THE EVENT HORIZON

ST. LOUIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Devoted to the Interest and Advancement of the Science of Astronomy

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January, 2025

Finding New Physics in Debris from Colliding Neutron Stars
by
Dr. Bhupal Dev
Washington University

Dr. Bhupal Dev, Associate Professor of Physics at Washington University, will be featured at the January meeting of the Saint Louis Astronomical Society. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM Friday, January 17, in McDonnell Hall, Room 162,

A neutron star is the super-compressed remains of a star much more massive than our sun. At the end of its life cycle, when the nuclear fuel in its core regions has been used up, the massive star explodes, blasting most of its material into the surrounding space. Gravity crushes the remnant material, which is still more massive than the sun, into a ball less than twenty miles across, forming a neutron star. Sometimes two massive stars form close to each other. After the twin explosions, the two neutron stars eventually collide. As Dr. Dev explains, “Extreme astrophysical environments like neutron star mergers provide a new window of opportunity in our quest for physics beyond the Standard Model.” He will discuss how the study of neutron star collisions may advance our understanding of the nature of dark matter and refine, or even refute, the current theory of particle physics known as the Standard Model.

Bhupal Dev is an Associate Professor of Physics at Washington University and a Fellow of the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences. He has broad research interests in High Energy Physics, Astroparticle Physics, and Cosmology. He has received several awards, including the TUM University Foundation Fellowship in 2015, Fermilab Intensity Frontier Fellowship in 2020, and the Humboldt Research Fellowship in 2025.

Upcoming meetings:

February 2025 K Michael Malolepszy Probing the Sub-Microwave Universe Part III SLAS
March 2025 Tom Rathjen What’s Happening in Human Space Flight NASA
April 2025: Megan Dickson, Quantum Physics;Wash U
May 2025 SLAS Panel New Digital Era in Astronomy SLAS Members
June 2025: Mike Novak, PhD. "Blackholes and Neutron Stars”; Wash U
July 2025: Avi Loeb, PhD. "The Search for Interstellar Objects of Technological Origin"; Harvard University
August 2025: Tom Rathjen, "What’s Happening in Human Space Flight”; The Aerospace Corporation
September 2025 Tansu Daylan The Roman Space Telescope:"The Roman View of Strong Lenses" WashU
October 2025 Paul Byrne, PhD Venus Wash U
November 2025: TBD
December 2025: Adrian Newland, TBA ; High Desert Astronomical Society

Meeting Room Back to Normal: McDonnell Hall 162!
December 20 Meeting will be In Person and Online!

The meeting will begin at **7:30** PM Friday, January 17 in **McDonnell Hall 162** on the Danforth campus of Washington University. McDonnell Hall is accessible from Forsyth Boulevard via Tolman Way. Free yellow zone and garage parking spaces are available. The event will also be available via Zoom online conference per the link here:
To join with computer or smartphone: use the below link.
Topic: SLAS Regular Meeting
Time: January 17, 2025 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81846859229?pwd=jgnygSk6E1YkEnX58qNlOeDSkGL4La.1

Remember, the zoom room opens at 7, meeting starts at 7:30pm

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President's Corner

by Jim Small

I'm still inspired by Robert Reeves' talk last month about observing the Moon. I think I'll have to break out some telescopes and cameras to study our nearest neighbor! Might have to pick up a couple of books too. See his picture later in the newsletter for the titles of his most recent books.

Marvin Fridley passed away January 1st. I didn't see the funeral notice in time to notify people. I apologize for that. I was notified by my church about his death. Marvin left a terrific legacy as the physics teacher for Ladue High School for many years. He was the teacher for Cook and Ken Levy when they were in high school. A couple of years ago, I bought some of his telescope equipment that was sold as he moved into a nursing home in Valley Park. I enjoy using them and actually had one of the refractors fixed up with some new color! We will miss him.

MSRAL Registration is coming soon. It will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas and will be hosted by the Central Arkansas Astronomical Society on June 13-15.

Before that will be the annual break from winter, you guessed it… HOMEMADE FEST! Scheduling it was a little tough this year as Saturdays were kind of filled up, so we went with Friday, February 28th for the event. It still has to be approved by Kirkwood. More information coming soon. Why was everything all filled up? It seems that the entire complex with the rooms upstairs are being renovated so we will be in the gym instead. This means you can bring whatever you want, because we will have room! I'm not sure what the logistics will be yet. Stay tuned for more information!

