



# TAAS Board Meeting Minutes

6:30 PM April 26, 2023

On-Line Meeting

- Meeting called to order: 06:31 P.M.
  
- Attendance:
  - Officers: Steve Snider, Boris Venet, Mike Pendley, Christina LeGrand
  - Board Members: Bob Anderson, Jim Fordice, Bob Havlen, Joey Troy, Rick Vergas
  - Absent: Mark Goodman
  - Visitors: none
  
- Approve Agenda:
  - Motion, approved.
  
- Approval of 22 March 2023 Meeting Minutes: Motion, approved.
  
- Old Business
  - Astronomy eBooks: no update, since Mark is not here.
  - Books and Gear Donations:
    - The auction took care of a lot of this.
    - All sales of books and gear during the auction have been picked up.
    - The remaining things in storage, Mark will be handing.
  - Google Ads (Joey Troy)
    - Joey has been very busy and has not had a chance to do much on this.
    - All actions are still pending.
  - Lifetime membership topic (Steve Snider)
    - There were only 66 responses to the survey, which are not enough to be a representative sample of the membership.
    - The “yes” votes slightly outnumbered the “no” votes.
    - **Action Item:** Steve Snider will cover this topic in his President’s article in the Sidereal Times, and will mention it at the monthly general meeting.
    - If there is not significant enthusiasm, the topic will not be moved forward.



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- New Business:
  - Feral hogs at Oak Flat in East Mountains (Christina LeGrand)
    - There have been some reports and even pictures of deceased feral hogs in the Oak Flat area of the East Mountains.
    - The concern is that if TAAS schedules public star parties at Oak Flat, there could be feral hogs in the area.
    - **Action Item:** If / when any Oak Flat star parties are scheduled, Steve Snider will speak with the local rangers about this issue to see if there is any need for concern.
  - New Business Cards order (Boris Venet)
    - The club needs some new business cards to hand out for publicity.
    - Vistaprint and other vendors offer 1000 cards for less than \$100.
    - The cards will contain the new TAAS logo; and it was also suggested to put a QR code on the new business card as well.
    - **Action Item:** Boris will work with Joey Troy on the cards including the new logo and QR code.
    - **Action Item:** Joey will check into pricing for non-profit organizations from the card vendors.
    - The final plan for the card order will be brought to the Board via email to vote on (card vendor, pricing, number of cards, etc.).
  - Auction proceeds (Steve Snider)
    - The club has advertised that all proceeds from the auction will be for the benefit of the telescope loan program.
    - The auction has helped the loan program be self-sustaining, with donations of telescope equipment sometimes being sold to fund other more useful items.
    - The Board could decide for the next auction to advertise it as "For the benefit of the organization".
    - For now, the auction proceeds will remain with the telescope loan program as advertised.
- Committee Reports



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- Finance
  - Report received; discussed.
  - The primary storage unit is going up in rent from \$190 to \$209 per month. The team will be continuing to consolidate the 2<sup>nd</sup> storage unit contents into the that of the primary storage unit before the rent gets raised.
  - Mike Pendley has set up a new account at Bank of Albuquerque as planned. The process was very smooth. The next step is for Steve Snider and Jim Fordice to accompany Mike to the bank to get set up for club credit cards. Afterward, the club can begin moving funds in phases from Wells Fargo.
  - Bank of Albuquerque has some 10-month CDs available as an investment vehicle, paying 4%. The club can now take advantage of that.
  - Bob Havlen has not received the addresses of the winners of the science fair where Jim Fordice was a judge. The winners' prizes need to be mailed to them.
  - **Action Item:** Bob will call and ask, and share the information with Jim.
- Membership
  - Report received; discussed.
  - Bob Anderson reports that we have many new members.
  - Renewals on the website work, but some people are needing some extra help.
- Education
  - Report received; no discussion, given the absence of Mark Goodman.
- GNT0
  - Report received; discussed.
  - Plans are in work for the club picnic on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August this summer.
- Telescope Loan Program
  - Report received; discussed.
  - Rick Vergas reports that new club members are taking advantage of the loan program, which is great. There have been 10 or so requests in the past week.
  - Rick is in the process of determining what type of scopes are best for new members and for intermediate members.



