



TAAS Board Meeting

6:30 PM 25 January 2023

Held by Video Conference

Meeting called to order: 06:30 P.M.

Attendance:

Officers: Steve Snider, Boris Venet, Mike Pendley, Christina LeGrand

Board Members: Bob Anderson, Jim Fordice, Mark Goodman, Bob Havlen, Joey Troy, Rick Vergas

Absent: none

Visitors: none

- Approve Agenda: Motion, approved.
- Approval of 28 December 2022 Meeting Minutes: Motion, approved.
- Election of 2023 Directors: Motions to approve Directors to the Board for 2023:
 - Bob Anderson, Mark Goodman, Bob Havlen, Joey Troy, Rick Vergas
 - All Directors were approved unanimously by all four officers.
 - Note that Jim Fordice, as the GNTD Director, is a member of the Board per the club by-laws and was not part of this election.
 - Note that Joey Troy was added as a Board member for Technology. Welcome, Joey!
- **Old Business**
 - Insurance renewal:
 - Treasurer Mike Pendley did not receive the insurance renewal information sent by Steve Snider.
 - Action Item: Steve Snider will re-send the information to Mike Pendley, to Mike's gmail account.
 - Action Item: Steve Snider will also send out the bill and both policies to Jim Fordice.
 - Astronomy e-books
 - Mark Goodman is trying to carve out time to address this. No action taken yet.
 - Books and Gear Donations
 - Strategy is to categorize books into: keep, sell, donate, recycle.
 - Mark Goodman is planning to list all the books in a spreadsheet.



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- Regarding the gear, it could be auctioned off on the website.
- It was noted that UNM probably does not want any books, and also that we could offer them to John Briggs for his Lyceum.
- It was also noted that selling books on Amazon is usually not worth the high shipping costs.
- All boxes of books could be consolidated and kept in the storage unit until action can be taken.

• New Business

- A TAAS member has asked TAAS to cover his yearly membership fee in exchange for valuable work that he does for the organization.
 - A motion on this was put forth and approved to pay for the membership fee out of the General fund.
 - Action Item: Mike Pendley will do the journal entries, and offsetting debit and credit.
 - Action Item: Joey Troy will set things up appropriately in the member database.
- "ATM" Changes
 - "ATM" stands for "Amateur Telescope Makers" but the correct name of the gathering is "Telescope Building and Maintenance".
 - Ray Collins was the previous coordinator of the group, but is no longer in this role.
 - Anywhere in the club's official documents or website that refers to Ray Collins as the coordinator of the group, or the group name as "ATM", needs to be changed.

• Committee Reports

- Finance: Received. Discussed.
 - Treasurer Mike Pendley fixed some errors in the report and will re-send a new version.
 - Jim Fordice is asking to be copied on all donations for the GNT0 so that he can thank the donor.
 - Mark Goodman is asking to be copied on all donations for education so that he can thank the donor.
 - Action Item: Joey Troy will check into how this can be done on the website.
 - A brief discussion was held about some funds the club has that might earn more interest if placed in a different type of account. Part of the discussion was that in the past, the club expended a lot of effort on this and got little benefit.
 - Action Item: Bob Havlen will investigate this and inform Mike Pendley.
- Membership: Received. Discussed.



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- Bob Anderson commented that the new membership-related features of the new website are very helpful.
- Education: Received. Discussed.
 - Mark Goodman reported that the platform software used by the planetarium projector is being discontinued. TAAS will have to upgrade to a new software package. Mark is working with Jim Greenhouse on this.
- GNT0: Received. Discussed.
 - Jim Fordice gave a brief update about plans for the mold remediation and for the prevention of a similar future occurrence.
- Telescope Loan Program: Received. Discussed.
 - Rick Vergas reported that the process for loaning out club telescopes is undergoing a transition to being handled on the website.
 - Several transactions per week are happening.
 - There are some issues in the website facility for reserving telescopes.
 - Action Item: Joey Troy will investigate.
- Public Events: Received. Discussed.
 - Boris Venet reported that he has several leads for future guest speakers, and is working on getting some TAAS club members to speak, as well as some faculty at UNM.
 - Action Item: regarding TAAS public star parties, Steve Snider will work to get the calendar updated and will ask Jim Fordice for help if needed.
- Non-Public & Special Events:
 - The October annular eclipse was discussed. Jim Greenhouse is the coordinator for events in this area.
 - There will be a number of observing sites throughout the city, the main one being at Balloon Fiesta Park. The eclipse will take place during the Balloon Fiesta itself.
- Publicity: Received. Discussed.
- Technology
 - Technology is a new category of effort for the Board. Joey Troy is the Director focusing on technology.



The Albuquerque
Astronomical Society

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- The new website launched on January 8th, 2023.
- Analytics are being captured. For example, there have been 13,000 clicks and 700+ visitors.
- More reports will be forthcoming.
- One option is to have Google Ads show TAAS if people in the area are searching for astronomy-related content.

