

TAAS Board Meeting Minutes

6:30 PM October 25, 2023

On-Line Meeting

- The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.
- Attendance:
 - Officers: Steve Snider, Boris Venet, Mike Pendley, Christina LeGrand
 - Board Members: Robert Anderson, Jim Fordice, Mark Goodman, Tom Grzybowski, Bob Havlen, Joey Troy
 - Absent: Rick Vergas
 - Visitors: Karen Fischer
- Approve Agenda: motion, approved; no changes.
- Approve September 27, 2023 minutes:
 - Steve found a typo; it has been fixed.
 - Motion, approved with that one change.
- Old Business
 - Annual Meeting Preparation (All)
 - Steve and Christina met with the Museum and paid the cost to hold the banquet in their multi-purpose room.
 - Mike reported that he hand-delivered the deposit check to the caterers.
 - We need to provide an insurance certificate to the Museum, with the museum listed as the covered location. **Action Item: Christina** will call the insurance company to discuss.
 - The nominating committee will find people to run for club officer positions. Tom has now joined the nominating committee.
 - It was mentioned that we need a small team for the banquet event, to greet attendees, get people checked in, and attend to other tasks. Christina plans to be helping the caterers with their setup and functioning during this time.
 - The website will need to be modified in two ways for the annual meeting:
 - We need at least 20% of the regular members to vote in the election for club officers. This is approximately 74 people since we have 367 regular members.



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- **Action Item: Joey** will update the website so that voting members can vote on the web, and also so that banquet tickets can be sold.
- Jim and Mark will work on the club awards to be awarded at the banquet.
- Boris has volunteered to create the astronomy quiz for the banquet.
- Steve will be the “emcee” (Master of Ceremonies) at the event.
- The team needs to submit a budget for the awards and door prizes for 2024.

- New Business
 - Paying for Adobe Creative Cloud
 - Gary Cooper uses this software to layout the Sidereal Times. We currently pay \$59.18 per month. We can obtain the software from TechSoup at a discount since we are a non-profit organization. We have a TechSoup account but some work will be needed to change the licensing for the software. We will need to uninstall the old license and install the new one.
 - **Action Item: Steve** to call Rick to discuss working with Gary to purchase the software and get it installed.
 - **Action Item: Steve:** once we get Gary’s buy-in, Steve can work with Jim F. who can share TechSoup access to order the Adobe License.

- Committee Reports
 - Finance (Mike)
 - Report received.
 - Caterer City Treats has been paid the deposit for the banquet.
 - A donation was received for the GNT0 from a telescope sale that Jim facilitated.
 - The last science fair check has finally been cashed.
 - There has been no more activity on the Wells Fargo account. Mike will move forward with closing out that account and transferring all remaining balances to the TAAS account at Bank of Albuquerque.

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- Membership (Robert)
 - Report received.
 - The club now has 398 voting members, and over 700 total members - the most ever.
 - Jim reported that astronomy clubs all over the country are experiencing a growth in membership, possibly due to all the eclipse activity now and next spring.
 - About the recent eclipse event, a question was raised about whether we have an official TAAS flyer we can hand out to interested people at public events. It was stated that there is one on the TAAS website for this purpose. This is located at: <https://taas.org/info-handout/>

- Education (Mark)
 - Report received.
 - Things are going well – have had several successful star parties.
 - More star parties are being scheduled – the report has the list.

- GNTTO (Jim)
 - Report received.
 - The GNTTO proposed budget document was received.
 - The GNTTO meeting is being held on the 26th of October. Additional projects will be decided upon that will need to be added to the budget.
 - The proposed budget was approved by the Board. Jim will submit a revision to the approved budget as needed.

- Telescope Loan Program (Rick)
 - Report received. There has been a lot of telescope loan activity recently.
 - Since Rick was not in attendance at the meeting, there was not much other discussion.

