travel expenses (unlikely) for 1 to 2 speakers and a stipend ($100) for 1 to 2 graduate student speaker and the cost of mailing mugs or other gifts to speakers that present remotely.

Membership Initiatives:

SLAS regularly holds "Welcome Aboard" meetings for new SLAS members. These meetings take place before the Monthly Meeting. New SLAS Members are given a SLAS Informational folder containing information about SLAS resources and other related Astronomy topics.

The budget for Membership Initiatives remains $600 for 2024. Membership Initiative intends to continue the practice of awarding attendance and other prizes to the membership. Examples of some of possible prizes for 2024 include sponsoring a membership to McDonald Observatory, telescope eyepieces, and cell phone adapters for telescopes. Since a significant portion of our membership continues to attend the monthly meeting on Zoom, the Board is exploring ways to have attendance prize drawings that include members on Zoom. Please feel free to suggest your ideas for membership prizes to Brad Waller at vicepresident@slasonline.org. The budget reflects the potential cost of having to mail attendance prizes for Zoom based meetings.

Membership Recognition:

The membership recognition budget for 2024 is $500. This budget includes the cost for Night Sky Network pins and certificates, recognition of members for continuous membership in SLAS and for contributing time for other

SLAS functions, including the annual award program. The budget includes the costs for the five annual awards that were made available beginning in 2020, including plates for the main award displays, individual plaques for award winners and associated mailing costs. A membership recognition committee was formed and an email address, recognition@slasonline.org was set up so that recommendations can be submitted to the committee.

Merchandise:

The merchandise budget includes up to $100 for design/setup.

Library:

Library expenses for 2024 includes approximately $200 for the purchases DVD's and books.

Loaner Scope Program:

For 2024 the budget is $100 which is intended to cover miscellaneous repair cost. This amount does not include proceeds from the sale of excess loaner scope inventory, which will be reinvested into the loaner scope program.

JC Observatory:

$1,500 for Meade repair if it becomes necessary.

Outreach:

The outreach budget for 2024 is $500. The budget includes $250 for the purchase of shirts for members who complete outreach training and participate in outreach events, handed out quarterly. The budget also includes $250 for the purchase of yard and A-frame signs. In addition, 3 membership are expected to be given away at the annual Dobson Fest, the associated cost to SLAS is the $5 per membership Astronomy League dues.

Website/Technology:

The budget for the website and internet related technology remains $750 for 2024. The budget includes approximately $260 for website hosting, $110 to maintain Group.IO (replacement for SLAS Dialogs), various web address licenses, and $200 to purchase a SLAS owned ZOOM account for virtual meetings and virtual sky tours.

Dark Sky:

SLAS will donate $400 to the International Dark Sky Association of Missouri to help support their operating costs.

Eclipse:

No additional conventions or preparatory activities are expected for the 2024 eclipse. The sales of previously purchased eclipse glasses will be credited to SLAS general revenue.

Admin Expense:

Administrative expenses consist of the corporate filing, office supplies, banking fees, PayPal fees and postage for renewal notices.

SLAS Brochures:

The brochure expense consists of $200 for paper and toner and $400 for "Quarter Card" handouts.

Summary:

The Board and participating committee members have adjusted several budget items for 2024. The budget includes a potential repair cost for the 16" Meade Scope at the Jefferson College Observatory. The budget also includes the addition of a Zoom license that will allow SLAS to host and record virtual meetings. Note up until now, Zoom meetings were conducted using SLAS member's Zoom accounts. Expected revenue is down slightly for 2024 due to a decrease in membership during the year. The net result is 2024 budget as presented equals a net loss from operations of $4,940, compared a budgeted net loss of $8,555 for the 2023 and a budgeted net loss of $3,467 for the 2022. Meeting the projected expenses for the upcoming year will require supplementing the operations from cash reserves to the extent donations and other revenue sources do not make up the shortfall. All attempts have been made during this process to continue to provide valued programs for the membership.

If you have questions about the amounts presented in this budget, please direct them either to me or the relevant committee chairs.

