



# Desert Skies

Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association

Volume LIII, Number 5

May, 2007



## Sharing the Sky Star Party

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**Cover Photo:** TAAA Members support the "Sharing the Sky" star party. Photos by George Barber

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TAAA Phone Number: (520) 792-6414

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Grand Canyon Star Party Coordinator	Dean Ketelsen	293-2855	gcsp@tucsonastronomy.org
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TAAA Board Of Directors	All Board Members		taaaod@tucsonastronomy.org

### Membership in the TAAA

#### Annual Fees

Individual membership ..... \$25.00  
 Family (includes two adults plus minor children)..... \$30.00  
 Youth under 18 years must join as a family upon parental or guardian acknowledgement of participation in TAAA events. Ask the Treasurer for the required form.

#### Discounts (one discount allowed, subtract from above rates)

Seniors (over 60 years) ..... \$2.00  
 College Students, Teachers (K - 12)..... \$8.00  
 Youth under 18 yrs (form required, contact the treasurer) ..... \$13.00

#### Options (add to above membership rates)

Tucson society of the Astronomical League (TAL) fees\$ 5.00  
 Sky & Telescope Magazine 1 year (12 issues)..... \$32.95  
 Astronomy Magazine 1 year (12 issues)..... \$34.00  
 2 years (24 issues)..... \$60.00  
 Postage for New Member Pack ..... \$ 4.05

**Donations** are accepted for the following funds: SA-IDA/Light Pollution, TIMPA, Education, 30" Telescope & Land, and General/Undesignated.

#### Renewal Information

- Your membership expires as indicated on your mailing label.
- TAAA members may join the Tucson society of the Astronomical League (TAL) at the time they join or renew.
- Discounted Sky & Telescope or Astronomy magazine subscriptions are available to members and can be started or renewed at anytime. Rates are given above. Allow 3 months for processing. Subscriptions must be sent through the TAAA. *Do not send money directly to the magazines.* To change an individual subscription to the group rate, pay the

subscription amount to the TAAA treasurer. Include your magazine renewal notice.

- Please include a note explaining what you are paying for. Credit cards are not accepted. Write one check or money order for fees plus any options or donations. Make it payable to TAAA and send to:

Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association  
 PO BOX 41254 Tucson, AZ 85717

**Mailing Address or Email Changes** - Send to address above or email the treasurer.

**TAAA Mission Statement** - The mission of the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association is to provide opportunities for members and the public to share the joy and excitement of astronomy through observing, education and fun.

**Desert Skies Publishing Guidelines** - All articles, announcements, news, etc. must be submitted by the newsletter deadline. Materials received after that date will appear in the next issue. The editor retains all submissions unless prior arrangements are made. Submissions should be submitted in Word compatible files via e-mail or on a recordable media.. All material copyright Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association or specific author. No reproduction without permission, all rights reserved. We will not publish slanderous or libelous material! Send submissions to:

George Barber  
 TAAA/Desert Skies Editor  
 15940 W Ridgemoor Ave  
 Tucson AZ 85736

### President's Message

April was probably one of our busiest months as far as providing telescopes for star parties were concerned. We had a number of school events as well as paid events, and a big one on April 21 was the "Sharing the Sky" star party on the UofA Mall. David and Wendee Levy did an excellent job of pulling that one together, and there were many very interested observers who came out to look through our scopes. TAAA responded well with both solar viewing in the afternoon and many more scopes for the night sky. This was a good cooperative effort between the Sharing the Sky Foundation, Flandrau Planetarium, TAAA and a number of other contributors. The event supported the worthy cause of encouraging science education, and it was good to see a number of young people there. The proceeds from the fundraiser will reap more benefits in the future. And it was very nice to see Thom and Twila Peck back in Tucson for the event.

As we have been indicating for the past several months, the May 4 meeting of TAAA will be Members' Night, and we have a good variety of presenters on tap.

The place for the meeting has been switched to the Kuiper Building just east of the Flandrau Planetarium.

Jerry Farrer has been a long time observer/artist, and he will show us some of his sketches and how they aid him as an observer.

Richard Dougal has completed a home observatory. There is a lot of interest in the club in home observatories. Richard will introduce us to his.

George Barber will give us an update on the new plans for the TIMPA observatory that will house the club's 14" SCT. We are about ready to begin construction.

Andrew Cooper is returning from Hawaii to make his final move to the Big Island, and he will let us know what he

has learned about the Keck Observatory where he is now working.

Loretta McKibben has been hard at work on the TAAA web site revision, and she will introduce us to the new look.

Ron Probst has installed a new commercial backyard observatory that he will tell us about.

Dean Ketelsen will fill us in on the upcoming Grand Canyon Star Party, and he also has some of his photographic goodies to share with us. They are always a treat.

And Eric Karkoschka will give us another of his informative updates about the planets for the month.

We may yet have another presentation or two, but it already promises to be a full evening. As indicated elsewhere in this issue, the general meeting will begin at 6:30, so we will not have an Astronomy Essentials program.

Tucked into the Members' Night presentations we will have our annual election of officers for the coming year. I would like once again to commend our present Board of Directors for all of the good work they have done during the past year. They have been a very productive group, along with many other volunteers from our membership. All in all, the past year has been a very good one and we have a lot of momentum going into the coming year.

In case you haven't heard, John and Liz Kalas are back from their trip to Cleveland, where John had some heart surgery. John is doing well and is on the mend. We all wish him well for a speedy recovery and a quick return to the great leadership he provides within TAAA.