ALCON will be held in BRYCE CANYON this year! It will be June 25-28th at Ruby's Inn at the entrance to the park. In addition to workshops and speakers, nightly observing will be held at Rainbow Point, the darkest place I've ever been to. Registration is live at **https://astrocon2025.org/** See you there! jrs

SLAS Memberships Expiring in January

Doug	Blum
James	Brochtrup
Robert	Drzymala
George	Dube
Thomas	Duncan
Dale&Gaylene	Engelbrecht
Greg A.	Gaines
Mike	Hays
Richard W.	Heuermann
Michael	Hoke
Catherine A.	Hooper
Jamil	Jackson
Tom	Keutzer
Ken	Kibort
Dennis	Meyer
Rosanne	Naunheim
John W.	Schwartz
Kristin	Smith
James	Timper

SLAS Memberships Expiring in February

Bobbie	Brantley
Jeff	Carpente
Timothy	Hulla
Richard M.	Jennings
Jasmyne	Kemp
Dennis	Latinette
Michael	Oest
Paul	Ross
John	Sullivan

Library Telescope Program Expands as Non-profit

St. Louis Leads Global LTP Effort

by: Don Ficken

The Library Telescope Program (LTP), the popular program that places telescopes into libraries for checkout like a book, entered troubled waters in the last few months of 2024.

Orion Telescopes, the primary supplier of the 4.5" Starblast Tabletop Telescope used by LTP since its founding by the New Hampshire Astronomical Society in 2008, unexpectedly closed its doors. Sky & Telescope Magazine reported the demise of Orion Telescopes in a news release issued in September 2024.

In another unexpected turn of events, Celestron announced that its Zhumell line of telescopes in the USA was being discontinued. LTP often used the Zhumell Z114 tabletop telescope as a backup to the Orion Starblast.

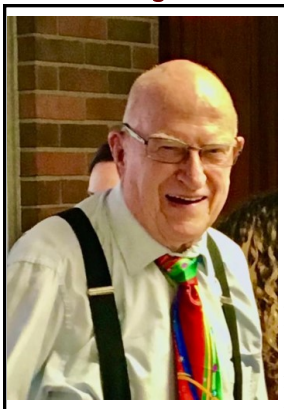
Since the New Hampshire Astronomical Society started the program in 2008, LTP has expanded to over 1,000 libraries in the USA, Canada, and Europe (see world map). The St. Louis Astronomical Society adopted the program in 2014, which quickly became popular with libraries and patrons. Our metro area program, which includes libraries in Missouri and Illinois, has grown to be the largest metro LTP program in the world, with over 200 telescopes and 140 binoculars.

The loss of LTP's telescope suppliers raised alarms with libraries and volunteers. The continued growth of this grassroots program hinged on finding a replacement telescope swiftly. Without a timely solution, the program risked a severe slowdown or even a fatal setback. Yogi Berra, the St. Louis baseball legend, once said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it."

Rather than looking for a simple replacement for the existing telescope, we decided to aim higher. Could we get a telescope built to our specifications with all the modifications already made? Could we secure access to parts? Could we get help with promoting the program internationally and creating educational videos for patrons, staff, and volunteers? Could we keep the telescope affordable?

After reaching out to industry suppliers, High Point Scientific, a company headquartered in New Jersey offering high-quality telescopes and astrophotography equipment at low prices without compromising on customer service, agreed to sign an agreement addressing our

(Continued on page 3)



Remembering Marvin Fridley

We are saddened to share that Marvin Fridley, a member since 1994, passed away on January 1, 2025 at the age of 97. Marvin was a physics teacher at Ladue High School and was the teacher of several SLAS members, including Cook Feldman and Ken Levy. He loved teaching and astronomy and his telescopes remain in good hands, Randy Harrison with his Obsession and several others, including the refractor in the photo from the Venus transit in 2012, are with Jim Small. He will be missed. ***From the obituary***:

Marvin I. Fridley Jr., age 97 of Valley Park, Missouri, former longtime resident of Kirkwood, Missouri and retired 40 year high school teacher at Ladue School District, was called to his heavenly home on Wednesday, January 1, 2025. He was born on July 10, 1927 in St. Louis, Missouri, one of five sons of Marvin and Telsa (nee Edmunds) Fridley Sr. After graduating Ritenour High School, he honorably served our country as a radar man in the Navy as World War II came to a conclusion. Upon returning home, he continued his education at Washington University in St. Louis and eventually received his Masters in Physics from Purdue University. He devoted his teaching career of 40 years to mostly high school AP science classes for the Ladue School District. He also had a strong faith and was a longtime, active member of Kirkwood United Methodist Church, an honored volunteer for Kingdom House (nee known as Life Wise STL) and member of the St. Louis Astronomical Society.

In 1952, he married his first love, Doris Spruss, and they were blessed with almost 50 years together along with four children and eight grandchildren. After her passing, he found love again and married Alda Highland Logsdon in 2004. They were blessed with 20 years together and he added two daughters, one grandson, and a combination of eleven great-grandchildren between both families. **Click here** to read Marvin's full obituary, including family requests for donations.

(Continued from page 2) *Library Telescope Program*

needs. This was exciting! However, we faced a major hurdle —we didn't have a legal entity to sign the contract.