Respectfully,
Bill Winningham, Treasurer

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGET - 2024

	Actual		Budgeted				
	Year to Date	Year to date	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual
	Aug-23	Dec-23	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Income							
Magazine Subscription							
Total Magazine Subscription	$ 1,644.65	$ 2,061.38	$ 1,338.90	$ 1,338.90	$ 1,338.90	$ 1,338.90	$ 1,338.90
Membership Dues	$ 3,070.00	$ 4,870.00	$ 4,265.00	$ 4,215.00	$ 5,600.00	$ 5,630.00	$ 5,025.00
St. Louis County Library Events			1,620.00	-	-	-	-
Merchandise Sales							
Total Income	$ 4,714.65	$ 6,931.38	$ 7,223.90	$ 5,553.90	$ 6,938.90	$ 6,968.90	$ 6,363.90
Cost of Goods Sold							
Total Magazine Subscriptions	$ 1,792.54	$ 2,192.54	$ 1,338.90	$ 1,338.90	$ 1,338.90	$ 1,338.90	$ 1,338.90
Merchandise	-						
Total Cost of Goods Sold	$ 1,792.54	$ 2,192.54	$ 1,338.90	$ 1,338.90	$ 1,338.90	$ 1,338.90	$ 1,338.90
Gross Profit	$ 2,922.11	$ 4,738.84	$ 5,885.00	$ 4,215.00	$ 5,600.00	$ 5,630.00	$ 5,025.00
Operating Expense							
Programs & Events							
Home Made Fest	-	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	125.00	150.00
Star BBQ Expense	-	240.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	240.00	240.00
Library Scope Program Expense	-	40.00	650.00	300.00	300.00	-	-
Outreach	-	100.00	1,100.00	700.00	620.00	500.00	500.00

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGET - 2024

	Actual		Budgeted				
	Year to Date Aug-23	Year to date Dec-23	Annual 2020	Annual 2021	Annual 2022	Annual 2023	Annual 2024
Meeting Expenses							
Meeting Refreshments	68.00	268.00	360.00	360.00	360.00	360.00	360.00
Meeting Speaker Fees	325.00	350.00	500.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	600.00
Total Meeting Expenses	$ 393.00	$ 618.00	$ 860.00	$ 760.00	$ 760.00	$ 760.00	$ 960.00
Membership Initiatives	$ 198.00	$ 400.00	$ 400.00	$ 450.00	$ 500.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00
Merchandise		-	-		650.00	650.00	100.00
Membership Recognition	135.00	335.00	900.00	420.00	550.00	500.00	500.00
Programs & Events	$ 726.00	$ 1,833.00	$ 4,210.00	$ 2,930.00	$ 3,680.00	$ 3,375.00	$ 3,050.00
Newsletter (Postage only pre 2019)	$ 122.00	$ 182.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00
Newsletter Printing	368.00	418.00					
Total Newsletter	$ 490.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00
Library expense	$ -	$ 200.00	$ 500.00	$ 500.00	$ 500.00	$ 500.00	$ 200.00
Astronomical League Dues	-	1,070.00	860.00	860.00	925.00	1,200.00	1,070.00
Dark Sky Association	400.00	400.00		400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
Loaner Scopes	1,024.00	1,024.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Observatory Upgrade						5,000.00	1,500.00
Insurance	1,163.09	1,163.09	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,150.00	1,165.00
Website/Zoom	325.28	555.28	625.00	690.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
Administrative Expenses							
Corporate Filings	-	-	20.50	12.00	12.00	-	20.00
Office Supplies	156.55	156.55	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Banking Fees	30.45	30.45	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
PayPal Fees	73.98	103.98	45.00	100.00	120.00	180.00	180.00
Postage	37.80	87.80	100.00	200.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
Printing / Copying Expense (combined 2015)	-	-					
Brochures	113.50	227.00	600.00	300.00	brc 600.00	600.00	600.00
Administrative Expenses	$ 412.28	$ 605.78	$ 895.50	$ 742.00	$ 1,112.00	$ 1,160.00	$ 1,180.00
Total Operating Expense	$ 4,540.65	$ 7,451.15	$ 8,840.50	$ 7,872.00	$ 9,117.00	$ 14,235.00	$ 10,015.00
Net Income/(Loss) From Operations	**$ (1,618.54)**	**$ (2,712.31)**	**$ (2,955.50)**	**$ (3,657.00)**	**$ (3,517.00)**	**$ (8,605.00)**	**$ (4,990.00)**
Other Income / Expense							
Other Income	1,275.00	1,515.00					
Donations							
SLAS Club Members	771.52	871.52					
Donations - Other	515.00	515.00					
Total Donations	$ 1,286.52	$ 1,386.52	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Interest Income	$ 15.95	$ 20.95	$ 200.00	$ 50.00	$ 50.00	$ 50.00	$ 50.00
Non-Operating Income (Astro Mag Award)		-					
Total Other Income	$ 2,577.47	$ 2,922.47	$ 200.00	$ 50.00	$ 50.00	$ 50.00	$ 50.00
Other Expense							
Physical Inventory Adjustment	$ -	$ -					
Astro Mag Award Disbursements	-	-					
Depreciation Expense (JC Scope and Dome)	$ 2,215.20	3,322.80	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	2,492.06	2,492.06
Total Other Expense	$ 2,215.20	$ 3,322.80	$ 3,200.00	$ 3,200.00	$ 3,200.00	$ 2,492.06	$ 2,492.06
Net Other Income / (Expense)	$ 362.27	$ (1,915.33)	$ (3,000.00)	$ (3,150.00)	$ (3,150.00)	$ (2,442.06)	$ (2,442.06)
Net Income / (Loss)**	**$ (1,256.27)**	**$ (4,627.64)**	**$ (5,955.50)**	**$ (6,807.00)**	**$ (6,667.00)**	**$ (11,047.06)**	**$ (7,432.06)**
Required versus Discretionary Spending							
Gross Profit	$ 3,284.38	$ 4,738.84	$ 6,085.00	$ 4,265.00	$ 5,650.00	$ 5,680.00	$ 5,075.00

