

April 2018

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TUCSON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION

Monthly Events Bulletin

April 6th General Meeting

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

Introductory Presentation **6:30pm**

*TAAA Grand Canyon Star Party;
its value and current need
presented by
Jim O'Connor, TAAA Grand
Canyon Star Party South Rim
Coordinator*

Learn about this year's TAAA Grand Canyon Star Party (GCSP) on June 9-16, 2018. Thanks to planning by the GCSP South Rim Coordinator and the National Park Service Ranger Leader, and the many participants who attend, the public gains a rich education in astronomy and environmental awareness. Jim will discuss our current need for his successor as TAAA GCSP Coordinator, and share some stories that highlight the joys of participating in astronomy outreach. As he says, "you never know what life you'll touch, or who might touch yours."

Invited Lecture **7:30pm**

*Volcanic Activity in the Solar
System and the Frontier of
Exovolcanology
presented by
Dr. Christopher Hamilton,
Assistant Professor, Lunar and
Planetary Lab, University of
Arizona*

Volcanic activity on Earth is primarily controlled by plate tectonics, with additional Large Igneous Provinces (LIPs) fed by mantle plumes. LIPs are common on terrestrial bodies throughout the Solar System, but without plate tectonics, volcanism differs vastly on extraterrestrial worlds. Dr. Hamilton's presentation compares and contrasts styles of volcanism within our Solar System, and their implications for our detecting and understanding highly volcanic exoplanets in other solar systems.

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GET READY TO STAR PARTY!!!

This month is packed full of outreach and public star and solar parties. Volunteers will be needed for night viewing, solar viewing and demonstrating NSN Toolkits!!

TAAA Ladies Night Out

Thursday, April 19

6:30 pm

Great Conversation!

Delicious Food!

Inca's Peruvian Cuisine

6878 E Sunrise Dr #130

(SW Corner of E Sunrise and N Kolb Rd)

Preview menu at <http://www.incasperuviancuisine.com>

RSVP Susan at cyzeh@aol.com

This Month in Brief

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

AISIG Meeting Tom Rolfsmeyer	Apr 2 (Mon) Total Wine & More 4370 N Oracle Rd	7:00 PM
Outreach Star Party Far West Tucson Jim Knoll	Apr 4 (Wed) Cooper Center for Environmental Learning 5403 W Trail End Rd	7:00 PM
General Meeting Ben Bailey	Apr 6 (Fri) Steward Obs. Rm N210 933 N Cherry Ave	6:30 PM
Public Star Party NW Tucson (Oracle) Jim Knoll	Apr 7 (Sat) Catalina State Park 11570 N Oracle Rd	7:00 PM
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Apr 7 (Sat) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd	Sunset
Outreach Star Party Far West Tucson Jim Knoll	Apr 8 (Sun) Saguaro Natl Park West 2700 N Kinney Rd	7:00 PM
Outreach Star Party Pearce AZ Jim Knoll	Apr 12 (Thu) Pearce Elementary 1487 E School Rd	7:30 PM
AFSIG Meeting (Beginners) Dennis McMacken	Apr 12 (Thu) USGS Bldg Room 253 520 N Park Ave	7:00 PM
Outreach Star Party Central Tucson Jim Knoll	Apr 13 (Fri) SARSEF @ TCC 260 S Church Ave	6:30 PM
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Apr 13 (Fri) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd	Sunset
CAC Star Party Mike McDowell	Apr 13/14 (Fri/Sat) Chiricahua Astronomy Complex	Sunset

