

January 2017

Observing our Desert Skies
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TUCSON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION

Monthly Events Bulletin

January 6th General Meeting

Steward Observatory Lecture Hall, Room N210, UA Campus, 933 N Cherry Ave.

Introductory Presentation

6:30pm

State of the Club

presented by

Ben Bailey,

TAAA President

TAAA President Ben Bailey will describe the TAAA Mission and how the structure of the club is helping to meet it. Current activities, such as the Special Interest Groups (SIGs), School Star Parties, and other outreach efforts will be discussed. Club achievements for 2016, including the initiation of the Reynolds-Mitchell Observatory at CAC and the establishment of the Nominations and Volunteer Committee will be noted. Plans for 2017, such as the Fund Raising Campaign and its associated CAC development will be laid out. The session will end with a round table discussion in which all TAAA members can participate to share their views.

Invited Lecture

7:30pm

A Night Watchman's

Journey: My Life As A

Searcher of Comets

presented by

David Levy;

*renowned speaker, writer,
and comet hunter supreme*

Popular speaker David Levy will recount his life as a comet hunter. In his words, "I began my search for comets on December 17, 1965, and I have been doing this work ever since, celebrating 50 years of hunting last December. It took me 19 years to find my first comet in 1984. Over the years I have discovered or co-discovered 23 comets. Probably my most important discovery was Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 in 1993. This was the comet that crashed into Jupiter in 1994, becoming the first major solar system object to strike a planet since humanity began planet watching more than five thousand years ago. The event gave humanity a lesson in what happens when comets strike planets, and their role in the origin of life. Comet hunting has greatly changed since I started so long ago. With a little science, a little more poetry, and a lot of music, this talk will recount my story as a comet hunter.

Special Astro-Imaging Meeting—Jan 7th @ 10AM

We will be holding a special meeting of the Astronomical Imaging Special Interest Group on Saturday, January 7th from 10 am until noon, at the Ward 6 office. Any member of TAAA with an interest in astro-imaging is invited and encouraged to attend. Over the past year attendance at the AISIG meetings has been very poor. An important purpose of this meeting is to learn from TAAA members when they would like to see the AISIG meetings held and what they would like to see discussed at the meetings. If you are unable to attend this meeting please email your inputs on these points to Dr. Jim Heasley at jnheasley@gmail.com, prior to the meeting if possible.



Photo by Dr Jim Heasley

There are many within TAAA who are active imagers but haven't been attending the monthly meetings. This is unfortunate as one of the important purposes of the AISIG (and TAAA in general) is for those with more experience to share their knowledge and best practices with those just getting started in the field. And, no matter how experienced you may be, you almost certainly don't know everything and can learn something from other members of the group!

The Ward 6 office is located at 3202 E. 1st St. Free parking is nearby on the street. Please enter the building through the door on the south side of the building off the parking lot.

Inside this Bulletin

2017 Wall Calendars
For Sale

CAC Star Party
Jan 27 & 28

TIMPA Star Party
Jan 20 & 28

AISIG Special Meeting
Jan 7

AFSIG Meeting
Jan 12

SMSIG Meeting
Jan 16

Ladies Night Out
Jan 19

This Month in Brief

Usual set-up time for most group and public events is 30 minutes before the start time stated here.


General Meeting Ben Bailey	Jan 06 (Fri) Steward Obs. Rm N210 933 N Cherry Ave	6:30 PM
Public Star Party NE Tucson Jim Knoll	Jan 07 (Sat) Agua Caliente Park 12325 E Roger Road	6:00 PM
Special Mtg—AISIG (Astrophotographers) Jim Heasley	Jan 07 (Sat) Ward 6 Office 3202 E 1st Ave	10:00 AM
AFSIG Mtg (Beginners) Dennis McMacken	Jan 12 (Thu) USGS Bldg Room 253 520 N Park Ave	6:30 PM
SMSIG Meeting (Outreach) Terri Lappin	Jan 16 (Mon) Beyond Bread 3026 N Campbell	6:30 PM
Outreach Star Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Jan 17 (Tue) Redemptorist Renewal Center 7101 W Picture Rocks Rd	6:00 PM
Outreach Star Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Jan 18 (Wed) Green Fields Country Day School 6000 N Cam De La Tierra	6:00 PM
Ladies Night Out Susan O'Connor	Jan 19 (Thu) Eclectic Cafe 7053 E Tanque Verde	6:30 PM
Outreach Star Party East Tucson Jim Knoll	Jan 20 (Fri) Marshall Elementary 9066 E 29th St	6:00 PM
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Jan 20 (Fri) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd	Sunset