Husch Blackwell, a major law firm with offices in St. Louis and Kansas City, agreed to donate their services to create a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. As of October 10, 2024, a nonprofit called the "Library Telescope Program" was incorporated in Missouri. An application with the IRS to become an official 501(c)(3) is pending, with approval expected early next year. Press releases have been issued by LTP about the new entity (view press release) and agreement with High Point Scientific (view press release).

But we are not out of the woods yet. Our legal entity does not have any cash to operate. Nor can we accept donations from anywhere except Missouri until we file as a charitable institution in any state where we might receive a donation. In summary, we need $3,000 in "seed money" to open a bank account for our new entity and to establish a foundation that can legally accept donations from outside Missouri. Once we can legally accept donations from all states, High Point Scientific has agreed to send regular appeals to its extensive customer base, encouraging donations that will help us better support and expand the Library Telescope Program across the globe.

If you are willing to donate, please write a check payable to "Library Telescope Program" and send it to my attention at 13034 Barrett Crossing CT, Kirkwood, MO, 63122. We will gladly accept donations from outside Missouri but there may be a small delay in depositing the check as we must file as charitable institution in that state before depositing the check, otherwise we are subject to fines. Unfortunately, we cannot accept credit cards or other forms of payment until we get a bank account open and credit card processing established.

Please visit the LTP website (LibraryTelescope.org) and Facebook Page (Facebook.com/librarytelescope) to learn more about our program and the many changes underway. While visiting the Library Telescope Program website, please register to receive newsletter updates on our progress.

The St. Louis Astronomical Society (view LTP program) spearheaded the program's start in St. Louis with amazing results. Since then, the Astronomical Society of Eastern Missouri, Riverbend Astronomical Society, and Eastern Dark Sky Observers have joined the effort with remarkable results. St. Louis can be proud of our accomplishments!

I am honored to have worked closely with the four metro area astronomy clubs to introduce and grow the program in St. Louis, and to have played a small part in leading the international effort since 2020. The support provided by the St. Louis Astronomical Society and its members has been amazing. Thank you!

Don Ficken President and Executive Director
Library Telescope Program
Email: dficken@librarytelescope.org

SLAS Members at work doing some astrophotography **Above and Below left:** Thane Bopp used a 120mm f5 and a 5.6' refractors for the four deep space photos.
Above left: Andromeda Galaxy **Above**: Omega Centauri **Above Right** Veil Nebula
Below left: Orion Nebula or M42
Below right: Mark Jones captured Mars being occulted by the Moon with a Library Telescope and and an iPhone

Since 2004

Francis Park Stargazing · 2025 Schedule

Presented by the St. Louis Astronomical Society

Enjoy Wednesday night stargazing sessions at Francis Park!

All are welcome to join us! Stop by and look at the Moon or bring your observing gear. This event is scheduled near the First Quarter Moon each month. We provide views of craters, mountains, and shadows on the Lunar surface. Members of the St. Louis Astronomical Society also share telescope views of planets when they are visible. Mars will be visible this year and Jupiter will be visible this Spring. Saturn returns in the Fall. We will even be able to observe a distant double star!

Date	Time	Moon Age	Planets we can Observe	Safe Solar Observing
Wednesday, April 2	7:00-9:30PM	3 days (wax. crescent)	Mars, Jupiter, Uranus.	n/a
Wednesday, May 7	7:00-9:30PM	9 days (wax. gibbous)	Mars, Jupiter, Uranus.	Before sunset.
Wednesday, June 4	7:00-9:30PM	7 days (first quarter)	Mercury, Mars, Jupiter.	Before sunset.
Wednesday, July 2	7:00-9:30PM	6 days (first quarter)	Mars, Mercury.	Before sunset.
Wednesday, July 30	7:00-9:30PM	4 days (wax. crescent)	Mars.	Before sunset.
Wednesday, Aug. 27	7:00-9:30PM	3 days (wax. crescent)	Mars.	Before sunset.
Wednesday, Sep. 3	7:00-9:30PM	10 days (wax. gibbous)	Mars.	Before sunset.
Wednesday, Oct. 1	7:00-9:30PM	8 days (first quarter)	Saturn.	n/a
Wednesday, Oct. 29	7:00-9:30PM	7 days (first quarter)	Saturn, Neptune.	n/a

LOCATION

We set up in Francis Park in south St. Louis city, at Tamm Ave. & Itaska St.
Events will be canceled for unfavorable weather or sky conditions.
Visit www.slasonline.org, and click Event Calendar for up-to-date information.

The St. Louis Astronomical Society (SLAS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 1936. SLAS is devoted to the interest and advancement of the science of astronomy.

JEFFERSON COLLEGE OBSERVATORY

Jefferson College has partnered with the St. Louis Astronomical Society to build an observatory on the Hillsboro campus!

If you and your family love stargazing, you will want to learn more about this exciting new project in Jefferson County.

Open to All Ages!