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- A suggestion was presented that the loan program have some easy equipment setups to loan out for getting started with astrophotography. Also, some better eyepieces are needed.
- **Action item:** Rick to work with Joey Troy on an astrophotography setup for the loan program.
- Rick expressed appreciation for the automation that the new website offers regarding managing the processes of the telescope loan program.
- Another idea was offered that the club members might benefit from a telescope similar in capability to the Celestron “Starsense” which can use a smart phone as a pointing device. This would require the purchase of the smart phone to accompany the telescope. Rick will continue to investigate ideas for telescopes for the loan program as he is currently doing.
- Public Events
  - Report received; discussed.
  - Lots of events are coming up, from Astronomy Day through the annular eclipse.
- Non-Public & Special Events
  - The club has been asked for volunteers to work at a star party in Jemez Springs in July. It was noted that star parties up there are somewhat difficult for TAAS members to attend and provide telescopes for, given the distance.
  - Steve Snider tried to contact Jim Greenhouse to find out some details of what is being planned for the annular eclipse around the city, and will report on this after speaking with Jim.
  - Steve has a new volunteer who will begin helping out with this functional area.
- Publicity
  - No report received; no specific discussion.
- Technology
  - Report received; discussed.
  - Joey Troy has been doing a great job on the new website and its functionality.
  - Website statistics were discussed. Visitors are staying longer on the website than before, which speaks to the relevant and informative content.



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- There was some discussion about apps for weather predictions as an observing tool. Astropheric is one, and Clear Outside is another one. Some of these apps have licensing such that it would be free for club members. However, there are some requirements and restrictions that similar or competing tools are not allowed on our website. It was decided not to take any action on this at this time.
- Webmaster Joey Troy has been very busy lately and has all previous action items and tasks in pending status.
- Around the Table
  - Boris Venet mentioned that the Chaco Canyon schedule features 4 star parties this summer. Chaco Canyon will also have an event for the annular eclipse.
  - Mike Pendley provided an updated Treasurer report to replace the one sent out earlier.
  - **Action Item:** Mike Pendley will schedule a firm day and time for Jim Fordice and Steve Snider to accompany him to the bank to get the club credit cards set up.
- Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 07:45 PM.

# GNTO Report for the Board of Directors

Submitted on 24 April 2023 by Jim Fordice

## General

- The GNTO Picnic is scheduled for 19 August. We have started planning for it.

## Equipment Status

- The Isengard telescope is not available due to the ongoing repairs in the Main Dome Building.

## Projects Underway

- Isengard Nexus DSC Pro: We are updating the Isengard User Guide for the new Nexus DSC Pro.
- The inverter in the PV System has shut down a couple of times. We have installed a temporary inverter to obtain reliable power for the 120 VAC devices. Due to the cost for the mold issue, I have tabled action to replace the inverter.
- Main Dome repairs.

## Upcoming Projects

- TBD

## Financial Status

- All reimbursements received.

## Next Events

- 13 May: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Moon Observing
- 20 May: New Moon Observing
- 10 June: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Moon Observing
- 17 June: New Moon Observing

## Education Outreach: April, 2023, TAAS Board Report

The Moriarty Elementary School Star Party on Thursday, February 23, went well. Heather Page, our contact there, organized the school's STEAM night, in which we participated. Jim Greenhouse and Geoff Skelton operated the portable planetarium, which was a great hit. Photos from it were featured in the recent New York Times article by Ramsay de Give. Fernando Torres, John Laning, Viola Sanchez, and Trish Logan participated with scopes.

Friday, March 3, was the star party at Holy Child School in Tijeras, our second at that location. Lisa Sanchez, a teacher at the school, is a wonderful partner with TAAS. An added benefit for this star party was that the school was holding their Lenten fish fry that evening, so all our volunteers got treated to dinner. Tom Grzybowski, Viola Sanchez, John Laning, and Perry Duke turned out with scopes to help support the event. As was the case last year, TAAS volunteers were greeted enthusiastically, and the star party was a great success.

