TAAS wishes to acknowledge all new members and all members who have made donations to TAAS since the beginning of 2005.

Peter Eschman, Acting Treasurer

Welcome to New TAAS Members

John Beaudin
Chet Leach
Christopher Darling
Timothy Martinez
Glen & Gail Dreher
Tom Conwall
Rick Hill
Sumner Price
Steve Welch & Penelope Boston
Ariel Boston
Mike Spilde
John & Margaret Sarracino
Dan & Perl Clark
Tom Clark
Patrick Gragg
David Lake
Ramona Myers
Clay Newton
Donald & Élaine Rosandich
Sy Santos
Lisa & Matt Poulter
George Dingman
Mary Holmes
Marc Mangold
Kimberly Clements
Derriae Kitchen
Ann Miller

Donations to TAAS

Thank You

TAAS General Fund
Christopher Darling
George Pellegrino
Aaron Dreher
Ahmed Lobad
Richard Leonard
Richard Sedlack
Darrel Eidson
K.M. Sturgis
Dee Friesen
Peter Eschman
Howard Austin
Rick Hudson
Dan Richey
John Sarracino
Robert Rosenberg

EDUCATION Fund
George Pellegrino
Mitchell Elementary School
Onate Elementary School
SY Jackson Elementary School
Eastern Hill Academy
Rick Hudson

DARK SKY Fund
George Pellegrino
Joseph Kehr
James Brockway
Steve Welch
David Penasa
Darrel Eidson
Maureen Small
Dee Friesen
Joan Eyring
Peter Eschman
Karen Keese
Ed Juddo
Rick Hudson

INSIDE
1. Special Welcome & Thank You
2. President’s Message / General Meeting News
3. GNTO News & Views / Oak Flat News
4. Calendars
5. Educational Outreach
6. TAAS Needs YOU!
7. NASA Space Place
8. Minutes of the Board of Directors
9. Classified Ads
10. TAAS Directors & Staff
11. Astrophotography Contest Deadline
Astronomy is many things to many people. Some are interested in the sheer beauty of the sky. Some are interested in the technology of the scopes, instruments and cameras. Some are interested in the science that is a big part of astronomy. Just exactly what is science is a topic of great interest to me. It is very surprising to me that in the most technologically advanced society in the history of mankind, so few people actually understand science.

Over the past few weeks I took a very informal survey. I only had one question: What is science? I only asked some younger people I know to see if any of them really knew what science is. The answers were along these lines: “A class you have to take in high school”, or “Biology and all that stuff”, or “The study of all that technical stuff”. All in all, most of those I asked thought that science was study of technology or the study of a bunch of facts that had been established by stuffy old scientists. I thought it would be interesting to open a discussion about the nature of science with TAAS. So I will start off by stating my own understanding of what science is and what science is not.

Science is a method of exploring the nature of the universe that is based on formulating theories and conducting tests to verify the accuracy of the theories. So simple and yet so powerful and so misunderstood. Of course, there is much more to understanding all the details and how to practice science, but in a nutshell that is all that it is. Mankind is very inventive and there are many more ways of exploring the nature of the universe, but no others have been so successful at predicting the results of the interactions between different aspects of nature. What I mean by that is that theories, which have survived scientific scrutiny, are very good at predicting. Predicting all sorts of things, things like where a particular planet will be ten years from now with exquisite accuracy or what will happen to a block of ice left on a sidewalk in the sun. Well of course the ice will melt but given the mass of the ice, its shape, the temperatures of the ice and the air, and the angle of the sun, science can come up with a darn good prediction as to when that last bit of ice will disappear. We rely every day on the predictions of science. Every time we cross a bridge, we rely on the prediction that the bridge will survive the weight and not plunge us to our death. We fly on airplanes and rely on the prediction that the plane will not fall apart and the fuel will last until we land. Even our entertainment depends on the predictions of scientific theories. We listen to music stored on thin disks of plastic by lasers making small dots of varying reflectivity. Even the CD player is relying on the predictions of scientific theories. It uses a laser to read those tiny dots and uses electronics etched on tiny wafers of silicon to translate those reflections back into music. Yes, there are many other ways to try to understand the nature of the universe, but when have you ever seen any practical application based on the principles of one of those new-age concepts. Go buy a psychic radio or drive a car using fuel formulated using the theories of homeopathy. I think I will save my money.

