

# TAAS Board Meeting Minutes

6:30 PM December 27, 2023

On-Line Meeting

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.
- Attendance:
  - Officers: Steve Snider, Mike Pendley, Christina LeGrand
  - Board Members: Robert Anderson, Jim Fordice, Mark Goodman, Tom Grzybowski, Bob Havlen, Joey Troy, Rick Vergas
  - Absent: Boris Venet
  - Visitors: Angela Malcom
- Approve Agenda: motion, approved; no changes.
- Approve November 15, 2023 minutes; motion, approved after any changes identified by Board, since minutes were sent out but somehow not received on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and also on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Old Business
  - Annual Meeting Preparation (All)
    - Christina has been working with the caterers. No tasks outstanding.
    - Steve has been working with Jim Greenhouse at the museum on the A/V system. It is believed that choosing a microphone is the only task still in work.
    - Action Item: Christina to set up a phone meeting with Steve and Jim G to review the room setup and other details. It is not known what hand-off was done between Dianna and Jim when Dianna resigned, so we want to make sure we are all on the same page regarding tasks and preparations.
    - The last day for ticket sales will be Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Christina will be giving the final headcount number to the caterers on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Action Item: after the ticket sales have been turned off on the web, Joey will create or export a list of the attendees that can be used by the “greeters” at the entry table at the event, and Mike, our Treasurer.
    - It was established that plaques have been ordered and that Steve has the tickets for the door prizes.
    - Angela Malcom has volunteered to be the photographer. Thank you, Angela!

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- New Business (none)
  
- Committee Reports
  - Finance (Mike)
    - Updated report sent, correcting minor errors.
    - Two new CDs were purchased.
    - All Wells Fargo credit cards are closed except one, which is in work.
    - Door prizes from last year: two of the three people never contacted TAAS to claim their prizes. Action item (already complete): Mike will contact the winners about claiming their prize.
  
  - Membership (Robert)
    - Report sent.
    - We currently have possibly the highest number of members ever. This is very exciting for the club.
  
  - Education (Mark)
    - Report sent.
    - The weather has been an adverse factor in the recent school star parties.
    - Several have been cancelled for bad weather.
    - More star parties are scheduled through April.
  
  - GNT0 (Jim)
    - Report sent.
    - No questions or further discussion.
  
  - Telescope Loan Program (Rick)
    - Report sent.
    - Things have been “quiet” maybe due to the holidays and bad weather.
    - More telescopes have come back in than have gone out on loan recently. The storage unit is very full.
    - Some binoculars that are available on loan have a focuser issue that Rick is working to fix.

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- On a note about the Sideral Times newsletter, it was discovered that the picture of Mike in the newsletter is not actually Mike. Mike said that his photo on the website could be used.
- Action item: Rick and Mike will let Gary know about this.
- Public & Special Events (Tom)
  - Report sent.
  - Tom is working with various organizations on events.
  - With the eclipse coming, there are more events expected.
  - Tom is working with Jim Greenhouse at the museum on some events.
  - Tom will soon send out a “call for scopes” for upcoming events.
  - About Oak Flat, where we used to host star parties, the rangers are saying we now would have to pay to “rent” the facility for a star party – the fee would be to offset the mowing of the observing field, keeping the restrooms open, etc.
  - Tom is looking for other venues in the East Mountains that we could possibly use to host a star party.
- Publicity (Lynne)
  - No report sent, but we know she has been busy!
- Astro 101 & General Meetings (Jim & Boris)
  - The descriptions of the upcoming Astro 101 and guest speaker presentations are on the TAAS.org website.
- Technology (Joey)
  - Report sent.
  - There have been lots of website hits recently; it is possible that the upcoming eclipse has something to do with that.
  - Work on the website is going well. Joey is working on tweaks to improve things; and is looking for some new software that can consolidate functions where possible.
  - Joey has a potential website helper identified, and will work to get him involved soon.



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- Closing – Round the Table
  - Tom asked about bringing guests to GNT0. Evidently, a couple passing through the Albuquerque area asked about coming to the GNT0.
  - Jim replied that a TAAS member could bring them as their guest. The TAAS member is always responsible for their guests. Guests cannot stay at the GNT0 while the TAAS host leaves the site. The TAAS member must stay with their guest the entire time, but there are frequent guests at the GNT0.
  
- Adjourn: meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

# GNTO Report for the Board of Directors

Submitted on 23 December 2023 by Jim Fordice

## General

- None

## 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.
- Main Dome Repairs: Next step is to determine how to address the roofing issue.
- Remote Power Control: Project completed.
- Ceiling Fans: Install/Upgrade the ceiling fan in the Ortega Building and the Cocina.
- Outhouse Upgrade: Replace the above ground structure with an outhouse building that will be more appealing to use.

## Upcoming Projects

- TBD

## Financial Status

- All reimbursements received.

## Next Events

- 6 Jan: 3rd Quarter Moon Observing
- 13 Jan: New Moon Observing
- 3 Feb: 3rd Quarter Moon Observing
- 10 Feb: New Moon Observing

## **Education Outreach: December, 2023, TAAS Board Report**

The school star party at San Antonito STEM Magnet School, scheduled for Thursday, November 15, was cancelled, because of overcast skies. Another event is scheduled there for late Winter.

