



TAAS Board Meeting Minutes

6:30 PM January 24, 2024

On-Line Meeting

- The meeting was called to order at 6:32 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, Rick Vergas
 - Absent: none
 - Visitors: Angela Malcolm
- Approve Agenda: motion, approved; no changes.
- Approve December 27th, 2023 minutes; motion, approved; no changes.
- Old Business
 - Annual Meeting Preparation (All)
 - Final headcount is 89; only 7 seats went unsold – an unexpectedly good turnout.
 - Invoice sent by caterers for the remaining balance. Mike will provide a check at the banquet for the amount due.
 - Banquet team will meet there at 1 PM on Friday for room setup, and 4:30 on Saturday for final setup. Our headcount is 89, but we know of at least one person who paid but will not be attending. Therefore, 11 tables instead of 12 will be set up. (88 people / 8 per table = 11 tables). This will give us more space in the room.
 - Steve will be bringing the projector from the storage unit for the guest speaker presentation.
 - Joey reported that 39 people have voted for the new club officers as of the meeting.
 - Action Item: Joey will send an “email blast” to the membership to remind them to log in on the TAAS website and vote unless they are attending the annual meeting in person.
 - Action Item: Joey will review the annual meeting attendee list and ensure that there are enough voting members attending so that a quorum can be reached.
 - Action Item: Christina will bring a sign that says “Reserved” so that the guest speaker and her family can sit together at a table close to the front.



TAAS Board Meeting Minutes

6:30 PM January 24, 2024

On-Line Meeting

- New Business
 - AL Membership Fee Increase
 - The Astronomical League is raising the price of the membership fee from \$7.50 to \$9. When should we start charging our membership the higher amount?
 - Action Item: Mike will contact Mitch Glaze (Astronomical League Office Manager) about this.

 - Newsletter Publishing Problems
 - There was a software issue but it has been resolved, and is viewed as being a one-time occurrence.
 - The combined January – February 2024 issue has been published.
 - Action Item: We have heard that our editor may be moving. Rick will contact him to verify if this is the case so that preparations can be made for the return of the club laptop.

 - TAAS_Talk Coverage
 - Only about half our membership is on TAAS_Talk. What should we do for getting information out to our members?
 - TAAS_Talk is good for “member to member” communication, but we should use emails to communicate with the whole club. Joey uses Mail Chimp and can do this – send an email to the membership – and will be doing this for our voting communication.
 - It was also mentioned that it can be difficult to find the instructions to get onto TAAS_Talk.
 - Action Item: Joey will put a new button on the public part of the website that will bring the member to the log-in page and then to some help documentation about joining TAAS_Talk, with some “how-to” videos.



TAAS Board Meeting Minutes

6:30 PM January 24, 2024

On-Line Meeting

- Committee Reports
 - Finance (Mike)
 - Report Sent
 - One refund was provided this month to someone who accidentally paid to join twice.
 - Membership (Robert)
 - Report Sent.
 - We have over 700 total members.
 - It will be only the voting members who can vote in the election of club officers.
 - Education (Mark)
 - Report Sent.
 - Things are going well – recent events have had good turnouts.
 - Events for the rest of the school year are scheduled, with some requests coming in for fall events.
 - Events are being limited to 2 per month, otherwise it becomes difficult to staff the event with enough volunteers.
 - GNT0 (Jim)
 - Report Sent.
 - The GNT0 picnic is scheduled for October 26th, 2024.
 - Telescope Loan Program (Rick)
 - Report Sent.
 - There have not been many loan requests for telescopes due to the cold and cloudy recent weather.
 - Public & Special Events (Tom)
 - Report Sent.
 - Some eclipsed-themed events are coming up – daytime solar observing.



TAAS Board Meeting Minutes

6:30 PM January 24, 2024

On-Line Meeting

- Tom will try to minimize the number of events held on Friday nights since there are other club-sponsored events that take place then too, like the UNMO observing.
- Events in the fall are already being requested, as are events that would take place before the time change to Daylight Saving Time.
- Q1 in 2024 is already booked up with events; afterward, they will be limited to 2 per month.

- Publicity (Lynne)
 - Report Sent.

- Astro 101 & General Meetings (Jim & Boris)
 - Steve will be presenting at Astro 101 in February, and Boris is working on lining up a guest speaker for that month as well.