Science is under siege. There are those who seek to discredit science by way of several false arguments. One of the most often used argument is the way some seek to weaken science and bolster their view of the world by stating that theories that are opposite their world-view are “only theories”. I guess what they mean is that a theory is not proven and is therefore subject to being wrong. Of course it is! This does not mean their world-view is right or better or even equal. They attempt to discredit science by pointing to its greatest strength as acting as if it were a weakness. Science by definition only verifies theories as the best explanation of what they seek to explain. Anyone who says that a theory is proven does not understand science. A theory is only accepted until a better theory is derived that better matches empirical observations. This is science’s greatest strength. Science always seeks a better explanation. It continuously changes. It is not bound in dogma. Other ways of exploring the nature of the universe never change. This is because they think they are the TRUTH.

So science is not an attempt to establish the truth. It is not just a collection of facts. It is not just the study of technical stuff. It is also not the subject of redefinition by others. This is a new approach by those who seek to elevate their world-view by redefining science. They try to redefine science to allow a direct comparison to their own view. In this way they try to define their explanation as an equally valid scientific theory. They know that no one will accept their explanation as a scientific theory unless they succeed in distorting the very definition of science. So these are some of my thoughts on science and I hope this is the start of a great discussion. Send your thoughts to the Editor or to me and we can share this discussion with others in either the Sidereal Times or the TAAS Web Site. Oh by the way, another thing science is not is afraid of is an open discussion.
We had around 15 people in attendance, and 6 telescopes in operation for our Observing and Training event on July 9. The group was enthusiastic and our Introduction to GNTO and the Isengard was well received. Dale Murray led this session, with Alan Scott backing him up. We emphasized a hands-on approach to the Isengard, with participants encouraged to practice moving the scope and learning to use the Telrad and NGCMAx. We relied on the Astrometric system for tracking. I was able to make some progress using the Losmandy G-11 mount and C-11 optical tube. I limited my use to visual mode, and was able to get fairly good GoTo accuracy as the evening progressed. Eventually we intend to put this equipment back into use for CCD imaging, so getting things ironed out in visual mode was a good start.

Our most recent GNTO committee meeting was on July 14, with Pete Eschman, Dee Friesen, Dale Murray, Alan Scott, and Bill Wallace at JB's Restaurant on Eubank just north of I-40. Major meeting topics included planning for upcoming events, and a discussion of how best to implement our video imaging outreach program. This program will use our Stellacam EX along with an equatorial tracking platform to provide video images to the public at TAAS events. We need additional equipment to make this all happen, and funds from our last Intel grant have been set aside for this.

Our events for September include a "new moon" observing session on September 3, followed by our Fall GNTO Open House, Equinox Picnic, and Intro to GNTO sessions September 24. The first event is on the new moon, with sunset at 7:30 P.M. Saturday evening. I will be out of town, but I will send out email with contact information. I will have more information on the September 24 event in the next newsletter. The second event will also feature another of our popular two level Constellation Tours.

You really should plan a trip to GNTO soon. We have two great loaner scopes on easy to use dobsonian mounts, and our Isengard 16" is providing some really great views these days. If you have not seen it yet, you need to check out the new drive system on the Isengard and the new flooring on the main dome! The comfortable Ortega Building is available for socializing and our Guest Trailer is available for coffee, hot chocolate and any snacks you might want to share. With all this great equipment at GNTO, what are you waiting for?

GNTO committee meetings are open to any interested TAAS members and this is a great way to get more involved with your observatory. We need your help. Our next scheduled meetings are August 11 and September 8. We meet at 6:30 P.M. at JB's Restaurant on Eubank just north of I-40. If you have questions about access and availability of GNTO, please contact me (Pete Eschman, gnto@taas.org, home phone: 873-1517). I hope to see you soon at your observatory.