AIM for the STARS

Designed to appeal to community members of all ages, the "Aim for the Stars" events provide an overview of plans for the Jefferson College Observatory including a site tour, training on how to read a star map, library telescope and binocular training, a meteorite exhibit, live telescope viewing, laser guided constellation tours, previews of upcoming astronomy events of interest and discussion of new science instruments being added including a weather station, All-Sky Camera, Night Sky Photometer, and Auditory Sensors for detecting wildlife. Each observation night will be held in-person at the observatory site depending on weather.

During each event, the dome and 16-inch telescope will be used for public viewing of planets and stars. The 1,800 sq-ft observatory patio will be available to those who want to bring their own telescopes and binoculars for family viewing. Public WIFI and portable restrooms are available.

2025 AIM for the STARS MONTHLY EVENTS*

Saturday, February 15	**Saturday, July 19**
Saturday, March 15	**Saturday, August 16**
Saturday, April 19	**Saturday, September 20**
Saturday, May 17	**Saturday, October 18**
Saturday, June 21	**Saturday, December 20**

** All "Aim for the Stars" events will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month at sunset, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, programs will be postponed to the following month. Events will be cancelled if the wind chill temperature drops below 20°F.*

For additional information contact Associate Dean Maryanne Angliongto: 636-481-3318 or manglion@jeffco.edu

LOCATION

The observatory site is located north of the Jefferson College Hillsboro campus (on Farm Road) near the Softball Field. It shares a paved parking lot, making the site especially attractive to astronomers from across the region due to its location outside the immediate St. Louis area and the associated light band.

DIRECTIONS

From St. Louis, travel South on Hwy 21 to the Jefferson College/Hayden Rd exit. Turn right onto Hayden Rd and then left onto Jefferson College Dr. Farm Road will be approximately 1/4 mile on the right. We have installed new campus signs at the entrance to the observatory at Farm Road.

1000 Viking Dr./Hillsboro, MO 63050
www.jeffco.edu/observatory

Follow us for updates!

Robert Reeves, Moon observing expert and author with his mug shot at our December meeting. He was inspiring to observers who will have a fresh look at the Moon with many new details to look for now.

His latest book is "Photographic Atlas of the Moon: A Comprehensive Guide for the Amateur Astronomer" was published in September of 2024.

Another book is "Exploring the Moon with Robert Reeves" which was published in August of 2024.

It was great having an accomplished speaker like Robert at our meeting

St. Louis Astronomical Society Executive Board Meeting 12/5/2024

1. Opening Activities: a. Attendance: Jim Small, Mark Jones, Brad Waller, Larry Campbell, Bill Winningham, Brent Buch, Randy Harrison, Karl Smith, Mike Boelter, Will Snyder b. Open Meeting: 7:09pm c. Approval of last month's minutes. Motion by Larry, second by Bradley R Waller. Minutes are approved d. Next Board meeting date: for 2025: 1/02, 2/06, 3/06, 4/03, 5/01, 6/05, 7/03, 8/07, 9/04, 10/02, 11/06, 12/04. Meetings will be via Zoom until further notice Standing Action: SLSC Report by Will Snyder. See Notes below.

2. Upcoming General Membership meeting topics: a. Speaker: Robert Reeves, Postcards from the Moon Action: Mark to contact Zubrin via LinkedIn. Backup speaker Megan Dickson. Need to decide by Sunday night, 11-10-24. Action can be closed. b. Schedule room at Wash U. Back in McDonnell Hall. c. Who is recording meeting? Brent Standing Action: Brent to post previous meeting video recordings to website d. Special Awards needed Present 2025 Special Awards Action: Mark or Bill Biermann to create slide show for Special Awards e. Speaker Press Release and social media: Action: Mark will ping Rich H to see if he has necessary Speaker info f. Special Business – Vote on Proposed 2025 Budget with membership; Winter Solstice Prizes Action: Brad to send photos of prizes to Mark Action: Mark will make prize slide for meeting g. Announcements: Move A101 to January – Brad Waller 2024 Star Trek Convention f. Hospitality: a. Budget – 2024 Budget $360, balance $17.

3. SLAS Financial a. Balance Sheet: Assets: b. Profit/Loss report: Total Expense; Budget =$11,717, actual = $10,126, Action: Bill plans to file sales tax for eclipse glasses sales in October. Report: Bill working on this, need to setup account. Bill plans to mail in the payment next week. c. Annual Budget meetings: Completed and Budget published in Event Horizon and presented to membership at November Meeting d. State Corporate filings (due in August 2024). The 2024 Corporate Filing has been completed. This a 2-year filing, the next filing will be due in August of 2026. Federal Form 990 in May each year. e. Insurance: typically, due in May each year f. ALCOR Report Annual Astro League Dues: Dues were paid in August Annual Ballot for election of national officers. Approval of MSRAL By-Laws