Key:	TAAA Members Only	For Organization	Public Events
Outreach Star Party Far East Arizona Jim Knoll	Apr 14 (Sat) Chiricahua Natl Monument 12856 E Rhyolite Creek Rd	7:30 PM	
Public Star Party Far West Tucson Jim Knoll	Apr 14 (Sat) Ironwood Picnic Area 7300 West Hal Gras Rd	7:30 PM	
Ladies Night Out Susan O'Connor	Apr 19 (Thu) Inca's Peruvian Cuisine 4240 E Grant Rd	6:30 PM	
Outreach Solar Party Far West Tucson Jim Knoll	Apr 21 (Sat) International Wildlife Museum 4800 W Gates Pass Rd	10:00 AM	
Outreach Star Party Far West Tucson Jim Knoll	Apr 21 (Wed) Cooper Center for Environmental Learning 5403 W Trail End Rd	7:00 PM	
Public Star Party NE Tucson Jim Knoll	Apr 21 (Sat) Agua Caliente Park 12325 E Roger Rd	7:30 PM	
Public Solar/Star Party Marana Jim Knoll	Apr 21 (Sat) Ora Mae Harn Park 13250 N Lon Adams Rd	3:30 PM	
Public Solar/Star Party Central Tucson Jim Knoll	Apr 22 (Sun) Astronomy Festival @ Brandi Fenton Park 3482 E River Rd	3:00 PM	
Public Solar Party South Tucson Jim Knoll	Apr 28 (Sat) Autism Fair @ Kino Sports Complex 3693 S Old Spanish Trail	7:30 AM	

Future Events

Member Events	
May 4 (Fri)	General Meeting
May 7 (Mon)	AISIG Meeting
May 9 (Wed)	Board Meeting
May 10 (Thu)	AFSIG Meeting
May 11/12 (Fri/Sat)	CAC Star Party
May 12 (Fri)	TIMPA Star Party
May 17 (Thu)	Ladies Night Out
May 19 (Fri)	TIMPA Star Party
May 21 (Mon)	SIMSIG Meeting

Outreach Events	
May 3 (Thu)	Flandreau Planetarium
May 3 (Thu)	Whispering Pines Camp
May 18 (Thu)	Pusch Ridge Christian Academy
May 19 (Sat)	Agua Caliente Park

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. 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
Apr 23 Mon 7:30PM	Dr. David Sand Steward Observatory	<i>The Dynamic Sky</i>	Steward Observatory Lecture Hall N210	http://www.as.arizona.edu/public-evening-lecture-series

Special Interest Group (SIG) Activities

Astro-Imaging SIG (AISIG)

Meeting: Apr 2 (Mon) 7:00 PM

Location: Total Wine & More (4370 N Oracle Rd)
Contact: Jim Heasley Phone: 520-268-8586
Email: astro-photo[at]tucsonastronomy.org

Interested in Astronomical Imaging? Come to the next AISIG Meeting. New and experienced Astrophotographers welcome!! The meeting for May is May 7 (Mon).

Astronomy Fundamentals SIG (AFSIG)

Meeting: Apr 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. Conner Justice will present "Hands on German Equatorial Mount". The "Constellation of the Month" is "Lupus", presented by Rob Hallberg.

Dennis is looking for people to present future "Constellation of the Month", whether it is an old favorite or a constellation you would like to learn more about. Also, do you have a topic that would help us become better or more knowledgeable observers? Present it at the AFSIG. Let Dennis know, so we can schedule you in. Is there a topic you would like to hear about? Let us know, also.

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 way for them 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 USGS Building is on the northeast corner of Park and 6th Street. Free parking is available nearby after 5pm. The closest free parking is on the south side of 6th Street. An elevator is available on request. Contact Dennis McMacken at phone number or email above.



Starry Messengers SIG
Opening Minds to the Universe

Next Meeting: May 21 (Mon) 6:30PM

Beyond Bread (3026 N Campbell)
Contact: Terri Lappin
Phone: 520-977-1290
Email: smsig[at]tucsonastronomy.org

Interested in spreading the fun of astronomy? Volunteer as an Astronomy Guide. Training is available and you'll be partnered with a seasoned Astronomy Guide at the event.

