

July 2018

Observing our Desert Skies  
since 1954



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TUCSON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION

# Monthly Events Bulletin

## July 6th General Meeting

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

### **Introductory Presentation** **6:30pm**

#### **Seasonal Night Sky Objects**

*presented by*  
**Mary Turner, Ph.D.**

Mary Turner, TAAA's appointed Chief Observer, takes us on a tour of the summer night sky. As usual in her popular talks, Mary's use of astronomical data, images, and mythology brings the seasonal changes in the sky to life.

### **Main Presentation** **7:30pm**

#### **Humanity's First Visit to a Star: The Parker Solar Probe**

*presented by*  
**Nicola Fox, Ph.D.**  
**Project Scientist, Parker  
Solar Probe**

The Dr. Nicola Fox, project scientist for NASA's Parker Solar Probe (via recorded Night Sky Network Webinar). Dr. Fox earned her Ph.D. in physics from the Imperial College of Science in London and is currently with Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

In this timely video, Dr. Fox shares details about the upcoming mission to experience the solar atmosphere and provide humanity with its first ever close-up view of a star. Named for Dr. Eugene N. Parker, whose other contributions have transformed our knowledge of the Sun, the Parker Solar Probe will plunge through the Sun's atmosphere, facing brutal heat and radiation conditions to ultimately reveal scientists' first ringside research of the Sun's corona. Launch currently is scheduled for no sooner than August 4, 2018.

### **The Grand Canyon Star Party - A Great Success!!**

In spite of variable temperatures (one day the temperature ranged from 38' to 91'), rain, and some cloudy weather. Astronomers, of course, persevered and were as resourceful as possible, and we had great crowds of visitors.

At the GCSP, **Jim O'Connor** was awarded the prestigious **Bart and Priscilla Bok Award**, TAAA's highest award for outstanding contributions to amateur astronomy or observational astronomy. The award was given not only for his outstanding contributions to the development of the GCSP but also for his exceptional record of star party support and his work with individuals and organizations in promoting astronomy education efforts and ideas.

### **Inside this Bulletin**

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Jul 7 & 13

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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<br>Mae Smith                                    | Jul 6 (Fri)<br>Steward Obs. Rm N210<br>933 N Cherry Ave               |                  | 6:30 PM       |
| TIMPA Star Party<br>Dennis McMacken                             | Jul 7 (Sat)<br>TIMPA<br>3250 N Reservation Rd                         |                  | Sunset        |
| AFSIG Meeting<br>Connor Justice                                 | Jul 12 (Thu)<br>USGS Bldg Room 253<br>520 N Park Ave                  |                  | 6:30 PM       |
| TIMPA Star Party<br>Dennis McMacken                             | Jul 13 (Fri)<br>TIMPA<br>3250 N Reservation Rd                        |                  | Sunset        |
| Elfrida Library<br>Solar Party<br>Elfrida, Arizona<br>Jim Knoll | Jul 13 (Fri)<br>Elfrida Library<br>10552 N HY 191                     |                  | 10:30 AM      |
| CAC Star Party<br>John Kalas                                    | Jul 13/14 (Fri/Sat)<br>Chiricahua Astronomy<br>Complex                |                  | Sunset        |
| Outreach Star Party<br>Far West Tucson<br>Jim Knoll             | Jul 14 (Sat)<br>Arizona Sonoran<br>Desert Museum<br>2021 N Kinney Rd. |                  | 7:00 PM       |
| Ladies Night Out<br>Susan O'Connor                              | Jul 19 (Thu)<br>Jun Dynasty<br>2933 E Grant Rd                        |                  | 6:30 PM       |

## Future Events

| Member Events       |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Aug 3 (Fri)         | General Meeting  |
| Aug 4 (Sat)         | TIMPA Star Party |
| Aug 8 (Wed)         | Board Meeting    |
| Aug 9 (Thu)         | AFSIG Meeting    |
| Aug 10 (Fri)        | TIMPA Star Party |
| Aug 10/11 (Fri/Sat) | CAC Star Party   |
| Aug 16 (Thu)        | Ladies Night Out |



**Current Campaign:**

**July 4—13**

Visit [globeatnight.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:smsg@tucsonastronomy.org).

### Elfrida Library Solar Party

**Jul 13 (Fri)**

**Elfrida**

**Leader: Jim Knoll**

**Cross Streets: Gleeson/Hwy 191**

I-10 or Dragoon Road to Hwy 191. South to Gleeson Road (south of 181). From Gleeson & Hwy 191, go south 1/2 mile. Turn right just past the Health Clinic and then turn a hard left and go around behind the community center. The Library is located there. Setup outside the Library. **One more volunteer with a solar scope is needed for this event.**

**Set-up: 10:00 AM**

**Observing: 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Volunteers Needed: 2**

### Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum Cool Summer Nights

**Jul 14 (Sat)**

**Far West Tucson**

**Leader: Jim Knoll**

**Cross Streets: Gates Pass/Kinney**

We are supporting the Cool Summer Night event at the Sonoran Desert Museum about 300 people are expected. The museum is located at 2021 N Kinney Rd. **Four volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

**Set-up: 6:00 PM**

**Observing: 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM**

**Volunteers Needed: 4**

## Announcements

- The July **Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on July 12th 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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!! There is no meeting for June because of the Grand Canyon Star Party and there is no meeting in July because of the monsoons.

### Astronomy Fundamentals SIG (AFSIG)

**Meeting: Jul 12 (Thu) 6:30 PM**  
U.S.G.S. Building, Room 253 (520 North Park Ave)  
Contact: Connor Justice  
Email: fundamentals[at]tucsonastronomy.org

Come join us for a presentation from the fundamentals of amateur astronomy. 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: Sep 17 (Mon) 6:30PM**

Location: Beyond Bread

Contact: Terri Lappin  
Phone: 520-977-1290

Email: smsig[at]tucsonastronomy.org

Starry Messengers SIG will support the following outreach events this summer. We'd love to have the help of any TAAA member interested in outreach. Our next meeting is September 17.

July 14: Summer Science Saturday (LPL)

## 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

**Jul 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 Mike McDowell. Reservations are on a first come – first serve basis.

### TIMPA Site

**Jul 7 & 13 (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, July 19

Great Conversation!

6:30 pm

Delicious Food!

Jun Dynasty

2933 E Grant Rd

(NW corner of Grant and Country Club)

Preview the menu at [jundynasty.com](http://jundynasty.com)

RSVP Susan

[cyzeh@aol.com](mailto:cyzeh@aol.com)