Deidre Kann of the Albuquerque National Weather Service must have been scheduled to work on the night of the July Oak Flat Star Party. She told us when she spoke at the June General Meeting that her favorite weather predicator is whether she is scheduled to work that weekend. The weather at the Star Party was almost perfect, breaking a string of cloudy, stormy evenings. Either that or Ouranos, the Greek god of the sky, was smiling on us that night!

Several of us arrived shortly after 5:30P.M. – early enough look at the setting sun through a solar filter. Unfortunately, Apollo, the Greek (and Roman) Sun god, had scheduled a lousy sun spot show. Not much to see.

A little later as the Sun set, we got a look at Venus and then at Jupiter. The seeing was good enough to see Jupiter’s clouds clearly. One observer told me that he even saw Jupiter’s Great Red Spot.

By astronomical twilight the field was crowded with visitors, TAAS members and telescopes. I talked to several visitors who had brought their own scopes to the star party. One of their cars had a Michigan license plate and one was from Colorado. I counted about 20 telescopes ranging in size from eight inchers to the giants that Pete Eschman and Brock Parker had brought in anticipation of an exceptional night for viewing. Lines still formed around most of the telescopes when I finally packed up around 11:30pm. Visitors especially enjoyed seeing Albireo in Cygnus and the features of the Big Dipper, Polaris, Scorpio and Sagittarius that were pointed out to them. Of course, there were the usual “Ohs” and “Wows” as they saw deep sky objects through the really big scopes.

Dee Friesen’s Messier Sig members had a successful night. Dee reported that the group found all the objects on their July list.

Judy Stanley arrived in her “Minnie Winnie.” She graciously invited everyone to try her barbecued ribs and chicken, desert, and coffee. Good idea, Judy! Do this every month.

Several friends of mine who had never been to a star party – much less looked through a telescope – were amazed at the quality and variety of the telescopes. They especially appreciated the generosity, patience and enthusiasm of the TAAS members. “A night to remember” they said. “Thank TAAS again for us.”

Thanks TAAS!

The Official Newsletter of The Albuquerque Astronomical Society
### August 2005

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### Educational Outreach

**Shannon Mann**

The TAAS Education Outreach Program invites all members to assist with our FIRST school star party of the academic year. This will also be the first star party EVER for Cochiti Elementary School. The school is located near the corner of McDonald Road and San Isidro Street in the North Valley (3100 San Isidro St.). The easiest way to get there is to turn east onto Indian School Road from Rio Grande Boulevard, then turn north onto San Isidro. Please bring your telescopes, astro-demonstrations, and ideas to help make this year’s outreach a success. The event is scheduled for Tuesday evening, August 30th 7 – 9 P.M. Please plan on arriving by 6 P.M. to setup and enjoy some food provided by the school. For additional information, contact Shannon Mann, Education Outreach Coordinator at education_coord@taas.org or 771-0126.

### Volunteer Positions Available at TAAS

Now is the time to step up and be a larger part of your astronomical community. The Albuquerque Astronomical Society has the following volunteer positions available. If you’ve got some free time and enjoy editing, web-mastering, or putting a great party together and want to get more involved with TAAS, here’s your chance. A librarian to oversee books and media available for check-out to TAAS members and a UNM Campus Observatory Coordinator position are also open at this time. TAAS currently has the following positions to fill.

- Newsletter Editor
- Webmaster
- Librarian
- UNM Campus Observatory Coordinator
- Solstice Banquet Coordinator

Please contact any of the board members if you are interested or have any questions about any of the positions.
## September 2005

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<td>7 ATW Workshop Valley High School 7 P.M.</td>
<td>8 GNTO Committee Meeting 7 P.M.</td>
<td>9 UNM White Sands Star Party</td>
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### ATM Workshop

Ray Collins/Mike Pendley  
atm@taas.org

The Amateur Telescope Making Workshop meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Valley High School, 1505 Candelaria—the north side of Candelaria, just west of 12th street. The meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are in Building E, Room #3.

### TAAS General Meeting

Saturday, August 20th, 2005  
7 P.M.  
Regener Hall, UNM Campus  
(see map on back page)

**Subject:**  
New Mexico to Mars: Caves, Astrobiology, and Future Planetary Missions

**Speaker:**  
Dr. Penelope Boston

### Notes


GNTO = General Nathan Twining Obs.

