Barry Spletzer

The TAAS Web site has a new look. If you have downloaded this issue of The Sidereal Times from www.taas.org, you realize that is an understatement. It is entirely new. The new site is classy, elegant, and very functional. From the homepage you are only one click away from almost anything there is to know about TAAS. In the center is an “Upcoming Events” box that changes regularly to quickly let members know what is happening. The homepage even features a TAAS member astro image, and there is a link to a whole collection of other stunning images taken by TAAS members. It is a real pleasure to navigate through this virtual TAAS world.

A big thanks to Will Ferrell for his hard work and long hours spent in development. Also thanks to the members of the Web Site Action Team: Ryan DeMares, Pete Eschman, Bill Firth, Mark Fleenor, Dee Friesen, Gordon Pegue, Bill Wallace, and Steve Welch.

The new Web site is an outstanding resource for TAAS members and soon-to-be members alike. But don’t take my word for it, check it all out for yourself. As always, it’s at www.taas.org. You will find a suggestion box under “About TAAS” where your comments about the site and TAAS activities are encouraged.

Mars Mission Scientist to Introduce Latest Mars Images at TAAS Meeting

Melissa Kirk

Dr. Larry Crumpler will speak at the August general meeting of The Albuquerque Astronomical Society on the “Latest Images from Mars: Update from Mars Exploration Rovers and the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) Camera.” Since Dr. Crumpler is on the science teams of two active Mars missions, this presentation will portray recent results from both missions. He will discuss the interesting results, current status of the rovers, and plans for the coming field season. Also, he will show some highlights of the HiRISE camera and its captured image of the descent of the Phoenix spacecraft.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. on August 16 in Regener Hall on the University of New Mexico campus. The meeting is free and open to the public. For information, call 505-254-TAAS. To obtain a map, visit http://www.taas.org or see the last page of this newsletter. Expand your horizons. Join us for an evening of entertainment and socialization.

I N S I D E

2....President’s Message, TAAS Help Wanted
3....GNTO News & Views
4....The Astronomer’s Song, Starry Nights
5....TAAS Reports & Notices
6....Calendars
8....Meeting Minutes
9....Carpool to GNTO
10....Advertisers
11....TAAS Directors/Staff
President’s Message

I Can Hear Jupiter

On a clear and quiet night I can hear Jupiter. It is not very loud, but I can hear it. The sound is crisp and clear and inviting. In the middle of the night there are not very many sounds that are man-made. Most of the sounds are from the surrounding environment, and Jupiter is a major contributor.

The other planets probably also make noise, but I never hear them. Perhaps you have heard the other planets and would like to share your experience with me. For me, Jupiter has always been the loudest. It was the first planet that I observed with my crude telescope purchased for eight dollars from an ad in Popular Mechanics. I was only ten years old and every day eagerly rode my bicycle the half mile to our Kansas farm mailbox to look for the package. Finally it arrived. The telescope resembled a pirate’s spyglass.

I had to wait until dark before I raced out to the yard light pole, rested the telescope against it and had my first ever telescopic view of Jupiter. I was rewarded with a rainbow of colors instead of a clear and magnified view of the largest planet in our solar system. I did see four moons but surface features such as the giant red spot were lost in the mirage of colors presented by the cheap glass of the small objective lens. It was not what I expected, but it was a planet. It was Jupiter!

I was disappointed, but mostly confused by the experience. In my rural grade school we had not studied the basic properties of optics, and I was left with a bewildering experience. Somewhere later, I learned that I needed a special type of lens to correct for the chromatic aberration that had produced my rainbow-colored Jupiter.

Even though my first Jupiter observing experience was less than expected, I could still hear Jupiter calling. A few years later I sold a calf I raised and purchased a four-inch Dynascope reflector telescope from somewhere back east. I had seen it advertised in Sky and Telescope and read that it would not have color problems.