4. Speaker Committee If you are working on a Presenter, please keep Brad informed. Budget – 2024 Budget $600, Balance (-$234 increase from mug give-a-ways) Ideas for speakers from Robert Reeves, see his email dated 11/19/2024 - Dr. Rachel Freed is an astronomy education specialist and can speak about outreach and the state of astronomy education in the USA. Pranvera Hyseni, doctoral candidate in planetary sciences at the University of California, is an asteroid specialist and world-renowned speaker and astronomy personality. She would be great. Dr. Tracy Becker, the 2023 Sagan Medal winner at Southwest Research Institute here in San Antonio is another outstanding candidate. I'll see her tonight and ask about her potential availability in early 2025. Action: Brad to investigate speakers recommended by Robert Reeves email dated 11-19-2024

SLAS Monthly Meeting Presentations 2024

Month	Name	Topic	Sponsor
20-Dec-24	Robert Reeves	Postcards from the Moon	Perspective Observatory
17-Jan-25	Bhupal Dev, PhD	Finding New Physics in Debris from Colliding Neutron Stars	Wash U
21-Feb-25	K Michael Malolepszy	Probing the Sub-Microwave Universe Part III	SLAS
21-Mar-25	Duncan Lorimer	TBA	West Virginia U
14-Apr-25	Avi Loeb, PhD.	The Search for Interstellar Objects of Technological Origin	Harvard University
16-May-25	Members of SLAS	The Digital Era in Astronomy	SLAS Members
20-Jun-25	Tom Rathjen	What's Happening in Human Space Flight	NASA
18-Jul-25	Megan Dickson	Quantum Physics	Wash U
15-Aug-25	Tom Rathjen	What's Happening in Human Space Flight	NASA
19-Sep-25	Tansu Daylan	The Roman Space Telescope: "The Roman View of Strong Lenses"	Wash U
17-Oct-25	Paul Byrne, PhD	Venus	Wash U
21-Nov-25	Open		
19-Dec-25	Adrian Newland	TBA	High Desert Astronomical Society

b. Upcoming speakers: SLAS Monthly Meeting Presentations 2024/25 *Zoom Speaker

d. Topics of interest - e. Stipends f. Travel

5. Membership Initiatives a. Budget – 2024 Budget $600, Balance $190 Standing Action: Mark Jones will send out member orientation materials when member joins. Also, schedule monthly member chat meetings are held via Zoom on the Thursday after the general meeting. c. Raffles – not planned d. Attendance prizes – In-person and virtual members will be eligible for attendance prizes in 2024.

6. Membership Recognition a. Total Budget 2024 Budget $500, Balance $456 b. NSN Outreach Awards: Awards made in Feb each year. Note from NSN - The 2024 pins have arrived! Coordinators: be on the lookout for an email containing the pin order form for this year, arriving this week - no later than November 8, 2024. Action: Mark to create final NSN volunteer tallies for 2024 Action: Jim Small to buy NSN pins Action: Brad Waller to print certifications c. Membership Report: Membership report showing 227 members at month end. We started the year with 225 members. In the latter half of the year, we lost most of our member gains due to lower membership renewals and fewer new members. Action: Jim to contact NSN. NSN seems to have a dis-connect with User Preferences versus User Profile Notification Preferences. We need to be able to send all members notices for newsletters and important renewal information even if member has set preferences not to receive Group Notifications. Contact NSN about website changes that would allow us to do that. Report: Mark sent email to NSN on 9-24-24, waiting for response. Response received, action can be closed Response from

(Continued on page 8)

NSN: Any member on the roster with a red highlight has contacted NSN at some point requesting they be unsubscribed from email notices. This is done at the individual's request. You should be able to review each user's preferences by clicking on their first or last name in your roster. After checking in with the members that have asked to be removed from all communications, you can offer them the choice of the following: Notify me of Club Event announcements by Email? Notify me of Club Event cancellations by Email? Notify me of Club Event cancellations by Text Message? Receive Emailed Club Newsletter?

Receive Emailed Night Sky Network Newsletters? NSN Response: Yes, you're correct. With the "Allow all emails" checked off as 'No', it means those members (at the time) opted out of all emails coming through NSN, whether they are directly from us, or group messages. Action: contact members who have opted out from all NSN messages and explain they need to change this selection in order to receive messages like zoom links and newsletter links d. Member anniversary – Pins presented at November meeting. Remaining pins stored in storage room. Action: Jim to buy one 70-year plaque needed for November Meetinge. Special Award program - 1. Special Award Committee report: Chairman: Bill Biermann. 2. Special Award deadlines: Current Nomination deadline is Sept 1st 3. Nomination reviews: by October 1st. Meeting scheduled for 6:30pm Oct 16th 4. Award selection: selections made in November. Report final selection meeting held 10/24/2024. Awardees were selected for all 5 categories. Bill Biermann will send out announcement letters to each recipient in early November and presentations will be made at December SLAS meeting. Action: Jim Small will have 5 plaques made for Special Awards and plates for cumulative plaque 5. Awards presented at December meeting –

