

August 2018

Observing our Desert Skies
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TUCSON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION

Monthly Events Bulletin

August 3rd General Meeting

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

Introductory Presentation
6:30pm

Member's Night !!!

Reports by several TAAA members on a variety of topics.

Main Presentation
7:30pm

The night sky of planet
Vulcan: Exozodiacal light
observations with the

Large Binocular
Telescope (LBT)

presented by
Steve Ertel, Ph.D.
Steward Observatory

Dr. Steve Ertel is a German astronomer now working at Steward Observatory. He studies planetary systems through observations of their dust similar to that in our Solar System's Kuiper Belt, Asteroid Belt, and zodiacal dust. He also studies the fate of planetary systems as their host stars evolve into giant stars and white dwarfs. Steve received his Ph.D. from the University of Kiel, Germany. He has worked as an observational astronomer at the University of Grenoble, France, and at the ESO, Chile. As the instrument scientist of the LBT Interferometer at Mt. Graham, AZ, he leads the NASA-funded HOSTS survey for exozodiacal dust around nearby stars.

Zodiacal light is one of the most elusive features of our night sky; visible in the West after dusk and in the East before dawn as a large cone of faint light stretching from the horizon along the ecliptic. Arizona's dark skies make it ideal for observing its cause; sunlight scattered from zodiacal dust particles near Earth's orbit. Surely, the night skies of many Earth-like exoplanets must show a similar feature. Studying exozodiacal dust can give us insights into their architecture, specifically for those exoplanets in the habitable zone. At the same time, the dust poses an obstacle to imaging habitable exoplanets with a large space telescope, one of NASA's primary future goals. Dr. Ertel will present the efforts using the LBT to detect and study exozodiacal dust. He will also talk more broadly about how the LBT's interferometer makes it the first 30-meter class telescope on Earth. August 4, 2018.

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Tumacacori National Historical Park Celebrates!!

In Tumacacori National Historical Park will be celebrating their new designation as an International Dark Sky Park on Sunday August 12 from 7:30 – 9:30 PM. TAAA and the Sonora Astronomical Society (SAS) will provide telescope viewing. Normal admission to the Park applies..

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This Month in Brief

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

Key:	TAAA Members Only	For Organization	Public Events
General Meeting Mae Smith	Aug 6 (Fri) Steward Obs. Rm N210 933 N Cherry Ave		6:30 PM
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Aug 4 (Sat) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd		Sunset
AFSIG Meeting Connor Justice	Aug 9 (Thu) USGS Bldg Room 253 520 N Park Ave		6:30 PM
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Aug 10 (Fri) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd		Sunset
CAC Star Party John Kalas	Aug 10/11 (Fri/Sat) Chiricahua Astronomy Complex		Sunset
Public Star Party Jim Knoll	Aug 12 (Sun) Tumacacori National Historical Park 1891 E Frontage Road Tumacacori, AZ		7:30 PM
Ladies Night Out Susan O'Connor	Aug 19 (Thu) HiFalutin 6780 N Oracle Rd		6:30 PM
Public Star Party Jim Knoll	Sep 1 (Sat) Oracle State Park 3820 E Wildlife Dr Oracle, AZ		7:30 PM

Future Events

Member Events	
Sep 7 (Fri)	General Meeting
Sep 7/8 (Fri/Sat)	CAC Star Party
Sep 8 (Sat)	TIMPA Star Party
Sep 12 (Wed)	Board Meeting
Sep 13 (Thu)	AFSIG Meeting
Sep 14 (Fri)	TIMPA Star Party
Sep 20 (Thu)	Ladies Night Out



Current Campaign:

August 2—11

Visit globeatnight.org

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 smsg@tucsonastronomy.org.

Tumacacori National Historical Park Star Party

Aug 12 (Fri) **Set-up: 6:30 PM**
Tumacacori **Observing: 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: TBD**
Cross Streets: I-19/Exit 29

I-19 South to exit 29. Tumacacori National Historical Park will be celebrating their new designation as an International Dark Sky Park on Sunday August 12 from 7:30 – 9:30 PM. TAAA and the Sonora Astronomical Society (SAS) will provide telescope viewing. Normal admission to the Park applies.