Finally the telescope arrived by something called FOB freight. My dad and I drove the old pickup to the railroad station, and there it was—a big wooden box with my name on it. When I got home and opened the box, I was shocked to see that the telescope was damaged. The eyepiece holder was broken off of the Bakelite tube, and the telescope was not useable. Wow, another disappointment with Jupiter, which I had eagerly planned to view that night without rainbow colors.

Dad and I took the telescope back to the railroad station and sent it back east. After what seemed about 100 light-years, it returned. This time the telescope was intact, and that evening I set it up in the farmyard and experienced my first grand and glorious view of Jupiter. It took a while, but finally I could hear Jupiter calling loud and clear.

Tomorrow night I am going to GNTO to operate the Isengard 16-inch telescope. I hear Jupiter calling.

Dee

TAAS Help Wanted, August

TAAS needs people to assist with the following areas. If you are interested, contact Dee Friesen or any other TAAS BOD member. Contact information for all BOD members is on page 11 of this newsletter.

General Meeting Planning — Identify speakers, activities and events for the monthly TAAS meetings. Contact Dick Fate.

Education — Participate in the TAAS Educational Outreach Program by attending school star parties. Contact Bob Hufnagel.

GNTO Committee — Join the committee and receive training to become a GNTO Key Holder. Contact Pete Eschman.

Membership — Assist with the conduct of the TAAS membership program. This includes procedures to track membership, identify reasons for nonrenewal of membership, and promote TAAS membership. Contact Bill Firth.

Observing — Identify significant observing events

continued on page 3
Our most recent GNTO event was a “New Moon” observing and training opportunity on July 5. Steve Welch opened the facility, while Bill Wallace served as backup for opening duties. Dale Murray offered our introductory training session and served as host for the Isengard Telescope. Nine people attended with 7 telescopes in operation. Steve Welch offered an introduction to CCD imaging using the C-11 and ST-9E. Conditions started out fairly breezy but calmed down later with clouds moving in around 11:00 p.m., but things cleared up after 1:00 a.m. Once again we had some very good video imaging using the GNTO video outreach Stellacam 3 camera on Larry Cash’s 10-inch LX200. After a successful evening, Steve closed up most of the facility around 1:00 a.m., and Will Ferrell finished closing down later.

Upcoming GNTO events include two “New Moon” observing opportunities on August 2 and August 30. Our next GNTO Training sessions take place on September 20 in conjunction with our GNTO Open House and Fall Equinox Picnic.

Steve Welch plans to have our CCD imaging equipment ready in the 10-foot dome whenever conditions permit. This is a great chance to learn about imaging and take some images of your own. We will have the comfortable Robert Ortega Building open and our Guest Trailer available for coffee, hot chocolate, and any snacks you might want to share. We’ve got a bunch of great equipment waiting for you at GNTO, so plan your trip to GNTO soon. Why wait?

GNTO committee meetings are open to any interested TAAS members and they provide a great way to get more involved with your observatory. We meet every other month at 6:30 p.m. at JB’s Restaurant on Eubank just north of I-40. Our next committee meetings are August 7 and October 16. If you have questions about GNTO, please contact me (Peter Eschman, gnto@taas.org, phone 873-1517).

I hope to see you soon at your observatory.

TAAS Help Wanted continued from page 2

for TAAS members and events to present to the public. Creation of observing contests and observing lists for members to complete to receive TAAS awards.

Contact Steve Welch.

TAAS Membership Survey — Create a survey of the entire membership to identify the interests, desires, critiques, and thoughts of the membership concerning the activities and events of the organization.

Contact Dee Friesen.

TAAS Social Events — Assist with the planning and conduct of TAAS social events.

Contact Diane Murray.

TAAS Web Site — Assist with the planning and design for a new TAAS Web site to include e-mail procedures and other electronic communications.

Contact Dee Friesen.

International Year of Astronomy planning — Assist with the planning of TAAS events for the IYA.

Contact Dee Friesen.

Again, if you are interested, please contact Dee Friesen or any other TAAS BOD member. Contact information for all BOD members is on page 11 of this newsletter.
The Astronomer’s Song
Arun Ahuja

As I sat atop the observation tower
Punching in a program for a fractal power
Of the focal locus of a deep space cluster
Of four-armed galactic whorls that could muster
The strength to register on the Radio Eye,
A questioning cloud crossed my cranial sky.

