THE EVENT HORIZON

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

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Space - The Final Frontier...
by
Tim Russ
Star Trek Actor

Tim Russ will be featured at the December meeting of the Saint Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM Friday, December 15 in McDonnell Hall, Room 162, on the Danforth campus of Washington University, Saint Louis, MO 63105.

Tim Russ is an American actor, director, screenwriter, musician and amateur astronomer. He is best known for his roles as Lieutenant Commander Tuvok on Star Trek: Voyager. He has also played Robert Johnson in "Crossroads" (1986), Casey in "East of Hope Street" (1998), Frank on "Samantha Who?," Principal Franklin on the Nickelodeon sitcom "iCarly", and D. C. Montana on "The Highwaymen" (1987–1988). He appeared in "The Rookie: Feds" (2022) and reprised his role as Captain Tuvok on Season 3 of "Star Trek: Picard".

Tim Russ has been working within the entertainment industry for over thirty-five years. His talents encompass a wide spectrum of the performing arts including composing, music (guitar & vocals), acting, writing, directing, voice-over and producing. Mr. Russ received his B.S. in Theater at St. Edward's University Austin TX, and completed one year of post graduate work in theater at Illinois State University.

Upcoming meetings:
January: 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

December 15th Meeting WILL HAVE A NEW LINK and will be In Person and on Zoom

The SLAS meeting for December will be in-person and via Zoom. The Zoom room will be open from 7-10:30 pm. Meeting starts at 7:30 pm. **To join Zoom Meeting for SLAS Regular Meeting with computer or smartphone: use the below link. NOTE: this is a one-time link for this meeting and will not be used again.**
https://zoom.us/j/92708536195?pwd=WDU3MW1iQkNseHhPU2VtT3RnNmE4Zz09

McDonnell Hall is accessible from Forsyth Boulevard via Tolman Way. Free yellow zone and garage parking spaces are available.

Announcements

Special link for this meeting with Tim Russ

Vote on budget Attendance prizes!

Special Awards to be given out at the meeting! Come support the recipients at the meeting!

Homemade Fest Tentatively set for Febuary 24

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President's Corner
by Jim Small

I have to say, I'm pretty excited to hear Tim Russ speak to the group this month! Don't forget the link is different this month to help prevent spam at the meeting. Be sure to get the new link off the front page of the newsletter or in the email where the link to the newsletter is delivered.

Be sure to check the NSN calendar if you still need to make your five outreach events for the year. You might be able to add a single event. Numbers will be run at the end of the year and we will send off for the pins in January. They will be presented at the February meeting.

It's been a hectic couple of months for me, lots going on. I didn't even take time to watch for Geminds meteors on Wednesday night. I'm looking forward to getting some observing in over the winter break from school. Maybe even try some astrophotography!

Bill Winningham and the board worked hard on the budget and we will present it for a member vote at the meeting Friday night. Be sure to look through it and if you have questions or find errors, please let us know. The only change from last month was to include a blurb clarifying the change in the value of the depreciation of the telescope and don't for the observatory from the 20 and 21 budgets to the current value. We did not change the value, the 20 and 21 numbers represent an estimate of what the value would be. The later numbers were put in place once we actually took possession of the scope and dome. Thanks to Bill for all the hard work.

Friday night we will present the Special Award Winners to the membership. Hope you can attend that meeting as well to show them your support!

We only had nominees for two awards out of five this year. I hope we can put forth a full slate of awardees for next years awards. Check out the nomination process on the website to learn about the awards and parameters needed to be considered. Then nominate someone!! Here's the link: https://www.slasonline.org/membership/special-awards

Hope to see you at the meeting!

Clear skies, Jim Small

SLAS Memberships Expiring in December

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

SLAS Memberships Expiring in January

Robert	Drzymala
Dale & Gaylene	Engelbrecht
Greg	Gaines
Mike	Hays
Richard	Heuermann
Catherine	Hooper
Ron	Jones
Tom	Keutzer
Ken	Kibort
Nicholas	Kirschman
Rosanne	Naunheim
Patrick	Rauls
John	Schwartz
James	Smith
James	Timper
Dave	Walden

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

From the StarBQ Quiz

Call me Al. Albedo that is.

