

December 2018

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TUCSON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION

# Monthly Events Bulletin

## December 7th General Meeting

**LPL Kuiper Building, Room 308/3rd Floor Auditorium, UA Campus, 1629 E University Blvd.**

**Introductory Presentation**  
**6:30pm**  
*Members Night*

If you would like to give a presentation, contact Mae Smith, [ssmith@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ssmith@email.arizona.edu).

**Invited Lecture**  
**7:30pm**  
*The Parker Solar Probe: NASA's  
Mission to Touch the Sun*  
*presented by*  
*Dr. Joe Giacalone, Lunar and  
Planetary Laboratory (LPL),  
University of Arizona*

Dr. Joe Giacalone has been a Professor at the UA's LPL since 1993. He is Co-Investigator on the ISOIS (Integrated Science Investigation of the Sun) instrument on the Parker Solar Probe. This instrument will measure high-energy charged particles accelerated by magnetic fields near the Sun. Dr. Giacalone holds a PhD in Physics from the University of Kansas.

The Parker Solar Probe is truly a mission of discovery. Launched in August of 2018, this historic, seven-year mission has already flown by Venus, and made its first close pass of the Sun — closer to the Sun than any man-made object ever. It will get even closer in the years ahead; as near as 3.8 million miles from the Sun's surface. Dr. Giacalone will discuss the mission, its goals, and what we expect to discover about the Sun.

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### 2019 GRAND CANYON STAR PARTY

Time To Plan To Attend the **2019 Grand Canyon Star Party**. The 29th 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 22 through June 29, 2019. Lodging for most or all of the entire GCSP starts becoming scarce in early January, so early planning is advised. Please join us for one night, all eight nights, or anything in between. Further information and registration information is at:

<http://tucsonastronomy.org/upcoming-events/grand-canyon-star-party/>

<http://tucsonastronomy.org/upcoming-events/grand-canyon-star-party/gcsp-accommodations/>

Jim O'Connor South Rim Coordinator Grand Canyon Star Party [gcsp@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:gcsp@tucsonastronomy.org)

### NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The TAAA Board met on November 14, 2018 and some of the topics it addressed include:

Ralph Means provided an inventory of and policies for the TAAAEquipment Loan Program located at TIMPA. The Board made a decision that while smaller scopes, in general, may be checked out and taken home. Certain telescopes may only be loaned on site at TIMPA or CAC. Also, loaners of telescopes need to be trained sufficiently to use the telescope they loan. Basic training can be part of the loan process.

Follow-up discussion was held regarding the suggestion from Gus Gomez to purchase TAAA labels for telescopes, and the labels have now been ordered.

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## Upcoming Activities

### This Month's Events

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
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Dec 1 (Sat) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd	Sunset	
Outreach Star Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Dec 6 (Thu) Amphi Middle School 315 E Prince Rd	6:30 PM	
General Meeting Mae Smith	Dec 7 (Fri) Kuiper Bldg. Rm 308 1629 E University Blvd	6:30 PM	
Public Star Party NE Tucson Jim Knoll	Dec 8 (Sat) Ironwood Picnic Area 7300 W Hal Gras Rd	6:00 PM	
AISIG Meeting Tom Rolfsmeyer	Dec 11 (Tue) Banner UMC, Rm 2600 7200 N Shannon Rd	7:00 PM	
Outreach Star Party SW Tucson Jim Knoll	Dec 11 (Tue) McCorkle Academy of Excellence 4455 S Mission Rd	6:00 PM	
Outreach Star Party SE Tucson Jim Knoll	Dec 13 (Thu) NK STEM Scouts @ Saguaro Christian Church 8302 E Broadway Blvd	5:30 PM	
Outreach Star Party Central Tucson Jim Knoll	Dec 13 (Thu) Quincie Douglas Center 1575 E 57th St	6:00 PM	
AFSIG Meeting (Beginners) Connor Justice	Dec 13 (Thu) USGS Bldg Room 253 520 N Park Ave	7:00 PM	
Outreach Star Party Central Tucson Jim Knoll	Dec 14 (Fri) Catalina High School 3645 E Pima St	6:00 PM	
Public Star Party NE Tucson Jim Knoll	Dec 15 (Sat) Agua Caliente Park 12325 E Roger Rd	6:00 PM	
Outreach Star Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Dec 17 (Mon) Roadrunner Elementary @ Cooper Center 5403 W Trail End Rd	6:30 PM	
Outreach Star Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Dec 18 (Tue) McCorkle (Group 1) @ Cooper Center 5403 W Trail End Rd	6:30 PM	
Outreach Star Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Dec 19 (Wed) McCorkle (Group 2) @ Cooper Center 5403 W Trail End Rd	6:30 PM	
Ladies Night Out Susan O'Connor	Dec 20 (Thu) Polish Cottage 4320 E Broadway Blvd	6:30 PM	
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Dec 29 (Sat) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd	Sunset	