Clear skies,  
Bill Lofquist

### Meeting Information and Calendar of Events

**TAAA MEETING DATE:** Friday, May 4, at the **Kuiper Space Sciences Building Auditorium - Room 308**

**Member's Night: 6:30 pm.**

This month's meeting is Member's Night. We already have a full slate of presenters, so it promises to be an interesting evening. See the President's message for details.

We will be meeting in the Kuiper Space Sciences Building (Lunar and Planetary Lab), in the main auditorium, room 308 on the third floor (one floor up from ground floor). The Kuiper building is in easy walking distance of Steward Observatory. It's located immediately east of the Flandrau Planetarium near the corner of Cherry and University. This lecture hall is handicap accessible and has similar audio/visual equipment as we normally have at Steward Observatory. We thank Roger Tanner for taking care of

our a/v needs this month. We will be back at Steward Observatory next month.

Our May meeting is also our election night. All offices are open. Anyone wanting to run for an office is encouraged to talk to Steve Marten, Nominating Committee chair. See page 2 for contact information. Nominations from the floor will be accepted as write-in candidates and only after acceptance by the nominee in writing or in person.

Absentee ballots may be requested by contacting Terri Lappin. They must be presented to the President prior to the May meeting. Absentee ballots may not contain the name of late nominees.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:** Wednesday, May 9, 6:30 pm. The meeting is held at Steward Observatory Conference Room N305.

## Meeting Information and Calendar of Events (cont.)

### STAR PARTIES AND EVENTS:

01 May - Doolen MS Star Party  
 07 May - Astro Imaging SIG at China Rose  
 08 May - Cavett ES Star Party  
 09 May - Beginner's SIG at China Rose  
 11 May - Khalsa Montessori School Star Party  
 12 May - TAAA Star Party and Beginner's SIG at TIMPA  
 12 May - Kitt Peak Star Party  
 18 May - Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church Star Party  
 19 May - Cub Scout Pack 219 Star Party

19 May - Whipple Observatory Star Party  
 19 May - TAAA Star Party at Las Cienegas  
 21 May - Emily Gray MS Star Party

**NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE:** Deadline for articles: Sat, May 19. Printing: Mon, May 21. Folding Party: Tues, May 22. Mailing: Wed, May 23. The newsletter is mailed at least one week prior to the following month's General Meeting.

## Club News

### 2007 Nominating Committee Report

Members that have accepted a nomination for June 2007 through May 2008:

President - Bill Lofquist  
 Vice-President - Ken Shaver  
 Treasurer - Terri Lappin  
 Secretary - Steve Marten  
 Members at Large (3):  
 MAL - George Barber  
 MAL - Teresa Plymate  
 MAL - Keith Schlottman  
 MAL - Richard Dougall

No other TAAA members have contacted any Board members as of this date regarding any nomination. Several members considered by the Nominating Committee may contact the committee or Board Directors within the next few weeks.

Steve Marten  
 TAAA Nominating Committee Chair

### Member News

We welcome these members who have recently joined the TAAA: Peter Angeli, Daniel Kirpes, David & Margaret Owen, John & Mary Worman, Bob Youens (returning member), and our 2007 science fair winners: Jessica Honea, Theo Jones, Chris Machado, Noah Shambo. Glad to have all of you join! New members can pick up a members pack at a meeting if they didn't request it by mail. Hope you'll make it to our star parties or meetings so we can all get to know you. (Updated membership lists are available online at either Yahoo Groups email list website under Files, or at most meetings.)

### Astro-Imaging SIG Meeting

Monday, May 7, 7pm  
 China Rose, NE corner Speedway/Rosemont

Our presentations feature CCD images, planetary webcams, and film. Come see some of the state of the imaging art over some Chinese food. Just show up and enjoy

the show! For more information, contact Steve Peterson. See page 2 for contact information.

### TAAA Apparel

Looking for a special gift or a way to make that fashion statement? Try on something from our fine line of club apparel. We have got hats, T-shirts, denim shirts, and patches. We take cash and checks.

### Beginners' Special Interest Group BSIG for May

The Beginners Special Interest Group will gather for the monthly dinner meeting/TIMPA warm-up at the China Rose restaurant (NE corner of Speedway and Rosemont) on Wednesday, May 9, at 6:00 pm. Dr. Mary Turner will present an observing list for the TIMPA star party the following Saturday, May 12. J.D. Metzger will present "Double and Carbon Stars". Join us at the China Rose for information and good company, and at TIMPA for (we hope!) clear skies!

The BSIG Committee

### BSIG Committee Volunteers Needed

The Beginner's Special Interest Group is looking for enthusiastic, energetic, experienced TAAA members to join the BSIG Committee. If you enjoy helping others learn about observing skills, basic astronomy, telescopes and accessories, and other topics of interest to new amateur astronomers, the BSIG Committee is the place to be! Call or email J.D. Metzger or Dr. Mary Turner, or join us at the monthly BSIG dinner meeting at the China Rose restaurant. This month's meeting is Wednesday, May 9, at 6:00 pm.

### TAAA Spring Star-B-Cue at Kitt Peak May 12 (Saturday)

The TAAA has scheduled a star party and pot-luck barbecue at the picnic grounds up on Kitt Peak on Saturday, 5/12, starting at 4:00 pm. A maximum of 70 TAAA Members and families will be allowed to participate. The ramada gas-fired barbecue grill will be fired up starting at

### Club News (cont.)

4:30 pm and members are invited to cook their dinners between 4:30 and 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to share with other members. The grill will be turned off at 6:30 pm. Telescope observing will commence after sundown and will be concluded by 11:30 pm. All members must be heading down the mountain by midnight. Be prepared for cool temperatures.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the lecture hall at the start of the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Because of the popularity of this event, attendance will be initially limited to TAAA Members and their immediate family members only. If, after all TAAA Members have had an opportunity to sign up, there are any openings or cancellations, the attendance of guests will be considered. If you are unable to attend the May meeting, phone and e-mail reservation requests will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis *after* 9:00 am Saturday, 5/5. Contact John Kalas at 620-6502 or via e-mail at <jckalas@cox.net>.