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
PRELIMINARY OPERATING BUDGET - 2024

	Actual Year to Date Aug-23	Year to date Dec-23	Budgeted Annual 2020	Annual 2021	Annual 2022	Annual 2023	Annual 2024
Required Expenses							
Newsletter (postage only pre 2019)	$ 122.00	$ 422.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00	$ 600.00
Astronomical League Dues	-	1,070.00	860.00	860.00	925.00	1,200.00	1,070.00
Insurance	1,163.09	1,163.09	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,150.00	1,165.00
Website	325.28	555.28	625.00	690.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
Corporate Filings	-	-	20.50	12.00	12.00	-	20.00
Office Supplies	156.55	156.55	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Banking Fees	30.45	30.45	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
PayPal Fees	73.98	103.98	45.00	100.00	120.00	180.00	180.00
Postage	37.80		100.00	200.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
Brochures			600.00	300.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Printing / Copying Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	$ 1,909.15	$ 3,501.35	$ 4,030.50	$ 3,942.00	$ 4,437.00	$ 4,860.00	$ 4,765.00
Balance for Discretionary Items	**$ 1,375.23**	**$ 1,237.49**	**$ 2,054.50**	**$ 323.00**	**$ 1,213.00**	**$ 820.00**	**$ 310.00**
Discretionary Spending							
Home Made Fest	-	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	125.00	150.00
Meeting Refreshments	68.00	268.00	360.00	360.00	360.00	360.00	360.00
Meeting Speaker Fees	325.00	350.00	500.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	600.00
Membership Initiatives	198.00	400.00	400.00	450.00	500.00	600.00	600.00
Merchandise	-	-	-	-	650.00	650.00	100.00
Membership Recognition	135.00	335.00	900.00	420.00	550.00	500.00	500.00
Astronomy Day/Outreach	-	-	1,100.00	700.00	620.00	500.00	500.00
Star-B-Q Expense	-	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	240.00	240.00
Library expense	-	200.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	200.00
Loaner Scopes	1,024.00	1,024.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Observatory Upgrade						5,000.00	1,500.00
Library Scope Program Expense	-	40.00	650.00	300.00	300.00	-	-
Dark Sky Association				400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
	$ 1,750.00	$ 2,917.00	$ 4,810.00	$ 3,930.00	$ 4,680.00	$ 9,375.00	$ 5,250.00
Net Income/(Loss) From Operations	**$ (374.77)**	**$ (1,679.51)**	**$ (2,755.50)**	**$ (3,607.00)**	**$ (3,467.00)**	**$ (8,555.00)**	**$ (4,940.00)**
Other Expense							
2023/2024 Eclipse Escrow Funding			N/A			500	0
Library Telescope Program Escrow Funding			-	0	0	0	0
Depreciation Expense (JC Scope and Dome)			3,200.00	3,200.00	2,492.06	2,492.06	2,492.06
Total Other Expense			$ 3,200.00	$ 3,200.00	$ 2,492.06	$ 2,992.06	$ 2,492.06
Actual Historical Net Income for prior years		$ 2,243.34 (2014)	$ 1,631.18 (2020)	$ 2,942.04 (2021)	$ 6,340.03 (2022)		

Service Anniversay Recognition Presented During November Meeting

SLAS has 3 recognition programs, where on a yearly basis we like to present awards to SLAS members. The programs are as follows:

Service Anniversary recognition. These are awarded typically in November each year to people that have continuous membership in SLAS. We present anniversary pins and certificates to members that have passed 5-years increments, such as 5, 10, 15-year anniversaries, etc.