7. Outreach - a. Budget – 2024 Budget $500, Balance $250 b. Member Training Program Status: c. Purchase of T-shirts for volunteers completed training per budget:d. Purchase signs for outreach per budget: e. Upcoming outreach events: SLSC - PTV – 12/6; 2/7, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 6/1. Solar Sunday – 12/15, 1/19, 2/16, 3/16, 4/20, 5/18, 5/25, 6/1, 6/8, 6/15, 6/22, 6/29 Tower Grove 2025: 4/5, 5/3, 6/7, 7/5, 8/2, 9/6, 10/4 Francis Park 2025: 4/2, 5/7, 6/4, 7/2, 7/30, 8/27, 9/3, 10/1, 10/29 JCO 2025: 2/15, 3/15, 4/19, 5/17, 6/21, 7/19, 8/16, 9/20, 10/18, 12/20 Stacy Park 2025: TBA Dobson-Fest 2025: 9/13 Action: Jim Small to post Francis Park 2025 dates on website. f. Awards/recognitions – g. NSN Outreach hours: Total Hours Reported in NSN: 1103 hours as of Dec 5, 2024

8. Old Business:

9. New Business Motion by Jim Small: That we amend the proposed 2025 Budget to include donating $400 to Library Telescope Program, incorporated as a nonprofit organization in the State of Missouri on October 10, 2024, with application for 501(c)(3) pending with the IRS. This will help this new organization with seed money for initial expenses. Motion seconded by Larry. Motion passed.

Action: Bill Winingham to update the proposed narrative and spreadsheet for 2025 Budget Creating SLAS GoogleDrive Account for storing important files. Creating SLAS GoogleDrive Account for storing All-sky Camera files. Or alternative methods. 100GB account was $2/month, 2TB is $10/month. Concern about limit of 5 share accounts, should we try to use slasdialogs.groups.io or use slasonline.org website. Dropbox account created for All-Sky Camera images. We still need backup location for critical SLAS files. Example Mark has 31Gb of SLAS files stored on his local computer, these could be moved to Googledrive to be accessed by other members.

10. Other Committee Reports: If needed

A. SLSC Business: a. First Friday actions – see above
Note from Will Snyder – Dates have now been established through June 2025 for Public Star Parties and Solar Sundays. We plan to follow the same schedule for the back half of 2025, but I wanted to discuss with the SLAS board first to make sure we want to keep evening PTV on the first Friday of each month. Nighttime public telescope viewing is offered monthly through public Star Parties. Beginning at dusk, a variety of telescopes are available on the grounds of the McDonnell Planetarium. Star Parties include a free Monthly Sky Lecture hosted inside the McDonnell Planetarium's Orthwein Star Bay Theater. If observing conditions are poor, the Monthly Sky Lecture will still be offered in lieu of telescopes. We will not host observing for the March total lunar eclipse as it occurs 12-4am. Board agrees to stay with first Friday as best date for PTV. Will Snyder will hold-off publishing the remainder of 2025, until after Feb PTV session. There will also be more room in the lobby if SLAS wants to have a table inside. Also, Quarter cards and flyers can be placed in lobby. Action: work with SLSC to schedule PTV for 2025. Action now closed Action: Brad will add dates for PTV and Solar Sundays to NSN calendar

B. SLCL Business a. Annual contract – No contract yet for 2025. b. Upcoming events – Once Around the Winter Sky on Monday, December 9, 10:00 a.m.

C. Jefferson College Business: a. Committee Meeting report: next meeting scheduled for Dec 6 at 9 am. b. Upcoming Outreach Event: JCO –Jan 18 Action: Mark to add JCO events to NSN calendar

D. Library Telescope Committee a. Budget – 2024 Budget none requested, expenses will be covered by escrow balance of $844 b. Upcoming builds or maintenance events – c. Maintenance budget – none requested d. Mileage re-imbursement – see above e. Promotional materials - none requested

E. SLAS Social Events a. Budget – 2024 Budget $390, Balance -$20.23 b. Homemade Fest - 2024 Budget $150. Balance -$22.38 c. Star-B-Q – 2024 Budget, $240, Balance $ 2.15 Star-B-Q will be Sep 13, 2025 at Stacy Park in Olivette from 2-5pm. We will then host Dobson-Fest 2025 from 6-10pm

Other

F. SLAS Brochures a. Budget 2024 $600, Balance $140 b. Quarter cards – YTD 1500 cards printed.

G. Loaner scope Program a. Budget – 2024 Budget $100, Balance $42 b. New donations: c. Replacement Parts for the LTPs - d. Items for sale several:

H. SLAS Library a. Budget – 2024 Budget $200, balance $200

I. Merchandise Budget – 2024 Budget $100, balance $100 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 2024 $600, Balance -$17.50 (postage+ toner)