- Conclusion—Round the Table.
 - Mike Pendley mentioned that he has the old laptop that previous Treasurers used and does not need it. Mike will bring it to the next meeting and give it to Steve Snider.
 - Boris Venet reported that Ed Juddo will become the new TAAS Chaco Canyon coordinator.
 - Mike Pendley mentioned the topic of a previous discussion – to see what financial or small business software tools are available and would they be helpful to TAAS.
 - Action Item: Mike and Joey Troy will discuss this in case there is any way the website could help.

Adjourn: 08:01 P.M.

GNTO Report for the Board of Directors

Submitted on 20 January 2023 by Jim Fordice

General

- We are planning to start the Mold Demolition and Main Dome Building Repairs in early March.

Equipment Status

- None

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 on this effort for now.
- Mold Demolition & Main Dome repairs.

Upcoming Projects

- Weed Treatment

Financial Status

- All reimbursements received.

Next Events

- 11 Feb: 3rd Quarter Moon Observing
- 18 Feb: New Moon Observing

Education Outreach: January, 2023, TAAS Board Report

Since it's the beginning of a new year, I wanted to give an overview of the Education Outreach from TAAS over the last 5 years. I assumed the role of director in 2018. Since that time, we've helped to host School Star Parties at 35 separate schools in the wider Albuquerque area. Some of these have been "repeat customers," like Cleveland Middle School, Atrisco Heritage Academy, and Jefferson Middle School. The schools have included public, private, charter, and community schools. These have included schools in Belen, Los Lunas, Isleta, To'Hajiilee, Moriarty, San Antonito, and Tijeras. Our portable planetarium has been an integral part of this outreach, participating at any school where there is sufficient space to deploy the inflatable dome.

In addition to the schools, TAAS has also partnered with local public libraries to offer star parties and education programs to their patrons. We have collaborated with the Albuquerque Public Library system (including the downtown main branch and five local branches), and the public libraries of Gallup, Edgewood, and Moriarty.

On January 10 Atrisco Heritage Academy High School held their school star party. It was coordinated by Elaine Stevens, who is the astronomy/physics teacher at Atrisco. There were four scopes on the field, thanks to Tom Grzybowski, Ed Juddo, John Laning, and Eric Edwards. Jim Greenhouse participated by giving constellation tours with his green light laser. Attendance was excellent, with the teachers who were registering students, estimating that over 150 students and family members looked through our scopes.

The following star parties have been scheduled.

Thursday, January 26—San Antonito STEM Magnet School, Theresa Rodriguez, contact (**No portable planetarium**)

Tuesday, February 28—Mission Ave. STEM Magnet School, Dawnielle Rodriguez and Melissa Caudillo, contacts (**This is a daytime classroom visit to a Kindergarten class.**)

Friday, March 3—Holy Child School, Tijeras, Lisa Sanchez, contact
Fish fry being scheduled the same evening!

Tuesday, March 28—Salam Academy, Tariq Khraishi, contact (**no portable planetarium**)

April 15-July 8, 2023—New Mexico Arts Imaginative Collective, Karen Cunningham, contact
May 12 for TAAS NMAIC made an application to the Open Space Visitors Center to host a multi-media and multi-arts show. The proposal was accepted and will run for the noted dates. TAAS and NMAIC will discuss ways in which TAAS can be involved.

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

The other schools/individuals that are still in the discussion stage for dates are:

Jefferson Middle School, possibly on April 18 for their Science Night.

Hoover Middle School, just received a request this week.

Moriarty Elementary School, looking at February dates, but not successful so far.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Goodman

TAAS Board of Directors Report
From
Steve Snider, President & Public Events Coordinator
01/25/2023

Scheduled Public Star Parties:

01/28/23: Placitas Star Party, Placitas Community Library

02/17/23: Valle de Oro

03/11/23: Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center

04/22/23: Bachechi Open Space

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

TAAS Board Meeting
January 25, 2023
Publicity Report

TAAS Webpage

. Due to the hard work by Joey Troy that went into our new webpage, the great results are giving us a new face to the viewers. I have been learning the details of posting on the new host with much assistance and patience from Joey. I have worked with webmasters and different hosts from Will Ferrell to Barry Spletzer to John Purnell in the past, and now Joey Troy, and it is always a pleasure. Many have commented to me about the fresh and clean aspect of taas.org these days as we go into 2023.

Sidereal Times

. Rick Vergas and Gary Cooper are always accepting of what I send to them each month re our General Meeting Speaker and the Astro 101 Presenter. The General Meeting Speaker is found by the VP, and I contact him/her to get the basic synopsis of the subject, the biography and preferred image to send to our Editors; the Astro 101 Presenters provide the same, and draft articles are passed by both for any corrections or changes.