- Technology (Joey)
 - Report Sent.
 - Joey will be sending an email to the membership about logging in and voting.
 - Since most of the membership join and renew by PayPal, there were only three checks that came in during 2023. We will keep this method of payment since there are some members who will not use PayPal.
 - An interesting service is now being offered by the post office – a ‘virtual PO box.’ The mail can be viewed and then chosen to be forwarded to a different address or disposed of (e.g., junk mail). TAAS needs to keep the current PO box to have a permanent address as an organization.



TAAS Board Meeting Minutes

6:30 PM January 24, 2024

On-Line Meeting

- Closing – Round the Table
 - Bob Havlen mentioned that John Mather, a scientist who worked on the James Webb telescope will be giving some talks in the area.
 - Bob also mentioned that the science fair is coming up in March, and he is asking for people to serve as judges.
 - Angela is now helping Lynne by posting club news to Facebook.
 - Boris reported that the UNM observing on Friday nights is starting up again.
 - Action Item: Boris will find out the status of the new UNM observatory that is being planned.

- Meeting Adjourned at 7:39 PM

Education Outreach: January, 2024, TAAS Board Report

San Antonito STEM Magnet School hosted their Science Night on Thursday, January 18, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.. TAAS had a good turn-out for the event. Alison Akbulut, Tom Grzybowski, John Laning, Trish Logan, and Fernando Torres all brought scopes. Bryan Crawford offered the Winter Fab50 to students in a classroom. Both the telescope viewing and the Fab50 were well received. While the evening began with quite a bit of high cloud-cover, those cleared after dark, and the dark skies provided a wealth of objects to observe. San Antonito School PTA hosted the evening and did an fantastic job, feeding dinner to one and all in the school cafeteria, assisting with learning stations throughout the school, and making TAAS feel very welcome.

Future School Star Parties scheduled:

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, Cielo Azul Elementary (Rio Rancho), 12:30-3:30 p.m., planetarium only. Athena Albin, 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

GNTO Report for the Board of Directors

Submitted on 21 January 2024 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.
- 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

- 3 Feb: 3rd Quarter Moon Observing
- 10 Feb: New Moon Observing
- 2 Mar: 3rd Quarter Moon Observing
- 9 Mar: New Moon Observing

TAAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24
PUBLICITY REPORT

We have not had many public events during this month's period, but those that took place were publicized and well attended:

- . December Astronomy 101 and General Meeting
- . Solar Event at the Rio Grande Nature Center
- . Two Telescope Workshops

In the next months, we will have quite a few happenings open to the public that will be publicized on our webpage, Sid Times, TAAS Talk and Facebook:

- . Astronomy 101 and General Meeting each month
- . Valle de Oro Star Party - February 3
- . UNM Observatory Friday Nights - Beginning January 26
- . Two Telescope Workshops a month, first and third Wednesdays of the month
- . STEAM Day at the Nuclear Museum - February 10*
- . Solar Event at Cherry Hills Library - February 24 (display inside)
- . Rio Grande Nature Center Star Party - March 2
- . Open Space Visitor Center Star Party - March 9
- . Explora Adult Nights with the new team of Alison Akbulut and Fernando Torres - March 15 is next*
(* These involve a fee, so are the few that are not free and open to the public)

All noted, I will be very busy. In one medium, I will be assisted by Angela Malcolm on the TAAS Facebook, who has kindly volunteered to be an editor. ..and I believe will also be our new Secretary!

Lynne Olson
TAAS Publicity
505-239-8838
pr@taas.org

TAAS Membership Report for February 2024

New TAAS members from 18 December 2023 to 15 January 2024

David Arguello
David F. Arguello II
Isabel Arguello-Datiz
Francesca Armenta
Ruben Modesto Ayala Ruth
Yana Iris Burns
Maria Datiz
Karen Dorweiler
Christina Dougherty
Susana Estorga
Nina Eydelman
Christian Fadul
Kippur Flax
Catherine Goode
Amber Gutierrez
Daniel Gutierrez
Jennifer Hall
Matthew Hall
Nancy Hetrick
Jim Hickman
Heaven Lucero
Matthew McGahran
Tricia McLinden
Ayesha Orozco
Nabeela Orozco
John Pijawka
Royce Reano
Bobbie Roth
Maximus Sherrick
Amy Stein
Ava Stein
Bill Stein
Quint Stein
Teddy Wray