For there before me on the amber screen
Was a frequency spike I’d never seen!
I churned out its value, I swiveled the dish,
Fine tuned the channel (and yes, made a wish)
Then Lo! Before me an alien parade
Of pulses being woven in an interleaved braid.
I scrunched out a program to unravel its strands
Sent each to audio with analog commands.

An unearthly symphony sprang from the speakers
In a rhythm that lifted me out of my sneakers
And right there amidst the console clutter
I danced in a trance with my heart all aflutter
Tossed up in the throes of this sudden contact.
It was extraterrestrial, I knew for a fact!

The tune had dimensions no earthling had heard
There, and then again . . . a garbled word?
I felt a strange primordial thrill
How can I describe it? Imagine if you will
At the mouth of a cave a half-crazed baboon
Gamboling in the glow of a glutigenous moon

Excerpted from Identity Inflated by Arun Ahuja. Copyright © 2008 by Arun Ahuja. Used by permission of the author.

Arun Ahuja is an Albuquerque fiction writer who can frequently be found at the UNM Observatory on Friday nights.

---

TAAS and Starry Nights
Dee Friesen

The planetarium at the natural history museum is in need of astronomy-knowledgeable volunteers. The planetarium is located in the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science in Old Town Albuquerque. Volunteers will receive valuable benefits including reduced and free admissions to various museum activities such as speakers, shows, and special exhibits.

Volunteer activities include using either personal or planetarium telescopes to share the night sky with attendees of the Starry Night Program, speaker events and other activities. The night sky observing is on the deck next to the planetarium.

To be a volunteer, the museum requires attending a training session to receive state-mandated emergency situation training, general orientation on museum facilities, and tips on dealing with the public. The next training session is in early September at the museum and is two to three hours on a Saturday morning.

This is an excellent opportunity for TAAS members to assist the museum in bringing the night sky to the public. I am a museum volunteer and find it a very rewarding, interesting, and exciting experience. Contact me for more information at 856-1593 or president@taas.org.
Donations to TAAS

General:
RICK HUDSON
SIDNEY STONE
UNITED WAY

Education:
RICK HUDSON

Dark Sky:
RICK HUDSON
MELISSA KIRK

Special Projects:
RICK HUDSON

Welcome to New and Returning TAAS Members

ARIEL DUNLAP
CONRAD SHIELDS
WILLIAM STEINMAN
RHODA THOMPSON
LOUISE WAGNER

Note from Treasurer

Clarification of New Member and Renewal Policy
Renewal notices will be mailed out one month before expiration date. Renewals and new members will be dated on the first of next month no matter when during the month they arrive. This will help with the database reports and queries.

There will also be no grace period for renewals. Please make sure that you send in renewal information and your check before the expiration date. Renewal of magazines and new subscriptions will be sent in twice a month. All checks are to be made out to “TAAS”. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

To convert from Degrees, Minutes, Seconds:
Divide seconds by 60, then add minutes, then divide by 60 again.

Membership Services

for:
• Membership Inquiries
• Events Information
• Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Bill Firth at membership@taas.org

Editor’s Note

Please note that the deadline for the next issue of the Sidereal Times is Friday, August 29. Please e-mail text as an attachment, preferably in Microsoft Word or Open Office.org Writer. Please do not embed photos in text. Attach photos and illustrations separately. The e-mail address for the newsletter editor is editor@taas.org.

