

TAAA Board of Directors Open Meeting Minutes: March 12, 2025

The teleconference Zoom Board open meeting was called to order at 6:31PM, B. Reynolds, Secretary, presiding. Board members present: B. Whitehead, Treasurer; E. Foley, Vice President; M. Smith, President(15 minutes late) and Members-at-Large D. Rossetter, S. Ferris, J. Kalas(joined late). Members attending included: Jim Knoll, Ben Bailey, Ross Carnes, Elliot Connor Justice, John Mead, and Nelsey Toner.

Approval of Minutes:

- Subject to a change the spelling of “Starry Messenger”, a motion was made by Ed Foley to approve the February 12, 2025 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Barbara Whitehead and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Open Action Items

TAAA Board Action Item List as of 03/12/2025

Date Entered	Item	Date Completed	Comments
3/13/24	Continued follow up on Strategic Plan		Mae taking suggestions for best method to achieve
9/5/24	Implement business expense reporting procedure	3/12/25	Barbara to send out to team leads
9/11/24	Research off site tractor liability insurance coverage		Pending receipt of quote
9/11/24	Insurance valuations for Ketelsen		Pending bid for DKO construction
10/9/24	Recommendation to migrate to TidyHQ		
12/12/24	Status of proposal for new tablet or camera		Pending input from Terri
1/8/25	Update effective dates of POA's	3/12/25	Bob Rose, Ed Foley, Jim Knoll
1/8/25	Contact TIMPA to see if interested in site wifi		Ben Bailey on 4/12/25
2/6/25	Contingency/recruitment plan for Treasury function		In event member search is unsuccessful
2/6/25	Job aides for assistant Treasurer to Ed	3/12/25	From Barbara
2/12/25	CAC org chart to be published in Bulletin	3/12/25	
2/12/25	Youth Protection Plans to be placed in minor training mtl's	3/12/25	To be used as templates in future
2/12/25	Implement log to record movement of loaner equip		For April BOD mtg
2/12/25	Need mount for Stellarview refractor by end 2025		Or sell the refractor
2/12/25	Formation of radio astronomy SIG?		Jim Knoll to try to est SIG
2/12/25	Survey on non-participating imaging SIG members		Check w/Ruppel
2/12/25	Coordination of imaging SIG and CAC imaging infrastructure		
2/12/25	Need for commercial storage facility for Starry Mes tool kits		Terri Lappin to bring forward proposal

Treasurers Report

- Barbara noted that the TAAA February balance sheet showed approx \$8.1k in its checking account and approximately \$252k in money market accounts. Further, fixed assets totaled approximately \$1.4 million with total assets sitting at \$1.71 million.
- The net revenue for the month of February was approximately -\$330 while year to date stood at approximately \$155k.
- Revenue for the month was over budget due increased donations, star party revenue, and interest. This resulted in a very favorable actual net revenue vs budget (~246%) thus far this fiscal year. Expenditures are ~\$5k over budget thus far this fiscal year due primarily to insurance, maintenance and equipment costs. Overall, thus far for the year, net revenue is approximately \$117k over budget.
- A motion was made by Ed Foley to approve the Treasurers Reports as presented for the financial month of February. The motion was seconded by Bob Reynolds and passed by a vote of 7-0.
- Barbara also noted that we are still awaiting an insurance quote for offsite tractor usage at CAC.

CAC/TIMPA Reports

- Jim Knoll made a request for approval of the proposed CAC facilities painting estimate/contract for the amount of \$5,235. After some discussion, a motion was made by Bob Reynolds to approved the CAC painting contract with an amount not to exceed \$. The motion was seconded by Ed Foley. The motion then passed with a vote of 7-0.
- John Kalas noted that the bid does not include the well house.
- Bob Reynolds then made a motion to approve up to \$500 for TAAA's share of the Eridanus Group's cost of painting and repair of the well house. Ed Foley seconded the motion. The motion then passed with a vote of 7-0.
- Ben Bailey noted that the Gila Monster shed has now been cut down to a reduced size.
- It was noted that John Mead will make contact with the City regarding TAAA's desire to install a sky quality meter at TIMPA.

AFSIG Strategic Review

- Connor Justice made a presentation on the status of AFSIG activities, planning, attendance, etc.
- It was noted that there is extensive library of AFSIG presentations with significant numbers of views. This library can be accessed through the TAAA website. The bottom line is that this has been a fantastic effort by Connor and his team!
- Volunteer engagement remains a continuous challenge to maintain, or grow, current levels of AFSIG offerings.
- Ed and Mae offered names for additional AFSIG presenters.