- Public & Special Events (Tom)

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- There are several events scheduled for November and December.
 - There are also more events requested that we may not have TAAS telescope support for. What can we do to get more involvement, support, and expertise from our membership?
 - Tom is working with Lynne on the plans for the Cosmic Carnival on November 4th. The event currently has 14 non-TAAS exhibitors.
 - **Action Item:** Regarding the April eclipse, **Mark** will send Tom his contacts at the library system.
- Publicity (Lynne)
 - No report received.
 - Astro 101 & General Meetings (Jim & Boris)
 - For this month's meeting, Astro 101 will be about cosmology.
 - The guest speaker is Jim, and he will be presenting about globular clusters.
 - Boris will speak at the November meeting, regarding how to determine the diameter of stars.
 - Finding a speaker for the December meeting is in work.
 - The speaker for the January meeting and banquet is Dr. Alice Harding. She will be speaking about gravitational wave detection using arrays of pulsars.
 - Technology (Joey)
 - Report received.
 - 300 new users visited the site, and 4000 click-throughs happened this month.
 - Joey has been swamped at work and has not had bandwidth to do much on the website.
 - Joey is looking for someone to help with the website and eventually maybe take it over.
 - Closing – Round the Table

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- Boris added that the banquet committee needs to check into AV equipment as a task. Make sure we have speakers, a microphone, a computer, a projector, a screen, and any other equipment needed.
 - An excellent suggestion was to ask James Carr if we can borrow some of what he has, like maybe a microphone.
 - It was also reported that some members of the board are not receiving emails sent to board@taas.org. **Action Item: Joey** will check the configuration to see if there are any issues. ISP's protocols can change frequently, resulting in issues receiving email.
 - Tom asked about whether there is a budget for educational outreach. There currently is not. **Action Item: Tom and Mark** will work together to come up with a budget for 2024.
 - Steve talked a little about the eclipse event. He did a live-stream on Zoom that was then sent by the Lowell Observatory to around 34,000 people. Way to go, Steve!
 - Karen, the visitor to the meeting, remarked that it is amazing the number of members we have – over 700. It was also mentioned that it was surprising how busy with tasks everyone on the board is.
- Adjourn: meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

GNTO Report for the Board of Directors

Submitted on 21 October 2023 by Jim Fordice

General

- A proposed 2024 GNTO Budget has been submitted.

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): This project is complete.
- Main Dome Repairs: The interior work is complete. Next step is to determine how to address the roofing issue.

Upcoming Projects

- TBD

Financial Status

- All reimbursements received.

Next Events

- 4 Nov: 3rd Quarter Moon Observing
- 11 Nov: New Moon Observing
- 2 Dec: 3rd Quarter Moon Observing
- 9 Dec: New Moon Observing

Education Outreach: October, 2023, TAAS Board Report

There were two star parties that occurred since the last Board meeting.

On Tuesday, October 12, Viola Sanchez and I supported an outreach effort by the Los Lunas Public Library. Viola had an H-alpha scope, a new instrument for her that provided spectacular views of the sun with prominent active regions and numerous prominences. I brought an apochromatic refractor equipped with white light filter. There were Middle School and High School students who were attending the event and who received training on how to view the annular eclipse safely and then had views of the sun to encourage them to attend a local event to view the eclipse on Saturday, October 14. There were also members of a team from Eastern Michigan University present, who were part of a national effort to release weather balloons along the eclipse path and obtain scientific data about the event. They previewed the balloon payload to the students and discussed the various scientific packages on board.

We continued our excellent partnership with Cleveland Middle School on Tuesday, October 24. Jess Popp, the head of the science department, helped organize the school's STEM night. There were many stations set up around the school, including a game activity demonstrating water surface tension, an activity with a mock-up of a ISS robotic arm, a hands-on robotics lab, "stomp rockets," and TAAS portable planetarium. Unfortunately, overcast skies prevented scopes from being on the field, but Jim Kaminski attended the event, with the intent of setting up a scope indoors and looking at a distant image of the moon, just to give the students an experience of looking through a telescope. However, the clouds were thin enough around the gibbous moon to allow some observation, and well over 100 students were able to observe the moon. Bryan Crawford also attended and gave a Fab50 presentation on a classroom Promethean Board. Planetarium attendance was 122 for the evening. Many thanks to Jim Greenhouse and Geoff Skelton for conducting the planetarium shows.