Other upcoming outreach activities are the award presentations at the Southern AZ Region Science Fair (Apr 12), Innovator's Night (Apr 13), and the TAAA Astronomy Festival (Apr 22). In addition, we have requests for Night Sky Toolkits at several community star parties over the next few months. For information or to help these events, contact Terri Lappin.

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

Apr 13 & 14 (Fri & Sat)

Contact Person/RSVP to: Mike McDowell
Email: cac-director[at]tucsonastronomy.org
Phone: 206-356-6624

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 with a Celestron 14" telescope, a picnic Ramada, and a full bathroom facility with shower room. The new Reynolds-Mitchell Observatory includes a 40" telescope and a large warm 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

Apr 7 & 13 (Sat & Fri)

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!

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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@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 smisg@tucsonastronomy.org.

Cooper Center for Environmental Learning Degrazia Elementary School Star Party

Apr 4 (Wed) **Set-up: 6:30 PM**
Far West Tucson **Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 3**
Cross Streets: Speedway/Camino de Oeste

We are supporting a star party for Degrazia Elementary School at the Cooper Center for Environmental Learning. About 50 students and their family members are expected. The Cooper Center is located at 5403 W Trails End Rd. Take Camino de Oeste north from Speedway and turn west onto Trails End Rd. Setup in the open area near restroom facilities. Access the site from the dirt road at the east end of the main parking lot. Take this road through the camping facilities to the restroom location. **Two more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Catalina State Park Public Star Party

Apr 7 (Sat) **Set-up: 6:00 PM**
NW Tucson **Observing: 7:00 PM to 10:00 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. **Nine more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

UA Astronomy Program Star Party

Apr 8 (Sun) **Set-up: 6:30 PM**
Far West Tucson **Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 5**
Cross Streets: Kinney Road/Mile Wide

We're hosting a star party for UA students taking general sciences astronomy course. About 50 students are expected to attend this event held at the Red Hills Visitor Center at Saguaro National Park West. This is located at 2700 N Kinney Rd. Set up at the parking lot next to the Visitor Center. **Five volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Pearce Elementary School Star Party

Apr 12 (Thu) **Set-up: 6:45 PM**
Pearce AZ **Observing: 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 5**
Cross Streets: Route 191/Ghost Town Trail

Pearce Elementary School is having a star party for 100 students. The school is located at 1487 E School Rd. Take I-10 East past Benson, AZ. Take exit 318 (Dragoon Road) and head south (right). At Route 191, turn south (right). Continue past Sunsites. Turn right onto Ghost Town Trail. Go past W Prince Rd and turn right on Walnut St. Turn right into Pearce Elementary parking lot. Set up on the grass schoolyard. **Two more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Thank You Volunteers!

Potential Contacts This Month: 5325
Volunteers Needed This Month: 57

SARSEF COX Innovators Night @ TCC

Apr 13 (Fri) **Set-up: 6:00 PM**
Central Tucson **Observing: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 2**
Cross Streets: Church/Broadway

The Southern Arizona Research Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF) COX Innovators Night is being held at the Tucson Convention Center (TCC). The TCC is located at 260 S Church Ave. About 2000 people will be attending the SARSEF with most activities being inside the TCC. If a volunteer is interested in bringing a solar telescope setup an hour before sunset. **Two volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Ironwood Picnic Area Public Star Party

Apr 14 (Sat) **Set-up: 7:00 PM**
Far West Tucson **Observing: 7:30 PM to 9:30 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 Tucson Mountain Park. 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 Kinney Road. **Three volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Chiricahua National Monument Star Party

Apr 14 (Sat) **Set-up: 7:00 PM**
Far East Arizona **Observing: 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: AZ ST181/Park Entrance

The TAAA will be having a public star party at the Chiricahua National Monument. To get to the monument take I-10 East to Exit 336 (Willcox). East on AZ 186 (Maley St in Willcox). Travel 40 miles to AZ 181. Turn on AZ 181 for 4 miles to Park Entrance. Setup TBD. **One more volunteer with a scope is needed for this event.**

