General Meeting News
Lynne Olson

TAAS GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, June 14, 7:00 P.M.

NEW VENUE: THE PLANETARIUM AT
New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

The Science of Astrology

Dr. Barry Spletzer
TAAS Chief Scientist

We welcome Dr. Barry Spletzer back as a speaker for this gathering. His presentations are always informative and engaging, and we anticipate an enthusiastic attendance by both the public and members.

In this latest installment on the history of science, he will trace the history of astrology from the time when this most ancient science may have saved humanity through the transformations that led to the modern practices. He will explain how the ancient science of astrology gave birth to astronomy and, after millennia, astronomy came out of the shadows to become a science in its own right, overshadowing the parent. Along

continued on page 2...

Oak Flat Public Star Party
Saturday, June 21,
Dusk until Late

by Lynne Olson

OUR NEXT public star party will be held June 21 (the summer solstice) at Oak Flat, 9 miles south of Tijeras on State Highway 337, at the Juniper Picnic Grounds on the adjacent meadow. The star party is free and open to the public. TAAS telescopes of all sizes and types will be there for observing the major astronomical targets of the season. This is a very popular event, and we are looking forward to clear skies and excellent conditions for this one and for those coming up in July, August, and September.

Members and the public are encouraged to come early and picnic on the grounds (no fires allowed) and visit the telescopes and their owners as they are setting up for the evening’s viewing. TAAS members welcome your interest and any questions you may have, so feel free to wander and be curious.

At 8:00 p.m., Dee Friesen will host a TAAS Fabulous Fifty session, showcasing the

continued on page 2...

International SUN-day

Museums, Petroglyph Monument, and Social Media to Share in International SUN-day

by Roger Kennedy

OVER 100 groups around the world in over twenty countries will be participating in a global solar observing event called International SUN-day. It is similar to the Astronomy Day in 2009, but this time, with the invention of social media, there is a real-time component to this celebration.

TAAS will support observing events at Petroglyph National Monument (Roger Kennedy), and between the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and Explora (Jim Greenhouse and Dee Friesen). Staff from the ABC Library System and the UNM Department of Meteoritics will also be at the museum.

On Sunday, June 22, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., people at these two locations or holding their own observing event are asked to upload photos to the International SUN-day Facebook site, https://www.facebook.com/groups/InternationalSUNday/.
...Oak Flat Star Party continued from page 1...constellations and naked-eye objects visible for late spring and early summer, along with observing tips and a general view of amateur astronomy possibilities. Star charts will be available for use as darkness falls.

As the night deepens, there will be a laser-guided tour of the constellations, gathering in the center of the meadow.

Direction signs will be placed at the main turning points indicating public parking and telescope access. You are asked to use only red flashlights and headlamps to preserve your night vision and that of other attendees. No smoking, please, and no fires of any kind, as the fire danger is always a concern this time of year.

Please check www.TAAS.org for a map and directions and for any changes or cancellations as the event approaches. Any questions can be sent to TAAS@TAAS.org.

...General Meeting News continued from page 1...the way, he will discuss the implications of belief in modern astrology, how it is practiced, and how it contrasts with its ancient scientific origins.

Barry Spletzer is a long-time amateur astronomer and member of The Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS). He has been a featured speaker at TAAS several times on topics including the history of science, astronomy, optics, and celestial mechanics. He retired from Sandia Labs as the Senior Scientist for robotics four years ago, is a registered professional engineer, and holds a Ph.D. in Applied Mechanics. Dr. Spletzer has been dubbed our “Chief Scientist” and also operates our Telescope Loaner Program as the Loan Ranger.

Please enter the Planetarium for the meeting by the south door fronting on Mountain Street. Parking is available at the NMMNH&S lot on the north side or along Mountain Street. Send any questions to TAAS@TAAS.org.

Hall of the Stars Wins Top Honor from Museum Professionals

by Roger Kennedy

Our recently completed Hall of the Stars exhibit at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science has won the Muse Award Gold Medal from the American Association of Museums (AAM) in the “Interactive Interpretive Installations” category for 2014. This top honor was based on a jury-of-peers review of projects submitted by U.S. and international institutions.