The following schools are currently scheduled for school star parties:

Thursday, November 16, San Antonito STEM Magnet School, 6:00-7:30 p.m., no planetarium: Theresa Rodriguez, school contact.

Tuesday, November 28, Belen Infinity High School, 6:00-8:30 p.m., with Portable Planetarium: Kassandra Baca, school contact.

Thursday, December 14, The Montessori Elementary and Middle School, 5:30-7:30 p.m., not known if the school has a large enough space for the portable planetarium: Rebecca Gauna, school contact.

Thursday, January 18, 2024, San Antonito STEM Magnet School, 6:00-7:30 p.m., no planetarium: Theresa Rodriguez, school contact.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024, Atrisco Heritage Academy High School, 5:30-8:00 p.m., no planetarium: Elaine Stevens, school contact.

The following schools are in conversation about events:

Coronado Elementary School, planetarium only during the day: Jennifer Tafoya, school contact.

South Valley Middle School, Gladines Harris, school contact.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Goodman

TAAS Membership Report for November 2023

New TAAS members from 18 September 2023 to 16 October 2023

Jeffrey Aiken
Brandon Behrens
Kirk Breuninger
William E Constantine
Adam Deyoe
Phil Derrick
William Doleman
Finn Dye
Garrett Dye
Tara Dye
Abbie Freeman
Steven Freeman
Sharon Hagaman
Anthony Hawthorne
James L Hawthorne
Santiago Hernandez
Avery Irick
Cally Irick
Jessi Irick
Olsen Irick
Wayne Irick
Linda Laswell
Ely Leon
Ely Ivan Leon
Connor Luby
John Marse
Linda Marse
Sherry Lynn Mellott
Antonio Michelen-Sanchez
Nancy Nguyen
Zaid Orozco-Lerma
Savannah Phelps
Lana Plotnikova
David Princehorn
Stephen Rogers

Ariela Salas
Orion Salas
Carlos Michelen-Strofer
Christina Tomlinson
Alex Ukhanov

40 New TAAS members from 18 September 2023 to 16 October 2023

738 Total TAAS Members

Total Paying Members: 421

Regular: 365

Military: 2

Educator: 25

Student: 26

Total Non-Paying Members: 320

Honorary: 4

Family Members: 313

Permanent: 3

54 Renewal Notifications for January 2024

Telescope Loan Program

Loan Program Statistics				
	# of Scopes	# on Loan	# Available	% on Loan
	42	25	17	60%
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: 10/25/23

Rick Vergas

The Albuquerque Astronomical Society
Treasurer's Report
Monday, October 23, 2023

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>Change</u>	
Total Account Funds	\$37,480.35	\$36,803.73	\$676.62	Acct - Fund
Total Funds on Deposit	\$37,480.35	\$36,803.73	\$676.62	\$0.00

FUND SUMMARY

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>Change</u>	
General Funds:	\$3,026.72	\$3,040.36	(\$13.64)	
GNT0 Fund	\$10,220.01	\$9,975.75	\$244.26	
Astronomical League	\$595.00	\$445.00	\$150.00	
Scope Loan Program	\$4,021.22	\$4,021.22	\$0.00	
Education Fund	\$1,907.40	\$1,696.40	\$211.00	
Portable Planetarium Fund	\$17,710.00	\$17,525.00	\$185.00	
Science Fair Fund	\$0.00	\$100.00	(\$100.00)	
Total Funds on Deposit	\$37,480.35	\$36,803.73	\$676.62	\$0.00