GNTO Training = GNTO Observing and Training.

UNM = University of New Mexico Observatory. Call the TAAS hotline @254-8227, or the UNM hotline @ 277-1446 to confirm, or unm_coordinator@taas.org.

ATM = Amateur Telescope Making. Call Michael Pendley for information @ 296-0549, or atm@taas.org.

P & A = UNM Physics and Astronomy. Corner of Lomas and Yale.

== School Star Party.==
UNM Report
UNM Campus Observatory Coordinator
unm_coord@taas.org

No report this month.

Monthly Membership Report
(July 2005)

<table>
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<th>Past Month</th>
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<td>Family</td>
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<td>Total Members</td>
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Editor’s Note
Please note that the deadline for the September 2005 issue of the Sidereal Times will be Friday, September 2nd, as the finished manuscript must be at the bulk-mailer before Monday, September 5th, so that you will receive it by e-mail that day or by s-mail mail the following Saturday. My e-mail address is editor@taas.org.

Membership Services
for:
• Membership Inquiries
• Events Information
• Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Ray Collins at
membership@taas.org

for:
• Membership Dues
• Magazine Subscriptions
• Address/e-mail changes

Contact Pete Eschman at
treasurer@taas.org

P.O. Box 50581  Albuquerque, NM

Full Color Sidereal Times Now Available
Barry Spletzer

In a sweeping move to provide top quality communiques to our members while conserving our precious resources, TAAS is pleased to re-announce the availability of this newsletter the Sidereal Times in full color. That’s right, catch the blush of the monthly speaker, the blue eyes and red hair of that cute 6-year-old at the School Star Party, the depth and vibrance of all the full-color illustrations. The catch is that the full-color version is only available at our website: www.taas.org. If you prefer to download and read your newsletter on your computer rather than receive a paper copy by mail, please notify the TAAS treasurer, Shannon Mann at treasurer@taas.org to have your name removed from the Sidereal Times mailing list. This will provide you with the newsletter of your choice, save TAAS money, and earn you the undying (okay, maybe slowly dying) gratitude of our Sid Times printer - me.

Now that many of our members are taking advantage of this offer, our mailing list is less than required to get a bulk-rate postage discount. The newsletter is now mailed at first-class rates. So, it is more important than ever for you to get your newsletter online. Thanks for your consideration.

Messier 2005 SIG

Dee Friesen

Hello everyone,
It is time to get back to some serious observing. As the days start to get shorter and hopefully the weather will be clear for us, we will begin to have more observing sessions.

We had one session this last month on Saturday 30 July 2005 at the Oak Flat group picnic ground south of Tijeras on NM 337. The road to Oak Flat is about nine miles south of Tijeras and on the east side of the road. This was also the night of a scheduled TAAS public viewing session at Oak Flat. This gave us an opportunity to share with friends the progress we have made so far this year. I encourage you to invite your friends to visit with us and observe the night sky. In August we are planning on three observing sessions.

The schedule is as follows:
1. Friday 5 August 05 at Oak Flat prior to sunset that is at 2005 (8:05 P.M.).
2. Tuesday 30 August 05 at Dee’s at 1900 (7:00 P.M.), sunset is 1935 (7:35 P.M.).
3. Wednesday 31 August 05 at Dee’s at 1900 (7:00P.M.), sunset is 1934 (7:34 P.M.).

Any questions call or e-mail me.

Dee
856-1593

The Official Newsletter of The Albuquerque Astronomical Society
Newest Weather Sentry Takes Up Watch

Patrick L. Barry

NOAA-18, the newest in a long line of weather and environmental satellites, launched May 20, 2005.

By orbiting close to Earth (NOAA-18 is only 870 km above the ground), these “low-Earth orbit” satellites provide a detailed view of the weather. The other type of weather satellite, “geosynchronous,” orbits much farther out at 35,786 km. At that altitude, geosynchronous satellites can keep a constant watch on whole continents, but without the kind of detail that NOAA-18 can provide. In particular, low-Earth orbiting satellites have the ability to use microwave radiometers to measure temperature and moisture in the atmosphere—two key measurements used for weather prediction that, for technical reasons, cannot be sensed by distant geosynchronous satellites. With NOAA-18 successfully placed in orbit, the 45-year legacy of high-tech weather forecasts that we’re accustomed to will go on.