Key:	TAAA Members Only	For Organization	Public Events
Public Star Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Jan 21 (Sat) Catalina State Park 11570 N Oracle Rd	6:30 PM	
Outreach Star Party SW Tucson Jim Knoll	Jan 24 (Tue) Vesey Elementary School 5005 S Butts Rd	6:00 PM	
Outreach Star Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Jan 26 (Thu) Mesa Verde 1661 W Sage St	6:00 PM	
Outreach Star Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Jan 26 (Thu) Legacy Traditional School 3500 W Cortaro Farms Road	6:00 PM	
CAC Star Party John Kalas	Jan 27/28 (Fri/Sat) Chiricahua Astronomy Complex	Sunset	
Outreach Star Party North Tucson Jim Knoll	Jan 27 (Fri) Pusch Ridge Christian Academy 6450 N Camino Miraval	6:30 PM	
Public Star Party Far West Tucson Jim Knoll	Jan 28 (Sat) Ironwood Picnic Area 7300 West Hal Gras Rd	6:30 PM	
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Jan 28 (Sat) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd	Sunset	
Outreach Star Party SE Tucson Jim Knoll	Feb 02 (Thu) Desert Willow Elementary 9400 E Esmond Loop	6:00 PM	
Outreach Star Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Feb 03 (Fri) St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 8650 N Shannon Rd	6:00 PM	

Future Events

Member Events	
Feb 03 (Fri)	General Meeting
Feb 16 (Thu)	Ladies Night Out
Feb 17 (Fri)	TIMPA Star Party
Feb 24/25 (Fri/Sat)	CAC Star Party
Feb 25 (Sat)	TIMPA Star Party

Outreach Events	
Feb 04 (Sat)	Agua Caliente Park
Feb 06 (Mon)	Sunnyside School District Literacy Council
Feb 14 (Tue)	Tucson Country Day School (Solar)
Feb 16 (Thu)	Sahuarita SciTech
Feb 18 (Sat)	Astronomy Magazine Tucson Star Party
Feb 25 (Sat)	Tucson Mountain Park Ironwood Picnic Area



It's easy to do!

Web app available

Can you count stars? Yes? You can do this!

Help increase the awareness of light pollution by submitting observations all year long.

Current Campaign: January 19 —January 28

Learn more at <http://www.globeatnight.org/>

Special Interest Group Activities

Astro-Imaging SIG (AISIG)

Meeting: Jan 7 (Sat) 10:00 AM
 Location: Ward 6 Building (3202 E 1st St)
 Contact: Jim Heasley Phone: 520-268-8586
 Email: astro-photo[at]tucsonastronomy.org



A decision on the meeting schedule and topics will be made at this important meeting. Details can be found on the front page of this bulletin.

Astronomy Fundamentals SIG (AFSIG)

Meeting: Jan 12 (Thu) 6:30 PM
 U.S.G.S. Building, Room 253 (520 North Park Ave)
 Contact: Dennis McMacken Phone: 520-609-7860
 Email: fundamentals[at]tucsonastronomy.org



Come join us for a presentation from the fundamentals of amateur astronomy. We will also have a "Constellation of the Month" presentation by Peter Bibo. He will tell us about Cassiopeia.

Dennis McMacken is in need of TAAA members to present the *Constellation of the Month*, so please contact him if you want to talk about your favorite constellation or one that you want to learn about.