Well done to all NMMNH&S/TAAS volunteers who made this possible: Doug Ray, Dave Ray, Al Brettner, Robert Katz, Tad LaCoursiere, Asis Carlos, Jim Greenwood, Dee Friesen, Steve Riegel, Roger Kennedy, Anthony Martinez, Linda Kennedy, Robert Amdahl, and Mike Molitor.

In awarding the Gold Medal, jurors commented, “We loved the grassroots spirit of the project, particularly the use of low-cost technologies and the team of dedicated volunteers. Visitors are able to learn about astronomy through relatable terms, from focusing on sky objects you can see over changing seasons to what’s observable from your own backyard. The Hall of [the] Stars captures the essence of tech projects that do not require a large budget to create an immersive and engaging experience.”

The other institutions receiving medals in the same category were Taipei’s National Palace Museum (silver), and the Pittsburg Children’s Museum (bronze). According to the AAM, the annual Muse Awards—a project of the association’s Media and Technology professional network—recognize outstanding achievement by “institutions or independent producers who use digital media to enhance the museum experience and engage audiences. The Muse awards celebrate scholarship, community, innovation, creativity, education and inclusiveness.” Medals were awarded at the association’s May conference in Seattle.

...Oak Flat Star Party continued from page 1...
AS INITIALLY REPORTED last month, the TAAS GNTO site was the victim of a break-in and burglary on May 1. Based on missing sensor data in the weather station log, we believe that the break-in occurred around 7:00 a.m. This weather sensor was one of the items stolen. The lock on the property gate was shot off and windows in the Ortega building and the café were broken, in order to gain access. The main observatory structure and the imaging dome were not impacted. Items taken included a propane grill, a small cube-type refrigerator, a digital “atomic” wall clock, an Oregon Scientific weather sensor, a box-type fan, a six-foot folding table, a box of observing awards, and several smaller items. Additional missing items include a marine sextant belonging to Bill Wallace and an aluminum work platform belonging to Ray Collins. The replacement value of the TAAS property is estimated at about $900, and the exact value of the personal property is not known but could be as much as a couple of thousand dollars. The cost to repair/replace the windows is about $200. A report has been filed with the Socorro County Sheriff’s Office.

On May 3, Jim Fordice opened for the Saturday observing event and had nearly clear skies with some clouds to the west. Dust obscured observing much of anything near the horizon, although Omega Centauri was seen at about 10:00 p.m. Everyone had a fairly good night of observing, and it was pleasant having a large crowd. Some 24 people joined Jim for observing: Dan Rosbach; Pete Eschman; Chaz & Hilary Jetty; Hooman Hedayati; Michelle Cook; Dave, Orion and Maya Walz-Burkett; Mike, Eric, and Dane Edwards; Pete Scala; Tom Graham; Bill Wallace; Kevin Savage (Bill’s guest); Alan Scott; Amy Estelle; Kevin McKeeown; David and Fabi Hover; Jon Schuchardt; Mike Fage; Steve Welch. Pete operated the Isengard for viewing and for impromptu training. Alan Scott closed at 1:30 a.m.

Ray Collins continues his craftsman efforts in the café. He built and installed the cabinets, installed the stove and countertop. Ceiling lights are on a skip-trowel ceiling. Ray is certainly doing a very nice job. Pete Eschman, Vance Ley, and Ric Thiem continue to tune the new Isengard RA drive, and to document the site power wiring.

TAAS members Jim Fordice, Mike Molitor, Vance Ley, Dee Friesen, Pete Eschman, David Frizzell, Dan Rossbach, Paul Grunwald, and Bob Hufnagel completed CPR and automatic electronic defibrillator (AED) training on May 17. The AED is located in the lower level equipment room of the main dome building.

The next GNTO New Moon observing events are: May 31, June 28, and July 26. At this writing, the planned July 5 training day is not firm. Check the website and TAAS_Talk for updates.

Remember, these dates are Saturdays. With the new policy of floating the event between Friday or Saturday, whichever has the better weather forecast, the actual
June 2014

Saturday, June 14, 2014, 7:00 P.M.