Find out more about NOAA-18 and the history of polar-orbiting weather satellites at http://goespoes.gsfc.nasa.gov/poes. For kids and anyone else curious about the concept, the difference between polar and geosynchronous orbits is explained at http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/goes/goes_poes_orbits.shtml.

Photo Contest Deadline Approaches

Karen Keese

Friday, September 9, is the submission deadline for entries to the Fourth Annual “Astro-Images of New Mexico” amateur astrophotography contest and exhibition, co-hosted by TAAS and the LodeStar Astronomy Center. Up to 30 images will be selected for exhibition at LodeStar from October 15, 2005 through February 2006.

Really neat prizes will be awarded in each category. This year, we are pleased to announce that the Best of Show prize will be a stay at the internationally-acclaimed guest observatory New Mexico Skies, in Mayhill, New Mexico (near Cloudcroft), where you can observe and/or image to your heart’s content under very dark skies.

This year’s stellar panel of volunteer judges are:

- John Seffick, a TAAS member and CCD imager of many years who has imaged at Chaco Canyon, on Mauna Kea, and in Australia. He has had his work published in national magazines such as Sky & Telescope.
- Judy Stanley, a TAAS member, head of education at LodeStar, and a Project Astro astronomer. She was awarded the 2004 John Dobson Award for Excellence in Public Astronomy Education.
- John Fleck, science writer for the Albuquerque Journal. He has written prolifically about all aspects of science, from dinosaurs to black holes, supercomputers to supernovae.
- Dr. Richard Rand, Associate Professor for UNM’s Department of Physics and Astronomy. His research areas include galactic halos, interacting galaxies, starbursts, and magnetic fields in the Milky Way.
- Kris Haskins, photography instructor at New Mexico Tech and member of the NM Tech Astronomy Club. His specialty is macro-photography.

Our business sponsors this year are: APT Camera Repair, Camera & Darkroom, Forms Plus, Kurt’s Camera Corral, New Mexico Skies, and TJ’s Camera & 1 Hour Photo. We are very grateful for their contributions and their support of this unique forum for amateur astrophotographers. Please patronize these fine establishments!

So, dust off that SLR, fire up that CCD, dust off that glass plate, and upgrade that Photoshop. That’s right, there are four entry categories and surely there is one that is right for you. We could really use some additional entries this year in both the CCD category and the Photo Illustration category. The latter, introduced last year, is a chance for you photo artists to take some very creative liberties with your astrophotographs.

If anyone has any questions about the contest, please email Karen Keese at pr@taas.org or call her at 261-0040.
Minutes of the Board of Directors
Gordon Pegue

July 21st, 2005
UNM Physics and Astronomy Building Conference Room

MEETING MINUTES

Directors present: Becky Ramotowski (Vice President), Gordon Pegue (Secretary), David Blair, Larry Cash, Pete Eschman, Dee Friesen, Shannon Mann and Shane Ramotowski. Barry Gordon was in attendance as an observer.

Directors absent: Dale Murray (President), Heather Mann (Treasurer), Ray Collins and Bob Hufnagel.

Meeting called to order at 7:13 P.M.

Corrections to the June Minutes
None to report.

Treasurers Report

Account balances (as of the end of June):
- General Fund: $6,186.15
- GNTO Fund: $6,474.23
- Education Fund: $3,354.71
- Dark Sky Fund: $587.20
- Special Projects Fund: $3,290.18
- Broline Memorial Fund: $100.00
- Total Funds on Deposit: $19,992.47

Total membership count (all categories): 364

Correspondence
None to report.