Contact Dan Clark at treasurer@taas.org

P.O. Box 50581 Albuquerque, NM
Special Memberships

Students, teachers, members of the military, and family members can join TAAS at reduced rates. See the last page of this newsletter for more details.
September 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 ATM SIG Meeting</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6 Oak Flat Star Party/ Messier SIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 Board Meeting</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 General Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 ATM SIG Meeting</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20 GNTO Open House, Equinox Picnic, GNTO Training, GNTO Observing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 Enchanted Skies Star Party begins, Socorro</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 Sidereal Times Deadline</td>
<td>27 GNTO NM Observing Okie-Tex Star Party begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TAAS General Meeting

Saturday, August 16, 2008
7:00 P.M.
Regener Hall
University of New Mexico
(See map, back page)

Latest Images from Mars
Update from Mars Exploration Rovers and the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter
High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) Camera

Dr. Larry Crumpler, Mars missions scientist

Notes


GNTO = General Nathan Twining Obs.
GNTO Training = GNTO Observing and Training
GNTO NM=New Moon Premium Observing Night

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 Building, Corner of Lomas and Yale
Blue = Non-TAAS events
= School Star Party
TAAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 10, 2008
University of New Mexico Physics and Astronomy Building

MEETING MINUTES

Directors present: Melissa Kirk (Secretary), Bob Havlen, Charlie Mullen, Dick Fate (Vice President), Dee Friesen (President), Dan Clark (Treasurer), Tom Davies, Steve Welch, Larry Cash

Directors absent: Pete Eschman (excused), Bob Hufnagel (excused), Gordon Pegue (excused)

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m.
There are no corrections to the May and June Board meeting minutes.

Executive Report
Checks have been mailed to the University of New Mexico Science Fair winners. The winners and their parents have been invited to attend the September general meeting.

The Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association has an Astronomy Fundamentals Special Interest Group (SIG). John Kaltenbach will assemble the Fundamentals of Astronomy SIG for TAAS.

Diane Murray will propose locations and dates for the winter banquet.

The Messier Special Interest Group potluck will be held at Dee’s house.

Dee Friesen had prepared notes about the status of various TAAS activities. The Board discussed the activities. We conferred about our observing endeavors, including GNTO, UNM Observatory, Oak Flat, sidewalk astronomy, and unofficial events. TAAS members educate by hosting star parties, general meetings, and Cosmic Carnival, and publishing our Web site and monthly newsletters. Members have fun at our winter banquet, summer solstice celebration, and Messier SIG potluck.

Web Site and TAAS-L E-mail List
The new Web site will be online next week. The Web site content will be reviewed as we go forward. The TAAS-L e-mail list remains unchanged. It is still hosted at the University of New Mexico.

Membership
Because of family commitments, Bill Firth is no longer leading the membership action committee. Membership cards will be color coded green for Directors, blue for veteran TAAS members, and red for new members.

Functional Tasks
Telescopes are loaned for nominally one month to members requesting them. We discussed official TAAS recordkeeping, the inventory, the budget, fundraising efforts, and the TAAS store. David Downs will introduce the store at the September general meeting. There will be a link to the store from our Web site.

Special Events
The National Radio Astronomy Observatory will become the statewide coordinator for the International Year of Astronomy. There will be a meeting at the Enchanted Skies Star Party to discuss International Year of Astronomy activities. TAAS members are welcome to volunteer for the Explora Adult Nights and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History Starry Nights. Volunteers for the latter need to undergo orientation training. We discussed possible tours of several observatories.

Program Report
General meetings will start at 7:02 p.m. to give participants extra time to arrive. The meetings will end at 8:15 p.m. So far this year, the general meetings have been focused on technical speakers. At future meetings, members will give 5- to 10-minute presentations about their astronomical observations. Dick Fate is seeking ways to reduce the time required to make announcements at the general meetings.

The social gatherings will start at 8:15 p.m. Dick will spend $10 for refreshments for each social gathering. Dick will treat the general meeting guest speakers to dinner, or he will give each speaker a copy of the TAAS screensaver. TAAS will reimburse Dick for the cost of the refreshments and the speakers’ meals.

Ten TAAS members have volunteered to call members who don’t attend general meetings. The volunteers can remind the members of upcoming general meetings during the week prior to the meeting.