The Astronomy Fundamentals Special Interest Group is for all TAAA members who want to learn about and share the multiple aspects of the hobby. It is not just for beginners or new members, though, of course, it is one of the best ways to learn about the club and hobby. Please come and share in the fun, whether to learn something new or share some hard won knowledge.

The AFSIG meets the second Thursday of each month in the USGS Building located on the NE corner of Park and 6th Street. The meeting room is on the second floor. After 5pm, free parking can be found across 6th Street. Go south onto Park at 6th St. The parking lot is behind The China Pasta House accessible by an alley way. A fee is charged to use the parking garage to the east. An elevator is available on request.



Starry Messengers SIG-
 Opening Minds to the Universe

Next Meeting: Jan 16 (Mon) 6:30PM
 Beyond Bread (3026 N Campbell)
 Contact: Terri Lappin
 Phone: 520-977-1290
 Email: smsig[at]tucsonastronomy.org

The current SMSIG projects are:

- ◆ Tucson Book Festival/UA ScienceCity in March 2017
- ◆ Astronomy Festival in April 2017
- ◆ Electromagnetic Spectrum Toolkit

At our January 16th meeting, we'll be finalizing the design of our activities planned for the Tucson Festival of Books/UA ScienceCity. These activities will help visitors, mostly kids, understand eclipses.

All TAAA members are welcome to participate in the SMSIG meetings which are devoted to discussing outreach events and activities. The SMSIG outreach program complements the TAAA's outreach star party program with hands-on activities for all ages.

Member Star Parties

The TIMPA observing site is located a few miles beyond the Desert Museum. The CAC observing site is located in southeast Arizona near Sunsites, AZ, about 1.5 hours drive from Tucson. Maps to both sites can be found on the TAAA website. Locked gates protect both sites. Call or email the contact person to learn when the gate will be unlocked.

Chiricahua Astronomy Complex Site

Jan 27 & 28 (Fri & Sat)
 Contact Person/RSVP to: John Kalas
 Email: cac-director[at]tucsonastronomy.org
 Phone: 520-405-3798



Chiricahua Astronomy Complex (CAC) is the club's dark observing site, located in Cochise County approximately 100 miles southeast of the center of Tucson. The site includes concrete telescope pads with electricity, a roll-off roof observatory, a picnic ramada, and a full bathroom facility with shower room. At an elevation of 4800 feet, be prepared for cooler temperatures. Try to arrive before sunset. Our use permit limits the number of attendees at any one time, so reservations and cancellations are required. If you would like to attend, you must contact CAC Director John Kalas. Reservations are on a first come – first serve basis. You need to reserve for both nights if observing both nights.

TIMPA Site

Jan 20 & 28 (Fri & Sat)
 Contact Person: Dennis McMacken
 Email: fundamentals[at]tucsonastronomy.org
 Phone: 520-609-7860



The AFSIG hosts the TIMPA star parties. An AFSIG representative will open the gate for an evening of viewing. The Gila Monster Observatory with its Meade 14" Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope will be open for your viewing pleasure. The TIMPA site features a large parking area and full restroom facilities. Be prepared for cool temperatures after sunset. Guests are welcome, accompanied by a TAAA member. We hope to see you there!

TAAA Ladies Night Out

Thursday, January 19

Great Conversation!

6:30 pm

Delicious Food!

Eclectic Café

7053 E Tanque Verde

(NE corner of E Tanque Verde and N Sabina Canyon)

Preview the menu at <http://eclecticcafetucson.com/>

RSVP Susan

520-546-2961 or cyzeh[at]aol.com

TAAA Outreach Events

Members are asked to support these outreach events. Details and maps can be obtained by logging into your Member Planet account. Sign up at a meeting, respond to Jim Knoll's email requests, or pick up the phone. Signing up is important so you can be contacted in case of cancellation. Contact Jim at school-sp-volunteers[at]tucsonastronomy.org or 520-241-3113. If interested in being an Astronomy Guide and presenting projects from the Night Sky Network Outreach Toolkits, contact Terri Lappin at smsig[at]tucsonastronomy.org.



