

TAAS Board Meeting Minutes

6:30 PM July 26, 2023

On-Line Meeting

- Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.
- Attendance:
 - Officers: Steve Snider, Christina LeGrand
 - Board Members: Robert Anderson, Jim Fordice, Bob Havlen, Joey Troy, Rick Vergas
 - Absent: Mark Goodman, Mike Pendley, Boris Venet
 - Visitors: Tom Grzybowski
- Approve Agenda: motion, approved; no additional agenda items added.
- Approve 28 June 2023 minutes: motion, approved.

- Old Business
 - Astronomy eBooks (Mark)
 - This was discussed in Mark's absence. It was noted that there are a lot of free resources on-line, but the intent of soliciting donations for education is that we would spend those funds on education. It is concerning that we are not doing this.
 - There are some additional discussion points around this dealing with posting links, and even how the free resources differ from the non-free ones. **Action Item:** Tom has some ideas and will get with Mark to discuss a way forward.
 - Google Ads (Joey)
 - Joey has been very busy at work and with maintenance work on the TAAS website, and has not had time to devote to this topic.
 - Website modules (Joey)
 - Joey has been testing Member Mouse software and researching other modules, and speaking with the developers. These modules are not geared to non-profits, therefore the donations are still not handled as we need.
 - One option that the module would support is to have a drop-down of donation amounts, like \$5, \$10, \$25, etc., but this is limiting. Some



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people donate in other amounts. Another option is to have the donation section shown after the member completes their check-out, but this is not ideal either.

- Jim has been testing out QuickBooks and likes it. It appears to handle donations as a core part of its functionality. The financial aspects of running the club would best be served by a software tool with a database as is found in QuickBooks, rather than the current excel file. If the club moves forward with QuickBooks, we would need to ensure that it is compatible with the website module that processes donations.
- Annual Meeting Planning Update (Christina)
 - Christina has been speaking with hotels, casinos, restaurants, stand-alone venues, and caterers trying to find a cost-effective option for our annual meeting.
 - Prices are very high, along the lines of \$45 per person for the food. That does not include all the other costs and fees.
 - **Action Item:** Christina will clarify which items count toward the “food and beverage minimum” for each vendor. Sometimes it is only food and non-alcoholic beverages that count toward the minimum, but sometimes other fees can count toward that as well (like the AV fee).
 - **Action Item:** Christina will contact the vendors again and ask about pricing for light snacks or appetizer-type offerings to see if that is more affordable.
 - It was also noted that restaurants can be very noisy, which would not do justice to our guest speaker.
- Succession Planning (Steve)
 - Steve reminded all of us on the Board to find and train a potential replacement for our roles, since we will not be on the Board forever. All of us should be actively looking for / recruiting a replacement.
- New Business

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- “Permanent Member” and “Honorary Member” Proposals (Jim)
 - The objective of permanent membership is to recognize club members who have 35 years of membership and who have contributed dues to the club for 35 years.
 - Permanent members would no longer have to pay dues, and would be recognized at the annual meeting.
 - Robert A, our membership coordinator, would manage the list of permanent members.
 - Permanent members would still have to pay their dues to the Astronomical League to continue their membership there.
 - A motion was put forth to accept Jim’s proposal, and the motion was accepted. Many thanks to Jim for doing this!
 - **Action Item:** Jim will create a write-up about permanent membership, and the changes to the club by-laws to support it, for publication in the newsletter and posting on the website.
 - Honorary Members are not regular members of TAAS but are those who have done something helpful for TAAS.
 - Honorary membership will not be something that TAAS widely uses.
 - Robert A has been and will continue trying to reach the four honorary members TAAS currently has to learn their status.
- New Director Positions (Steve)
 - Who can create new Director positions? This needs to be clarified in the by-laws.
 - A motion was put forth and approved to make Tom a Board member. Welcome, Tom!
 - **Action Item:** Tom will provide a photo and contact information to Rick for the newsletter, and a photo and short bio to Joey for the website.
 - Discussion about “Directors at Large.” The idea is to bring new people onto the Board to help out and eventually have them take

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over a role. Another idea is that as people take on roles in the club, if things go well, they could be invited to join the Board.

- The Board has agreed not to do anything with this at the present time.

- Committee Reports
 - Finance (Mike)
 - Report received.
 - All the club's funds have now been moved from Wells Fargo to Bank of Albuquerque.
 - Bob H was looking at interest-paying vehicles at the Bank, and found some CDs worthy of consideration.
 - **Action Item:** Bob H will contact Mike about this.
 - Steve reported that the budget needs to be increased for paying for speaker dinners.
 - **Action Item:** Steve will look into what amount of an increase to this budget item is needed and will bring it to the Board for approval.
 - Membership (Robert)
 - Report received; discussed.
 - Robert reports a total of 665 members. Highest ever!
 - We got 14 new members this month.
 - Robert also reported that he will not be attending the meeting next month.
 - Education (Mark)
 - Report received, but not discussed due to Mark's absence.
 - GNTTO (Jim)
 - Report received.
 - The GNTTO team is getting ready for the picnic on 19 August this year.
 - Jim will be making some announcements in the coming weeks.
 - Telescope Loan Program (Rick)
 - Report received.