We helped to support a STEM night at Salam Academy in Albuquerque. A parent on the Board, Tariq Khraishi, was my contact for the event and most appreciative of the assistance we provided. There is no room large enough at the Academy to support the portable planetarium. Those who came out to help students and their families observe were Tom Grzybowski, Jim Stanley, Viola Sanchez, Ed Juddo, Boris Venet, and John Laning. Viola and Tom had H-alpha scopes for solar viewing, and John Laning used a white light filter to help folks observe the sun. Since it was Ramadan, all of our volunteers were invited to join the staff, students and their families in breaking the Ramadan fast and then partaking in a delicious Middle Eastern dinner. While the beginning of the evening was quite cloudy, the skies cleared nicely for viewing.

Jefferson Middle School is a repeat customer for TAAS school star parties, and we were there on Thursday, April 13, to help with their school-wide STEAM night. The portable planetarium was operated by Greenhouse and Skelton. In the event, the sky was too cloudy for solar observing, but Viola Sanchez turned out, as did Tom Grzybowski, John Laning, and Steve Snider. All had either H-alpha scopes or white light filters for solar viewing, but, unfortunately, the weather conspired against it. We'll be invited back, I'm sure, since Suzy Dunnum, the head of the science department at Jefferson, is an appreciative partner.

### Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, April 26, La Vida Llena life care community: 6:00-8:30. Lanie Dickel is the contact person there.

May 4, 2023—Mission Avenue STEM Magnet School school-wide STEM event: 4:00-7:00 p.m., portable planetarium only

May 16, 2023—Portable Planetarium at Holy Child School, Tijeras: 1:00-3:30 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Goodman

TAAS Board of Directors Report  
From  
Steve Snider, President & Public Events Coordinator  
04/26/2023

Scheduled Public Star Parties:

04/29/23: National Astronomy Day – Joint with RRAS @ RPO

05/12/23: Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center

06/17/23: Valle de Oro

07/15/23: Jemez Springs Historical Site



# **TAAS Membership Report for May 2023**

## **New TAAS members from 20 March 2023 to 10 April 2023**

Courtnee Bennett  
Ramona Buzard  
Stephen Buzard  
Krista Dunlap  
Tianna Dunlap  
Troy Dunlap  
Doug Hearon  
Eunah Heo  
Ken Hubbs  
Pam Hubbs  
Jung Hyunseung  
Anna Kornke  
John Ludwigsen  
Angela Malcolm  
Isaiah McCracken  
Brett-Morgan Nielsen  
Larry Ostrem  
Teresa Ostrem  
Paco Reyes  
Karen Stockham  
Andrew Stone  
David Stricker  
Misty Stricker  
Tanner Stricker

24 New TAAS members from 20 March 2023 to 10 April 2023

641 Total TAAS Members

Regular: 313

Honorary: 4

Military: 2

Educator: 29

Student: 27

Family Members: 266

33 Renewal Notifications for July 2023

These 34 members were not included in the April 2023 TAAS  
Membership Report:

***New TAAS members from 21 February 2023 to 20 March 2023***

David Arguello  
Isabel Arguello  
Kiren Bahm  
Darlene Chee  
Audrey Cook  
Anne Cully  
Lavae Davis  
Howard Gogel  
Richard Greenwood  
Derick Keller  
Gracie Keller  
Gwen Keller  
Darlene Maestas  
Maribel Maestas  
Zachariah Maestas  
Shelley McCrory  
Rachael Mueller  
Jess Newton  
Rene Newton  
Lyle Nez  
Michelle Perez-Fuentes  
Aaron Rotert  
Ben Sanchez  
Gabe Sanchez  
Kristina Sanchez  
Ryan Sanchez  
Sarah Sanchez  
Elizabeth Stock  
Julian Stock  
Kevin Stock  
Alanna Stone  
Joseph Stone  
Ruby Stone  
Rosalind Williams

## Telescope Loan Program Update

Rick Vergas, Telescope Loan Program Coordinator

New members have been requesting scopes, asking questions, and generally making good use of the program. Now that the auction is over, I note that Steve is raising the question of how to use the proceeds. The loan program does need a few things, mostly accessories and eyepieces for scopes we have recently acquired. I am determining what is needed and will let the Board know. It will likely be a small part of the overall proceeds.