L. Website - a. Budget 2024 $750, Balance $161.75 stlastro.com, .net, .org all domains forwarded to slasonline.org. Each cost about $38/year. Do we want to continue to pay for these? Currently renewed thru Oct 2025. Board agrees we should continue. Moved the following to Website on the agenda. We probably need to move to new web host that is using current protocols so we can run current version of Joomla. Since most of our backup content are our old videos, we might want to separate our videos from our website. Blue Domino does not have storage limit for our account, new hosts will probably have limits based on cost. Jim, Don and Brent are interested in working on website rehost. Action: Brent to look into using YouTube for our video. Brent to report to Board about limitations and accessibility

M. Social Media Platforms: Facebook Private (https://www.facebook.com/groups/slasonline): 64 members Facebook Public (https://www.facebook.com/stlastro): 3303 followers Facebook Jefferson College (https://www.facebook.com/JCObservatory) 849 followers Twitter (https://twitter.com/stlastro) : 189 followersInstagram (https://www.instagram.com/stlouisastro/) : TikTok (https://www.tiktok.com/@stlouisastro?): LinkedIn (https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14251117/): YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6xO5niZnSeeOUSmp5PRz4A):

N. Night Sky Network

O. SLASdialogs (part of Website Budget) SLAS Groups.io – 127 members, Annual $110 account fee is due in January each year

P. Dark Site – Special Use Permits must be renewed yearly. Bill Breeden has added Danville 2025 permit, we still need Whiteside 2025. Permits are stored here in groups.io folder linked https://groups.io/g/SLASDialogs/files/Permits.

Q. Observing Programs: Submitted Solar H-alpha Observing Program for Greg Rigelman.

R. Star Party Donation:

11. Closing Activities: motion to adjourn the meeting by Brad, second by Jim. Meeting adjourned at 9:18pm

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through December 2024

	Jan - Dec 24	Budget	$ Over Bud...
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Events Income	1,803.59	250.00	1,553.59
Magazine Subscription	1,998.20	2,651.40	(653.20)
Membership Dues	5,205.00	5,070.00	135.00
Total Income	9,006.79	7,971.40	1,035.39
Cost of Goods Sold			
Magazine Subscriptions	1,838.64	2,651.40	(812.76)
Total COGS	1,838.64	2,651.40	(812.76)
Gross Profit	7,168.15	5,320.00	1,848.15
Expense			
1-Programs & Events	2,835.35	3,350.00	(514.65)
2-Newsletter			
Newsletter Postage	213.50	600.00	(386.50)
Newsletter Printing	480.32		480.32
Total 2-Newsletter	693.82	600.00	93.82
3-Library expense	215.40	200.00	15.40
4-Astronomical League Dues	1,228.00	1,070.00	158.00
5-Loaner Scopes	390.78	100.00	290.78
6-Brochures	607.20	600.00	7.20
7-Insurance	1,163.09	1,165.00	(1.91)
8-Website	677.20	750.00	(72.80)
9-Administrative Expenses	169.97	560.00	(390.03)
9.1 Depreciation Expense	3,322.80	3,322.80	
Jefferson College Observat...	378.87		378.87
Total Expense	11,682.48	11,717.80	(35.32)
Net Ordinary Income	(4,514.33)	(6,397.80)	1,883.47
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
Donations	1,050.00		1,050.00
Interest Income	1,390.33	50.00	1,340.33
LTP Receipts	2,698.49		2,698.49
Total Other Income	5,138.82	50.00	5,088.82
Other Expense			
Eclipse Escrow Dispursements	2,675.66		2,675.66
LTP Disbursements	2,436.89		2,436.89
Total Other Expense	5,112.55		5,112.55
Net Other Income	26.27	50.00	(23.73)
Net Income	**(4,488.06)**	**(6,347.80)**	**1,859.74**

St. Louis Astronomical Society
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2024

	Dec 31, 23	Dec 31, 24
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Checking - First Bank	12,072.69	11,324.93
Deposit, Certificate of	16,000.89	47,389.67
Library Telescope Escrow	1,964.87	2,326.47
PayPal	152.96	714.85
Savings - First Bank	43,138.18	13,139.73
SLAS Eclipse Conference Escr...	2,580.32	0.00
Total Checking/Savings	75,909.91	74,895.65
Other Current Assets		
Inventory Asset	841.87	781.21
Undeposited Funds	75.00	80.00
Total Other Current Assets	916.87	861.21
Total Current Assets	76,826.78	75,756.86
Fixed Assets	9,137.44	5,814.64
TOTAL ASSETS	**85,964.22**	**81,571.50**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	8,497.66	8,497.66
Retained Earnings	81,754.13	77,561.90
Net Income	(4,287.57)	(4,488.06)
Total Equity	85,964.22	81,571.50
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**85,964.22**	**81,571.50**