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- Some telescopes are being returned that were late coming back in.
- Some telescope donations are coming in as well.
- Rick will be taking a Dobsonian to the ATM meeting for some maintenance in the coming weeks.
- Public, Non-Public, and Special Events (Tom)
 - Tom has been getting up to speed on things.
 - Events are scheduled from September through November, working logistics and coordination: Valle de Oro, Placitas, Cosmic Carnival, Bachechi Open Space, etc.
 - There was some discussion about an additional Jemez Springs event in September.
 - With the eclipse in October, all help is needed.
 - Acoma may be interested in hosting an event for the eclipse.
- Publicity (Lynne)
 - Report sent. No specific discussion.
- Astro 101 & General Meetings (Jim & Boris)
 - Astronomy 101 next week is about finding deep sky objects. The General meeting guest speaker will be discussing meteorites.
- Technology (Joey)
 - No report received. Joey is working with Pete to move the weather data from the GNT0 to the TAAS website.
 - Joey needs the contact info for the science fair winners, in order to set up their website accounts, which they are given due to their free 1-year membership.
 - Mike has some of this info. **Action Item:** Joey will call Mike about it.
- Closing – Round the Table
 - No additional topics were discussed.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

GNTO Report for the Board of Directors

Submitted on 23 July 2023 by Jim Fordice

General

- The GNTO Picnic is scheduled for 19 August.

Equipment Status

- All equipment available.

Projects Underway

- Isengard Nexus DSC Pro: We are testing the updated Isengard User Guide for the new Nexus DSC Pro.
- PV System Upgrade Phase 3 (Inverter Replacement): Pete Eschman has received the equipment order from NAZ Solar Electric. He is determining what other items are needed and planning the installation.
- Main Dome Repairs: The interior work is essentially complete. Next step is to determine how to address the roofing issue.

Upcoming Projects

- TBD

Financial Status

- All reimbursements received or “in the mail”.

Next Events

- 12 Aug: 3rd Quarter Moon Observing
- 19 Aug: GNTO Picnic & New Moon Observing
- 9 Sept: 3rd Quarter Moon Observing
- 16 Sept: New Moon Observing

Education Outreach: July, 2023, TAAS Board Report

The event at the Bosque Farms Public Library went well, if not particularly well attended. On Tuesday, June 27, there were three planetarium shows led by Jim Greenhouse and Geoff Skelton, with a total of 28 attendees.

At the Los Lunas Public Library, the participation was quite good at their “Solar Day” on Tuesday, July 11, with a morning session with younger students, and a mid-afternoon time with older kids fairly well attended. In addition, we had a good number of library patrons stop by the telescope set-up to view the solar disc. We had four scopes at both morning and afternoon sessions to show off the sun’s activity. It was a hot...HOT...day, but our volunteers came out nonetheless. Thanks to Tom Grzybowski, John Laning, Viola Sanchez, Fernando Torres, James Carr, Jim Kaminski, and Derek Wallentinsen for bringing H-alpha scopes, white light filters, and a cool projection system for viewing.

There are no further events scheduled over the Summer, with the first school star party for the next school year falling on October 18.

Upcoming Events:

October 18—School Star Party, San Antonito STEM Magnet School

October 25-27—New Mexico Library Association, opportunity to host an exhibitor table

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Goodman

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JULY 26, 2023
PUBLICITY REPORT

A fairly short report as i was in the Pacific NW for two weeks and just returned on July 25, but there are some notes

. The August issue of New Mexico Magazine has a large section (from page 33 to page 45) and many mentions of TAAS, including an interview with Wanda Yazzie, our member on Native American astronomy, a photo of our group at solar observing during Cosmic Carnival (and a mention of the CC being held in the fall) at the top of the list of astronomy clubs, plus a last sentence about Sara Wofford's Astro 101 on August 5 about "Finding Deep Sky Objects. I sent about twenty photos of TAAS events, plus astrophotographs, to choose from and connected Jennifer Olson with Wanda for that section. It's quite extensive, of course, and about all different aspects of NM skies and clubs and locations for dark skies.

. Tom Grzybowski is doing an amazing job as our new Public Events person and will give me the finalized information on each event as it is available to get going on the publicity. The Cosmic Carnival is getting started by Tom reaching out to the previous exhibitors inviting them to join us again, and there will, hopefully, be some new presenters. I am supporting Tom with past experiences and lists (and then publicity), but this is now his event on November 4th and will be excellent.

. Publicity will start soon for the August meetings on the 5th and Valle de Oro Star Party on September 9th. I will put several pieces on the webpage concerning our other accomplishments, such as the Los Lunas Solar event with Mark Goodman, the Chaco star party with Ed Juddo, updates on the Annular Eclipse plans and several others to show us off to the public. Any suggestions are welcome...