International Wildlife Museum Star Party (SOLAR)

Apr 21 (Sat) **Set-up: 9:30 AM**
Far West Tucson **Observing: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: Gates Pass/Camino de Oeste

We are supporting a star party for attendees of the International Wildlife Museum. About 500 children and adults will be present. The museum is located at 4800 W Gates Pass Rd. **Two more solar scopes and one NSN volunteer are needed for this event.**

Agua Caliente Park Public Star Party

Apr 21 (Sat) **Set-up: 7:00 PM**
NE Tucson **Observing: 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: Roger/Soldier Trail

We are supporting a public star party at Agua Caliente Park. 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. **Four volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

TAAA Outreach Events (cont.)

**Cooper Center for Environmental Learning
Alumni Reunion & Open House Star Party**
Apr 21 (Wed) Set-up: 6:30 PM
Far West Tucson Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Leader: Jim Knoll Volunteers Needed: 3
Cross Streets: Speedway/Camino de Oeste

We are supporting a star party for the Cooper Center Alumni and Open House. About 100 students and their family members are expected. The Cooper Center is located at 5403 W Trails End Rd. Take Camino de Oeste north from Speedway and turn west onto Trails End Rd. Setup in the open area near restroom facilities. Access the site from the dirt road at the east end of the main parking lot. Take this road through the camping facilities to the restroom location. **Three volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Ora Mae Harn Park Public Solar/Star Party
Apr 21 (Sat) Set-up: (Solar) 3:30 PM (Star) 6:30 PM
Marana Observing: 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Leader: Jim Knoll Volunteers Needed: 2
Cross Streets: I-10/Sandario Rd

We are supporting a public solar/star party at Ora Mae Harn Park. About 200 people are expected. The park is located at 13250 N Lon Adams Rd. From Tucson, take I-10 to exit 236. Take Sandario Rd south (west side of I-10) and turn left (east) on Grier Rd. Turn right (south) on Lon Adams Rd and continue straight. The Park entrance will be on the left just past Chief Gaudette Dr (if you reach Barnett Rd, you have gone too far). **Two volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Autism Fair Solar Party @ Kino Sports Complex
Apr 28 (Sat) Set-up: 6:30 AM
South Tucson Observing: 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Leader: Jim Knoll Volunteers Needed: 3
Cross Streets: Ajo/Country Club Blvd

The TAAA is supporting a solar party for the Autism Fair at the Kino Sports Complex. The Kino Sports Complex is located on Ajo Way between I-10 and Country Club Blvd. The viewing location is on the stadium concourse. **Three volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

National Astronomy Day Star Party

Apr 22 (Sun)
Central Tucson
Leader: Jim Knoll Volunteers Needed: AMAP
Cross Streets: River/Alvernon

Set-up: NSN 2:00 PM/Solar 2:00 PM
Start: Solar/NSN 3:00 PM
Set-up: Night 6:30 PM
Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Astronomy Day is a national event and the TAAA will have its largest public outreach during this event. In addition to nighttime observing we will need Night Sky Network (NSN) Toolkit and solar telescope volunteers for this event. Brandi Fenton Park is located at 3482 E River Rd. Enter the park at the intersection of River Rd and Alvernon. Interactive exhibits will be setup at Ramada 1 and solar and nighttime will be setup in the open grass field by Ramada 1. **As Many As Possible (AMAP) NSN Toolkit/Solar Telescope/Star Party Telescope Volunteers are needed for this event. Please indicate what time slot you can support.**

Announcements

- The February **Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on April 11th at 6:30 PM in the UMC Cafeteria, Rm 2500F (1500 N Campbell Ave).
- **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. We need volunteers for calendar year 2018. A signup sheet will be at the meeting.** 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



Can you count stars? Yes? You can do this!
Help increase the awareness of light pollution by submitting observations all year long.

Current Campaign: April 6 - April 15
Learn more at <http://www.globeatnight.org/>