Albedo is the fraction of light that is reflected by a body or surface. It is commonly used in astronomy to describe the reflective properties of planets, satellites, and asteroids. Light-coloured surfaces return a large part of the sunrays back to the space (high albedo). Dark surfaces absorb the rays from the sun (low albedo). Astronomers use albedo that ranges from 0 (perfectly absorbing) to 1.0 (perfectly reflecting). Sample albedos: Fresh asphalt= 0.04; Open ocean= 0.06; Worn asphalt= 0.12; Conifer forest summer= 0.09 to 0.15; Deciduous forest= 0.15 to 0.18; Bare soil= 0.17; Green grass= 0.25; Desert sand= 0.40; New concrete= 0.55; Ocean ice= 0.50 to 0.70; clouds= 0 to 0.8; Fresh snow= 0.80; Aluminum= 0.85

1-1. What is the accepted albedo for the Earth? Circle best answer 0.1 0.3 0.5 0.6

1-2. What is the accepted albedo for the Moon? Circle best answer 0.1 0.3 0.5 0.6

1-3. What is the accepted albedo for Venus? Circle best answer 0.1 0.3 0.5 0.6

1-4. What is the accepted albedo for the asteroid Ceres? Circle best answer 0.1 0.3 0.5 0.6

1-5. What is the accepted albedo for the Sun? Circle best answer 0 0.5 1.0

Answer #1-1: Using satellite measurements accumulated since the late 1970s, scientists estimate Earth's average albedo is about about 0.30. https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/84499/measuring-earths-albedo

Answer #1-2: Our Moon has a very low albedo (0.07), while Venus has a high albedo (0.60).

Answer #1-3: Our Moon has a very low albedo (0.07), while Venus has a high albedo (0.60).

Answer #1-4: Geometric albedo= 0.090

Answer #1-5: albedo= 0

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. Note: Depreciation amount in '20 and '21 budgets were estimates before actual depreciation took place. The value hasn't changed since it began.

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 memberships 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 Anniversary 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%

Stacy Park star party report

***by* Ken Levy**

Date: Tue, 24 Oct 2023 09:42:21 PDT

I'm happy to report that our Stacy Park stargazing this past Saturday night was a huge success! Mark Jones and I were there to provide crowd pleasing views of the 1st quarter moon, Saturn and Jupiter. Despite below average seeing conditions the attendees were very impressed! We had about 15 girl scouts and some of their parents in attendance and lots of other folks as well which really added plenty of positive energy to the evening.
The girl scouts brought charts of constellations they were expected to identify and it was quite fun and rewarding helping them with some night sky orienteering.
We helped them identify Cassiopeia, the great square of Pegasus, Cygnus and the summer triangle. I explained the seasonality of the constellations and that some items on their list would have to wait until Winter, but could also be seen in the wee hours of the morning if they were so inclined. I told them that if they wanted to see Venus in all its glory they could go outside around 6 am and look to the east. One of the girls enthusiastically declared " oh yes, I'm definitely going outside at 6 in the morning for that". That really put a smile on my face! It occurred to me that when we do these outreach events we might be inspiring some of these children to develop a passion for this great hobby of ours. Who knows, we might even be grooming the next generation of SLAS members and leaders, maybe even a professional astronomer or two!
I think we're creating some momentum for these Stacy Park events and I'm looking forward to getting this going again in the Spring. I'm hopeful that as word spreads we'll see even more attendance in the future. I look forward to continuing this collaboration with Olivette.
Clear Skies, Ken Levy

Photos from Cedarledge Girl Scout Event. SLAS members Bill Bierman, Don Ficken and Carl McCullough were in attendance.

