

TAAS Board Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Online Meeting

Call to order

- Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Attendance

Officers and Directors			
X	Mark Goodman (President)	X	Boris Venet (Vice President)
X	Mike Pendley (Treasurer)	X	Angela Malcolm (Secretary)
X	Jim Fordice (Observatory Director)	X	Robert Anderson (Membership Director)
	Rick Vergas (Telescope Loan Coordinator and Newsletter Editor)	X	Bob Havlen (Director)
X	Joey Troy (Technology Director and Webmaster)	X	Tom Grzybowski (Public and Special Events Coordinator)
Guests			
X	Steve Snider		

An "X" indicates the invitee attended.

Agenda and minutes approval

- Approve Agenda: motioned, approved with no changes.
- Approve April 4, 2024, minutes: motioned, approved with no changes.

Old business

TAAS image repository (Joey Troy)

- Not enough people were interested.
- Looking at setting up an observatory at a dark skies site.

Fees for using Museum Planetarium to host a TAAS monthly meeting (Boris Venet)

- Galen Gisler is happy to present at one of our meetings.
- Talked about having a meeting at the Museum Planetarium.
- Spoke to Jim Greenhouse – The rental fee would be waived but we would have to pay for security and janitorial services: \$210 (\$70/hour for two people).
- Asking if the Board would be interested in having the meeting and presentation in the Museum Planetarium.
- Tom: Did we have an increase in attendance the other times we had a meeting at the Museum Planetarium? Boris: Doesn't remember if there were more people.
- Jim: Regener is better for regular slide show presentations.

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- Boris: The original idea was for Galen to use the planetarium as a part of his presentation.
- Mark: Changing the venue could bring confusion.
- Boris: The ones he went to at the planetarium were well attended.
- Bob: We might get more interest if the museum promotes it. Galen is driving from Los Alamos so we should try to provide him with what he needs to present.
- Boris: Soonest date would be October 19.
- Mark: Asked Boris to talk to Galen and the museum about some dated and Mike to look at the budget and what we could spare.

New business

Proposal to Build Observatory at Placitas Public Library (Goodman and Snider)

- Mark sent the proposal out with the agenda.
- Steve gave an overview: Dr. John McGraw (UNM) contacted him while he was President of TAAS about donating an observatory class telescope to the Placitas Library. They met with Library staff – Steve proposed talking to TAAS (already a 501c3) about building an observatory. Three major hoops – Gaining TAAS board approval, Library Board of Directors' approval, Sandoval County approval to build. Mark was involved in the organizing group then met with the Board Officers to gain interest. Bringing it to the Board at large.
- Open discussion:
 - Robert A – asked about the approximate cost of \$20,000. Steve said it would probably be closer to \$30,000 because the building will be larger now.
 - Bob H. – Where did he get the Telescope? – Steve: He bought it on his own. He has larger telescopes and the one he has donated was surplus.
Who would own the telescope? Steve: The Library and the County would own the building and the telescope. Contents that belong to TAAS would remain the property of TAAS.
Who would be liable? Steve: The County.
 - Jim: We could end up being liable if someone gets hurt, but it shouldn't raise our insurance rates.
 - Tom: What would TAAS' role be where observing and maintenance is concerned.
Steve: Role would be for a few TAAS members to open the observatory on a to be determined basis. The county would be responsible for major maintenance.
 - Mike asked if the Library personnel were interested. Steve: Yes, but the Library team wanted to wait until later this month to take it to the Library Board.
 - Jim asked why the Rio Rancho astronomical society wasn't approached. Steve: They don't really have the bandwidth at this time.