It is very important for all attendees to abide by the rules established by Kitt Peak and respect the facility. Adherence to the rules will help to continue TAAA activities on Kitt Peak in the future.

1. No vehicles are allowed above the picnic grounds after 4:00 pm.
2. Only the ramada gas-fired barbecue grill is permitted for cooking food at the picnic grounds. No open fires or use of the personal barbecue grills is permitted.
3. All trash must be placed in the garbage receptacles.
4. Use of cellular phones and radio walkie-talkies is prohibited.
5. No alcoholic beverages are permitted.

When leaving the picnic grounds after dark, if possible, use your parking lights until you have reached the main road and are headed downhill after exiting the picnic area.

#### Grand Canyon Star Party

South Rim - 9-16 June

North Rim - 9-13 June

By Dean Ketelsen

Well the star party is coming together as it always does. We've got loads of scopes coming, a t-shirt design is in

hand, we're just waiting for June to get here! We are not in need of any more volunteers, in fact, the Park Service is looking to hold attendance at previous year's levels. But I know a lot of you who have never attended have always thought about coming. Why not take a family vacation to the Canyon and check us out without the scope? Campsites are surely still available - come up for one of the 2 weekends we'll be covering and find out why the regulars keep coming back. The crowds thin early and there will be lots to look at before the kids' bedtime. Hope to see you there! As always, for questions, you can call me at 293-2855 or e-mail me at ketelsen@as.arizona.edu

#### TIMPA Access Card Agreement Changed

The TAAA Board of Directors has revised the TIMPA Access Card Policy and updated the Agreement to agree with the new policy. The new policy goes into effect on June 1st. The most important change is to limit long term agreements to one year. Access card agreements will be reviewed annually and new agreements will need to be signed each year. Deposits and late fees have been changed and the process for borrowing a card has been streamlined. All members currently holding access cards will be contacted individually so new agreements can be signed.

Temporary TIMPA Access Cards are available for TAAA members and non-members for use on specific dates. Temporary cards are available by contacting any of the following people: Terri Lappin, Bill Lofquist, Ray Toscano, Michael Turner, and John Kalas (see page 2 for contact information).



TAAA members can borrow any of the five Night Sky Network toolkits for use at outreach activities like star parties, classroom presentations, or other events where you are talking about astronomy. The five toolkits are listed below. Each contains a training tape or DVD, a Resource



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**Club News (cont.)**

CD which contains PowerPoint presentations and NASA animations, plus the materials for doing the projects. Contact Terri Lappin (see page 2) for more information about these kits and their use.

**PlanetQuest:** materials to explain how planets are detected, why we put telescopes in space, treasure hunt for objects related to stellar evolution, star chart of naked eye stars known to have planets in orbit

**Our Galaxy, Our Universe:** scale model of the Milky Way galaxy and the Universe

**Black Hole Survival Kit:** what is a black hole and how does it affect objects nearby, includes a game that a group or family can play

**Telescopes – Eyes on the Universe:** explains the basic principles of optics, the human eye, and observing

**Shadows and Silhouettes:** covers lunar phases, eclipses, and transits

The Night Sky Network has also given us a SolarScope to use in our outreach efforts. It provides a white light image of the sun suitable for a small group to view together.

**Upcoming Lectures**

Below is our upcoming lecture schedule. Thank you to Louis Faix and Luke Scott for filling two open Astronomy Essentials lectures in June and August.

You'll see that we've scheduled a Backyard Observatories lecture for September's meeting. Members with backyard

observatories might want to consider showing off their observatory at the September meeting. We'll also be scheduling a tour, possibly the following day, of the observatories that are presented. Details will be provided closer to the date.

Jun 1	<i>Astronomy Essentials</i>	Louis Faix
	<i>Invited Lecture</i>	Buell Jannuzi, NOAO Large Scale Structure of Universe/Future of Kitt Peak
July 6	<i>Astronomy Essentials</i>	Mary Turner Seasonal Objects
	<i>Invited Lecture</i>	Mark Dickinson, NOAO "Multi-wavelength deep field surveys: watching galaxies grow"
Aug 3	<i>Astronomy Essentials</i>	Luke Scott
	<i>Invited Lecture</i>	Fulvio Melia (tentative to speak about black holes)
Sept 7	<i>Astronomy Essentials</i>	TAAA Projects Status Report
	<i>Invited Lecture</i>	Backyard Observatories

**Dark Skies for May 2007**

**DARK SKIES** (no twilight, no moonlight) for Tucson in 24-hour MST: 18=6pm, 20=8pm, 22=10pm, 0=12am  
**RISE, SET, VISIBILITY** for sun and bright planets: rise for morning object, set for evening object