Treasurer’s Report
Account balances (as of the end of June)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$17502.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNTO Fund</td>
<td>$4751.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Fund</td>
<td>$5723.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark Sky S.I.G. Fund</td>
<td>$1119.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Projects Fund</td>
<td>$5447.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Fair Fund</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosmic Carnival Fund</td>
<td>$34.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astronomical League Reserve</td>
<td>$241.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Funds on Deposit</td>
<td>$34979.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses for June 2008</td>
<td>$485.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income for June 2008</td>
<td>$651.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

continued on page 9
Want to Save on Gas?  
Carpool to GNTO

Have you ever decided to not attend a TAAS function at GNTO because you did not want to make the drive to the observatory? If your answer to this question is yes, you may be interested in the idea of carpooling to GNTO. The GNTO committee is investigating the interest in and options for a car-pool program to the observatory.

The purpose of the program would be to make GNTO more accessible to TAAS members who otherwise are unable to attend functions at the observatory. GNTO is a wonderful asset that all TAAS members should be able to utilize and enjoy. We all need to decide if a car-pool program would help accomplish this goal.

Your assistance is needed in determining if there is a sufficient interest in this effort to continue with the idea. We would also like to get your ideas on how a carpooling program should be conducted.

There are several general options that can be considered. First would be to carpool from an Albuquerque location. Second, we could arrange for a meeting spot off the interstate, (a large store parking lot for example), from which we would carpool the final distance to GNTO.

Some of the things that need to be considered when carpooling are (1) equipment of attendees (2) arrival and departure times and (3) willingness of TAAS members to be the car-pool drivers.

Since you can chose from a selection of good scopes and eyepieces waiting for you at GNTO, you don’t even need to bring your own equipment!

If you are interested in this idea and have comments or suggestions, please forward them to Dee Friesen or any other member of the GNTO committee. Dee can be reached at 856-1593 or friesend@comcast.net. The GNTO e-mail address is GNTO@TAAS.org.

Committee Reports

GNTO
See the GNTO section of the newsletter.

Education
The first School Star Party of the 2008-2009 school year will be on August 26. Bob Havlen will present a review of Night Sky Network activities at a future general meeting.

New Business
The members will be surveyed in December about their level of interest in TAAS programs.

Event Retrospect
The Summer Solstice Celebration on June 26 was well attended.

Event Prospect
Shane Ramotowski received a request for TAAS members to host a star party on July 27 at Mountain Valley Church in Edgewood. The Board voted unanimously to make this event unofficial, as it is the day after the next Oak Flat Star Party.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.
Free Telescope Offer

What’s that? Did you say Free? That’s right FREE! Any TAAS member can borrow a TAAS telescope. Contact Dale Murray at telescope_loans@taas.org or 286-9533 and receive a loaner telescope absolutely free. You can choose from scopes with apertures ranging from 6” to 13”.

Some restrictions apply. Offer valid for current TAAS members. Offer is first come first served. Late comers will be put on a waiting list.

Neither TAAS nor the telescope curators will be held liable for any lost sleep or other problems arising from the use of TAAS scopes.

Borrowers are required to enjoy the telescopes.

Online Sidereal Times Delivers Big Benefits

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. Online reading also allows you to enlarge for eye comfort and click to most Web addresses instantly.

The catch is that the full-color version is only available at our Web site: www.taas.org. If you prefer to download and read your newsletter on your computer—or print it yourself—rather than receive a paper copy by mail, please notify the TAAS treasurer, Dan Clark, 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 and save TAAS money.