### Future Events

Member Events	
Jan 4 (Fri)	General Meeting
Jan 4/5 (Fri/Sat)	CAC Star Party
Jan 9 (Wed)	Board Meeting
Jan 10 (Thu)	AFSIG Meeting
Jan 17 (Thu)	Ladies Night Out

Outreach Events	
Jan 5 (Sat)	Agua Caliente Park
Jan 9 (Wed)	Murphy-Wilmot Library
Jan 12 (Sat)	Catalina State Park
Jan 16 (Wed)	Green Fields School
Jan 18 (Fri)	St Elizabeth Ann
Jan 19 (Sat)	Ironwood Picnic Area
Jan 24 (Thu)	Thornsdale Elementary School
Jan 25 (Fri)	Carillo Magnet K-5
Jan 31 (Fri)	Old Vail Middle School
Jan 31 (Sat)	Cross Middle School

**TAAA Ladies Night Out**  
**Thursday, December 20**  
*Great Conversation!* **6:30 pm** *Delicious Food!*  
**Polish Cottage**  
**4320 E Broadway**  
 (South Side of Broadway between Columbus and Swan)  
 Preview menu at [polishcottageaz.com](http://polishcottageaz.com)  
 RSVP Susan at [cyzeh@aol.com](mailto:cyzeh@aol.com)



**Current Campaign:**  
**November 29 to December 8**

Visit [globeatnight.org](http://globeatnight.org)

## Special Interest Group (SIG) Activities

### Astro-Imaging SIG (AISIG)

**Meeting: Dec 11 (Fri) 7:00 PM**

Location: UMC Banner Auditorium RM 2600 (1500 N Cambbell)  
Contact: Tom Rolfsmeyer  
Group email: astro-photo[at]tucsonastronomy.org  
Leader email: mrolf@earthlink.net

At our next AISIG meeting our topics will be:

Mounts and processing software demos.

If you are interested in astro-imaging, in being involved in planning, or in learning about it, please participate in these meetings. To assist with Astro-Imaging Special Interest Group planning and organization, contact Tom Rolfsmeyer.

### Astronomy Fundamentals SIG (AFSIG)

**Meeting: Dec 13 (Thu) 6:30 PM**

U.S.G.S. Building, Room 253 (520 North Park Ave)  
Contact: Connor Justice  
Group 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. Stephen Ferris will start the night with a talk about the southern constellation Tucana. For our main topic, Doug Smith will be discussing Star Atlases.

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 that would help us become better or more knowledgeable observers? Present it at the AFSIG. 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 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 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. The meeting room is on the second floor; use the stairway in the central courtyard. An elevator is available on request. Contact Dennis McMacken at 520-609-7860 or email Connor Justice (see above).



Starry Messengers SIG  
Opening Minds to the Universe

**Meeting: Jan 21 (Mon) 6:30P**

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

The Starry Messengers SIG has a very full plate and could use your help filling requests we have for hands-on activities. These activities take from 5 to 20 minutes to complete. Pick a topic and we'll train you to become an Astronomy Guide for that activity.