Outreach Volunteer recognition. This program acknowledges the many SLAS members who participate in our astronomy outreach events throughout the year. Night Sky Network, NASA and ASP sponsor this program and SLAS buys pins and certificates to present to members that meet the established criteria. These awards are typically presented in January or February.

Special Recognition Awards. Awards are presented in 5 categories. Some awards are for members-only, can be awarded to members or non-members. These are typically presented in December or January. Go to our website for more details by searching on special awards.

criteria2	% of members within
50+	2.8%
40-50years	2.8%
30-40years	3.3%
20-30years	7.5%
10-20years	18.7%
5-10years	12.1%
1-5years	32.7%
0-1	19.2%

For 2023, 27 members will be presented with pins for anniversaries ranging from 5 to 40 years. In addition, 3 members will receive special recognition for achieving 65 and 70 years with SLAS! Thank you to all members this year and we can't wait until 2024 when we will recognize another group of members for achieving their anniversaries. Here is a list of 2023 anniversary awardees.

First	Last	Join Date	Service yrs as of 12-31-2023	new pin for 2023?
Thomas	Kuehling	1983-09-30	40.25	40
James	Timper	1983-09-01	40.33	40
Renee	Mettle	1988-05-31	35.58	35
Gregory	Rigelman	1988-05-31	35.58	35
Cook	Feldman	1993-07-15	30.46	30
Lisa	Holderle	1998-03-31	25.75	25
Richard	Myhra	1998-03-31	25.75	25
James	Small	1998-05-31	25.58	25
Cathy	Hooper	2003-07-25	20.43	20
Joe	McHugh	2003-04-18	20.70	20
Bradley	Waller	2003-08-15	20.38	20
James	Wells	2003-05-08	20.65	20
Rhonda	Whelan	2003-03-19	20.78	20
Bruce	Boston	2008-08-15	15.38	15
Donald	Ficken	2008-09-30	15.25	15

First	Last	Join Date	Service yrs as of 12-31-2023	new pin for 2023?
Richard	Jennings	2008-02-04	15.91	15
Grant	Martin	2008-07-03	15.49	15
Larry	Evans	2013-08-30	10.33	10
John	King	2013-04-16	10.71	10
William	Neubert	2013-04-21	10.69	10
Richard	Rodgers	2013-01-08	10.98	10
Benjamin	Winningham	2013-02-15	10.88	10
Carl	McCullough	2018-02-15	5.88	5
Phyllis	Nolan	2018-08-03	5.41	5
John	Strebeck	2018-07-08	5.48	5
Kathleen	Strebeck	2018-07-09	5.48	5
Craig	Walters	2018-11-16	5.13	5

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy
Executive Board Meeting Minutes 7/6/2023

1. Opening Activities: a. Attendance: Jim Small, Dennis Latinette, Randy Harrison, Larry Campbell, Bill Winningham, Brad Waller, Mark Jones, Brent Buch b. Open Meeting: 7:02pm c. approval of last month's minutes. Motion by Dennis to approve minutes second by Randy. September minutes approved d. Next Board meeting date: Nov 2, Dec 7 Meetings will be via Zoom until further notice: First Friday at SLSC (telescope viewing and indoor programming) - October 6, November 3 (inside only), December 1. You can register for any upcoming events for which you are interested here: https://www.slsc.org/first-friday-partner-application/first-friday-approved-partner-registration/. Nonprofit partner tables do not have a cost. No telescope viewing for November First Friday. October and December yes SLSC will be hosting event at Planetarium. They can do a live feed using YouTube channel. Login information to stream from laptop and camera. Twitch might be available for Jim Small to remote in from centerline. **Action: Mark to send list of SLAS volunteers to Will Snyder for eclipse. Action: Mark and Will Snyder to meet at solar Sunday to dry-run camera/laptop/Youtube. Mark to provide camera, filter and adapter. Status - Mark has loaded camera software on SLSC laptop and verified it works. Need to dry run with camera connected to telescope and YouTube.**