Jim Greenhouse and Geoff Skelton took the portable planetarium to the Belen Infinity High School on Tuesday, November 28. There were a total of 77 students who attended the three programs presented that morning.

Due to the heavy snow and rainfall on Wednesday, December 13, through the morning of December 14, the school star party at the Montessori Elementary School was cancelled, as the school fields were flooded and would not be usable for observing areas. The school officials hope this event can be rescheduled.

Future School Star Parties scheduled:

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.

Thursday, February 29, 2024, Reginald Chavez Elementary School, 5:30-7:30 p.m., with the portable planetarium. Erin Farley, school contact.

Thursday, March 14, 2024, Moriarty Elementary School, 6:00-8:00 p.m., with portable planetarium. Aylissa Tapia, school contact.

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, Hoover Elementary School, 6:00-8:30 p.m., with portable planetarium. Joann Isonhood, school contact.

Thursday, April 18, 2024, STEAM Night at Jefferson Middle School, 5:30-7:30 p.m., solar observing with portable planetarium. Suzy Dunnum, school contact.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Goodman

See the list below for the current 2024 TAAS Public Events. I do expect more Solar requests as the April 8<sup>th</sup> solar eclipse approaches, and I hear from more local Libraries and organizations. I will be approaching all of our past venues to fill-in the remaining Q2-Q4'24 available schedule dates.

I was hopeful that Oak Flats wanted to restart our Summer Star Parties but when I sat down with them to seriously review our detailed needs, they stopped responding to my calls indicating that we would have to pay for the area use. Still looking for a local darker sky site in the ABQ NE Heights or East Mountains facility but fees continue to be an issue.

Thanks,  
 Tom Grzybowski  
 Home: 505-823-9465  
 Cell: 505-363-9427

Date	Event	Day/Night	Start	Finish	Comment
1/13/2024	Rio Grande Nature Center	Solar	10am	1pm	Winter Festival
2/3/2024	Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge	Night	6	9pm	
2/24/2024	Cherry Hills Library Solar Event	Solar	10:30AM	Noon	Eclipse Prep
3/9/2024	ABQ Open Space Visitor Center	Night	7pm	9pm	
6/1/2024	Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge	Night	TBD		
10/12/2024	Open Space Visitor Center	Solar/Night	1pm	10pm	Comic Carnival

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# **TAAS Membership Report for January 2024**

## **New TAAS members from 14 November 2023 to 18 December 2023**

Benny Abramovici  
Eric Jeffries  
Mary Ann Jeffries  
Chloe Jones  
Holly Jones  
Lauren Jones  
Robert Jones  
Joshua Jordan  
Anna Corinne Lam  
Chris Loeckel  
Jacob McGrath  
Alysa Nandin  
Doreen Romero  
Angela Sadler  
Chris Sadler  
Molly Wakeling

16 New TAAS members from 14 November 2023 to 18 December 2023

743 Total TAAS Members

Total Paying Members: 430

Regular: 372

Military: 4

Educator: 25

Student: 26

Total Non-Paying Members: 316

Honorary: 4

Family Members: 309

Permanent: 3

39 Renewal Notifications for March 2024





## Telescope Loan Program

With sketchy weather, and holiday activities, the loan program has been relatively quiet. The solar scope has been reserved for the coming total eclipse.

Loan Program Statistics				
	# of Scopes	# on Loan	# Available	% on Loan
	42	22	20	53%
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: 12/27/23				

Rick Vergas

**The Albuquerque Astronomical Society**  
**Treasurer's Report**  
**Tuesday, December 26, 2023**

**ACCOUNTS SUMMARY**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>Change</u>	
Total Account Funds	\$40,519.90	\$37,591.55	\$2,928.35	Acct - Fund
<b>Total Funds on Deposit</b>	<b>\$40,519.90</b>	<b>\$37,591.55</b>	<b>\$2,928.35</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**FUND SUMMARY**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>Change</u>	
General Funds:	\$4,744.11	\$2,686.20	\$2,057.91	
GNT0 Fund	\$10,929.67	\$10,449.23	\$480.44	
Astronomical League	\$857.50	\$677.50	\$180.00	
Scope Loan Program	\$4,021.22	\$4,021.22	\$0.00	
Education Fund	\$1,932.40	\$1,907.40	\$25.00	
Portable Planetarium Fund	\$18,035.00	\$17,850.00	\$185.00	
Science Fair Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>Total Funds on Deposit</b>	<b>\$40,519.90</b>	<b>\$37,591.55</b>	<b>\$2,928.35</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	\$605.00	\$370.00	\$180.00			\$185.00		\$1,340.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$165.00	\$192.50			\$25.00	\$0.00		\$382.50	\$0.00
Interest - Savings	\$0.46							\$0.46	\$0.00
Interest - Checking	\$0.03							\$0.03	\$0.00
PayPal Giving	\$2.00							\$2.00	\$0.00
Banquet Tickets	\$1,680.00							\$1,680.00	\$0.00
								\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$2,452.49</b>	<b>\$562.50</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$185.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,404.99</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>									
Adobe Subscription								\$0.00	\$0.00
Rightspace Storage (F32)	\$245.00							\$245.00	\$0.00
RFU	\$0.00							\$0.00	\$0.00
Tech Soup	\$5.00							\$5.00	\$0.00
Speaker Dinner	\$16.54							\$16.54	\$0.00
PayPal expense	\$106.53							\$106.53	\$0.00
Verizon (GNT0 Fund)		\$82.06						\$82.06	\$0.00
Tech Soupo Adobe	\$21.51							\$21.51	\$0.00
								\$0.00	\$0.00
								\$0.00	\$0.00
								\$0.00	\$0.00
								\$0.00	\$0.00
								\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$394.58</b>	<b>\$82.06</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$476.64</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Fund Changes</b>	<b>\$2,057.91</b>	<b>\$480.44</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$185.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,928.35</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>