FUND DETAILS

	General Fund	GNT0 Fund	Astronomical League Fund	Scope Loan Program Fund	Education Fund	Portable Planetarium Fund	Science Fair Fund	TOTAL	Error
Income:									
Memberships	\$635.00	\$370.00	\$150.00			\$185.00		\$1,340.00	\$0.00
Interest - Savings - BoA	\$0.41	\$126.00			\$211.00			\$337.41	\$0.00
Interest - Savings - Wells	\$0.13							\$0.13	\$0.00
Interest - Checking - Wells	\$0.17							\$0.17	\$0.00
PayPal giving	\$1.00							\$1.00	\$0.00
Donatins	\$81.00							\$81.00	\$0.00
Total Deposits	\$717.71	\$496.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$211.00	\$185.00	\$0.00	\$1,759.71	\$0.00
Expenses									
Adobe Subscription	\$59.18							\$59.18	\$0.00
Science Fair							100	\$100.00	\$0.00
Rightspace Storage	\$245.00							\$245.00	\$0.00
Verizon (GNT0 Fund)		\$164.12						\$164.12	\$0.00
Porta Potty		\$87.62						\$87.62	\$0.00
Nat History Deposit	\$370.00							\$370.00	\$0.00
PayPal expense	\$57.17							\$57.17	\$0.00
								\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Withdrawals	\$731.35	\$251.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$1,083.09	\$0.00
Total Fund Changes	(\$13.64)	\$244.26	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$211.00	\$185.00	(\$100.00)	\$676.62	\$0.00
Check Totals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Actual current:

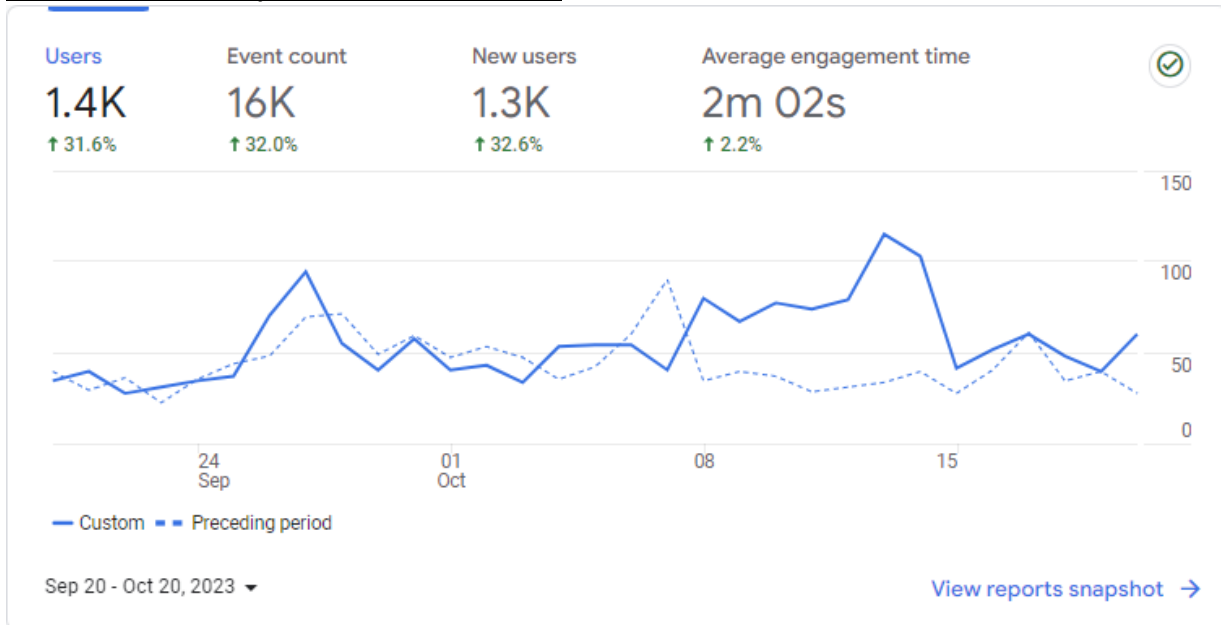
Checking (Wells)	\$ 3,823.13		
Savings (Wells)	\$ 1,022.08		
Checking (Bank of Abq)	\$ 5,307.29		
Savings (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,000.74		
CD#1 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,000.00		
CD#2 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,000.00		
CD#3 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,000.00		
CD#4 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,000.00		
PayPal	\$ 2,327.11		
Total:	\$ 37,480.35	\$37,480.35	CheckSum \$0.00