Mo/Tu 30/ 1	- - -	Fr/Sa 11/12	20:45 - 2:37	Mo/Tu 21/22	0:20 - 3:47
Tu/We 1/ 2	Full Moon	Sa/Su 12/13	20:46 - 3:07	Tu/We 22/23	0:52 - 3:46
We/Th 2/ 3	- - -	Su/Mo 13/14	20:47 - 3:40	We/Th 23/24	1:19 - 3:45
Th/Fr 3/ 4	20:37 - 20:45	Mo/Tu 14/15	20:48 - 3:53	Th/Fr 24/25	1:45 - 3:44
Fr/Sa 4/ 5	20:38 - 21:44	Tu/We 15/16	20:49 - 3:52	Fr/Sa 25/26	2:09 - 3:44
Sa/Su 5/ 6	20:39 - 22:40	We/Th 16/17	20:50 - 3:51	Sa/Su 26/27	2:34 - 3:43
Su/Mo 6/ 7	20:40 - 23:32	Th/Fr 17/18	20:54 - 3:50	Su/Mo 27/28	3:00 - 3:42
Mo/Tu 7/ 8	20:41 - 0:18	Fr/Sa 18/19	22:00 - 3:49	Mo/Tu 28/29	3:28 - 3:42
Tu/We 8/ 9	20:42 - 0:58	Sa/Su 19/20	22:56 - 3:48	Tu/We 29/30	- - -
We/Th 9/10	20:43 - 1:34	Su/Mo 20/21	23:42 - 3:47	We/Th 30/31	- - -
Th/Fr 10/11	20:44 - 2:06			Th/Fr 31/1	Full Moon

Weekend	Sun	Sun	Mercury	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	
Sa/Su	Set	Rise	Set Vi	Set Vi	Rise Vi	Rise Vi	Set Vi	Vi=Visibility
5/ 6	19:05	5:31	19:22 -	22:31 -4	3:11 2	21:34 -2	1:38 0	-3 brilliant
12/13	19:10	5:26	20:08 5	22:38 -4	2:58 2	21:03 -2	1:11 0	0 conspicuous
19/20	19:15	5:21	20:45 3	22:43 -4	2:44 2	20:32 -2	0:44 1	3 moderate
26/27	19:20	5:18	21:07 3	22:44 -4	2:31 2	20:01 -2	0:18 1	6 naked eye limit
2/ 3	19:24	5:16	21:12 3	22:43 -4	2:18 1	19:30 -2	23:52 1	9 binoculars limit

By Erich Karkoschka

## Items of Interest

### Whipple Observatory Star Party

Saturday, May 19

FLWO Visitors Center

Observing will begin after 7:45 p.m. courtesy of telescopes provided by the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association and Sonora Astronomical Society.

5 p.m. Visitors Center opens

7 p.m. Informal lecture by Observatory staff

7:45 p.m. Observing begins (in parking area next to Visitors Center).

Dress for cool evening temperatures. Small flashlights and binoculars are useful to bring.

Please cooperate with staff directing parking when you arrive. The parking spaces nearest the building are reserved for TAAA and SAS members and their telescopes. Visitors should park along the driveway or in the parking area outside the gate or along the road as directed. (Please note: Visitors will be allowed to park cars next to the building in the space usually reserved for telescopes until 5:30 p.m. At that time, visitors will have to move their cars to other parking spaces so that telescopes may be set up.)

For more information call 670-5707. In case of threatening weather, call 670-5707 after 5 p.m. on the 19th for information about star party cancellation.

The Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory, Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association, and Sonora Astronomical Society

present this opportunity to see the stars under dark Southern Arizona skies. (See website [http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/facilities/flwo/visit\\_center.html](http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/facilities/flwo/visit_center.html) for location and background information.)

How to reach the Whipple Observatory Offices and Visitors Center --

From Tucson: Take Interstate 19 south, past Green Valley to exit 56 (Canoa). At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn left and drive east to the eastside frontage road. Turn right on the frontage road and drive 3 miles to Elephant Head Road. Turn left and drive east, crossing the bridge. One mile past the railroad tracks, turn right on Mount Hopkins Road. Drive southeast about 7 miles to the Administrative offices and Visitors Center.

From Nogales: Taken Interstate 19 north to exit 48, (Arivaca Road/Amado.) Drive north on the eastside frontage road to Elephant Head Road. Turn right and drive east, crossing the bridge. One mile past the railroad tracks, turn right on Mount Hopkins Road. Drive southeast about 7 miles to the Administrative offices and Visitors Center.



**The May 4 meeting has  
been moved to the  
Kuiper Space Sciences  
Building Auditorium –  
Room 308**

## Member's Events

### TAAA and BSIG Star Party at TIMPA

Saturday, May 12

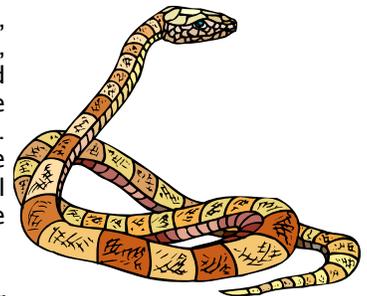
Come on out and enjoy the spring skies! TIMPA star parties are great for both beginners and experienced observers. Our novice members can get help with observing issues or equipment problems, as there are many experienced members there who would be happy to help. If you don't own a telescope, come anyway, because there are lots of telescopes set up and everyone is invited to look through them. This is a great way to check out different telescope designs before you make that all-important decision to buy. We'll do our best to get you the answers you need. If you have friends or relatives who are curious about amateur astronomy, feel free to bring them along. The TIMPA site features a large parking area, and full restroom facilities. Be prepared for cool temperatures after sunset. Directions to the TIMPA site are located on the outside flap of this newsletter.

### Rattlesnake Alert!

Be alert for rattlesnakes! Rattlesnakes are generally aggressive only if disturbed. If you see one, keep a safe distance and DO NOT try to interact with it in any way.