Let Terri Lappin know if you want to become involved with this valued service we provide to the community. At our next meeting we'll discuss our exhibit for the 2019 Tucson Festival of Books in March. Our exhibit will feature the Moon and the Apollo lunar landings.

## 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

**Dec 7 & 8 (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

**Dec 1 & 29 (Sat & 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 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 [msig@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:msig@tucsonastronomy.org).

### Amphi Middle School Star Party

**Dec 6 (Thu)** **Set-up: 5:30 PM**  
**NW Tucson** **Observing: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 3**  
**Cross Streets: Stone/Prince**

Amphi Middle School is having a star party for 100 students and family members. The school is located at 315 E Prince Rd. From Stone go east on Prince .3 miles. Turn left into the second Amphi Middle School parking lot. Setup is on the basketball court behind building 600. **Two more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Ironwood Picnic Area Public Star Party

**Dec 8 (Sat)** **Set-up: 5:30 PM**  
**Far West Tucson** **Observing: 6:00 PM to 8:00 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. 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. **Two more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### McKorkle Academy of Excellence Star Party

**Dec 11 (Tue)** **Set-up: 5:30 PM**  
**SW Tucson** **Observing: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 5**  
**Cross Streets: Mission/Ajo**

The The McCorlke Academy of Excellence is having a star party and NSN Toolkit demonstration (Mirrors & Glass) for 150 students. The Academy is located at 4455 S Mission Rd. Go south on Mission from Ajo and turn left at second turn-off to school. After entering parking lot, proceed left along playground. At the end of the playground, enter the double gates to dark area of the playground. **Four volunteers with scopes and a NSN Toolkit volunteer are needed for this event.**

### NK STEM Scouts @ Saguaro Christian Church Star Party

**Dec 13 (Thu)** **Set-up: 5:00 PM**  
**East Tucson** **Observing: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 2**  
**Cross Streets: Broadway/Sarnoff**

The NK STEM Scouts is having a star party for 15 scouts. The Saguaro Christian Church is located at 8302 E Broadway Blvd. The church is on the SE corner of Broadway and Sarnoff. The viewing location will be either the west parking lot or interior courtyard. **Two volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

## TAAA Outreach Events (Cont.)

**Thank You Volunteers!**

Potential Contacts This Month: 1600  
 Volunteers Needed This Month: 44

### Quincie Douglas Center Star Party

**Dec 13 (Thu)** **Set-up: 5:30 PM**  
**SW Tucson** **Observing: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 3**  
**Cross Streets: Kino/36th**

The Quincie Douglas Center for Developmentally Disabled Adults is having a star party for 75 adults. The Center is located at 1575 E 36th St. The viewing location will be at Quincie Douglas Park which is about 300 feet behind the Center. **Three volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Catalina High School Star Party

**Dec 14 (Tue)** **Set-up: 5:30 PM**  
**Cental Tucson** **Observing: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 3**  
**Cross Streets: Alvernon/Pima**

The Catalina High School is having a star party for about 20 students. The school is located at 3645 E Pima St. From Alvernon go west on Pima to the school. Setup on the grass field. **Two more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Agua Caliente Park Public Star Party

**Dec 15 (Sat)** **Set-up: 5:30 PM**  
**NE Tucson** **Observing: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 4**  
**Cross Streets: Roger/Soldier Trail**

We are supporting a public star party at Aqua 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. **Three more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Roadrunner Elementary Star Party @ Cooper Center

**Dec 17 (Mon)** **Set-up: 6:00 PM**  
**Far West Tucson** **Observing: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 2**  
**Cross Streets: Speedway/Camino de Oeste**

Roadrunner Elementary School is having a star party for 65 students at the Cooper Center for Environmental Learning 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 near the dumpsters. **Two**