Oracle State Park Public Star Party

Sep 1 (Sat) **Set-up: 6:00 PM**
Oracle **Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 3**
Cross Streets: Oracle (AZ 77)/Wildlife Dr

We are supporting a public star party at Oracle State Park. About 100 people attend these star parties. The park is located at 3820 E Wildlife Dr. Take Highway 77 (Oracle Rd) north from Tucson and follow the signs. Observing will be at the sidewalk along the Kannally Ranch House parking lot and on the Ranch House upper patio. **Three volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Announcements

- The August **Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on Aug 8th at 6:30 PM in the UMC Cafeteria, Rm 2500F (1500 N Campbell Ave).
- Meeting refreshments are provided by fellow members. We need 2 more 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](mailto:refreshments-coordinator[at]tucsonastronomy.org).
- Monthly Bulletin** deadlines are the 15th of the preceding month. Email all submissions to [taaa-newsletter\[at\]tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:taaa-newsletter[at]tucsonastronomy.org)
- Doug Smith** is starting a class for people pursuing Astronomical League Programs. You may contact Doug at dsmith217@cox.net
- CAC announces a Star-B-Que on Saturday, October 6th. Save the date and stay tuned for further info.
- A TAAA position we need to fill: Grand Canyon Star Party South Rim Coordinator. Contact Mae Smith ssmith@email.arizona.edu.
- Additional volunteers are needed for the TAAA paid star-party program, Tucson Stargazing Adventures (TSA). Contact Jim Knoll at atstargazing@tucsonastronomy.org.

Special Interest Group Activities

Astro-Imaging SIG (AISIG)

Meeting: TBD

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!!

Astronomy Fundamentals SIG (AFSIG)

Meeting: Aug 9 (Thu) 6:30 PM
U.S.G.S. Building, Room 253 (520 North Park Ave)
Contact: Connor Justice
Email: fundamentals[at]tucsonastronomy.org
Leader Email: Elliot.c.justice[at]gmail.com

Come join us for a presentation from the fundamentals of amateur astronomy. Gus Gomez will start the evening off with a talk on defunct constellation Argo Navis, followed by Rob Halberg who will be discussing the astronomer Copernicus for our main presentation.

The AFSIG 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 the would help us become better or more knowledgeable observers? Let Connor know, so we can schedule you in. Is there a topic you would like to hear about or do you to present but need help finding a topic? Shoot us an email at fundamentals[at]tucsonastronomy.org

The AFSIG 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.

The USGS Building is on the northeast corner of Park and 6th Street. Free parking is available in University parking lots nearby after 5pm. The closest free parking is on the south side of 6th Street. From Sixth Street turn south on Park, turn left into the alley behind The China Pasta House to get into the parking lot. Or, park at the meters, they are also free after 5 PM. Don't park at permit only spaces. There is a fee to park in the Sixth Street parking garage to the east.



Starry Messengers SIG-
Opening Minds to the Universe

Next Meeting: Sep 17 (Mon) 6:30PM

Location: Beyond Bread

Contact: Terri Lappin
Phone: 520-977-1290

Email: smsig[at]tucsonastronomy.org

Starry Messengers SIG next meeting is September 17.

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

Aug 10/11 (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 Mike McDowell. Reservations are on a first come – first serve basis.

TIMPA Site

Aug 4 & 10 (Sat & Fri)

Contact Person: Connor Justice
Email: fundamentals[at]tucsonastronomy.org,
elliott.c.justice[at]gmail.com

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, August 16

Great Conversation!

6:30 pm

Delicious Food!

HiFalutin

6780 N Oracle Rd

(E side of Oracle, between Ina and Orange Grove)

Preview the menu at hifalutintucson.com

RSVP Susan

520-780-0136 or cyzeh@aol.com