Snakes are much faster than our reflexes, and should be handled only by professionals. Wear boots and long jeans. For more information, go to <http://www.friendsofsaguaro.org/rattlesnakes.html>.

Along with rattlesnakes, other desert critters, such as gophers and ground squirrels, make their home at TIMPA. These residents can leave holes and other potential tripping hazards, so be careful when walking.



Finally, the Tucson water department has declared the water at TIMPA is NO LONGER POTABLE. It is strongly advised that you bring your own water.

### TAAA Spring Star-B-Cue at Kitt Peak

May 12 (Saturday)

See article in the *Club News* section.

### Member's Events (cont.)

#### TAAA Star Party at Las Cienegas (Empire Ranch)

Saturday, May 19

Las Cienegas (formerly Empire Ranch) has been our normal dark-sky observing site for quite a number of years. Please try to arrive before sunset. Stay as long as you like, but let everyone know when you are ready to leave; someone may be taking astro-images. Bring a telescope if you have one, but you don't need one to attend. Any member would be glad to let you look

through their telescope. And, there are now restroom facilities at the site. Las Cienegas is at 4000 feet so be prepared for cool temperatures. Attendees should park their vehicles either perpendicular to the airstrip facing toward the center of the strip, or parallel to the airstrip along either side facing west. That way, when you are ready to leave, you will not have to back up and turn on your bright white backup lights. See the directions to Las Cienegas on the outside flap of this newsletter.

### Public Star Parties and Community Events

All members of are asked to support the TAAA School Star Party program and other community events listed below. TAAA either sponsors or co-sponsors these events. These are great opportunities for beginners as you may only need to know a few objects in the sky. Even without a telescope, you can be valuable in other capacities. Sign up sheets for many events can be found at the meeting or contact a TAAA officer.

#### Doolen MS Star Party

Tuesday, 5/1/2007

#### Central

No. of Scopes: 3

Doolen Middle School will be planning Night With the Stars at 2400 N Country Club Road. North East corner of Grant and Country Club. Viewing will be in the School Court Yard. Contact person Jim Haley can be reached at 232-6976 or email [James.Haley@tusd1.org](mailto:James.Haley@tusd1.org). Set-Up Time: 7:30pm. Observing will be from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Sunset: 7:04pm, Dark Sky: 8:02pm Moon Phase: near Full Moon.

#### Cavett ES Star Party

Tuesday, 5/8/2007

#### South-Central

No. of Scopes: 4

Cavett ES will be hosting Moon Party at 2120 E Naco Vista. South on Kino to 36th St. Turn left. Make a right at first stop sign (Campbell). Turn left of Pinal Vista. Turn right on Naco Vista. Viewing will be playground area & field. Contact person Katrina Whitley can be reached at 225-1300 or email [Katrina.Whitley@tusd1.org](mailto:Katrina.Whitley@tusd1.org). Set-Up Time: 7:30pm. Observing will be from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Sunset: 7:09pm, Dark Sky: 8:08pm Moon Phase: (no moon during viewing).

#### Khalsa Montessori School SP

Friday, 5/11/2007

#### North-Central

No. of Scopes: 3

Khalsa Montessori School will be holding Night Sky of the Ancients and Mythology at 3701 E. River Road. Speedway to Alvernon. North on Alvernon over the new bridge through the light at Dodge. At the next light (Brandi Fenton Park) (Right) Khalsa School is on the North side of the road, after the Equestrian Facility. Viewing will be on the school field. Contact person Peggy Jelks can be reached at 520-529-3611 or email [pjcelks@msn.com](mailto:pjcelks@msn.com). Set-Up Time: 7:45pm. Observing will be from 8:15pm to 10:15. Sunset: 7:12pm, Dark Sky: 8:10pm Moon Phase: (no moon during viewing).

#### Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church SP

Friday, 5/18/2007

#### Northwest

No. of Scopes: 3

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and Academy will be celebrating God's Universe at 7570 N Thornydale Rd. Take I-10 north to the Ina exit. Go east on Ina to Thornydale, (2nd light after I-10 intersection). Go North on Thornydale about 1/2 mile (to top of the hill) to Massingale Rd. The church is at the SE corner of Thornydale and Massingale. Turn in at the first parking area. Viewing will be in this small parking lot. Contact person Terri Lappin, 577-1290 or email [treasurer@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:treasurer@tucsonastronomy.org). Set-Up Time: 7:30pm. Observing will be from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Sunset: 7:16pm, Dark Sky: 8:16pm Moon Phase: Crescent after New Moon.

#### Cub Scout Pack 219 Star Party

Saturday, 5/19/2007

#### North

No. of Scopes: 5

Cub Scout Pack 219 will be holding Fun and Learning the Night Sky at Mt. Lemmon - Organization Ridge Rd. Grant Rd East to Tanque Verde Rd. Take Catalina Highway to Organization Ridge Rd. Between mile markers 17 and 18 turn Left onto Organization Ridge Rd. We will be at Campsites Zuni, Hohokam, Gila, and Yuma. Contact person Kristen Rickus can be reached at 247-5656 or email [kjrickus@comcast.net](mailto:kjrickus@comcast.net). Set-Up Time: 7:15pm. Observing will be from 8:15pm to 9:45 pm. Sunset: 7:17pm, Dark Sky: 8:17pm Moon Phase: Crescent.

#### Whipple Observatory Star Party

Saturday, 5/19/2007

#### Far South

See article on page 7 for details.

#### Emily Gray MS Star Party

Monday, 5/21/2007

#### East

No. of Scopes: 5

Emily Gray MS will be preparing Starry Starry Night at EGJH at 4201 N. Melpomene Way. Traveling East on Speedway, turn (left) on to Wilmot, which becomes Tanque Verde.