St. Louis Astronomical Society

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

Executive Board Meeting Minutes 11/2/2023

1. Opening Activities: a. Attendance: Jim Small, Larry Campbell, Bill Winningham, Mark Jones, Brent Buch, Randy Harrison, Brad Waller, Dennis Latinette b. Open Meeting: meeting opened at 7:05pm c. Approval of last month's minutes. Draft minutes reviewed by Board. Bill W made motion to approve and Larry C. seconded, minutes were approved d. Next Board meeting date: Dec 7 Meetings will be via Zoom until further notice: First Friday at SLSC (telescope viewing and indoor programming) – No outdoor telescope viewing for November, next date is 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. **Action: Mark to send list of SLAS volunteers to Will Snyder for eclipse. This was completed on 10/5/2023. Close this action 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. Part of this was tried but SLSC now want to try their own equipment. Close this action**
2. Upcoming General Membership meeting topics: a. **Speaker**: b. Special Awards needed: anniversary awards will be given c. Speaker Press Release: not sent yet d. Special Business – budget will be presented to General Membership. Final approval at December meeting e. A101 – none planned
f. Hospitality: a. Budget – 2023 Budget $330, balance $214 **Action: Larry to send more receipts to send to Bill**
3. SLAS Financial Report as of a. Balance Sheet: total assets $76618 dollars or $86586 (with fixed assest); Savings $75625

b. Profit/Loss report: Income: thru Sept -$3665 (negative), $876 cash donations. AstroLeagues dues paid $1070 c. Annual Budget meetings: Underway and Board reviewed and discussed the Budget spreadsheet and narrativeBrad mtion to accept the proposed 2024 Budgt nd present it to the general menebership for approval, scond by Brent Board approved. Budget ill be pblished in Nov newsletterand review at Novemeber meeting for member comments, final approval will be at December meeting d. Corporate filings: not due until May **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 There is an Open Door Policy when it comes to Bookings. If you are working on a Presenter, please keep Brad informed. If you do not and Brad books the Month you were wanting, Brad's booking comes first. Feel free to contact Brad to see if I am working on any Bookings. a. Budget – 2023 Budget $400, Balance $57.36 b. Upcoming speakers:
SLAS Monthly Meeting Presentations 2023

Month	Name	Topic	Sponsor
17-Nov-2023	James Lowenthal	SHINE	Smith College
15-Dec-2023	Tim Russ	Space, The Final Frontier	Star Trek
19-Jan-2024	Robert Zubrin	The Case for Mars	Mars Society
16-Feb-2024	Angela Speck	Eclipse	UT San Antonio
15-March-2024	Tom Rathjen	The Moon and Beyond	NASA
19-April-2024	David A Williams	ASU Explores the Solar System	Arizona State University
17-May-2024	Fran Bagenal, PhD	Exploration of Jupiter System: Past, Present and Future	Univ of Colorado
21-June-2024	Steven Gullberg	Archeo Astronomy	UOklahoma

d. Topics of interest e. Stipends f. Travel **Action: Jim Small to set up special Zoom link for Tim Russ. Action: Jim needs to send out speaker info Rich Heuermann This was completed on 10/5/2023. Close this action 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. Brad has sent emails to Cameron but no response, Brad will email Dr. Jolliff Action: Jim to send Brad email and phone numbers for Kloppenborg and Lowenthal. Jim has sent these to Brad. Action closed Action: Brad to ship mug to Stephen Hummel, still in work. UPS was expensive. Brad will send USPS. Closed Action: Brad to submit invoices for Stephen Hummel postage. Closed Action: Brad to mail $100 honorarium to Harry Krantz. Closed Action: Send mugs to other speakers. Haojing Yan, Alan Dyer, Nathalie Nguyen-Quoc Ouellette PhD, Laurie and Kimberly Sibbald, Brett McGuire Closed Action: Randy to contact Gautham Narayan from Univ of Illinois 4-meter telescope in Chile.**

5. Membership Initiatives a. Budget – 2023 Budget $600, Balance $7 b. Welcome Aboard Meetings – c. Raffles – d. Attendance prizes – Solstice prizes, already purchased. **Action: Jim and Brent to explore platform (Twitch, Discord, etc.) possibilities and report to Board at future Board meeting. Engaging younger people with SLAS. Jim has setup SLAS (twitch.tv/stlastro)Twitch account**