NEW VENUE:
The Planetarium at New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

The Science of Astrology

Dr. Barry Spletzer
TAAS Chief Scientist

TAAS General Meeting

Need help with your Telescope?

Attend the ATM meeting and receive assistance.

First and third Wednesday of the month.

Manzano Mesa Multi-Gen Center
501 Elizabeth St SE, Albuquerque, NM

map is available at www.TAAS.org
## Notes


– School Star Party

**ATM** – Amateur Telescope Making and Maintenance. Call Michael Pendley for information at 296-0549, or e-mail atm@TAAS.org.

**GNTO** – General Nathan Twining Observatory

**GNTO Training** – GNTO Observing and Training

**GNTO NM** – New Moon Premium Observing Night

**NMMNH&S** – New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

**UNM** – University of New Mexico Observatory. Call the TAAS hotline at 254-8227, or the UNM hotline at 277-1446 to confirm, or e-mail unm_coordinator@TAAS.org.

**P & A** – UNM Physics and Astronomy Building, Corner of Lomas and Yale

**SIG** – Special Interest Group

**TBA** – To Be Announced

---

### Under the Dome

**continued from page 3**

The next GNTO Committee meeting is Thursday, June 5, at The County Line, 9600 Tramway Blvd. NE, at 7:00 pm.

As always, check TAAS_Talk and the TAAS website for last-minute changes and updates.

GNTO is open to all TAAS members and their guests. TAAS members are encouraged to become involved in using and running your observatory. Contact me or speak with one of the GNTO Committee members.

GNTO Director e-mail: gnto@TAAS.org. Or, 518-225-7077 (cell); 505-717-2601 (land).

---

### Event Calendar – July 2014

<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></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 ATM</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 GNTO Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 General Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16 ATM</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18 Explora Adult Night</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25 Sidereal Times Deadline</td>
<td>26 GNTO NM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31 GNTO Committee Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Event calendar continued from page 3.

**Sunday**

1. Event could be held on the Friday one day before these dates. On Thursday we will post which day the event will be held.

Sky conditions are changeable, and it is difficult to obtain accurate sky predictions 30 to 60 hours in advance. We have been making the decision to hold or cancel an event on Thursday, in order to give members 24 hours notice. If this much advance notice is not required, we can be more precise about holding or canceling an event. Let us know if you have an opinion on how much advance notice you need.

Longer range, we have plans for a GNTO picnic and Fabulous 50 viewing on August 23.
May Education Outreach

Corrales Elementary Event
Marks School Star Party Season Finale

by Tom Graham, Education Outreach

WE WRAPPED UP the 2013–2014 school star party season May 6 at Corrales Elementary with ten telescopes and one mirror binocular set up. If you missed this season of school star parties, next school star party season will soon be here.

I think Ed Juddo summed it up in a way many volunteers feel on those nights in the middle of the week when you’re going to the school star party: “It has been a long day...and it would be very easy to just say no, or maybe next time. Yet, you press on, and when you get to the school, get set up, and see kids with wonder and excitement in their eyes (think of the first time you saw Saturn) you are rejuvenated and glad you came.”

Yes, the views are most likely in a light-polluted area, kids are everywhere, and you may be tired. However, you’re buoyed by the knowledge that the sharing of the night skies touches many people you don’t even know, some for a lifetime. A big thanks to all who attended, Dee Friesen, Ed Juddo, Gordon Schaefering, Gordon Pegue, Judy Stanley, Kathy Jones, Asis Carlos, Roger Kennedy, Bob Havlen, Tad LaCoursiere, Bob Hufnagel, Trish Logan, John Laning, and Bill Wallace. Thank you all. See you in the fall semester.
May Solar Outreach
by Roger Kennedy, Solar Outreach

IN MAY 2014, our solar outreach program reached 2,772 children and adults throughout the state of New Mexico at 11 different events:

- Corrales Elementary School
- Ruidoso High School
- National Train Day at the Alvarado Transportation Center
- National Garden Day at the Albuquerque Botanic Garden
- Solar Sunday and Memorial Day at the Museum of Natural History
- Hillerman Library
- Albuquerque Open Space
- Spring Flowers Events at the Albuquerque Botanic Garden

TAAS volunteers who contributed were: Ira Strong, Tad LaCoursiere, Asis Carlos, Tom Graham, Anthony Martinez, Roger and Linda Kennedy, and Robert Katz.