## TAAA Outreach Events (Cont.)

**McCorkle (Group 1) Star Party @ Cooper Center**  
**Dec 18 (Tue)** **Set-up: 6:00 PM**  
**Far West Tucson** **Observing: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 2**  
**Cross Streets: Speedway/Camino de Oeste**

McCorkle Academy of Excellence is having a star party for 60 students at the Cooper Center for Environmental Learning 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 near the dumpsters. **Two volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

**McCorkle (Group 2) Star Party @ Cooper Center**  
**Dec 19 (Wed)** **Set-up: 6:00 PM**  
**Far West Tucson** **Observing: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 2**  
**Cross Streets: Speedway/Camino de Oeste**

McCorkle Academy of Excellence is having a star party for 60 students at the Cooper Center for Environmental Learning 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 near the dumpsters. **Two volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT (Cont.)

Doug Smith reported on the current status of and provided policies for the TAAA Library. An inventory is in process. Various books owned by TAAA have not been in the library and are currently being collected from storage locations. Each Book and library item is being reviewed to determine its best use.

A decision was made that phone or any recording of presentations (other than the official TAAA recording) at the 7:30 Member Meeting or any other TAAA Non-Member presentations at any time would not be allowed. Unofficial recordings threaten our ability to obtain speakers, especially those presenting the latest research or innovative ideas.

**The December General Meeting location has been changed to the Kuiper Building, 1629 East University Blvd, Room 308. Refreshments: Bring Finger Foods to share and put on table outside auditorium. NO Food in Auditorium — Please!!! Paper ware provided.**

In every organization, there are those people who work quietly making significant and ongoing contributions, often behind the scenes, and go unrecognized. I would like to call attention to only a very few of the many behind the scenes contributors to TAAA. I would like to say thank you to:

**Shirley Ross, Chuck Ross and Warren Hensey**, who all helped form the Community Outreach Team at CAC and have developed successful approaches to advertising for local community events and, in addition, significantly contribute to running those events at CAC. **Karen Liptak**, who every month sends out information about TAAA events to newspapers and other publicity sources in Tucson. These notices bring in many visitors and new members at TAAA member meetings. Karen also takes leadership roles in Astronomy Education in TAAA, participating in training programs where her learning benefits TAAA: sometimes bringing in direct donations to the club and always providing learning that she uses in her regular ongoing event participation and leadership through Starry Messengers SIG.

## Announcements

- The December **Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on December 12th at 6:30 PM at the UA College of Education, Room 312. **(NOTE TEMPORARY LOCATION CHANGE.)** Members are welcome to attend.
- **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](mailto:membership[at]tucsonastronomy.org).
- **Volunteer needed to serve as TAAA Refreshment Coordinator.** This person organizes volunteers to bring refreshments for each Member Meeting. Thanks to John Christensen for having done this job for several years and for doing an excellent job, but John cannot continue at present. To help out, please contact Mae Smith at [ssmith@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ssmith@email.arizona.edu).
- **Volunteer needed to edit and post video-recordings of Member Meetings.** Contact Mae Smith at [ssmith@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ssmith@email.arizona.edu).
- **Web comments, suggestions or problems**, contact our team at [atwebteam@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:atwebteam@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)
- **Equipment Loaner program.** Contact Ralph Means at [elc@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:elc@tucsonastronomy.org), or 520 460-8770 or [bookbuyer1769@gmail.com](mailto:bookbuyer1769@gmail.com) to check out a telescope, lenses or other equipment. You may try one type or size of telescope, return it, and try another one until you have tested all the scopes in our loaner program. Very helpful for choosing a first telescope or for moving to a new option.
- **Doug Smith** has accepted the additional position of **TAAA Librarian**. Please note that he will be conducting a new inventory of the library and doing some reorganization in the next few months. The library will not be open for checking out books until this process is completed. If you have a TAAA Library book or other materials checked out at the present time, please contact Doug and provide information about the item that you have at [alcor@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:alcor@tucsonastronomy.org)