Event Retrospect

a. The June 18th General Meeting featured an enjoyable and educational presentation titled “In Pursuit of Clear Skies” by Deirdre Kann of NOAA.
b. A special TAAS public star party, “Isotopes and Telescopes”, was held on the evening of Tuesday, June 21st at the Isotopes Park during the baseball game. A very successful event with over 200 folks treated to views of Mercury, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter and a few bright stars. The consensus of the Board is that this was an event that we should participate in again in the future.
c. A special observing event for the Messier SIG was held at Oak Flat on July 1st.
d. The July 2nd GNTO observing session featured clear skies and a low turnout with only 10 telescopes and about 25 members and guests in attendance.
e. A special GNTO observing event was held on July 3rd to observe the Deep Impact probe impact on comet 9P Tempel. 8 telescopes and 20 folks gathered to witness the distinctive brightening of the comet, both visually and by means of the video system that was in operation.
f. The July 9th GNTO observing session featured good skies and a very low turnout with only 6 telescopes and about 15 members and guests in attendance.

event Prospect

a. The Saturday, July 23rd General Meeting will feature theTAAS Astro Trash & Treasure Extravaganza and Swap Meet.
b. Our fourth Oak Flat Public Star Party of the season is scheduled for Saturday, July 30th. Neil Goldberg is the event owner. Contact him for more details about this event.
c. The Saturday, August 6th GNTO observing session will be a “new moon” event. Refer to the full GNTO report by Pete Eschman elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter for more details.
d. The regularly scheduled meeting of the GNTO Committee will take place on Thursday, August 11th.
e. The regularly scheduled meeting of the TAAS Board of Directors will take place on Thursday, August 18th at the Physics and Astronomy Building on the campus of UNM.
f. The Saturday, August 20th General Meeting will feature a presentation on Astrobiology by Penelope Boston.
g. Our fifth and final Oak Flat Public Star Party of the season is scheduled for Saturday, August 27th. An Event Owner is needed!
h. The Saturday, September 3rd GNTO observing session will be a “new moon” event. Also scheduled for this date is the TAAS Chaco observing session.
i. The regularly scheduled meeting of the GNTO Committee will take place on Thursday, September 8th.
j. Astronomy Day activities are scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 10th at the Cottonwood Mall. A special Astronomy Day public observing session is also scheduled to take place at Oak Flat that evening. Contact any Board Member for more information on how you can participate in these activities.
k. The regularly scheduled meeting of the TAAS Board of Directors will take place on Thursday, September 15th at the Physics and Astronomy Building on the campus of UNM.
l. The Saturday, September 17th General Meeting will feature a presentation by NASA Shuttle Trainer Pilot Jack “Triple” Nickel.
m. The September 24th GNTO observing session will feature additional member activities including an open house, Equinox picnic, training sessions and constellation tours.
n. The 2005 edition of the Placitas Star Party is scheduled for Saturday, October 22nd.
Committee Reports
a. Membership: No report
b. GNTO: Refer to the full GNTO report by Pete Eschman elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.
c. Education: Shannon reported that 1) the school star party schedule for the upcoming year is nearly complete and 2) he is working on developing a mission statement and a protocol statement for the Education Outreach program. He indicated that the completed protocol would be an important part of the school star party “booking” process and that a copy of the protocol would be given to the agent representing a given school so that a complete understanding of what is to be provided by TAAS and what is expected to be provided to TAAS in the way of support is fully understood and accepted by both parties prior to the official booking of the event.
d. Special Projects: No report.
e. Special Interest Groups (SIG’s): 1. Messier 2005: Dee again acknowledged with grateful thanks Larry’s extensive participation in and assistance with the SIG. Dee also noted that the next SIG event is an observing event coinciding with and taking place at our Oak Flat event on Saturday, July 30th.
2. ATM: David noted at the July 6th get-together, there were 6 members present and that the main topic of discussion was “how good is good enough when it comes to figuring a mirror”. David also noted that no meeting took place on July 20th.
3. Dark Sky: On behalf of David Penasa, coordinator of the Dark Sky SIG, Pete requested permission to purchase an electronic Sky Brightness Meter. After a discussion on the merits and possible uses of the device, the Board granted Pete’s request with the cost of the device to be paid for with monies from the Dark Sky Fund. Also discussed was a proposal to ask David Penasa to “own” the device and prepare usage instructions and a device checkout protocol. Pete agreed with the proposal and will enquire with Mr. Penasa on his position with respect to the proposal.