General Overview

- Meeting held on Zoom every 2nd Thursday at 6:30PM Arizona time
 - Meeting Invite sent out club on the Sunday before the meeting
- Ideally consists of two presentations, and generally lasts no more than 1.5 hours
 - One presentation on a recurring theme
 - One presentation a fundamental astronomy topic that has relevance to amateur astronomers
- Generally, keep content aligned with visual observing to avoid overlap with AISIG content
- By un-spoken rule, we have generally been able to keep content at or around the high-school or early college level.

Content Summary

- 85% of presentation's since 2018 have been archived on a Google Drive
- Post COVID, Zoom recordings uploaded to TAA YouTube channel within 24 hours of meeting
 - Only 2 meeting not uploaded due to loss of recording from user error
- Post COVID, group has been limited to 4 members for topic presentations
- Special thanks to
 - Doug Smith
 - Stephen Ferris
 - Pete Hermes

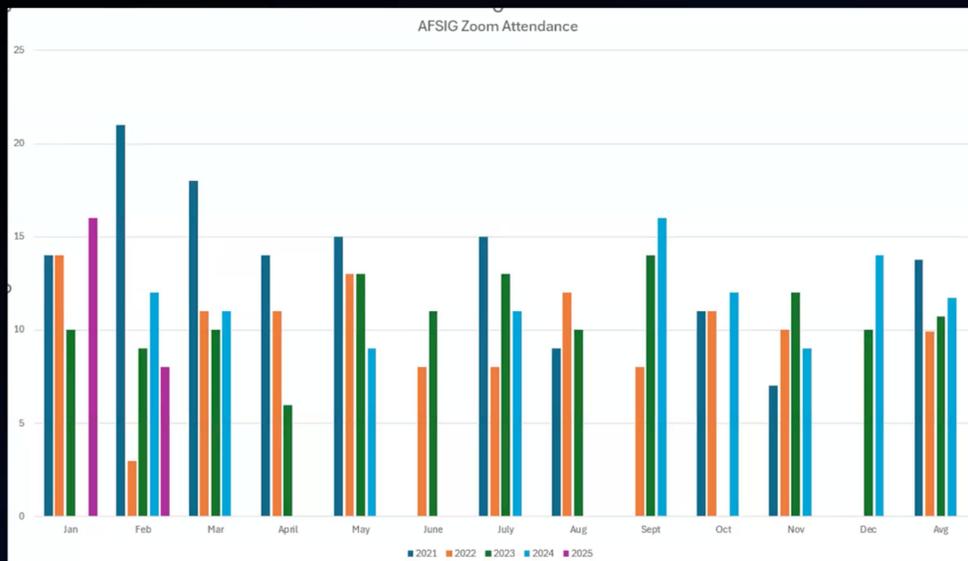
Presentation Topics Info

- Finished long running Constellation of the Month series in May 2022
 - 35 presentation archived cover 42 of the 88 constellations
- Current ongoing series shifted to Astronomer of the Month
- Since mid 2024 , second presentation limited by available ideas.
 - Started re-presenting some presentations given before Zoom was available to make generally available on YouTube

Meeting History

- 86 meeting events since January 2021, with 10 cancellations
 - 5 canceled in early COVID
 - 3 canceled due to eclipses
 - 1 canceled due to lack of attendees
 - 1 canceled due to personal medical event
- Post COVID attendance averages 10 attendees (host not included)