Potential Contacts This Month: 1650
Volunteers Needed This Month: 50

Agua Caliente Park Public Star Party

Jan 07 (Sat) **Set-up: 6:00 PM**
NE Tucson **Observing: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: Roger/Soldier Trail

We are supporting a public star party at Agua Caliente Park for the Pima County Natural Resources, Park & Recreation. About 50 people attend these regularly scheduled star parties at the Agua Caliente Park. The park is located at 12325 E Roger Road. This is near Soldier Trail. Setup will be at the bus lanes at the north end of parking lot. We have a sufficient number of volunteers signed up for this event.

Vatican Observatory Workshop Star Party

Jan 17 (Tue) **Set-up: 5:30 PM**
NW Tucson **Observing: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 2**
Cross Streets: Wade/Picture Rocks

We are supporting a star party for attendees at of a Vatican Observatory Workshop. About 25 adults will be present. The event will be held at the Redemptorist Renewal Center located at 7101 W Picture Rocks Rd. Observing will be in the parking lot between the meeting room and guest quarters. **Two more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Green Fields Country Day School Star Party

Jan 18 (Wed) **Set-up: 5:30 PM**
NW Tucson **Observing: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 3**
Cross Streets: Orange Grove/Cam. de la Tierra

Green Fields Country Day School is having a star party for 75 students (K - 12) and family members. The school is located at 6000 N Camino de la Tierra. Observing will be on the grassy quad east of the art dome. **Two volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Marshall Elementary Star Party

Jan 20 (Fri) **Set-up: 5:30 PM**
East Tucson **Observing: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: Camino Seco/29th St

Marshall Elementary is having a star party for 150 kindergarten to 5th grade students and family members. The school is located at 9066 E 29th St. Observing will be on the Soccer Field. **Four volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Catalina State Park Public Star Party

Jan 21 (Sat) **Set-up: 6:00 PM**
NW Tucson **Observing: 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 10**
Cross Streets: Oracle (AZ 77)/Tangerine

The TAAA is co-hosting a public star party at Catalina State Park. About 200 people attend these quarterly star parties. The park is located at 11570 N Oracle Rd. Observing will be at the trailhead picnic area at the end of the road into the park. Scopes are generally set up at the western end of the parking area. **Ten volunteers with scopes are still needed for this event.**

Vesey Elementary School Star Party

Jan 24 (Tue) **Set-up: 5:30 PM**
SW Tucson **Observing: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 5**
Cross Streets: Irvington/Kinney

Vesey Elementary School is having a star party for 200 students in kindergarten to 5th grade and their family members. The school is located at 5005 S Butts Rd. Observing area will be located behind the cafeteria between the school and Vesey Park. **Five volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Mesa Verde Elementary School Star Party

Jan 26 (Thu) **Set-up: 5:45 PM**
NW Tucson **Observing: 6:15 PM to 7:30 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: La Canada/Magee

Mesa Verde Elementary School is having a star party for 200 students in kindergarten to 6th grade and their family members. The school is located at 1661 W Sage St. Observing will take place on the intermediate field or courtyard. **Five volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.** The TAAA will also provide NSN Toolkits for the event.

Legacy Traditional School Star Party

Jan 26 (Thu) **Set-up: 5:30 PM**
NW Tucson **Observing: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: Cortaro/Thornydale

Legacy Traditional School is having a star party for 350 students and family members. The school is located at 3500 W Cortaro Farms Road. This is a combination Science Fair Night and Evening Under the Stars event. Set up on the back field.