<b>Actual current:</b>			
Checking (Wells)	0.00	Account closed on 11/18/2023	
Savings (Wells)	0.00	Account closed on 11/18/2023	
Checking (Bank of Abq)	\$ 2,531.06		
Savings (Bank of Alb)	\$ 4,847.13		
CD:823 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,061.88		
CD:824 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,061.88		
CD:825 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,061.88		
CD:826 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,061.88		
CD:692 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,000.00	Added 11/18/2023 from Wells	
CD:693 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,000.00	Added 11/18/2023 from Wells	
PayPal	\$ 2,894.19		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 40,519.90</b>	<b>\$40,519.90</b>	<b>CheckSum \$0.00</b>
Banquet tickets sold	56		

We need to add annual costs to budget for the following  
 These were charged to a Wells Fargo credit card  
 We are in the process of moving the auto pay to BoA and killing the Wells card

Siteground Hosting	\$359.88	this year
WP Forms	\$99.00	this year
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$458.88</b>	

Note the credit card has been paid from  
 the Bank of Albuquerque account on 12/23/2023  
 The debit has not yet been posted  
 #7485620B636HHL8HA

Payment to Pete E for GNT0 power switch  
 This has not been posted  
 175.20 (#4717032668) on 12/11/2023 Arrived on 12/26/2023

Payment to Christina LeGrand for banquet items  
 These have not been posted  
 \$18.83 (#4717038223) on 12/11/2023 --- Arrived on 12/26/2023  
 \$18.33 (#4729422156) on 12/26/2023 Reissued before the first arrived. Will void  
 \$46.07 (#4729423009) on 12/26/2023 Should arrive by 1/3/24 or so

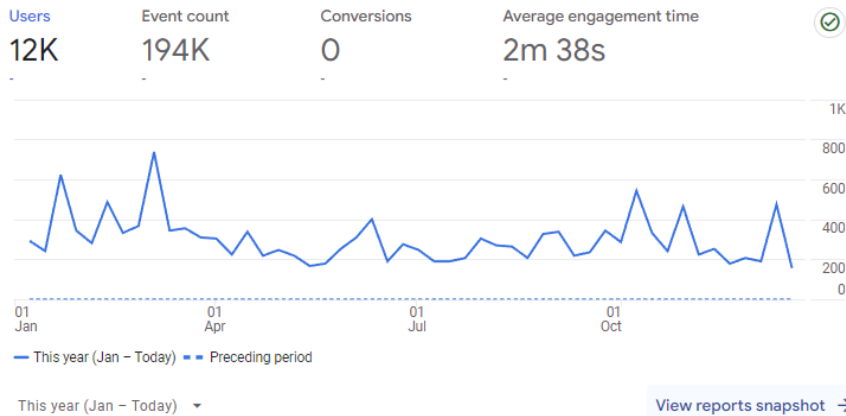
I will be contacting the bank to see why an advertised delivery time of 4 days turned into 15 days. In the future, if folks prefer I can mail a traditional check vis USPS.

Version 2 of the report fixes two errors.  
 \$185 was in the Planetarium column but the donation row instead of the the memberships row  
 \$2.50 was posted to the general fund instead of the GNT0 fund.



# TAAS Technology Report December 2023

## Website statistics Jan 01 – December 24



## Completed Work Items for December 2023

- Setup access for Jim to edit ASTRONOMY 101 pages.
- Added Banquet to home page
- Uploaded Sidereal Times
- Newsletter fix / mobile view / plugin was updated
- Converted email routing to email groups, 28 groups completed
- Updated Name Tags to Jim Carr
- Updated Date for Ella Joan
- Fixed Paul and Humberto's accounts

## Pending Work Items

- Send emails to Jim / Mark on donations (ticket open with WPForms)
- GNT0 Weather Data complete upload to TAAS Website
- Find single replacement tool for TAAS
- Create new images for Facebook
- Setup Google Ads for TAAS
- Create a Google Ad
- Find Webmaster PayPal Account
- TAASTalk replacement
- Password Vault TAAS
- Find backup/replacement for Web Developer