Old Business
a. Pete reported that there exists a means by which TAAS may obtain certain types of computer software at a significantly reduced cost. An organization exists that provides software licensing for non-profit organizations such as ours. Pete indicated that an officer needs to register with the organization first and then arrangements can then be made to purchase software through the organization such as Microsoft operating system and office suite software. Pete further indicated that it would be a very good idea for TAAS to purchase a laptop computer outfitted with a printer and an OS and office software suite and that this computer would then be “loaned” to the future treasurer in order to allow him or her to execute the responsibilities of their office more easily. Both ideas were met with enthusiasm and will be developed further.
b. Shane reported that he has not received any new information from Karen Keese, our PR representative, on the status of the request for event dates that he received from an editor at Albuquerque The Magazine.
c. Shane reported that he had followed up with his contact, Mr. Glen Felton; on a request he had received regarding the participation of TAAS in assisting the Edgewood Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to organize a star party in Edgewood this fall. He indicated that he has not heard back from Mr. Felton yet so this item is still pending.
d. David reported that the ATM group discussed the request for a telescope donation that we received from Mr. Tony Allred, executive director of the Lone Tree Adventure Camp, a children’s summer camp, in Capitan, NM. David reported that after investigating the request, a donation was deemed inappropriate.
e. Larry reported that he has received word from a representative of Meade that our request for a donation was met with favor and that some type of donation – the nature of which at this time is unknown – would be made to TAAS.

New Business
a. The Board discussed possible strategies for finding suitable volunteer replacements for various TAAS positions that are either open at this time or soon will be. Strategies discussed included publishing invitations in the newsletter and on the list serve and making announcements at the General Meetings. Positions involved are 1) Treasurer, 2) Newsletter Editor, 3) Webmaster, 4) Librarian and 5) UNM Campus Observatory Coordinator.
b. Dee reported that plans for the TAAS Astronomy Day activities are well underway and that the Cottonwood Mall folks are very enthusiastic about allowing us the hold the event there. Refer to Dee’s article on the event elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter.
c. David reported that the committee for the upcoming astro-photography contest at the Lodestar Planetarium has received a financial support request from the Director of the planetarium, Mr. David Beining. After a discussion on the merits and pitfalls of the request, the consensus of the Board was that 1) alternative means of TAAS support should be fully investigated and 2) if financial assistance was mandatory in lieu of alternative support, that a proposed budget for the event be provided to TAAS for our review and decision making process. David Blair agreed to follow up with Mr. Beining with this information.
d. Becky reported that an “owner” for the TAAS Solstice / Holiday Banquet is needed. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact any Board member for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 P.M.
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MEMBERSHIP: You may request a membership application by sending e-mail to membership@taas.org or calling (505) 254-TAAS(8227). Applications may also be downloaded from the Web site. Annual dues to The Albuquerque Astronomical Society are $30/year for a full membership and $15/year for a teacher or student (grades K-12). Additional family members may join for $5/each (teacher, student and family memberships are not eligible to vote on society matters). New member information packets can be downloaded from the website or requested from the TAAS Membership Services Director at membership@taas.org. You may send your dues by mail to our newsletter return address with your check written out to The Albuquerque Astronomical Society or give your check to the Treasurer at the next meeting.

MAGAZINES: Discount magazine subscriptions to Sky and Telescope and Astronomy as well as discounts on books from Sky Publishing Corporation are available when purchased by TAAS members through our society. Include any of the above magazine renewal mailers and subscription payments as part of your renewal check. Make checks out to TAAS (we will combine and send one check to the publisher). Warning: publishers take several months to process magazine subscriptions.

ARTICLES/ADVERTISEMENTS: Articles, personal astronomical classified advertisements and business card size advertisements for businesses related to astronomy must be submitted by the deadline shown on the Society calendar (generally the Saturday near the new Moon). Rates for commercial ads (per issue) are $120 per page, $60 per half page, $30 per quarter page, $7 for business card size. The newsletter editor reserves the right to include and/or edit any article or advertisement. E-mail attachments in Microsoft Word, 11 point Palatino, justified, no indent at paragraph beginning, one space between paragraphs is preferred. ASCII and RTF are acceptable. One column is approximately 350 words. Contact the Newsletter Editor at editor@taas.org for more information.

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