34 New TAAS members from 18 December 2023 to 15 January 2024

758 Total TAAS Members

Total Paying Members: 435

Regular: 374

Military: 4

Educator: 25

Student: 29

Total Non-Paying Members: 326

Honorary: 4

Family Members: 319

Permanent: 3

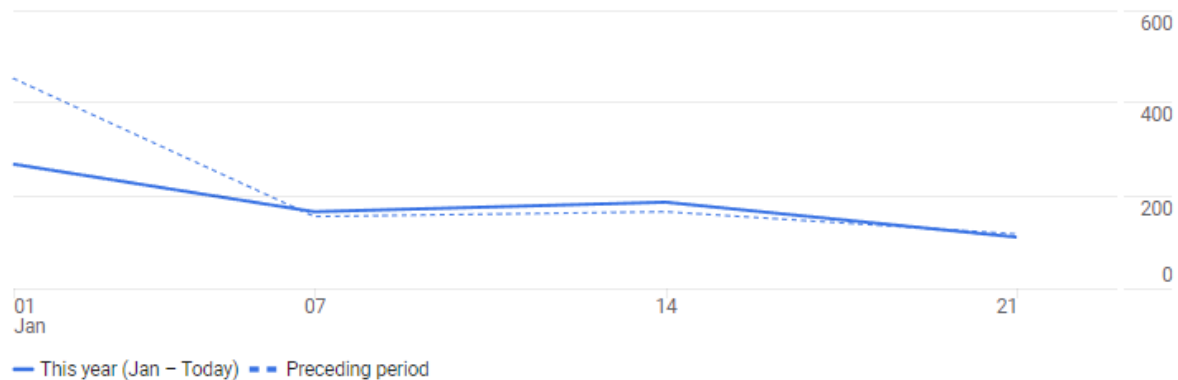
14 Renewal Notifications for April 2024



TAAS Technology Report December 2023

Website statistics Jan 01 – December 24

Users	Event count	Conversions	Average engagement time	
647	7.4K	0	2m 07s	🟢
↓ 21.0%	↑ 1.5%	-	↑ 51.1%	



Completed Work Items for December 2023

- 2024 Officer Slate - 39 votes for yes for all three candidates
- Setup Allison & Fernando with access to explora_coordinator@taas.org
- Uploaded Sidereal Times Gary still having issues need to test
- Took down the ticket sales and sent sale numbers to board
- Turned off forced registration for new members, accounts automatically are active after they pay with PayPal. Checks are still manual.

Pending Work Items

- Look into issue with Gary not being able to upload.
- Donations email notifications – WPForms is looking to add this capability
- 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

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	22	20	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: 12/19/23				

Rick Vergas

**The Albuquerque Astronomical Society
Treasurer's Report
Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>Change</u>	
Total Account Funds	\$41,028.57	\$40,519.90	\$508.67	Acct - Fund
Total Funds on Deposit	\$41,028.57	\$40,519.90	\$508.67	\$0.00

FUND SUMMARY

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>Change</u>	
General Funds:	\$4,642.54	\$4,774.11	(\$131.57)	
GNT0 Fund	\$11,032.41	\$10,909.67	\$122.74	
Astronomical League	\$970.00	\$857.50	\$112.50	
Scope Loan Program	\$4,021.22	\$4,021.22	\$0.00	
Education Fund	\$2,212.40	\$1,932.40	\$280.00	
Portable Planetarium Fund	\$18,150.00	\$18,025.00	\$125.00	
Science Fair	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total Funds on Deposit	\$41,028.57	\$40,519.90	\$508.67	\$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
Deposits:									
Memberships	\$460.00	\$260.00	\$112.50			\$130.00		\$962.50	\$0.00
Member Donations	\$107.50	\$130.00			\$280.00			\$517.50	\$0.00
Banquet	\$450.00							\$450.00	\$0.00
TBD								\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest Savings	\$0.41							\$0.41	\$0.00
Total Deposits	\$1,017.91	\$390.00	\$112.50	\$0.00	\$280.00	\$130.00	\$0.00	\$1,930.41	\$0.00
Withdrawals:									
Adobe Monthly Subscription	\$21.51							\$21.51	\$0.00
Right Space Storage (#32)	\$245.00							\$245.00	\$0.00
Verizon		\$82.06						\$82.06	\$0.00
Domane Name	\$15.16							\$15.16	\$0.00
Xfer \$250 (Door prize) to Ed fund)	\$250.00							\$250.00	\$0.00
To Wells CC (for web stuff)	\$458.88							\$458.88	\$0.00
Refund to David Eisman	\$15.00	\$10.00				\$5.00		\$30.00	\$0.00
Speaker Dinner	\$21.47							\$21.47	\$0.00
PayPal Fees	\$57.56							\$57.56	\$0.00
Banquet Items	\$64.90							\$64.90	\$0.00
GNT0 Power Switch		\$175.20						\$175.20	\$0.00
Total Withdrawals	\$1,149.48	\$267.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$1,421.74	\$0.00
Total Fund Changes	(\$131.57)	\$122.74	\$112.50	\$0.00	\$280.00	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$508.67	\$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 (Bank of Abq)	\$	5,144.20	
Savings (Bank of Alb)	\$	4,847.54	
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	
CD:693 (Bank of Alb)	\$	5,000.00	
PayPal	\$	789.31	
Total:	\$	41,028.57	\$41,028.57 CheckSum \$0.00
Banquet tickets sold		15	