2. Upcoming General Membership meeting topics: a. **Speaker**: Brian Kloppenborg, Director of AAVSO b. Special Awards needed: no c. Speaker Press Release: not sent yet d. Special Business – none e. A101 – Member show-n-Tell of eclipse photos or Megan Dickson presentation about research at UMSL postponed till October Other speaker options - NASA Museum & Informal Education Alliance. **Action: Jim needs to send out speaker info Rich Heuermann** f. **Hospitality:** a. Budget – 2023 Budget $330, balance $262

3. SLAS Financial Report as of 8/31 a. Balance Sheet: total assets $90,231; Checking/Savings $76,181 b. Profit/Loss report: Income: $7218; Net Loss $2832, primarily due to depreciation and eclipse glasses. c. Annual Budget meetings: First Budget meeting held and next meeting will be Oct 19 at 7pm Zoom meeting d. Corporate filings: not due until May **Action: Bill will adjust depreciation of scope and dome based on proportion of replacement cost. Status – Board decided not to change depreciation schedule. Also see Cook Feldman's comment "As I stated to Bill you cannot adj depreciation based on replacement cost. Accounting policies do not allow this. All cost basis and depreciation is based on historical cost - what you paid." This action is considered closed. Action: Need to get Bill and Jim together to reinvest CDs. Bill suggests changing to Commerce Bank for CDs. Will move at least $20,000 to CD's.**

4. Speaker Committee a. Budget – 2023 Budget $400, Balance $57.36 b. Upcoming speakers: Note from Brad- I have an Open Door Policy when it comes to Bookings. If you are working on a Presenter, please keep me informed. If you do not and I book the Month you were wanting, MY Booking comes first. Feel free to contact me to see if I am working on any Bookings. Board agrees with Brad that he should buy 2 more meteorites

SLAS Monthly Meeting Presentations 2023

Month	Name	Topic	Sponsor
10/20/23	Brian Kloppenborg(Small)	Citizen Science, Variable Stars, and the AAVSO	AAVSO Director
11/17/23	James Lowenthal (Small)	SHINE	Smith College
12/15/23	Tim Russ (Waller)	Space, The Final Frontier Star Trek	
1/19/24	Robert Zubrin (Waller)	The Case for Mars Mars Society	
2/16/23	Angela Speck Small)	Eclipse UT San Antonio	
3/15/24	Tom Rathjen (Waller)	The Moon and Beyond	NASA
4/19/24	David A Williams (Waller)	ASU Explores the Solar System	Arizona State University