### Public Star Parties and Community Events (cont.)

Then turn left on to Catalina Hwy. Then turn right on to Prince. Then turn left on to Melpomene. Driving time is about 20 minutes after you leave Speedway. Viewing will be on the campus athletic fields. Contact person Michael Stock can be reached at 520- 749-3838 or email

[michaeljstock@msn.com](mailto:michaeljstock@msn.com). Set-Up Time: 7:45pm. Observing will be from 8:15pm to 10:15. Sunset: 7:19pm, Dark Sky: 8:17pm Moon Phase: near First Quarter.

### TAAA Board of Directors Meeting - April 11, 2007

#### TAAA April Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2007

Attending: TAAA Board Members present: Ken Shaver, presiding, Steve Marten, Terri Lappin, George Barber, and Teresa Plymate. Members present: Claude Plymate. Acting President's Call to Order: 6:41PM

**March Minutes.** Accepted. Unanimous.

**Member Feedback** – Several members have voiced interest in establishment of a TAAA dark sky site including scope, facilities and support equipment.

#### **Announcements**

Next Monthly General Meeting will be at LPL Lecture Hall (Room 308) in the Kuiper Building.

#### **Website Redesign** – Terri Lappin for **Loretta McKibben**

Terri relayed that Loretta will send reports to the Board for review before members night.

#### **TIMPA Observatory** – **George Barber**

George reviewed details of roll-on roll-off observatory concept report including costs. Steve noted that no plans are available for the existing pad and wiring. George will email Andrew Cooper to determine if plans may be obtained. George moved that his concept report be sent to SMR Construction for review and bid for the following items: enlarged concrete pad completing existing pad with pier, single embedded rail, roadway west to the TIMPA road and walkway north to the rest rooms. Approved, unanimous. Terri motioned that TIMPA GPS Telescope money (\$820) be released for roll-on roll-off structure. Approved, unanimous.

#### **Mini-Mobile Storage at TIMPA** – **Teresa Plymate**

Teresa reported that Mini-Mobile may not provide best price for steel storage unit. She will collect additional information and report to Board at next Board meeting.

#### **Desert Sky Newsletter Printing Costs** – **Terri Lappin**

Terri reported that she has received notice newsletter printing costs will increase significantly. Board discussed advantages of providing newsletter primarily via TAAA website. Newsletter will continue to be printed until adequate arrangements can be made for improved website newsletter access on new website. Terri will work with Loretta on newsletter access on new website.

#### **Regional Viewing Locales on TAAA Website** – **Terri Lappin**

Former TAAA President Andrew Cooper's website lists a number of regional area observing sites and observatories in southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico on his website. He has offered to transfer this data to TAAA. The Board discussed potential advantages/disadvantages of maintaining the list on the TAAA website. The Board approved to transfer the list after update, review and adding disclaimer.

#### **TIMPA Rules of Use Policy** – **Terri Lappin**

Terri discussed TIMPA input that daytime/solar observing be limited to observing pads only (not from TIMPA parking lot). Board approved this rule change as amendment to the Rules of Use Policy effective June 1. Unanimous.

#### **Nominating Committee** – **Steve Marten**

Steve reviewed list of possible candidates; they will be asked to accept nomination before the May newsletter deadline.

#### **Treasurer Report** – **Terri Lappin**

Terri reviewed the budget year-to-date which is in line with several items over and several under budget. Only concern is increasing printing and postage costs. Board approved payment of annual insurance bill.

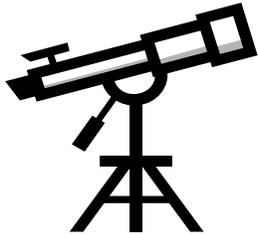
Adjourned at 9:25p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Marten, Secretary



**The May 4 meeting has been moved to the  
Kuiper Space Sciences Building Auditorium –  
Room 308**

### Telescopes for Borrowing



Free service



Only for Members

Don't own a telescope?  
Our Loaner Program is your answer!

These telescopes are in the program

Sears 60mmf/15 on equatorial mount  
Unitron 62mmf/14.5 on equatorial mount  
Meade 90mm ETX  
Coulter Odyssey8 8-inch f/4.5 Dobson  
Meade 8-inch f/4 Schmidt-Newtonian LX200  
Meade 10-inch f/4.5 on equatorial mount  
Meade 10" LX200 GPS (requires training session)

Beginners, here's your chance to learn and observe the sky before buying any equipment. The Loaner Program is available to any current member after meeting requirements detailed in the TAAA Loan Policy. Contact the Equipment Loan Coordinator (see page 2) for details about these telescopes.

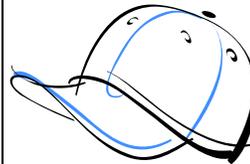
**SAIDA NEEDS MORE HELP FROM MORE TAAA MEMBERS. AFTER ALL, WE WILL ALL BENEFIT FROM DARK SKIES IN OUR AREA !!!**

For more information, go to: [www.sa-ida.org](http://www.sa-ida.org) Or feel free to contact:

John Polacheck  
President of SAIDA  
E-mail: [jpolach@dakotacom.net](mailto:jpolach@dakotacom.net)  
Telephone: 743-1362

SAIDA meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in the IDA office located at 3225 N. First Ave, just North of Ft. Lowell. And.....

