

## January 2019 Board of Directors Meeting

The Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association held its regular monthly meeting on 9 January 2019 at the Banner Medical Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. M. Smith, President, Presiding. Board members present: J. Mead, Vice President, M. McDowell, Treasurer, C. Hendricks, Secretary, E. Foley, D. Smith, and B. Wheeler Members-at-Large. Other members present: B. Bailey, Past President and Steven Ferris

**Member Feedback:** None.

**General Discussion:** M. Smith indicated she was open to entertaining a motion to changing the agenda so that Stephen Ferris and Ben Bailey could make their presentations prior to getting into regular business. D. Smith moved to allow visiting members to make presentations prior to the board going into regular business. Seconded by M. McDowell. Motion carried.

M. Smith remarked that Kay Lehman had earned \$93.00 from the sale of TAAA stickers. The stickers sell for \$2.00 each, but one member gave Kay a five-dollar bill and said “keep the change”.

New member recently retired from PCC, an astronomy instructor, has become very active on the forum. He has sparked discussion on Spectroscopy and has volunteered to an introductory lecture on the subject. E. Foley will provide the member’s name and point of contact to M. Smith for follow-up and scheduling.

D. Smith reported that he had done his first cut at the library collection and moved a number of books over to the out of date list and will provide the list to M. Smith.

**Minutes of 12 December 2018:** D. Smith moved to accept the minutes. M. McDowell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** D. Smith moved to accept treasurer’s report. Seconded by J. Mead. Motion carried.

**Presentations:** Stephen Ferris presented an update on TIMPA followed by discussion on status of the 14-inch telescope and its enclosure. He took over the position of TIMPA head about two years ago. There has not been a lot of change in the facility. The door of the shed had been replaced before the took over. It had become warped and badly decayed. Member participation seems to have picked up, with new members who are trying out their telescopes. We have been averaging eleven to thirteen people over the last two months. The facility overall is in good shape. The TIMPA board does take really good care of the bathrooms

The fourteen-inch telescope is functioning very nicely. The go to system is working very well. The optics are at a point where we need some kind of support with that. They have never been cleaned to my knowledge. The scope is somewhere on the order of seven or eight years old. The mirror-lock does not function. The focus does shift when it moves even a little bit off target. The go to system is accurate for visual use but not for photographic purposes. The dust buildup on the corrector plate is pretty substantial. It is not at the point where we cannot use the telescope, but we need to pay attention to this. Ralph has gone out and reorganized the shed. There is a sizeable collection of "dobs" which I will let Ralph bring you up to date on.

The TIMPA board is primarily focused on airplanes and as long as we don't trash the place, they don't really care what happens. We do have some issues with a couple of power outlets. They don't always work with every cord that is attached. There could be a little bit of gravel in there from recent storms. Most people bring their own power. Power supply has been steady.

The mound is in good condition. The shed is in fairly good condition. The doors are a little bit warped since we installed the new ones, so it's starting to be a little bit difficult to open and close the doors, but they are still workable. We are still able to get the shed on and off easily.

As to who is able to use the scope. Dennis is in the process of training someone. We are very short on people who can drive it. Ralph is able to drive it, but he works nights. Dennis is sort of available, but he is busy with other stuff and cannot always make it out there. Jim Knoll has been looking for using the site possibly later in the year for some of the paid star parties and is looking to get trained.

Stephen has discussed Astronomy night with the TIMPA board and obtained their approval for that night but has not discussed how visitors will access the site. He is concerned that the board may want to charge TAAA, and he needs to know how to proceed.

Stephen will be stepping down from the TIMPA position by May 2019. He cannot step down from the TIMPA Board until their official meeting in May. Ralph Means has indicated an interest in taking over the position and Stephen strongly recommends Ralph for the position. This would ensure a soft transition.

Stephen was informed that Ralph had been instructed to put together a set of eyepieces that we need for the equipment we've got with that being our primary equipment, and if we have extra eyepieces, we will move them elsewhere, probably to members.

E. Foley asked Stephen to place a call to Starizona or Stellar Vision, Starizona is probably the best place and ask if we can take that up there and have them work on the mirror lock and cleanup the corrector plate and find out generally what it's going to cost. D. Smith recommended Stellar Vision because they specialize in Meade's and Starizona does Celestrons.

Ben Bailey presented updated information on the TAAA Forum. Looks like the forum has been up and running since 2003. You need a Yahoo account to manage it. Still not clear if you can

just add someone's email address, but to do anything with the group you must have a Yahoo account. It's a restricted group. There is a process that requires one to ask for access or be invited and moderators approve that. Members can hide their email address it is not listed in the Yahoo Group directory. We don't moderate it because it would take someone's dedicated time to go in and read messages before they go out. A monthly reminder of the etiquette is sent instead.

Once you are a member of you can get individual emails, a one-time daily digest or no emails at all or set up to get special notifications.

We have 177 members listed as forum members and M. Smith did some work and found that a fair amount of those are not TAAA members. Ben wants to know if it's the boards desire that he go in and take people out and how he should go about doing that. He recommends deleting those shown in red and leave the rest in. Ben is listed as the owner of the forum which gives him ultimate rights in the forum. Management tools are not good. Yahoo is not very good at updating things. There are a fair number of items (astro images, photos of events) that could be downloaded.

Forum usage is not static. Usage since 2009 has fallen off some, but there are about 10 members who use it regularly. We have used just over 100,000mb of the 2gb allowed. The contents consist of history files, emails, and photos. Do we want to publicize this on the web, or at a meeting? Recommendation: Update member and moderator lists and investigate moving away from Yahoo. They are not putting a lot of new technology into the platform however, it is free. We don't want to abandon the items that are contained in the forum files, so we would have to figure out how to transport the files to the new platform.

### **Old Business:**

-  
Tim Hunter is doing a presentation for the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance. Tim and Mae will attempt to retrieve the presidential summaries from the 50<sup>th</sup> through the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. Stephen Ferris and Ralph Means suggested hosting a Star-B-Cue at TIMPA in observance of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Suggested date is the first Saturday in March or the first Saturday in April. Stephen and Dennis will coordinate with the TIMPA Board for permission to use the ramada.

Tim Hunter prefers to make the presentation at the March 7:30 meeting. D. Smith will do the 6:30 meeting in February.

Leader training will be postponed until April 2019.

Medical issues at CAC are being worked.

at: 9:10 PM

Chuck Hendricks, Secretary