5/17/24 open
6/21/24 Steven R Gullberg (Waller) Archeo Astronomy U-OK
19-Jul-2024 open, 16-Aug-2024 open, 21-Sep-2024 open, 18-Oct -2024 open, 15-Nov-2024 open, 20-Dec-2024 open
Action; Brad to contact Cameron Moye a Wash U. grad student who works for Brad Jolliff at Washington U. He could probably speak at our meeting on his work on Lunar South Pole planning Action: Jim to send Brad email and phone numbers for Kloppenborg and Lowenthal d. Topics of interest e. Stipends f. Travel **Action: Brad to ship mug to Stephen Hummel, still in work. UPS was expensive. Brad will send USPS. Has been completed Action: Brad to submit invoices for Stephen Hummel postage. Has been completed Action: Brad to mail $100 honorarium to Harry Krantz. Has been completed.Action: Send mugs to other speakers. Haojing Yan, Alan Dyer, Nathalie Nguyen-Quoc Ouellette PhD, Laurie and Kimberly Sibbald, Brett McGuire. Has been done.**
Action: Randy to contact Gautham Narayan from Univ of Illinois 4-meter telescope in Chile. Randy will talk to him at Dark Sky Party.
5. Membership Initiatives a. Budget – 2023 Budget $600, Balance $141 b. Welcome Aboard Meetings – c. Raffles – d. Attendance prizes –Bill picked up prizes from Randy for $95. Bill will deliver to Brad on First Friday**Action: Jim and Brent to explore platform (Twitch, Discord, etc.) possibilities and report to Board at future Board meeting. Engaging younger people with SLAS. Status – Twitch account has been created "stlastro"**
6. Membership Recognition a. Total Budget 2023 Budget $500, Balance $365 b. NSN Outreach Awards: In February c. Membership Report: No report d. Member anniversary – In November e. Special Award program - 1. Special Award Committee report: Chairman – Larry Campbell, Jim Small, Mark Jones, Sharon Bertram, Fred Schovanez, Bill Neubert, Grant Martin, Bill Bierman, Rich Heuermann, Joe Marcus 2. Special Award deadlines: Current Nomination deadline is Sept 1st 3. Nomination reviews: by October 1st **Action: Larry to verify 2024 budget includes anniversary pins Action: Larry to buy 2023 anniv pins Action: Larry to setup Specials Award meeting to discuss nominations** 4. Award selection: 5. Awards presented at December meeting **Standing Action: Mark to send pre-meeting slide show to Brent Buch so Brent sharing during meeting. Brent will need share privileges before next meeting.Standing Action: Bill to provide list of expiring memberships to SLAS Board and Jim for newsletter**
7. Outreach - a. Budget – 2023 Budget $500, Balance $500 b. Member Training Program Status: 2 members have complete Outreach training Program and have earned their Badge and T-Shirt Mary and Joe Barteau. **Action; Mark need T-shirt design**c. Purchase of T-shirts for volunteers completed training d. Upcoming outreach events: Indoor programming for First Friday at the SLSC and planning for STEM programs Francis Park - Oct 18 Tower Grove Park - Special Event - Astronomy Festival Sep 30, 2 -5pm. Over 250 people were at telescope viewing at Tower Grove on Sep 30th. Next event is Oct 21st. JCO – Oct 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, Dec 2. Special eclipse event Oct 14 Dobsonfest 2023 hosted by ASEM, Saturday, Sep. 16, 2023, 4PM-9PM
f. Awards/recognitions – None planned until Feb 2024
g. NSN Outreach hours YTD: 2023 Total hours reported: 711hours; 2022: 1274.9 hours. So far 16 members have volunteered for 5 or more events in 2023. **Action: Mark to get paper yard signs to Ken Levy for Stacy Park. Grant Martin is fixing lighted SLAS sign then going Stacy Park for the 8/24/2023 event. Status – Ken has lighted and paper signs. Action can be closed.**
8. Old Business: Discuss issues with volunteers for star parties. Perhaps appoint a coordinator whose main job is to insure we have adequate number of members in the volunteer pool for events. Discuss methods to encourage members to volunteer for star parties. Try to find out why people aren't volunteering. Come up with an action for this issue.
Possible actions:1. convene a virtual meeting for all NSN coordinators to discuss volunteer ideas 2. Send email asking for a volunteer coordinator 3. Conduct monthly A101 about Outreach Training 4. have a new member events (1) welcome aboard and orientation; have new member events at JCO; new member telescope help events, mentor outreach. 5. Find Volunteer Coordinator for LTP program only
9. New Business None
10. Other Committee Reports: If needed
A. SLSC Business: a. First Friday actions – see above b. Other immediate business
B. SLCL Business a. Annual contract – Noneb. Upcoming events – October 14 eclipse. At least 3 volunteers to attend.

C. Jefferson College Business: a. Committee Meeting report: Next committee meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Arts & Sciences Building #1, room 216. Lighted sign next to observatory with message board. Signage at entrance roads. Security cameras are in place. Buying 100mm Ha telescope, CaK line as well. Makes daytime classes viable. Solar telescope viewing days (Oct 6). Weather station is also in the works. b. Upcoming Outreach Event: Had a good turnout for the Sept event. Event every Sunday in October. **Action: Mark to buy replacement part for the RA motor encoder part # 820019. According to Meade. They don't have the item in stock at the moment, it might take a month or 2 until we get them. We can create the order so that when it becomes available, we'll let you know automatically. The cost would be $70.00 plus $15 for shipping.**
D. Library Telescope Committee a. Budget – 2023 Budget none requested, expenses will be covered by escrow balance of $2460 b. Upcoming builds or maintenance events None planned c. Maintenance budget – none requested d. Mileage reimbursement – see above e. Promotional materials - none requested
E. SLAS Social Events a. Budget – 2023 Budget $365, Balance $240 b. Homemade Fest - 2023 budget $125 c. Star-B-Q Planned for Oct 7 at Babler State Park– 2023 budget, $240 Other
F. SLAS Brochures a. Budget 2023 $600, Balance $486 b. Quarter cards – New order coming. Pricing for 1000 etc. **Action: Board agreed that Brad should get 400 more Quartercards printed for $113**
G. Loaner scope Program a. Budget – 2023 Budget $ 100, Balance $0 b. New donations: 3" Celestron refletor with broken dovetail c. Replacement Parts for the LPTs d. Items for sale several: **Status for sale items SOLD - Celestron PowerSeeker 127 reflecting telescope, $50 SOLD - Orbitor 4.5" Reflecting Telescope, $40** 4.25-inch f/10, Reflecting Telescope, Wooden Tripod, 6x30mm finder, 1 ¼ focuser, $10 Majestic Tripod Head-only, Heavy Duty head, w/1/4x20 screw mount, Mounts to 1.5" post, crank pivots head in altitude direction, $10 Small Equatorial Mount. Manual with slow motion knobs and counterweight. Similar to Sky-Watcher EQ-2 mount, $30
H. SLAS Library a. Budget – 2023 Budget $500, balance $420 b. Other –
I. Merchandise 36 of the new coffee mug design are ready for sale to members. $10 each or two for $15
J. Telescope Making
K. Newsletter a. Budget 2023 $600, Balance $110
L. Website - a. Budget 2023 $750, Balance $425
M. Social Public Facebook page – 3,025 followers Private FB page – 65 members
N. Night Sky Network
O. SLASdialogs SLAS Dialogs – 123 members
P. Dark Site
Q. Observing Programs
R. Star Parties Donation:

11. Closing Activities: 9:38pm Motion to adjourn by Brad Waller and seconded by Randy Harrison.

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through October 2023

	Jan - Oct 23	Budget	$ Over Bud...
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Events Income	630.00		630.00
Magazine Subscription	2,226.40	2,575.30	(348.90)
Membership Dues	4,125.00	4,755.00	(630.00)
Merchandise Sales			
Total Income	6,981.40	7,330.30	(348.90)
Cost of Goods Sold			
Magazine Subscriptions	2,206.24	2,592.25	(386.01)
Merchandise	319.30	650.00	(330.70)
Total COGS	2,525.54	3,242.25	(716.71)
Gross Profit	4,455.86	4,088.05	367.81
Expense			
1-Programs & Events	1,139.84	2,525.30	(1,385.46)
2-Newsletter	511.64	500.00	11.64
3-Library expense	111.96	300.00	(188.04)
4-Astronomical League Dues	1,070.00	1,200.00	(130.00)
5-Loaner Scopes	1,024.29	100.00	924.29
6-Brochures	227.00	450.00	(223.00)
7-Insurance	1,163.09	1,050.00	113.09
8-Website	512.10	750.00	(237.90)
9-Administrative Expenses	3,216.67	3,174.00	42.67
Jefferson College Observat...		5,000.00	(5,000.00)
Total Expense	8,976.59	15,049.30	(6,072.71)
Net Ordinary Income	(4,520.73)	(10,961.25)	6,440.52
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Donations	1,356.52		1,356.52
Eclipse Escrow Receipts	70.00		
Interest Income	25.06	40.00	(14.94)
LTP Receipts	6,205.89		6,205.89
Total Other Income	7,657.47	40.00	7,617.47
Other Expense			
Eclipse Escrow Dispursements	50.00		
LTP Disbursements	5,235.16		5,235.16
Total Other Expense	5,285.16		5,285.16
Net Other Income	2,372.31	40.00	2,332.31
Net Income	**(2,148.42)**	**(10,921.25)**	**8,772.83**

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Balance Sheet
As of October 31, 2023

	Dec 31, 22	Oct 31, 23
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Checking - First Bank	16,660.91	11,622.25
Deposit, Certificate of	15,976.91	15,998.45
Library Telescope Escrow	2,459.77	2,753.47
PayPal	494.39	906.49
Savings - First Bank	41,148.96	43,137.48
SLAS Eclipse Conference Escr...	0.00	3,152.12
Total Checking/Savings	76,740.94	77,570.26
Other Current Assets		
Inventory Asset	675.61	841.87
Undeposited Funds	375.00	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	1,050.61	841.87
Total Current Assets	77,791.55	78,412.13
Fixed Assets	12,460.24	9,691.24
TOTAL ASSETS	**90,251.79**	**88,103.37**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	8,497.66	8,497.66
Retained Earnings	75,243.71	81,754.13
Net Income	6,510.42	(2,148.42)
Total Equity	90,251.79	88,103.37
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**90,251.79**	**88,103.37**

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 an editable document or images to newsletter@slasonline.org
Please provide captions if sending images.