Since January, our outreach has brought solar observing and STEM activities to 13,611 people at 75 different events.

We have created a Facebook site (Timmy Telescope Solar Astronomy Outreach) so that children and parents can download pictures of our events. Timmy, a Step2 KidAlert Visual Warning Sign with added astronomy and space stickers, has become a recognizable trademark of our events. We have received requests from around the world asking where this item could be purchased.

Also, we now have a tab/link on the TAAS website. The calendar for upcoming Library Summer Reading Program and other community events can be viewed here:

http://www.taas.org/solar.html
http://abclibrary.org/csc
www.facebook.com/timmy.telescope
M104, “The Sombrero Galaxy,” captured on April 24, 2014, at GNTO. A total of 23 x 10-min. subs were made using an SBIG 4000XCM camera on a C11-Edge with f/7 focal reducer (1960-mm focal length), mounted on a Losmandy G11. Processing was done in DSS and Photoshop CS2. M104 is an unbarred spiral galaxy seen edge-on beneath the constellation Virgo. It is approximately 30 million light-years distant.

—Vance Ley
...just north of Sagittarius, captured using an SBIG ST4000XCM camera fitted with a 50-mm Nikon lens at f/2.8, piggybacked on a C11 Edge OTA / Losmandy G11. Two sets of five two-minute integrations were made and combined in DSS. Further processing was done in Photoshop CS2. The two images were then composited in CS2.

The Lagoon Nebula (M8) is plainly visible in the lower mid-to-right portion of the image. Just above M8 is the Trifid Nebula (M20). From M20, on a leftward diagonal, are M17 (The Omega or Swan Nebula) and M16 (The Eagle Nebula). At lower center is M28, a small globular cluster that, in this image, appears star-like. Beneath it is Kaus Borealis, the uppermost star in the teapot asterism of Sagittarius. To its left is M22, a larger globular cluster. And, to the mid-right, is M9, another globular cluster. This field is completely packed with Messier objects.

—Vance Ley

Packed with Messier Objects

A Wide-Angle View of the Milky Way . . .
Welcome to New and Returning TAAS Members

Tom Boldway
Anthony Martinez
David McCormick

Donations to TAAS

GENERAL
Jim Degnan
David McCormick
Dan Richey
Jose Rodriguez
Peter Wanko

EDUCATION
Trish Logan
Mark Wunder

GNTO
Peter Wanco

DARK SKY
Dee Friesen

Monthly Membership Report

April 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Current Month</th>
<th>Past Month</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Paid</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complimentary</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Members</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explanation of Dues and Membership Renewal Date

New memberships will be posted as beginning the first day of the month regardless of what day during that month the check is received. Notice of renewal will be sent out the month before the due date. You will have until the end of the month after your renewal date to send your membership check.

If you fail to pay and renew at that time, your membership will lapse. When you pay on a lapsed membership you will be reinstalled in the month that the membership was originally due. (If dues were due in March and you did not renew until May or June or July, etc., the date of your renewal will be in March. If your dues are due in April and you pay in March, your membership will still be renewed in April.)

In a nutshell, if you pay late or early your membership date stays the same and your next year’s dues will be due on that date next year.

—Dan Clark

Location, Location, Location

• Chaco Canyon
6185’ elevation
Latitude 36˚ 01’ 50”N
Longitude 107˚ 54’ 36”W
36.03˚ -107.91˚
36˚ 1.83’ -107˚ 54.60’

• Oak Flat
7680’ elevation
Latitude 34˚ 59’ 48”N
Longitude 106˚ 19’ 17”W
34.99˚ -106.32˚
34˚ 59.80’ -106˚ 19.28’

• UNM Campus Observatory
5180’ elevation
Latitude 35˚ 5’ 29”N
Longitude 106˚ 37’ 17”W
35.09˚ -106.62˚
35˚ 5.48’ -106˚ 37.29’

Donations to TAAS

The Albuquerque Astronomical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are deductible as charitable contributions on the donor’s federal income tax return.