Pusch Ridge Christian Academy Grammar School Star Party

Jan 27 (Fri) **Set-up: 6:00 PM**
North Tucson **Observing: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: Skyline/Orange Grove

Pusch Ridge Christian Grammar School is holding a star party for 90 students in kindergarten to 5th grade and their family members. The school is located at 6450 N Camino Miraval. Observing will be on the basketball court. **Four volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Ironwood Picnic Area Public Star Party

Jan 28 (Sat) **Set-up: 6:00 PM**
Far West Tucson **Observing: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 3**
Cross Streets: Kinney/Gates Pass

We are supporting a public star party at the Ironwood Picnic Area in the Tucson Mountain Park for the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation. About 50 people attend these regularly scheduled star parties at the Ironwood Picnic Area. This is located at 7300 West Hal Gras Rd, which is off Kinney Road just south of Old Tucson Studios. Setup will be near the restroom facilities, about 3/4 of the way in from the turn off of Kinney Road. **We still need three volunteers with scopes for this event.**

TAAA Outreach Events (cont.)

Desert Willow Elementary School Star Party
Feb 02 (Thu) **Set-up: 5:30 PM**
SE Tucson **Observing: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: I-10/Rita Rd

Desert Willow Elementary School is having a star party for 200 kindergarten to 5th grade students and their family members. The school is located at 9400 E Esmond Loop. Observing will be on the Basketball Court. The school will have various hands on activities in classrooms and food trucks. **Five volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School Star Party
Feb 03 (Fri) **Set-up: 5:30 PM**
NW Tucson **Observing: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: Cortaro/Shannon

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School is having a star party for 75 students in grades kindergarten through 8th and their family members. The school is located at 8650 N Shannon Rd. Observing will be on the school field. Note that this star party is the same night as the monthly General TAAA meeting. **Three volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Fourth Annual Art of Planetary Science: An Exhibition

Exhibit February 10-12th, 2017

Kuiper Space Sciences building

The deadline to submit artwork is January 13th

For information and photos from last year
<https://www.lpl.arizona.edu/art>

Support Our Sponsors



Announcements

- The **Astronomical Imaging Special Interest Group** is holding a special meeting on January 7th to discuss the direction of the SIG. Please plan to attend. Details on the first page of this bulletin.
- The January **Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on January 11th at the Total Wine at Park Place Mall (5870 E Broadway Blvd #448) in their community room.
- The **27th Grand Canyon Star Party**, an outreach event shared between astronomers from around North America and the National Park Service at Grand Canyon National Park, will be June 17 through June 24, 2017. Early planning is advised. Please join us for one night, all eight nights, or anything in between. For details contact the South Rim GCSP Coordinator, TAAA member Jim O'Connor, at gcsp[at]tucsonastronomy.org or visit: <http://tucsonastronomy.org/upcoming-events/grand-canyon-star-party/>
- **Have you signed up for Member Planet?** This is where the TAAA Member's Only online information can be found. It's where you can learn about member's events, renew your membership online, renew magazine subscriptions, pay Astronomical League membership dues, and update your contact information. For information about accessing this information through Member Planet, send an email to membership[at]tucsonastronomy.org.
- **Meeting refreshments are provided by fellow members.** Be sure to thank them for the goodies. John Christensen coordinates this important aspect of our meetings—contact him if you want to bring refreshments. The TAAA reimburses up to \$25 (receipts not required). Duties can be shared. Contact John at refreshments-coordinator[at]tucsonastronomy.org.
- **Monthly Bulletin** deadlines are the 15th of the preceding month. Email all submissions to taaa-newsletter[at]tucsonastronomy.org



Astronomical Events in Our Community

Below is a list of astronomy presentations in the Tucson area, mostly on the UA campus. For more information, visit the websites listed. We are fortunate to live in Tucson, the Astronomy Capitol, so take advantage of these opportunities. Miss an event? Many lectures are available on the web. Visit the listed website to find out.

Date/Time	Speaker	Title	Location	Information
Jan 23 Mon 7:30PM	Dr David Levy Jarnac Observatory	<i>The Starlight Night: The Night Sky in English Literature</i>	Steward Observatory Lecture Hall N210	http://www.as.arizona.edu/public-evening-lecture-series