Attendance - POST COVID – Jan 2021 to Feb 2025

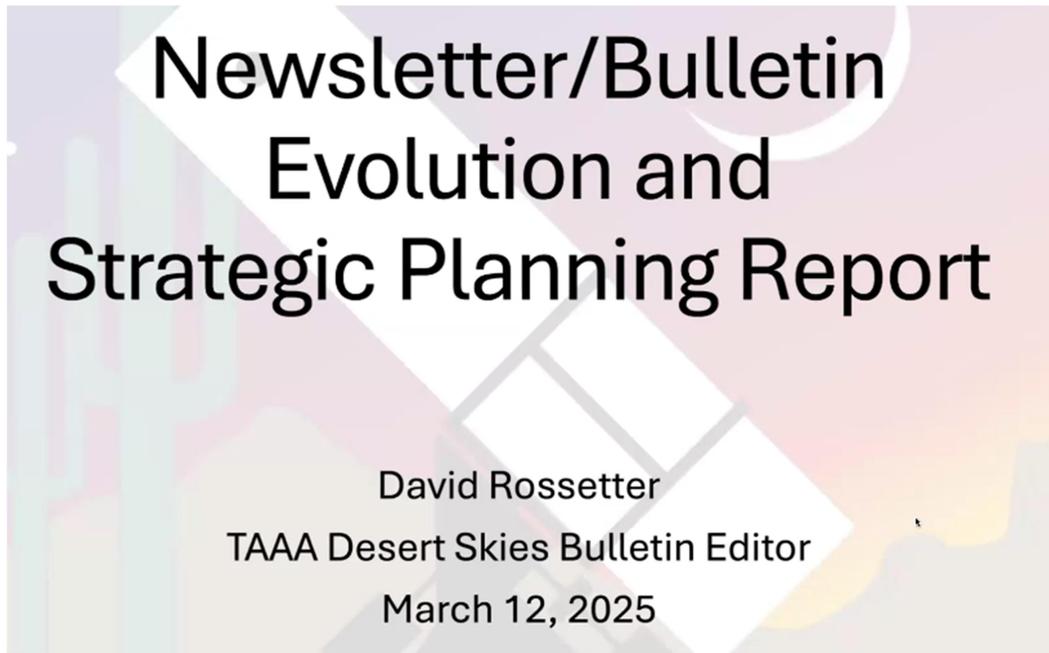


Attendance - POST COVID – Jan 2021 to Feb 2025

- Statistics
 - Min: 6 – April 2023
 - Excludes meeting canceled due to lack of attendance (3 people)
 - Max: 21 – Feb 2021
 - Average: 11.5
- 5 non-canceled events missing attendance count
- Attendance generally higher by time second presentation starts
- One or two members expressed strong interest in shifting to a Hybrid meeting (i.e zoom + in-person)

Newsletter/Bulletin Evolution & Strategic Planning Report

- David Rossetter, the publication editor since 1980/81, gave a presentation on the history of the TAAA Bulletin/Newsletter. Excerpts of the presentation included:



Purpose

- Information to (and from) the members
- **Members know what is happening in the club, learn, and feel a part of a wonderful organization.**
- List all the TAAA Events (Monthly)
- Education
- Reports
- External Events (U of A, Observatories, etc.)
- Creative submissions

Delivery

- Mailed to all members, Available at meetings
- Later, option for electronic delivery
- 2021 – all electronic delivery (easy printable format)
- Monthly: 1990 – 2012
- Quarterly: 2013 – 2017; Monthly Events Bulletin
- Monthly: 2018 - Present

Content

- Monthly “Desert Skies” (1990 – 2012)
 - Events
 - Announcements
 - Education
 - Creative Articles
- Quarterly “Desert Skies” (2013 – 2017)
 - General Club and Astronomy Information
 - Education
 - Creative Articles (David Levy’s “Skyward”)
 - *Separate Events Bulletin*

Content

- Quarterly "Desert Skies" Discontinued
 - Too much work?
 - Not enough content?
- Monthly "Events Bulletin"
 - Club Announcements
 - Club Events
 - Outreach
 - SIGs
 - President's Column

TAAA Desert Skies Bulletin

- Primarily Bulletin
 - Club Announcements, Events, SIGs
 - Outreach
 - President's Column
- Plus, Former Desert Skies Information as Received
 - Event Reports
 - Education
 - External Event Announcements
 - Creative Columns

TAAA Desert Skies Bulletin

- PLUS
 - Observing Site Information and Updates
 - Equipment for Sale and Loan
 - Astro-Images
 - Other Member Contributions
 - Poetry (maybe someday)
- Originally planned as a Bulletin plus a few more items
- Grown into a Major Publication!

Challenges

- In 2020 (during Covid), Difficulty getting Events Bulletin out
- I began helping in the fall of 2020
- I became Co-Editor with Ken Bertschy (who did the graphics and new layout) in February 2021. I still use Ken's graphics and layout.
- We switched software to Adobe In Design in early 2021 – Changed name to TAAA Events Bulletin.
- Ken left at the end of the year for family reasons.
- I did all my own editing and proof-reading.
 - Overwhelming!
 - Brought in an Image Editor (Gregg Ruppel)

Challenges

- Made several embarrassing errors
 - Brought in two (later three) proof-readers.
 - Terri Lappin, Jim Knoll, Jeff Rothstein
- Put together a publishing system with deadlines
 - Submissions by the 24th
 - Put first proof together and out to proofreaders by 26th.
 - Proof-reading done, edits made, out to contributors and leaders by 27th.
 - Contributor edits made, Publish by 28th.

Published On-Time Every Month Except One Since 2021!

- Thank you
 - Contributors
 - Proofreaders
 - Editors
 - BOD and Leaders

Election Update

- Pete Hermes provided an update on potential candidates for the TAAA leadership positions in the coming election.
- Currently have candidates or likely candidates for all open positions on the Board and the HVRC.

A motion was put forward by B. Reynolds to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ed Foley. The motion was approved 7-0 and the Board meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.