Lynne Olson

TAAS Membership Report for August 2023

New TAAS members from 20 June 2023 to 17 July 2023

Amanda Chastain
Kency Cornejo
Craig Cox
Judy Cox
Rob Croft
Gosia Czelusniak
Slav Czelusniak
Alison Gallensky
Neil Gallenswky
Manuel Huerta
Andy Kompier
Brandie Kompier
Mason Kompier
Steve Kompier

14 New TAAS members from 20 June 2023 to 17 July 2023

656 Total TAAS Members

Total Paying Members: 383

Regular: 334

Military: 1

Educator: 25

Student: 23

Total Non-Paying Members: 273

Honorary: 4

Family Members: 269

22 Renewal Notifications for October 2023

Telescope Loan Program Report

The Loan Program has acquired a Meade 7" Maksutov Cassegrain Scope, fork mounted, without a tripod. I will check it out. I have found a suitable tripod on EBay that looks to be in good condition, has an equatorial wedge included, for less than half the price of a new one.

Loan Program Statistics				
	# of Scopes	# on Loan	# Available	% on Loan
	42	30	12	71%
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: 7/26/23				

Rick Vergas

**The Albuquerque Astronomical Society
Treasurer's Report
Wednesday, July 26, 2023**

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>Change</u>	
Total Account Funds	\$38,800.54	\$39,796.85	(\$996.31)	Acct - Fund
Total Funds on Deposit	\$38,800.54	\$39,796.85	(\$996.31)	\$0.00

FUND SUMMARY

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>Change</u>	
General Funds:	\$2,117.81	\$1,841.74	\$276.07	
GNTO Fund	\$11,431.61	\$11,513.99	(\$82.38)	
Astronomical League	\$167.50	\$1,550.00	(\$1,382.50)	
Scope Loan Program	\$6,237.22	\$6,237.22	\$0.00	
Education Fund	\$1,486.40	\$1,453.90	\$32.50	
Portable Planetarium Fund	\$17,160.00	\$17,000.00	\$160.00	
Science Fair Fund	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	
Total Funds on Deposit	\$38,800.54	\$39,796.85	(\$996.31)	\$0.00

FUND DETAILS

	General Fund	GNTO Fund	Astronomical League Fund	Scope Loan Program Fund	Education Fund	Portable Planetarium Fund	Science Fair Fund	TOTAL	Error
Income:									
Memberships	\$520.00	\$320.00	\$180.00			\$160.00		\$1,180.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$177.50	\$230.00			\$32.50			\$440.00	\$0.00
Interest - Savings	\$2.08							\$2.08	\$0.00
Interest - Checking	\$0.18							\$0.18	\$0.00
PayPal Giving Fund	\$1.00							\$1.00	\$0.00
Move Gen to Astro			\$15.00					\$15.00	\$0.00
Fix Astro League								\$0.00	\$0.00
RFU	\$0.00							\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Deposits	\$700.76	\$550.00	\$195.00	\$0.00	\$32.50	\$160.00	\$0.00	\$1,638.26	\$0.00
Expenses									
Adobe Subscription	\$57.03							\$57.03	\$0.00
GNTO Ethernet Swotch								\$0.00	\$0.00
GNTO PV equipment								\$0.00	\$0.00
GNTO Temp Sensor								\$0.00	\$0.00
GNTO Net Gear Antenna								\$0.00	\$0.00
GNTO misc		\$553.30						\$553.30	\$0.00
Purchase Checks	\$34.45							\$34.45	\$0.00
Rightspace Storage	\$218.00							\$218.00	\$0.00
PayPal expense	\$49.97							\$49.97	\$0.00
Speaker Dinner	\$50.24							\$50.24	\$0.00
Astro Dues			\$1,577.50					\$1,577.50	\$0.00
Move Gen to Astro	\$15.00							\$15.00	\$0.00
Verizon (GNTO Fund)		\$79.08						\$79.08	\$0.00
								\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Withdrawals	\$424.69	\$632.38	\$1,577.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,634.57	\$0.00
Total Fund Changes	\$276.07	(\$82.38)	(\$1,382.50)	\$0.00	\$32.50	\$160.00	\$0.00	(\$996.31)	\$0.00
Check Totals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Actual current:

Checking (Wells)	\$ 4,194.53			
Checking (Bank of Abq)	\$ 33,018.32			
Savings	\$ 1,021.69			
PayPal	\$ 566.00			
Total:	\$ 38,800.54	\$38,800.54	CheckSum	\$0.00

Outstanding Checks

Pete E has a check for \$2,127.52 for GNTO but has not yet cashed it.
There is an outstanding check for \$21.50 for GNTO to JimF (He has not received it yet)

Total outstanding GNTO \$2,149.02
Brings the GNTO funds to \$9,282.59
\$63.70 Ethertnet Switch
\$1,960.70 PV equipment
\$27.63 Temp sensor
\$75.49 Net Gear antenna
\$21.50 GNTO Supplies
\$2,149.02 Total

Astro Dues

Astro dues are \$7.50 per member + \$10 per club. Astro fund was short \$5.00
I transferred \$15 from general fund to astro fund to cover the \$5.00 short fall
and to seed the fund for next year's \$10 club fee.

I suspect the \$5.00 short fall was due to how the Astro League was paid last year.