6. Membership Recognition a. Total Budget 2023 Budget $500, Balance $365 b. NSN Outreach Awards: February c. Membership Report: d. Member anniversary – Pins at the November meeting **Action: Mark needs to send list and Larry to send list to Jim for Newsletter, Mark to send certificates to Brad for printing.** 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 4. Award selection: 5. Awards presented at December meeting **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 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. This was completed for October meeting. Standing Action: Bill to provide list of expiring memberships to SLAS Board and Jim for newsletter. This was completed for October meeting.**

7. Outreach - a. Budget – 2023 Budget $500, Balance $500 b. Member Training Program Status: c. Purchase of T-shirts for volunteers completed training d. Mark Jones sent slideshow with t-shirts designs to Board. Need feedback. Safety Green in style #3 is preferred by Board. Do they have t-shirt in a Tall/long. e. Upcoming outreach events: Indoor programming for First Friday at the SLSC and planning for STEM programs JCO – Nov 5, Dec 2. f. Awards/recognitions – Feb g. NSN Outreach hours YTD: **Total hours reported:** 826.5 hours **Action; Mark need T-shirt design. Mary and Joe Barteau volunteered to come up with T-shirt designs. Slideshow of examples sent to Board on 10-31-23. Action remains open until final design selected. Board preferred Safety Green in style #3 is preferred by Board Do they have t-shirt in a Tall/long.**

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

10. Other Committee Reports: If needed

A. SLSC Business: a. First Friday actions – b. Other immediate business

B. SLCL Business a. Annual contract – b. Upcoming events – Nov 8th Autumn Night Skies

C. Jefferson College Business: a. Committee Meeting report: b. Upcoming Outreach Event: **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. Item still on backorder from Meade action remains open.**

D. Library Telescope Committee a. Budget – 2023 Budget none requested, expenses will be covered by escrow balance of $1900 b. Upcoming builds or maintenance events last build of 5 scopes Oct 24th c. Maintenance budget – none requested d. Mileage re-imbursement – see above e. Promotional materials - none requested

E. SLAS Social Events a. Budget – 2023 Budget $365, Balance $325 b. Homemade Fest - 2023 budget $125 c. Star-B-Q – 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. Close this action. 400 cards were received in early October.**

G. Loaner scope Program a. Budget – 2023 Budget $ 100, Balance $0 b. New donations: 12.5" f/8, truss-tube Dob has been donated. This will be stored at JCO. Wheels have been added. 1.25" focuser should be upgraded to 2" 30mm finder needs to be upgraded with red dot finder c. Replacement Parts for the LPTs d. Items for sale several: **Status for sale items** 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 $388 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 $88

L. Website - a. Budget 2023 $750, Balance $238

M. Social Public Facebook page – 3,075 followers, Private FB page – 67 members

N. Night Sky Network

O. SLASdialogs SLAS Groups.io – SLAS Dialogs – 132 members

P. Dark Site

Q. Observing Programs

R. Star Parties Donation:

11. Closing Activities: Motion to adjourned meeting by Randy W., second Dennis L. meeting adjourned at 10:02pm

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

	Jan - Nov 23	Budget	$ Over Bud...
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Events Income	630.00		630.00
Magazine Subscription	2,545.40	2,999.05	(453.65)
Membership Dues	4,490.00	5,455.00	(965.00)
Merchandise Sales			
Total Income	7,665.40	8,454.05	(788.65)
Cost of Goods Sold			
Magazine Subscriptions	2,754.64	3,016.00	(261.36)
Merchandise	319.30	650.00	(330.70)
Total COGS	3,073.94	3,666.00	(592.06)
Gross Profit	4,591.46	4,788.05	(196.59)
Expense			
1-Programs & Events	1,691.83	2,985.30	(1,293.47)
2-Newsletter	526.64	500.00	26.64
3-Library expense	111.96	400.00	(288.04)
4-Astronomical League Dues	1,070.00	1,200.00	(130.00)
5-Loaner Scopes	1,262.73	100.00	1,162.73
6-Brochures	227.00	450.00	(223.00)
7-Insurance	1,163.09	1,050.00	113.09
8-Website	543.08	750.00	(206.92)
9-Administrative Expenses	3,502.87	3,515.90	(13.03)
Jefferson College Observat...	49.95	5,000.00	(4,950.05)
Total Expense	10,149.15	15,951.20	(5,802.05)
Net Ordinary Income	(5,557.69)	(11,163.15)	5,605.46
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Donations	1,456.52		1,456.52
Eclipse Escrow Receipts	70.00		
Interest Income	26.65	45.00	(18.35)
LTP Receipts	7,727.27		7,727.27
Total Other Income	9,280.44	45.00	9,235.44
Other Expense			
Eclipse Escrow Dispursements	50.00		
LTP Disbursements	7,545.24		7,545.24
Total Other Expense	7,595.24		7,595.24
Net Other Income	1,685.20	45.00	1,640.20
Net Income	(3,872.49)	(11,118.15)	7,245.66