Loan Program Statistics				
	# of Scopes	# on Loan	# Available	% on Loan
	42	31	11	74%
Type:	Reflectors	Refractors	Catadioptrics	
	23	8	11	
Size:	Large (>8")	Medium (5"-8")	Small (<5")	
	8	20	14	
Tracking:	Manual	Push-To	Go-To	Tracking
	26	6	8	3
				As of: 4/26/23

**FUND SUMMARY**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>Change</u>	
General Funds:	\$1,202.14	\$2,008.74	(\$806.60)	
GNT0 Fund	\$7,243.80	\$7,012.88	\$230.92	
Astronomical League	\$1,212.50	\$1,137.50	\$75.00	
Scope Loan Program	\$6,232.22	\$493.22	\$5,739.00	
Education Fund	\$1,328.90	\$1,323.90	\$5.00	
Portable Planetarium Fund	\$16,595.00	\$16,490.00	\$105.00	
Science Fair Fund	\$715.00	\$515.00	\$200.00	
<b>Total Funds on Deposit</b>	<b>\$34,529.56</b>	<b>\$28,981.24</b>	<b>\$5,548.32</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**FUND DETAILS**

	General Fund	GNT0 Fund	Astronomical League Fund	Scope Loan Program Fund	Education Fund	Portable Planetarium Fund	Science Fair Fund	TOTAL	Error
<b>Income:</b>									
Memberships	\$330.00	\$210.00	\$75.00			\$105.00		\$720.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$35.00	\$100.00			\$5.00			\$140.00	\$0.00
Interest - Checking	\$0.09							\$0.09	\$0.00
Interest - Savings	\$3.31							\$3.31	\$0.00
Giving Fund	\$1.00							\$1.00	\$0.00
Funds from auction				\$5,739.00			\$0.00	\$5,739.00	\$0.00
Science Fair							\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
								\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$369.40</b>	<b>\$310.00</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>\$5,739.00</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	<b>\$105.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$6,803.40</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>									
Rightspace Storage	\$408.00							\$408.00	\$0.00
Adobe Subscription	\$57.10							\$57.10	\$0.00
Verizon (GNT0 Fund)		\$79.08						\$79.08	\$0.00
Joey Troy for Auction Pro	\$79.00							\$79.00	\$0.00
Joey Troy for Auction Pro	\$174.98							\$174.98	\$0.00
PO Box	\$194.00							\$194.00	\$0.00
Speaker Dinner	\$24.33							\$24.33	\$0.00
State Filing Fee	\$11.95							\$11.95	\$0.00
Science Fair	\$200.00							\$200.00	\$0.00
PayPal expense	\$26.64							\$26.64	\$0.00
								\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$1,176.00</b>	<b>\$79.08</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,255.08</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Fund Changes</b>	<b>(\$806.60)</b>	<b>\$230.92</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>\$5,739.00</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	<b>\$105.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$5,548.32</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Check Totals</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

Actual current:

Checking	\$ 7,747.11	<b>Includes \$5,739 on deposit at Bank of Albuquerque (auction proceeds)</b>
Savings	\$ 26,013.09	
PayPal	\$769.36	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$34,529.56</b>	<b>\$34,529.56</b> CheckSum <b>\$0.00</b>