Auto Payments					
	Who to	When	Normal Amount	How Often	Annual cost
	Site Ground (Web Hosting provider)	11-Dec-24	\$359.88	Annual	\$359.88
	Name Cheap (taas.org registration)	10-Feb-24	\$11.66	Annual	\$11.66
	WP-Webhooks used to manage signups	26-Dec-24	\$160.36	Annual	\$160.36
	WP Forms (for signups)	17-Nov-24	\$99.00	Annual	\$99.00
	Restrict Content (online member mgmt)	11-Nov-24	\$106.55	Annual	\$106.55
	Adobe (newsletter)	Monthly	\$21.51	Monthly	\$258.12
	Right Space (storage)	Monthly	\$245.00	Monthly	\$2,940.00
	Ironikus	26-Dec-23	\$160.36	Annual	\$160.36
	Total				\$4,095.93

Notes:
Payment to Ironikus is pending (\$160.36).
Charge came in unexpectedly via Wells Fargo credit card

Correction in V2of of the report. Donation by Carl John Henney was incorrectly posted
Original post allocated \$20 to general fund and \$10 to education fund
The correct post should have been \$10 to general and \$20 to educational



FW: Upcoming TAAS Public Star Party Events

1 message

Christina LeGrand <clegrandnm@outlook.com>
To: Angela Malcolm <jasmax67@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 27, 2024 at 1:58 PM

From: thomas.a.grzybowski@gmail.com <thomas.a.grzybowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:07 PM
To: board@taas.org
Cc: thomas.a.grzybowski@gmail.com; Lynne Olson <desiree1024@gmail.com>
Subject: Upcoming TAAS Public Star Party Events

The current scheduled TAAS Public and Special Star Party Events are provided below. Most groups are generating only short-term plans and working to beat the March Time Change. Still communicating with Jemez Historic Site, Placitas, and others to fill in rest of month events.

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

Date	Day	Sunset (PM)	Astro Twilight (PM)	Event	Day/ Night	Start	Finish	Comment
1/13/2024	Saturday	5:14	6:45	Rio Grande Nature Center	Solar	10am	1pm	
2/3/2024	Saturday	5:34	7:03	Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge	Night	6pm	9pm	Full + FAB50
2/10/2024	Saturday			Nuclear Museum STEAM Day	Solar	10am	3pm	Full + Eclipse Activities
2/24/2024	Saturday			Cherry Hills Library Solar Event	Solar	10:30AM	Noon	Full + Eclipse Activities
3/2/2024	Saturday	6:02	7:26	Rio Grande Nature Center	Night	6pm	9pm	Full + FAB50
3/8/2024	FRIDAY	6:05	7:30	Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area	Solar/ Night	5:00PM	9pm	Special (1-2 scopes)
3/9/2024	Saturday	6:07	7:33	ABQ Open Space Visitor Center	Night	6:30	9pm	Full + FAB50
3/10/2024	Sunday	Time Change						
6/1/2024	Saturday	8:14	10:00	Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge	Solar/ Night	7	10	Full + FAB50
10/12/2024	Saturday	6:30	7:54	Open Space Visitor Center	Solar/ Night	1	10	Full + FAB50 (68% Moon)

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Board" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to board+unsubscribe@taas.org.