Deposited but not yet posted	\$100.00 GNT0	DNM
	\$18.92 General	Blackbaud
Checks outstanding	\$246.56 GNT0, Property Tax	Checks 101 and 102
	\$662.00 GNT0, PV system	Bill Pay
	\$800.00 General, City Treats	Check 103

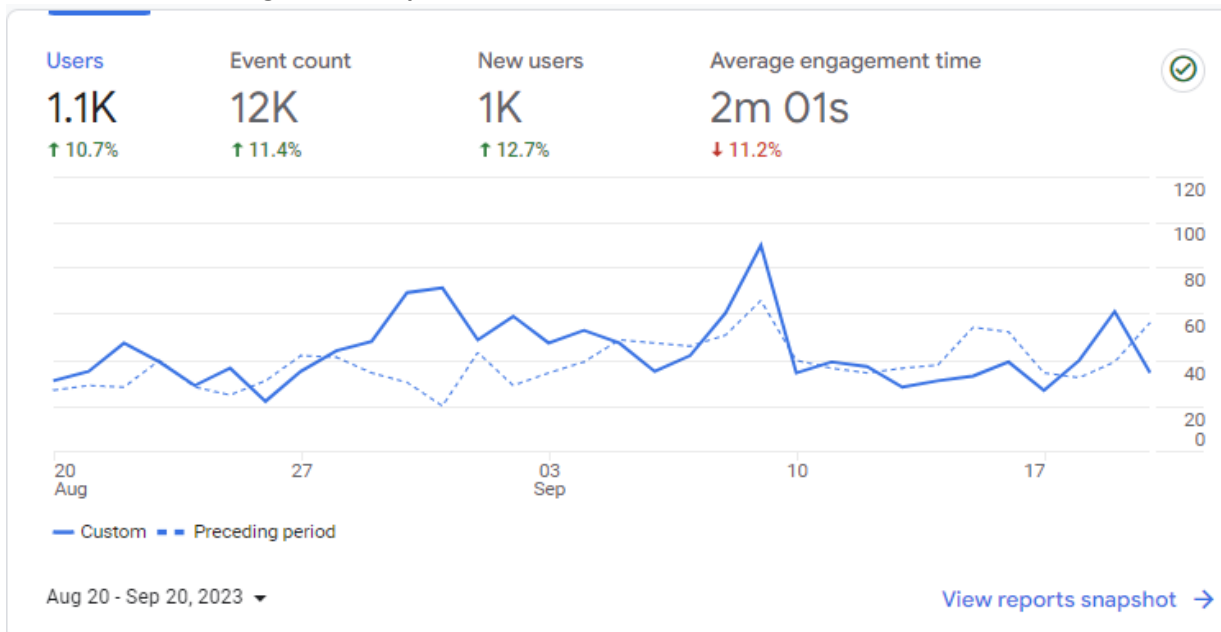


TAAS Technology Report October 2023

Website statistics September 20 – October 20



Website statistics August 20 – September 20



Completed Work Items for October 2023

- Added Tom to Board email list
- Added BOD Minutes
- Added Toms Bio to the Board Members
- Fixed gnto@taas.org
- Astro 101 updated Basic Cosmology to Derek Wallentinsen
- Added Astronomy 101 September slide deck
- Update Timothy Lipinski's contact information
- Add file management for TAAS files for board

Current Work in Progress

- N/A don't have any free time right now to work on anything.

Pending Work Items

- GNTO Weather Data – Worked with Pete to document the PC remote login at GNTO and also setup logins and password for him so we can migrate the data away from his website back to TAAS under the members area
- Working on replacement system for TAAS membership management with MemberMouse
- Setup access for Jim to edit ASTRONOMY 101 pages.
- Create new images for Facebook.
- Setup Google Ads for TAAS
- Create a Google Ad
- Find Webmaster PayPal Account
- TAASTalk replacement
- Password Vault TAAS
- Send emails to Jim / Mark on donations
- Find backup/replacement for Web Developer