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 2025: 2/06, 3/06, 4/03, 5/01, 6/05, 7/03, 8/07, 9/04, 10/02, 11/06, 12/04

SLAS Dark Sky Observing Dates All dates on Saturdays 1/25/25, 2/1, 3/1, 3/29, 4/26, 5/24, 6/28, 7/26, 8/23. 9/20. 10/18, 11/22, 12/20

Francis Park Events: These events are on Wednesdays of the week nearest the first quarter Moon See you next year! 4/2, 5/7, 6/4, 7/2, 7/30, 8/27, 9/3, 10/1, 10/29

Aim for the Stars Public events held on 3rd Saturdays at the Jefferson College Observatory and Patio.: 2/15, 3/15, 4/19, 5/17, 6/21, 7/19, 8/16, 9/20, 10/18, 12/20

Stargazing at the Arch Events for the public held at the Gateway Arch See you next spring!

Tower Grove 2025: 4/5, 5/3, 6/7, 7/5, 8/2, 9/6, 10/4

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 PTV – 2/7, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 6/1
Solar Sunday – 1/19, 2/16, 3/16, 4/20, 5/18, 5/25, 6/1, 6/8, 6/15, 6/22, 6/29

Dobsonfest - 9/13/2025 Stacy Park. Hosted by SLAS

Pattonville Observatory Public Viewing Dates 1/23, 1/31, 2/7, 2/28, 3/7, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9

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

January

17 Fri	SLSC Solar Sunday
23 Thur	SLAS New Member Zoom
25 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky Danville

February

1 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky Danville
6 Thur	SLAS Board Meeting
6 Thur	PNH Science Night
7 Fri	First Friday SLSC PTV
8 Sat	Library Telescope Maintenance
12 Wed	Incarnate Word Parish School
15 Sat	Aim for the Stars at JCO
16 Sun	SLSC Solar Sunday
21 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
27 Thur	SLAS New Member Zoom
28 Fri	Homemade Fest

March

1 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky at Danville
1 Sat	Pere Marquette
6 Thur	SLAS Board Meeting
8 Sat	Holy Trinity Family Fellowship
13 Thur	Total Lunar Eclipse Viewing
15 Sat	Aim For the Stars at JCO
16 Sun	SLSC Solar Sunday
21 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
27 Thur	SLAS New Member Zoom
29 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky at Danville

April

2 Wed	Manchester Parks
2 Wed	Francis Park Stargazing
3 Thur	SLAS Board Meeting
3 Thur	Stacy Park
5 Sat	Tower Grove Park Stargazing
17 Thur	Stargazing at Bluebird Park
18 Fri	SLAS Regular Meeting
19 Sat	Aim for the Stars at JCO
24 Thur	New Member Zoom
25 Fri	Adventure Summit BSA
26 Sat	SLAS Dark Sky at Danville

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 _____

Youth @ $10.00 / 1 year (18 yrs or younger) $_____

Individual @ $25.00 / 1 year $_____

Family @ $40.00/1 year $_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED **$_____**

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

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

For magazines, use the following links. SLAS no longer processes magazines.

Sky and Telescope New Subscriptions - **https://skyandtelescope.dragonforms.com/loading.do?omedasite=SKY_ren_print_club**

Renewals - **https://skyandtelescope.dragonforms.com/loading.do?omedasite=SKY_new_club**

Astronomy Magazine - https://kalmbach.dragonforms.com/loading.do?omedasite=ASY_Club&pk=2PA4C1

Star Date magazine, a product of McDonnell Observatory. **https://stardate.org/**

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*** 636-346-5460
secretary at slasonline.org

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

Hospitality ***Dennis Latinette*** 636-244-2867
hospitality at slasonline.org

Board Members at Large

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

Larry Campbell 636-244-2867
Board26 at slasonline.org

Brent Buch 314-239-0329
board27 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*** 636-346-5460
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*** 636-346-5460
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

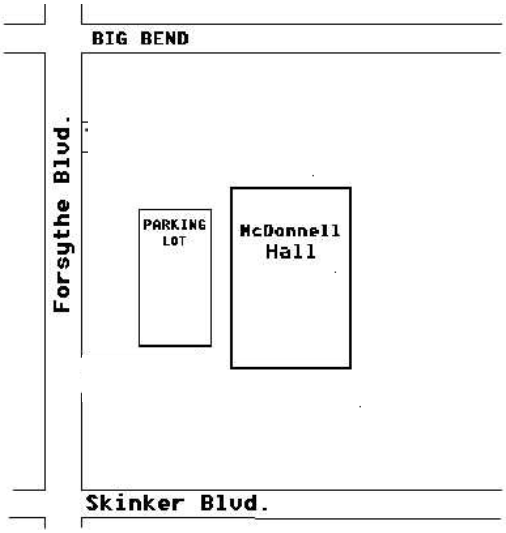
Follow us on
Twitter: @stlastro
Facebook: @stlastro

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