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 2023: 12/7

SLAS Dark Sky Observing Dates All dates on Saturdays 1/6, 2/10, 3/9, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1, 7/6, 8/3, 8/31, 9/28, 10/5, 10/26, 11/2, 11/30, 12/28

Francis Park Events: These events are on Wednesdays of the week nearest the first quarter Moon 4/17, 5/15, 6/12, 7/10. 8/7, 9/11, 10/9

Aim for the Stars Public events held on 1st Sundays at the Jefferson College Observatory and Patio. 12/2

Stargazing at the Arch Events for the public held at the Gateway Arch

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!

SLSC Public Telescope Viewing Events: These events are held the first Friday of the month Planetarium shows start at 7pm

Pattonville Observatory Public Viewing Dates 2022-2023: 11/30, 12/8, 1/12, 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/8, 3/22, 4/12, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10

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

November

17 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
21 Tue	Scott AFB Library
23 Thur	SLAS New Member Zoom
30 Thur	Bayless Elementary STEM Night

December

1 Fri	First Friday @ SLSC
3 Sun	Aim For the Stars at JCO
7 Thur	SLAS Board meeting
9 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky at Danville
9 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky at JCO
15 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
21 Thur	SLAS New Member zoom

January

4 Thur	SLAS Board Meeting
6 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky at Danville
19 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
20 Sat	Aim for the Stars at JCO
25 Thur	Star Party at the Carpenter Library

February

1 Thur	SLAS Board Meeting
10 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky at Danville
12 Mon	Star Party for Troop 303
16 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
17 Sat	Aim for the Stars at JCO
20 Tue	Eclipse Education at O'Fallon, IL Library

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 @ $45.75 / 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

Brent Buch 314-239-0329
board24 at slasonline.org

Randy Harrison 618-267-1659
board25 at slasonline.org

Dennis Latinette 314-713-9258
Board26 at slasonline.org

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

MSRAL Rep. ***Peggy Walker*** 918-640-0832
msral_rep at astroleague.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

Librarian ***Jim Small*** 314-909-7211
librarian at slasonline.org

Library Telescope Program ***Don Ficken*** 636-851-9630
librarytelescope at slasonline.org

Loaner Equipment ***Greg Gaines*** 314-277-3082
loaner at slasonine.org

Merchandise ***Vacant***
merchandise at slasonline.org

Membership ***Don Ficken*** 636-225-0269
membership at slasonline.org

Newsletter Editor ***Jim Small*** 314-909-7211
newsletter at slasonline.org

Observing Programs ***Mark Jones*** 636-394-2342
observing at slasonline.org

Publicity ***Rich Heuermann*** 314-962-9231
publicity at slasonline.org

Recognition ***Larry Campbell*** 636-244-2867
recognition at slasonline.org

Social Media *Vacant*

'SLASdialogs' Moderator ***Mark Jones***
dialogsmoderator at yahoo.com

Star Party Coordinator ***Bill Breeden*** 314-276-3613
starparty at slasonline.org

Telescope Making ***Bill Davis, Jim Melka*** 314-469-3061
telescope at slasonline.org

Webmaster ***Jim Small*** 314-909-7211
webmaster at slasonline.org

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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

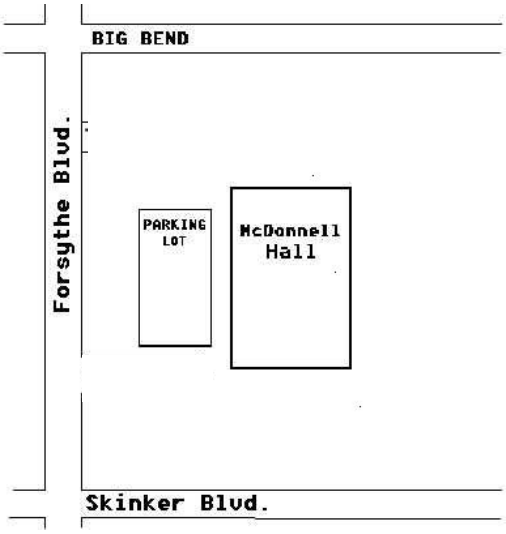
Follow us on
Twitter: @stlastro
Facebook: @stlastro

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
Jim Small
13128 Cozyhill Drive
St. Louis, MO 63122