

**UFO of ROSWELL**  
**Minutes of May 25, 2013**  
[www.ufoofroswell.com](http://www.ufoofroswell.com)

**Meeting Called to Order at:** 10:30 a.m. (J Kenneth Smith Sanctuary, Picnic Point, Roswell, NM)

**Handouts Provided to Attendees:**

1. Monthly Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2013.
2. Banking account reconciliation
3. Current Membership list.

**Roll Call:**

*Jeff Cohen, Steve Smith, Emmalee Knadle, Melanie Deason, Mike Richardson, Dale Wilkins, Robert Willis, Patrick Collins, Nancy and Bill Siders, Bill Flynt and Sandra Wieikle.*

**Introduction of Guests:** *(Names spoken for benefit of Minutes Taker)*

Guests, as spouses, arrived for potluck as meeting was adjourning.

**Approval of Agenda:**

No Agenda was presented. President, Jeff Cohen spoke of concerns noted in the Recent Field Trip Report (Point 4 of Old Business)

**Old Business as Committee Reports:**

**1. Reading of Previous Meeting's Minutes by Secretary:**

Minutes of last meeting were handed out, including a set to the Secretary, Melanie Deason.

**2. Membership Report:**

Emmalee Knadle mentioned that UFO Roswell had three new members; Steve West(Carlsbad, NM) , Sandra Weikel and Carlene Cliver (Sun Spot, NM)

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Steve Smith, Treasurer mentioned that UFOR has \$1,137.44 in the checking account. In the interest of saving time, specifics were not given today, although members are free to inquire with him directly. The club still has four Tee Shirts (1-3X and 3-2X) and about 10 posters left over.

**4. Recent Field Trip Report:**

**This morning's field trip in J. Kenneth Smith Bird Sanctuary bird list:** Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Mississippi Kite, Swainson's Hawk, Killdeer, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, White- Wing Dove, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Western Wood-Pewee, Western Kingbird, Barn Swallow Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, MacGillivray's Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Cassin's Finch.

**President Jeff Cohen discussed at length the North American Bird Count occurred May 11, 2013 - two weeks ago.** He participated in the Roswell area and recorded data at three sites, yet was personally disappointed that other members who had agreed to join him did not show up and didn't communicate/call/email him (that they were not going to join him as previously committed). Discussion followed: as a club we needed to establish proper protocol for future Field Trips so club members would know, i.e. what is expected when committing to participate in a field trip and what the proper advance protocol will be when a committed participant, for whatever reason, cannot participate. We all know that things come up and sometimes commitments must be broken, but is unacceptable to just 'not show up'.

**Jeff Cohen spoke of another birding groups' struggles and declining participation; he doesn't want us to fall into that same trap.** Jeff is an active birder and prefers more than the social aspect

to draw people out. He mentioned several accomplishments of the group during our brief 1½ years as a club. These include excellent publicity out in the community, over twenty-five members, plus a web site that is excellent, yet our calendar awaits posting. We have a half-year of possibilities before us, so Jeff asked for reflection and discussion to occur, including our purpose as a birding group. He also asked whether or not the List of Birds was wanted for the UFOR Notebook. Decision pending, since there was insufficient time for discussion (due to potluck start at 11:30 a.m.).

**Melanie Deason, UFOR Secretary, commented on today's discussion. It appears there are three categories that our group tends to focus on, with respect to interests, with some cross-over to other events:**

- (a) Social (i.e. twice yearly potlucks, like today, as an adjunct to a birding-outing);
- (b) Monthly birding-outings in the morning (followed by our monthly meetings); and
- (c) Special Events (i.e. additional outing both local and out of town, such as the local bird counts, Rosy finch day-event at the Sandia Mountains, Bosque del Apache day-trip, recent three-day Bird Festival – which was a huge accomplishment for this new group).

**It appears that this last category, Special Events, has the weakest link for communication and might need some 'hand-holding' to get participation up.**

Although many in the group like email messaging, Melanie reminded us that we all have different ways we prefer to receive information. She requests the group look into expanding ways to communicate – outside of just emails – so we can be more accommodating.

Bottom line: The calendar needs to get on the website, with suggestion that a Group List email members “to go look” whenever the calendar is updated and include the ‘clickable’ link. That way we are not looking for something that does not yet exist.

Melanie suggested the possibility of a ‘BRIEF cell phone text (done as a Group List, which can be sent from even older cell phones), and thus only requires ONE attempt at sending an outgoing message to several people. This might help with attendance, as it would allow REMINDERS such as: Please RSVP your participation in such & such event; the announcement of a UFOR birding activity coming up or meeting of the club, etc.

Discussion briefly touched on ways to increase communication and follow-through with the groups' commitments. No specific ‘cures’ were agreed upon, however the club members present want to improve communication. Since this was beyond the scope of the day's meeting, due to time constraints – as it was the Annual Spring Picnic and spouses were arriving – the meeting adjourned.

Jeff posted the recent List of Birds from the North American Bird Count to the UFOR Notebook. The trip to the Chiracahuahuas in Arizona is cancelled because it requires three days (two traveling).

#### **New Business:**

##### **1. Upcoming Field Trip - Details & Discussion:**

None discussed due to potluck event; emails will update Calendar events.

##### **2. Upcoming Special Event - Details & Discussion:**

None discussed at this time.

**3. UFO Calendar - Updates & Reminders:** Pending calendar updates to the website; however requires coordination among the officers in lieu of a club meeting.

#### **Reminders Needing Immediate Attention:**

- (a) Calendar to be posted on website soon, as Jeff agreed at April meeting to provide a typed copy to Webmaster. However, the months of June through August have no birding events yet scheduled, except the August meeting, so technically there is nothing to post until September. Revise it ASAP!
- (b) Any new UFOR emails, please have the information in the email, and clickable link to UFOR website, for a second chance of accessing information.

(c) No business meetings for months of June and July.

(d) Resume meetings on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, since the membership will be planning for:

*\* SEPT 7/8 BITTER LAKE DRAGONFLY FEST , SEPT 15 MANZANO HAWK WATCH/BANDING, SEPT 28 (SAT) SEPT 28 CLUB MEETING, OCT 19 (SAT) BOSQUE CRANE FESTIVAL & PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP,*

*\* NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> OR 9<sup>TH</sup> THE HOSTING OF A NOVEMBER COCTAIL EVENT FOR ANNUAL NEW MEXICO AUDUBON GROUP THAT IS HAVING THEIR WINTER BOARD MEETING IN ROSWELL.*

*\*Dec 7 (Sat) Club meeting, Dec 11 Christmas Bird count*

The above is subject to change. If changed prior notices will be sent out.

**Next Meeting:** ( Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013)

Next two months of meetings are cancelled – June and July. Resume on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Birding field trips will continue and will be posted when the summer Calendar is revised.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:30 p.m. for the Spring potluck. Bill Flynt was presented a framed poster of his photo of the Vermillion flycatcher. Framing done by Steve Rhoades of The Frame Shop.

**Respectfully submitted:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
UFO Roswell President (date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
UFO Roswell Secretary (date)