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Balance Sheet
As of November 30, 2023

	Dec 31, 22	Nov 30, 23
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Checking - First Bank	16,660.91	11,549.47
Deposit, Certificate of	15,976.91	15,999.69
Library Telescope Escrow	2,459.77	1,613.75
PayPal	494.39	670.23
Savings - First Bank	41,148.96	43,137.83
SLAS Eclipse Conference Escr...	0.00	3,152.12
Total Checking/Savings	76,740.94	76,123.09
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	76,964.96
Fixed Assets	12,460.24	9,414.34
TOTAL ASSETS	90,251.79	86,379.30
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	(3,872.49)
Total Equity	90,251.79	86,379.30
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	90,251.79	86,379.30

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 3rd Saturdays at the Jefferson College Observatory and Patio.

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: 1/11, 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

December

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
24 Wed	Jefferson County Windsor
25 Thur	Star Party at the Carpenter Library

February

1 Thur	SLAS Board Meeting
2 Fri	STL Literacy Group
10 Sat	Library Telescope Maintenance
10 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky at Danville
12 Mon	Blackburn Park
16 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
17 Sat	Aim for the Stars at JCO
20 Tue	Eclipse Education at O'Fallon, IL Library

March

5 Tue	Eclipse Education Freeburg
9 Sat	Star Party at Laumeier
9 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky at Danville
12 Tue	Eclipse Education Event
13 Wed	Mascoutah Library
14 Thur	Eclipse Best Practices Riverside
15 Fri	Blessed Sacrament Star Party
15 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
16 Sat	Aim for the Stars at JCO
19 Tue	Scott AFB Eclipse Talk
23 Sat	Gateway Arch Eclipse Program
23 Sat	Mastodon Fair
30 Sat	Let's Talk About Space

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

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president at slasonline.org

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Randy Harrison 618-267-1659
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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
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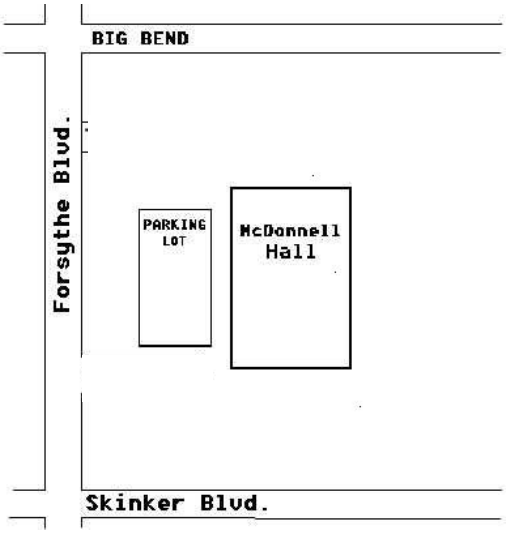
Who We Are and What We Do

St. Louis Astronomical Society is a not-for-profit organization established in 1936. SLAS is devoted to the interest and advancement of the science of astronomy. Our mission is to promote an understanding of the science of astronomy to our members and to the public. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in astronomy.

For more information contact any SLAS officer or visit our website listed above. SLAS is affiliated with the Astronomical League, Night Sky Network and the Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League.

Meetings are held the 3rd Friday of each month at McDonnell Hall at Washington University. See the map to the right for directions.



St. Louis Astronomical Society
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