TAAS Facebook

. I place items on FB concerning our events, passing on others' happenings, such as Rio Rancho or Astronomy on Tap, post some astronomical occurrences (meteor showers, JWST, Artemis) and monitor our Notifications to answer questions or transfer their requests. We have a good following consisting of the public from all over--and some of our own members. I would like to see a more prominent link on the webpage to connect the two as FB is an immediate communication to the outside. If someone would like to be a contributor, please contact me.

Resources

. For each event, I send an email to about ten or twelve groups individually with a personal note, which has established a community for TAAS: UNM, CNM, Nuclear Museum, NMMNH&S, Explora, Sandia Labs, ABQ 365 and often the Albuquerque Journal (they try to feature us when they can), for instance. Others are contacted when there is a mutual interest. Some publications are challenging as they require several months notice, and we are not always able to commit.

. I have established several new contacts as the previous ones moved on at Explora and Sandia Labs, and they are always willing to spread the word for us.

I welcome any comments or suggestions.

Lynne Olson

TAAS Membership Report for February 2023

New TAAS members from 27 December 2022 to 24 January 2023

Tiana Coriz
John Frederick
Joseph Garcia
Jon Ghahate
Ben Holiday
Luke Holiday
Richard Holliday
Taj Holliday
Brandon Ko
Isabel Schopen Ko
Jack Schopen Ko
Stephanie Loftus
Laura Metzler
Brendan O'Brien-Keith
Teresa O'Brien
James Perifanos
Alfred Pina
Jessie Simmon
Whitney Smith
Phillip Spinden
Rick Stankiewicz

21 New TAAS members from 27 December 2022 to 24 January 2023

556 Total TAAS Members

Regular: 296

Honorary: 4

Military: 1

Educator: 27

Student: 20

Family Members: 208

22 Renewal Notifications for April 2023

Telescope Loan Program

There are still some bugs and additions to make to the mew website loaner page. I am currently handling activities the manual way using Excel. We are averaging two or three transactions per week.

Loan Program Statistics				
	# of Scopes	# on Loan	# Available	% on Loan
	42	32	10	76%
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	7	3
As of: 1/25/23				

Rick Vergas

The Albuquerque Astronomical Society
Treasurer's Report
Wednesday, January 25, 2023

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>Change</u>	
Total Account Funds	\$31,480.07	\$31,535.47	(\$55.40)	Acct - Fund
Total Funds on Deposit	\$31,480.07	\$31,535.47	(\$55.40)	(\$218.00)

FUND SUMMARY

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>Change</u>	
General Funds:	\$3,157.94	\$3,356.26	(\$198.32)	
GNT0 Fund	\$8,339.51	\$8,148.59	\$190.92	
Astronomical League	\$830.00	\$785.00	\$45.00	
Scope Loan Program	\$493.22	\$493.22	\$0.00	
Education Fund	\$2,172.40	\$2,127.40	\$45.00	
Portable Planetarium Fund	\$16,190.00	\$16,110.00	\$80.00	
Science Fair	\$515.00	\$515.00	\$0.00	
Total Funds on Deposit	\$31,698.07	\$31,535.47	\$162.60	(\$218.00)

FUND DETAILS

	General Fund	GNT0 Fund	Astronomical League Fund	Scope Loan Program Fund	Education Fund	Portable Planetarium Fund	Science Fair Fund	TOTAL	Error
Deposits:									
Memberships	\$320.00	\$170.00	\$45.00			\$80.00		\$615.00	\$0.00
Member Donations	\$0.00	\$100.00			\$0.00			\$100.00	\$0.00
General Mills								\$0.00	\$0.00
General Electric								\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest								\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Deposits	\$320.00	\$270.00	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$715.00	\$0.00
Withdrawals:									
Adobe Monthly Subscription	\$57.10							\$57.10	\$0.00
Right Space Storage (#32)	\$218.00							\$218.00	\$0.00
PayPal Fees	\$25.12							\$25.12	\$0.00
Science Fair Award								\$0.00	\$0.00
PHLY Insurance								\$0.00	\$0.00
Verizon		\$79.08						\$79.08	\$0.00
Total Withdrawals	\$300.22	\$79.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$379.30	\$0.00
Total Fund Changes	\$19.78	\$190.92	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$335.70	\$0.00
Check Totals	(\$218.10)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$173.10)	\$0.00
Actual current:									
Checking:	\$ 4,224.35								
Savings:	\$ 27,003.32								
PayPal	\$ 252.40								
Total:	\$ 31,480.07		\$31,480.07	Checksum	\$ -				

Non-cash assets:

GNT0:	\$210,287.00
Portable Planetarium	\$ 25,000.00
Telescope Loan Program:	\$ 42,279.00
Total non-cash assets:	\$277,566.00