



# San Antonio League of Sidewalk Astronomers

No. 1

August 2018

**First bit of news:** There will be no August meeting at the Radius Center. In September Bryan Tobias will give a short talk on the latest findings in the structure of the Milky Way Galaxy. In October Chris Koers will talk to us about Astronomy 101.

SALSA is a group of beginners to professionals in the field of astronomy. The more learned help beginners with their hardware and maneuvering the night skies. SALSA is an organization dedicated to the enjoyment of astronomy, in all of its many forms, in San Antonio and South Texas.

To that end, SALSA has been having monthly meetings every second Saturday of the month. It is the perfect opportunity to meet your fellow Salsatians and catch up on what is going on in the night sky and our universe and there is always something going on. We usually have someone from within our ranks give a short talk on a given topic. We meet at:

[The Radius Center](#)  
106 Auditorium Circle  
San Antonio, Texas 78205



SALSA members may park at the facility. Please join us at the next meeting set for September 15, 2018, so that we may continue to look up.

## Look for the Banner

Peggy Helminiak has provided SALSA with an official banner. Look for the banner at our events.



## McAllister Park

I spoke with Cheryl Kindervater, the Special Events Coordinator with the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, she confirmed that the dog park field area where we used to meet **can** be reserved, but usually works on a first come, first served basis. Permits are \$15.00 per hour in the evening. She does not have anyone reserved out there right now. She suggests we use it on the first come, first served basis. *The plan is to return to McAllister in September* and make our presence known. Maybe the use of the banner will help. If other people arrive we should work out schedules with others as they come out to use the park. Caveat: Paid permits take precedence. - Yolanda

## BBQ and Meeting

On July 21, 2018, SALSA had our annual barbeque and meeting at Nina's. It was a beautiful day to be out there. Nonetheless, we had a very productive annual meeting. If you are a member and were not there you were probably assigned some task! For now we will considerably cut down on the public events and try to see about private events. The UTSA First Friday and Friday Night Celestial Nights will continue, as usual. The specific dates and more information will follow.

### New Officers for 2018-2019

Here is a breakdown of the new posts.

Bryan Tobias - Private Outings Coordinator  
Nina Chevalier - Public Events Coordinator  
Yolanda O. Reyes - Newsletter Editor  
Chris Koers - Treasurer and New Member Coordinator  
Nina Chevalier - Public Relations Coordinator  
Whizzo - Website Administrator



In the past, SALSA had been a very laid back group of people coming together, but with growth so comes change, we encourage members to become active in SALSA. Tasks are easier when they are shared amongst members.

SALSA members serve as volunteers and docents at UTSA's Curtis Vaughan Observatory, in support of two major programs: "First Friday Stargazing," and "Friday Nights, Celestial Lights." These take place during the school year, from Jan-May, and Sep-Dec.



At the meeting in July, Whizzo told us that we get lots of outreach on Facebook. Peggy Helminiak had suggested, we discussed, and decided that having each member post our activities on our individual Facebook pages would do much to promote our organization and maybe encourage new membership.

A faraway galaxy is blasting out the brightest radio emissions ever detected from 13 billion light-years away, and astronomers say this ultra-luminous celestial object — what's known as a quasar — could unlock [clues about our universe's early beginnings](#). Go [here](#) to read article.



Astronomers spied a jet of plasma spewing from a faraway galaxy. They say this ultra-luminous celestial object could help them understand the universe's early beginnings.

Artist's rendition of SALSA's asteroid



Nina



Eddie



Whizzo



Bryan