**WE USUALLY HAVE PIZZA !!!**



**LOOK GREAT with TAAA Apparel. We have got hats, T-shirts, denim shirts, and patches.**

### Desert Skies Classified

For Sale	Losmandy G11 Gemini Go-To mount. Less than 1 year old, includes dovetail, tripod, 21 lb CW, 12V power supply, Pelican Case for EQ head, \$2,500. Canon 20D (NOT the "a" model) mint condition, includes programmable timer, AC PS, and 55-200mm zoom, and all standard accessories, \$900. John Davis (585)355-5360 <a href="mailto:teledavis@yahoo.com">teledavis@yahoo.com</a> [08/07]
For Sale	Celestron Ultima 11 Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope, fork mounted. Excellent condition, well cared for, fantastic optics, many extras. Heavy-duty wedge, 2" diagonal, 10X50 finderscope with illuminated reticle eyepiece. Equipped with JMI Motofocus, Telrad mount and piggyback camera mount. This scope is ideal for deep sky and solar system visual observing and photography. The f10 11 inch mirror has given me outstanding sharp views rivaling larger scopes. Comes with custom made padded case w/built-in wheels. Also, Thousand Oaks solar filter (11-inch), mylar cover, visual back and Kendrick dew remover system for corrector plate and finderscope. \$2,000. Optional eyepieces available, Celestron 30mm - \$25, Orion 9mm illuminated reticle - \$35, old-style Televue 55mm plossel (incredible FOV) - \$50 or \$90 for all three. Call Gary Freiburger in Tucson, 626-6121 (W), 742-9494 (H), <a href="mailto:garyf@ahsl.arizona.edu">garyf@ahsl.arizona.edu</a> [08/07]
For Sale	Bogen 3035 tripod with Bogen 3047 3 way pan head. Includes (2) quick release mounting shoes. Contact: Neal Scofield, 883-5456 or <a href="mailto:RetiredBadge@msn.com">RetiredBadge@msn.com</a> - \$100.00 firm. [05/07]
For Sale	Meade 10" LX200 R w/UHTC Coatings - New - \$ 3200 OBO. Comes with all standard accessories - GPS, Primary Mirror Lock, Zero Image-Shift Microfocuser, Heavy Duty Tripod, Power Cable for car or battery, many others. It does not come standard with a separate power supply for household current. Original warranty still in effect until Oct. 2007. Reasonable offers considered. 480-981-1295 reaches me here in Mesa, AZ. Charles Crawford [05/07]

Your ad will run for 4 months unless specified. Month and year of last appearance is last item of ad. For additions or changes to this list, call or e-mail the newsletter editor.

**Constellation Report by Chris Lancaster**

Canes Venatici  
 kay' neez ve nat' eh see

Small and marked by only two noticeable stars, this constellation is a fairly modern one created by Johannes Hevelius, a German-Polish astronomer, in the late 17th century from some stars that lie between the handle of the Big Dipper and the constellation of Bootes, the herdsman. In fact, Canes Venatici are Bootes's hunting dogs, often considered to be a pair of greyhounds that has joined Bootes in chasing the two bears, Ursa Major and Ursa Minor, around the celestial pole.

Alpha Canum Venaticorum is the brightest star of the constellation and has the interesting name of Cor Caroli, or "Charles's heart". This name was suggested to Edmond Halley by court physician Sir Charles Scarborough as a tribute to King Charles II. Looking at it with a telescope will reveal that it is a double star, one component of spectral type A0 V and magnitude 2.9, and the other, 20 arc seconds away, of spectral type F0 V and magnitude 5.6. The color contrast of the two is very small, but descriptions of the dimmer star range from white, to lilac, to coppery. You may want to decide for yourself what color the two stars exhibit.

A very well known Messier object is located in the northeast corner of the constellation. You can find it by using Eta Ursa Majoris, which marks the tip of the handle of the Big Dipper, as your guide. Move slightly more than 2 degrees south and 17 minutes in RA west of this star and you will see an 8th magnitude glow 10 arc minutes in diameter known as M51, the Whirlpool Galaxy. Its coordinates are RA 13h 29.9', Dec +47d 12'. This was the first galaxy to be noticed as showing a spiral structure. Previous accounts describe the galaxy as having a bright central region surrounded by a "ring." A 60mm refractor will see the unmistakable nucleus surrounded by a faint glow, and instruments 8" and larger will begin to show the photogenic spiral structure and perhaps some detail in the satellite galaxy NGC5195.