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- Mark: We have a good relationship with the Library and having the observatory seemed like a good fit.
- Robert A.: Asked about the money. Steve: Explained that the funds to build would be based on donations and grants.
- Tom: Asked how long it would take to start construction. Steve: Unknown on how long it will take to get through the County's paperwork and fundraising. The building would take 3 to 6 months to build. Mark: Probably 2 to 3 years. Steve: the Library team said the county is busy right now with the fiscal year end.
- Mike: Right now, TAAS doesn't have to do anything right now, but this could lock members into a set schedule and strain the involvement of the members.
- Mark: He has been approached by student groups (Girl and Boy Scouts) to have an event at the observatory (GNTO) and this would logistically help with that.
- Bob H.: What about our relationship with UNM and their observatory where those groups are concerned? Boris: The groups like those Mark mentioned just let the university know they will be bringing a group by. Nothing is organized by UNM staff. TAAS is a consistent participant with no obligation. Bob: So, we would have an obligation. Boris: That would be worked out with the Library and the County to set specific parameters. We have never approached UNM to run events there or use their telescope.
- Jim: What about TAAS members who want to use the telescope for their own observing? Steve: Yes, we would want that to happen. Jim: It needs to be a part of the agreement.
- Robert A.: Clarified fundraising.
- Bob: Asked where the grants come from. Jim: When you show that it's for the public, it's easier to get grants.
- Joey: Getting people to open GNTO has been a struggle. Are we going to get enough people to open it, how secure will it be, vandalism, etc. Steve: It would be on the Library's security system.
- The Board (7 out of 9 raised their hands) has authorized Steve and Mark to continue talks with the Library and work toward an agreement/MOU.



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Committee reports

Finance (Mike)

- Report sent.
- Spoke about the report.

Membership (Robert)

- Report sent.
- Spoke about the report.

Education (Mark)

- Report not sent.
- April 18 – event at Jefferson Middle School. It was pretty cloudy for solar observing. Had better luck with observing the moon.
- May 2 – Governor Bent School

GNT0 (Jim)

- Report sent.
- Nothing to add to the report.

Telescope Loan Program (Rick)

- Report sent.
- Rick did not attend.

Public and Special Events (Tom)

- Report not sent.
- Covered the report.

Publicity (Lynne)

- Report not sent.

Astro 101 and General Meetings (Jim and Boris)

- Speaker schedule sent.
- Info on website.

Technology (Joey)

- Report Sent.
- Nothing to add to the report.



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Closing – Round the table (All)

- Steve: Will get with the Library contacts to let them know we are interested in working toward a MOU.
Personal discussion about a possible guest speaker in the future.
- Boris had a question for Mike P. about a donation. Mike has not heard from anyone about it yet. The donor will be sending a check but not sure how much.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER SCHEDULE FOR TAAS GENERAL MEETINGS - 2024

DATE	SPEAKER NAME	PRESENTATION TITLE	MISC. NOTES
1/27/2024	Dr. Alice K. Harding	Gravitational Wave Detection by Millisecond-Pulsar Arrays	Annual meeting, at NMMNH&S
2/24/2024	Dominic Oddo	Exoplanets in Binary-Star Systems, and other topics in exoplanet research	Speaker is 4th-year grad student at UNM
3/23/2024	Dr. John Matthews	1960s: Decade of Serendipity	Prof of P&A at UNM
4/20/2024	Numerous TAAS members	Total Solar Eclipse Field Reports (Apr 8 TSE)	
5/25/2024	Jason S. Kendall	Making Stellar Diamonds: White Dwarfs	TAAS member
6/22/2024	Alexander Korotkevich	(Provisional) Topics in Space Flight History	
7/20/2024	(Provisional) Dr. Boris Venet	Interferometric Optical Telescopes	TAAS member
8/17/2024	John Laning	Overview of Exoplanets	TAAS member
9/21/2024			
10/19/2024	(Provisional) Dr. Galen Gisler		Los Alamos NL, U of Oslo
11/16/2024			
12/14/2024			

TAAS Membership Report for May 2024

New TAAS members from 18 March 2024 to 15 April 2024

Richard Bourland
Vanessa Castro
Marcia Delgado
Tiamike Dudley
Doug Gadomski
Kathy Gadomski
Avery Gauss
Isabella Gutierrez
Jason Gutierrez
David Holzbauer
James La Kiesha
Anthony Limon
Elizabeth Limon
Joseph Limon
Nick Myers
Ingrid Oaxaca
Ramon Oaxaca
Teresa Oaxaca
Ulises Oaxaca
Lauren Ohlson
Les Peterson
Shawn Peterson
Lynn Reed
Faith Sisneros
Michael Sisneros
Rebecca Spencer
Mary Turpin

27 New TAAS members from 18 March 2024 to 15 April 2024

769 Total TAAS Members

Total Paying Members: 443

Regular: 376

Military: 4

Educator: 25

Student: 33

Total Non-Paying Members: 331

Honorary: 4

Family Members: 322

Permanent: 5

39 Renewal Notifications for July 2024



TAAS Public Star Party Events Update

1 message

thomas.a.grzybowski
To: TAAS Board <board@taas.org>

Thu, Apr 4, 2024 at 5:07 PM

Upcoming TAAS Public Star Party Events:

Date	Sunset (PM)	Astro Twilight (PM)	Evening Moon %	Event
4/27/2024	7:48	9:22	no moon	Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge
5/4/2024	7:51	9:30	no moon	Placitas Star Party
6/8/2024	8:18	10:04	8%	Jemez Star Party
6/28/2024	8:22	10:11	no moon	Wildlife West Edgewood 25th Anniv Star Party
7/13/2024	8:19	10:04	52%	Jemez Star Party
11/2/2024	6:07	7:36	3%	Open Space Visitor Center

Working with Rio Grande Nature Center, Whitfield, Valle de Oro & Placitas for additional Summer/Fall events.

Also looking at darker sites:

1. Wildlife West Nature Park, Edgewood is interested in additional TAAS events in the Fall pending their 6/28/24 event outcome.
2. Salinas Pueblo Mission is also interested in TAAS supporting their Dark Sky Public Star Party Events and I have started communicating with them.

Thanks,

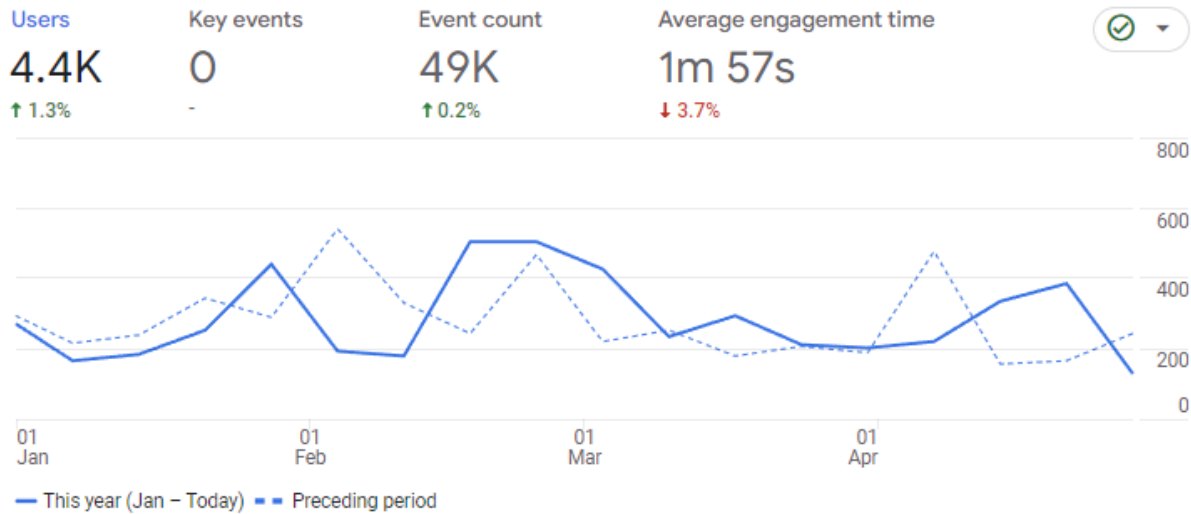
Tom Grzybowski

TAAS Public Events Coordinator



TAAS Technology Report May 2024

Website statistics Jan - Today



Website Work

- All work is currently being managed by Jim Fordice who has graciously taken over for me so I can focus on the backend of TAAS and resolve ongoing issues with our member database as I have time.

Backend Work

- Worked through issues with Jim on backend and resolving some problems with Pabbly. Resolved a handful of problems but we are still trying to fix the expiration date on renewals.