**Note: Right Spece locker F28 is increasing from \$190 to \$209 on May 26**

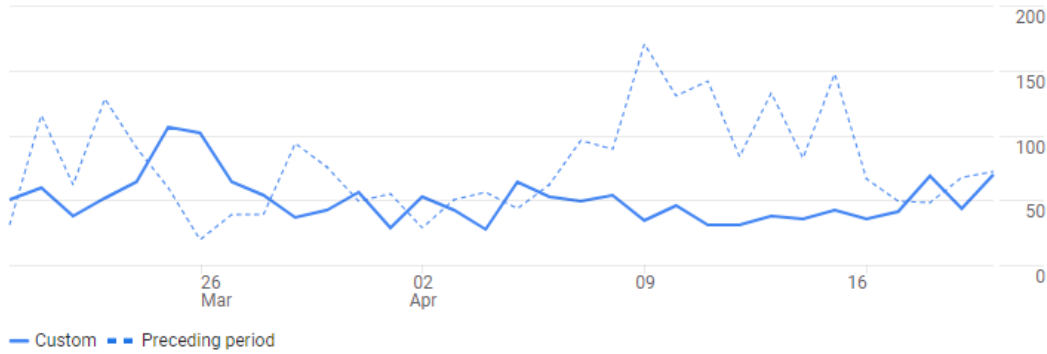


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# TAAS Technology Report April 26, 2023

## Website statistics Mar 20 – April 20

Users	Views	Event count	Average engagement time		
1.2K	9.9K	31K	4m 13s		
↓ 38.9%	↓ 14.7%	↓ 14.5%	↑ 63.2%		

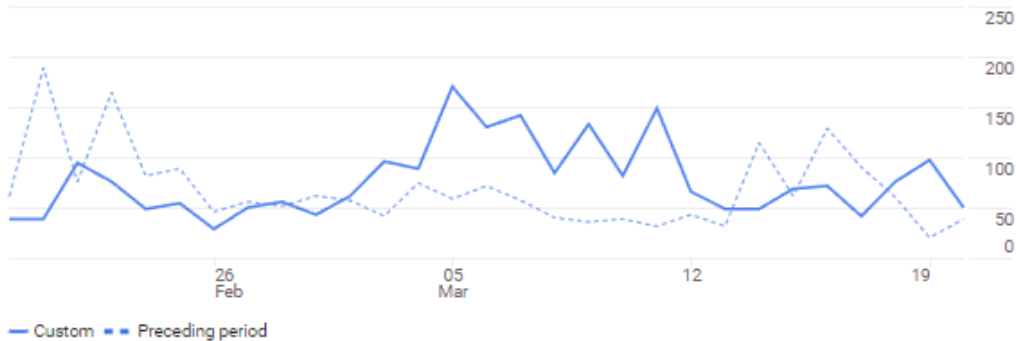


Mar 20 - Apr 20, 2023 ▼

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## Website statistics Feb 20 – Mar 20

Users	Views	Event count	Average engagement time		
1.7K	11K	35K	3m 04s		
↑ 3.8%	↑ 45.7%	↑ 52.4%	↑ 47.0%		

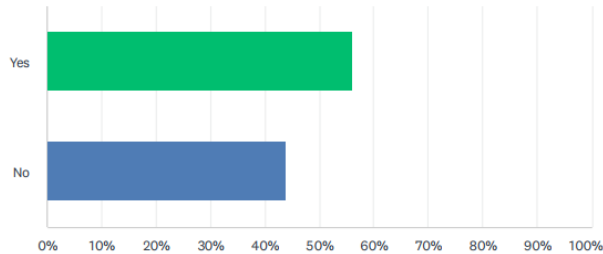


Feb 20 - Mar 20, 2023 ▼

[View reports snapshot →](#)

## Q1 Would you be interested in TAAS offering a Life Time Membership?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	56.06%	37
No	43.94%	29
TOTAL		66

### Completed Work Items for April 2023

- Post Board Minutes
- Send out Member Survey for Lifetime Membership
- Fixed records in database
- Posted Astro 101 Telescope Basics
- Work on list of Lynne for Home Page
- Fix Issue with Posting Sidereal Times

### Current Work in Progress

- Send email notification for GNT0 Donation to Jim F.
- Send email notification for Education Donation Mark G.
- TAAS Talk Fix
- Setup access for Jim to edit ASTRONOMY 101 pages
- Finish 101 hand out for Jim
- Setup Google Ads for TAAS
- Create a Google Ad
- GNT0 Weather Data
- Create new images for Facebook
- Astrophysics.com tools for astronomy clubs?

### Pending Work Items

- Find Webmaster PayPal Account
- TAASTalk replacement
- Password Vault TAAS
- Delete Host Monster Account – Jim F. / Steve S.