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.
# 2008 TAAS Board of Directors/Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Dee Friesen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:president@taas.org">president@taas.org</a></td>
<td>856-1593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President / General Meeting Coordinator</td>
<td>Dick Fate</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vp@taas.org">vp@taas.org</a></td>
<td>293-2131(H)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary / Public Relations Officer</td>
<td>Melissa Kirk</td>
<td><a href="mailto:secretary@taas.org">secretary@taas.org</a>, <a href="mailto:pr@taas.org">pr@taas.org</a>,</td>
<td>385-0113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM Coordinator</td>
<td>Ray Collins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:atm@taas.org">atm@taas.org</a></td>
<td>344-9686(H)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATM Coordinator</td>
<td>Michael Pendley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:atm@taas.org">atm@taas.org</a></td>
<td>296-0549(H)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark Sky Coordinator</td>
<td>David Penasa</td>
<td><a href="mailto:darksky@taas.org">darksky@taas.org</a></td>
<td>277-1141(W)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Coordinator</td>
<td>Bob Hufnagel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:education_coord@taas.org">education_coord@taas.org</a>, <a href="mailto:librarian@taas.org">librarian@taas.org</a></td>
<td>890-8122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Coordinator</td>
<td>Barry Spletzer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:grants@taas.org">grants@taas.org</a></td>
<td>294-4601(H)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarian</td>
<td>Bob Hufnagel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:librarian@taas.org">librarian@taas.org</a></td>
<td>890-8122(H)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Coordinator</td>
<td>Bill Firth</td>
<td><a href="mailto:membership@taas.org">membership@taas.org</a></td>
<td>899-0950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Gary Cooper</td>
<td><a href="mailto:editor@taas.org">editor@taas.org</a></td>
<td>321-5404(C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations Officer</td>
<td>Melissa Kirk</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pr@taas.org">pr@taas.org</a></td>
<td>385-0113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telescope Curator</td>
<td>Dale Murray</td>
<td><a href="mailto:telescope_loans@taas.org">telescope_loans@taas.org</a></td>
<td>286-9532(H)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNM Observatory Coordinator</td>
<td>Robert Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:unm_coord@taas.org">unm_coord@taas.org</a></td>
<td>270-5857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Master</td>
<td>Bill Firth</td>
<td><a href="mailto:webmaster@taas.org">webmaster@taas.org</a></td>
<td>899-0950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Dee Friesen**  
President  
856-1593  
president@taas.org

**Dick Fate**  
Vice President / General Meeting Coordinator  
293-2131 (H)  
vp@taas.org

**Melissa Kirk**  
Secretary / Public Relations Officer  
secretary@taas.org, pr@taas.org, 385-0113

**Ray Collins**  
ATM Coordinator  
344-9686(H)  
atm@taas.org

**Michael Pendley**  
ATM Coordinator  
296-0549(H)  
atm@taas.org

**David Penasa**  
Dark Sky Coordinator  
277-1141(W)  
darksky@taas.org

**Bob Hufnagel**  
Education Coordinator  
890-8122(H)  
education_coord@taas.org, librarian@taas.org, 890-8122

**Barry Spletzer**  
Grants Coordinator  
294-4601(H)  
grants@taas.org

**Bob Hufnagel**  
Librarian  
890-8122(H)  
librarian@taas.org

**Bill Firth**  
Membership Coordinator  
899-0950(H)  
membership@taas.org

**Gary Cooper**  
Newsletter Editor  
321-5404(C)  
editor@taas.org

**Melissa Kirk**  
Public Relations Officer  
385-0113  
pr@taas.org

**Dale Murray**  
Telescope Curator  
286-9533(H)  
telescope_loans@taas.org

**Robert Williams**  
UNM Observatory Coordinator  
270-5857  
umn_coord@taas.org

**Bill Firth**  
Web Master  
899-0950  
webmaster@taas.org
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, student (grades K-12), or military membership. 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 Web site 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.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Note that the Sidereal Times is mailed at a first class mail rate. As a result, the newsletter may be forwarded to your new address should you move, or it may not!! Please provide the Treasurer (treasurer@taas.org) with your new mailing address or e-mail address to ensure that you receive your newsletter.

TAAS LIBRARY: Please contact the Librarian at librarian@taas.org or 890-8122 to check out a book or make a contribution.

TAAS on the World Wide Web: http://www.taas.org/taas@taas.org
Online Sidereal Times: www.taas.org/sidereal
Educational Outreach: www.taas.org/education/
Donations to TAAS: www.taas.org/donate/
Buy and Sell: www.taas.org/equivectrics
TAAS Astronomy Links: www.taas.org/links/
TAAS 200: www.taas.org/taas200/