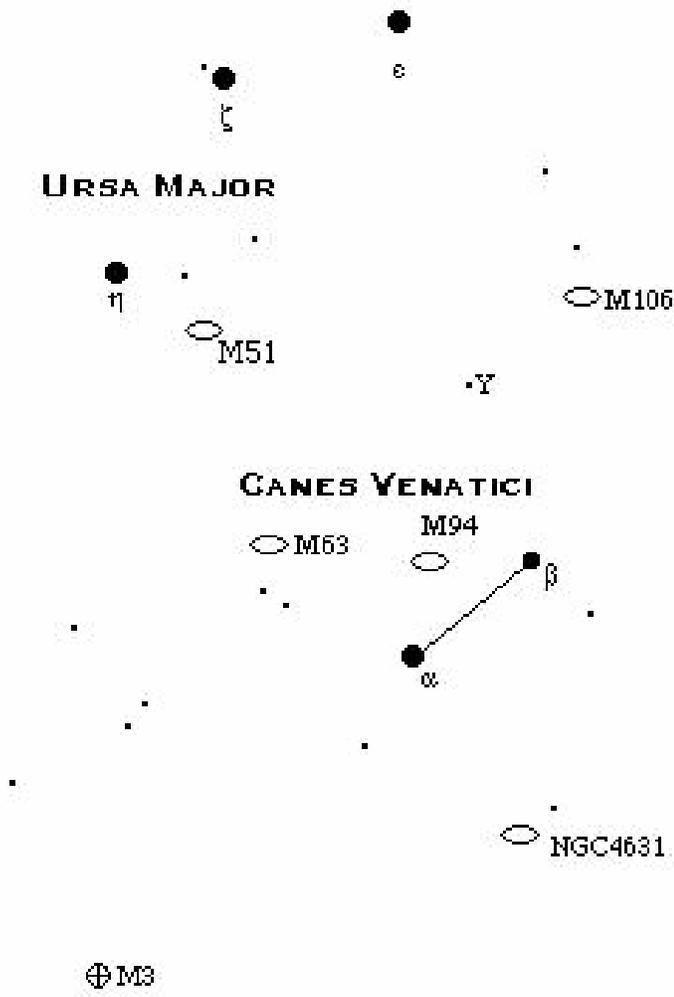
Moving to the southeastern edge of the constellation will bring us to M3, one of the brightest (mag. 6) globular clusters in the sky. Although it is located in a rather empty part of the sky, it is easy to find since it lies exactly on a straight line between Arcturus and Alpha Canum, not quite half way from Arcturus. The coordinates are RA 13h 42.2', Dec +28d 23'.

This cluster rivals the great Hercules cluster M13 in size and brightness and medium sized scopes will bring out many hundreds of stars of magnitude 11 and fainter.

Returning to the wealth of galaxies in Canes Venatici, our next visit is to M94, a tightly wound bright spiral of magnitude 8.9 which can be found at RA 12h 50.9, Dec +41d 07'. M94 forms a triangle with Alpha and Beta Canum directly between and 1.6 degrees above a line connecting the two. Its bright nucleus fades to a soft glow about 4' x 5' in size. M63 is another spiral at RA 13h 15.8', Dec +42d 02', or again using Alpha Canum and Eta Ursa Majoris as markers, move about one-third of the way between the two from Alpha Canum and about 1/2 degree to the east. This 9.8 magnitude galaxy measures 9' x 4' and shows a nucleus surrounded by bright and tightly wound arms which drop in brightness quickly to the outer edges of the galaxy. Our final Messier galaxy here is M106, yet another spiral glowing at magnitude 9 and turned slightly from an edge-on orientation. To find M106, look at RA 12h 19.0', Dec +47d 18', or along another line running between Beta Canum and Gamma Ursa Majoris, look about half way between the two.

If you can tolerate one more galaxy, find NGC4631, interesting due to its edge-on appearance. It measures 12.5' x 1.2', glows at magnitude 9.7, and may show a mottled appearance in larger scopes due to clumps of stars and dust. (RA 12h 42.4', Dec +32d 35', or 5.8 degrees south and 15' in RA west of Alpha Canum.)

For a colorful treat, look at Y Canum, one of the reddest stars in the sky. It is 4 degrees north and about 10 minutes in RA east of Beta Canum.



⊕ M3

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### Directions to TIMPA and Empire Ranch

#### Directions to TIMPA Site

GPS coordinates: 32 deg 15.868' N, 111 deg 16.390' W

##### **From the North:**

1. Take Ina Rd. west about three miles past I-10.
2. Turn left (south) on Wade Rd.. Wade Rd. becomes Picture Rocks Rd. when the Rd. bends to the right (west).
3. Take Picture Rocks Rd. west to Sandario Rd..
4. Turn left (south) on Sandario Rd. to Manville Rd..
5. Turn right (west) on Manville Rd. to Reservation Rd..
6. Turn left (south) on Reservation Rd. (dirt Rd.) and go about two miles. The TIMPA entrance is on the left.

##### **From the East:**

1. Take Speedway Blvd. west and it turns into Gates Pass Rd..
2. Go over Gates Pass and continue west to Kinney Rd..
3. Turn right (north) on Kinney Rd. and continue past the Desert Museum.
4. Kinney Rd. bends left at the entrance to Saguaro National Park West and becomes Mile Wide Rd..
5. Take Mile Wide Rd. west about five miles to Reservation Rd.. Mile Wide Rd. ends at Reservation Rd. and you must turn right (north) onto Reservation Rd..
6. Take Reservation Rd. north about one mile. The entrance to TIMPA will be on the right.

#### **NOTE**

A gate card is required for TIMPA access. Please **DO NOT** ask the caretakers for entry to the TIMPA SITE. A list of TIMPA key keepers is available on the TAAA website, or by contacting a board member. For scheduled TIMPA star parties, a designated TAAA representative will provide access to the site.

#### Directions to Las Cienegas (Empire Ranch)

GPS coordinates: 31 deg 47.356' N, 110 deg 37.913' W

Take I-10 East from Tucson. Take Exit 281 (Route 83 Sonoita-Patagonia Highway South). Travel south on Route 83 for about 19 miles, watch for green and white milepost 40 sign on the right side of the road. Approximately ¼ mile past milepost 40, turn left into Las Cienegas. The road is dirt and is "washboarded" so go carefully. At about 2.9 miles, there is a fork in the road. Stay to the right. When the road ends in a "T", take a left. Cross over a concrete section of the road down in a wash. Just up the hill from the wash (about .2 mile), turn left. 0.1 mile ahead will be the end of an abandoned airstrip with a covered ramada. The club members have been setting up several tenths of a mile down the runway. If you arrive after dark, as a courtesy to other members, use only your parking lights to approach the set-up location.