For security reasons, GNTO location is available by request only, so please contact Mike Molitor, GNTO Director, for GNTO information.

Dan Clark
Treasurer
P.O. Box 50581
Albuquerque, NM 87181
## 2014 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>Steve Snider</td>
<td><a href="mailto:president@TAAS.org">president@TAAS.org</a></td>
<td>505-274-3362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President / General Meeting Coordinator</td>
<td>David Frizzell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vp@TAAS.org">vp@TAAS.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Sigrid Monaghan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:secretary@TAAS.org">secretary@TAAS.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Coordinator</td>
<td>Robert Anderson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:membership@TAAS.org">membership@TAAS.org</a></td>
<td>505-275-1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Outreach Coordinator</td>
<td>Tom Graham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:education_coord@TAAS.org">education_coord@TAAS.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events Coordinator</td>
<td>Lynne Olson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:events_coordinator@TAAS.org">events_coordinator@TAAS.org</a></td>
<td>505-856-2537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Coordinator</td>
<td>Bob Havlen</td>
<td></td>
<td>505-856-3306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark Sky Coordinator</td>
<td>Mike Molitor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gnto@TAAS.org">gnto@TAAS.org</a></td>
<td>land: 505-717-2601, cell: 518-225-7077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observatory Director</td>
<td>Gordon Pegue</td>
<td></td>
<td>505-332-2523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarian</td>
<td>Steve Riegel</td>
<td></td>
<td>505-274-3362</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contact Information

- **Archivist**: Pat Appel, archivist@TAAS.org, 505-292-0463 (H)
- **ATM Coordinator**: Ray Collins, atm@TAAS.org, 505-344-9686 (H)
- **ATM Coordinator**: Michael Pendley, atm@TAAS.org, 505-238-6060
- **Dark Sky Coordinator**: David Penasa, darksky@TAAS.org, 505-277-1141 (W)
- **Education Outreach**: Tom Graham, education_coord@TAAS.org
- **Events Coordinator**: Lynne Olson, events_coordinator@TAAS.org, 505-856-2537
- **Grants Coordinator**: Barry Spletzer, grants@TAAS.org, 505-228-4384 (C)
- **Librarian**: Arthur VanDereedt, librarian@TAAS.org, 505-821-0530
- **Membership Chair**: Bob Anderson, membership@TAAS.org, 505-275-1916
- **Newsletter Editor**: Gary Cooper, TAASeditor@gmail.com, gnto@TAAS.org, 505-227-3974 (C)
- **Observatory Director**: Mike Molitor, gnto@TAAS.org, 505-717-2601
- **Public Relations**: Lynne Olson, pr@TAAS.org, 505-856-2537
- **Telescope Loan Coordinator**: Barry Spletzer, telescope_loans@TAAS.org, 505-228-4384 (C)
- **UNM Observatory Coordinator**: Daniel Zirzow, zunm_coord@TAAS.org, dzirzow at unm dot edu
- **Volunteer Coordinator**: Amy Estelle, adestelle2000@yahoo.com, 505-730-0025
- **Web Master**: Will Ferrell, 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 Friday 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 or compatible word processor; one space between paragraphs is preferred. ASCII and RTF are acceptable. One column is approximately 350 words. Contact the Newsletter Editor at TAASeditor@gmail.com for more information.

Note that the Sidereal Times is no longer mailed. It is posted on the TAAS Web site, www.TAAS.org. The editor’s e-mail address is TAASeditor@gmail.com.

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:

TAAS Web site: http://www.TAAS.org

The TAAS Web site includes:
- Online Sidereal Times
- Educational Outreach
- Programs: TAAS 200, Equipment Trader, Telescope Loaner Program, and more
- SIGs
- Members Guide
- Links to Astronomy Resources and Members’ Blogs

E-mail: TAAS@TAAS.org