Telescope Loan Program

Loan Program Statistics				
	# of Scopes	# on Loan	# Available	% on Loan
	43	28	15	40%
Type:	Reflectors	Refractors	Catadioptrics	
	24	8	11	
Size:	Large (>8")	Medium (5"-8")	Small (<5")	
	9	20	14	
Tracking:	Manual	Push-To	Go-To	Tracking
	27	6	7	3
As of: 4/2/24				

Rick Vergas

The Albuquerque Astronomical Society
Treasurer's Report
Tuesday, April 30, 2024

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>Change</u>	
Total Account Funds	\$36,264.85	\$35,575.54	\$689.31	Acct - Fund
Total Funds on Deposit	\$36,264.85	\$35,575.54	\$689.31	\$0.00

FUND SUMMARY

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous Month</u>	<u>Change</u>	
General Funds:	\$2,049.84	\$1,999.32	\$50.52	
GNTO Fund	\$8,389.84	\$8,006.05	\$383.79	
Astronomical League	\$1,337.50	\$1,247.50	\$90.00	
Scope Loan Program	\$4,021.22	\$4,021.22	\$0.00	
Education Fund	\$1,731.45	\$1,681.45	\$50.00	
Portable Planetarium Fund	\$18,635.00	\$18,520.00	\$115.00	
Science Fair Fund	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	
Total Funds on Deposit	\$36,264.85	\$35,575.54	\$689.31	\$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	\$385.00	\$230.00	\$90.00			\$115.00		\$820.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$97.50	\$292.50			\$50.00			\$440.00	\$0.00
Interest - Checking	\$0.00							\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest - Savings	\$0.15							\$0.15	\$0.00
Bank Adjustment	\$70.00							\$70.00	\$0.00
PayPal Giving	\$2.00						\$0.00	\$2.00	\$0.00
TBD	\$0.00							\$0.00	\$0.00
								\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Deposits	\$554.65	\$522.50	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$115.00	\$0.00	\$1,332.15	\$0.00
Expenses:									
Rightspace Storage	\$245.00							\$245.00	\$0.00
Adobe Subscription	\$21.51							\$21.51	\$0.00
Verizon (GNTO Fund)		\$138.71						\$138.71	\$0.00
PO Box	\$200.00							\$200.00	\$0.00
USPS PO Box Rental - Annual	\$0.00							\$0.00	\$0.00
TBD		\$0.00						\$0.00	\$0.00
TBD	\$0.00							\$0.00	\$0.00
TBD		\$0.00						\$0.00	\$0.00
TBD		\$0.00						\$0.00	\$0.00
PayPal expense	\$37.62							\$37.62	\$0.00
								\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Withdrawals	\$504.13	\$138.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$642.84	\$0.00
Total Fund Changes	\$50.52	\$383.79	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$115.00	\$0.00	\$689.31	\$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 (Bank of Abq)	\$ 2,295.64
Savings (Bank of Alb)	\$ 1,848.61
CD:823 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,124.45
CD:824 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,124.45
CD:825 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,124.45
CD:826 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,124.45
CD:692 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,064.81
CD:693 (Bank of Alb)	\$ 5,086.91
PayPal	\$ 1,471.08
Total:	\$ 36,264.85

\$36,264.85 CheckSum \$0.00

Auto Payments						
Who to	When	Normal Amount	How Often	Annual cost	Comments	
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		
Zoom	4/24/2024	\$179.00	Annual	\$179.00	\$10 increase in 2024	
Right Space (storage)	Monthly	\$245.00	Monthly	\$2,940.00		
Norton	2/14/2024	\$129.15	Annual	\$129.15		
Ironikus	26-Dec-23	\$160.36	Annual	\$160.36		
Total				\$4,404.08		

CD income date			
	This period	Last Period	Net
CD:823	\$ 5,124.45	\$ 5,124.45	\$ -
CD:824	\$ 5,124.45	\$ 5,124.45	\$ -
CD:825	\$ 5,124.45	\$ 5,124.45	\$ -
CD:826	\$ 5,124.45	\$ 5,124.45	\$ -
CD:692	\$ 5,064.81	\$ 5,064.81	\$ -
CD:693	\$ 5,086.91	\$ 5,086.91	\$ -
Total this period			\$ -

GNTO Report for the Board of Directors

Submitted on 27 April 2024 by Jim Fordice

General

- None

Equipment Status

- All equipment available.

Projects Underway

- Ceiling Fans: Install/Upgrade the ceiling fan in the Ortega Building and the Cocina.
- Outhouse Upgrade: All the contractors who initially indicated an interest in our project have declined further consideration. We are considering other options.

Upcoming Projects

- TBD

Financial Status

- All reimbursements received.

Next Events

- 4 May: New Moon Observing
- 1 Jun: 3rd Quarter Moon Observing
- 8 Jun: New Moon Observing