

March 2019

Observing our Desert Skies
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TUCSON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION

Monthly Events Bulletin

March 1st General Meeting

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

Introductory Presentation **6:30pm**

*TAAA Annual Report
presented by
Mae Smith, Ph.D.*

TAAA President Mae Smith will give the club's annual report for 2018.

Invited Lecture **7:30pm**

*Tucson Amateur Astronomy
Association: Sixty-Five Years of
Celebrating The Skies
presented by
Tim Hunter*

Tim Hunter has been an amateur astronomer since 1950, and owns two observatories, the 3towers Observatory and the Grasslands Observatory. He is a past president of Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association, Inc. and a member of TAAA since 1975. He is currently the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Planetary Science Institute (PSI). In 1987, he and Dr. David Crawford founded the International Dark-Sky Association, Inc. (IDA), a nonprofit devoted to promoting quality outdoor lighting and combatting the effects of light pollution.

For this month's main presentation, Tim Hunter celebrates TAAA's 65th anniversary year. The TAAA was founded in 1954 as the Tucson Amateur Astronomers (TAA) by a small group of amateurs with the strong support of Dr. Edwin F Carpenter, Director of Steward Observatory.

Learn how TAA evolved into the current TAAA, one of the largest and most active amateur clubs in the United States. Ever since its founding, the TAAA has had a close relationship with Steward Observatory and the University of Arizona. In his talk, Tim will highlight some important landmarks of the TAAA as well as the changes in amateur astronomy from 1954. A special feature of the evening will be short presentations by several former TAAA Presidents.

Introduction to the Fundamentals of Astronomy

The Astronomy Fundamentals Special Interest Group (AFSIG) will offer its popular **Introduction to the Fundamentals of Astronomy** class again this Spring. The dates are: March 16, March 23, and March 30, 2019.

This class is aimed at giving the beginning amateur astronomer a good start in the hobby including:

Day 1 - some basics in observational astronomy and celestial objects;

Day 2 - introduction to the equipment used in amateur astronomy;

Day 3 - observing tools and techniques.

The class is given over the three Saturdays and usually runs from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. After the last day, students and instructors will meet at TIMPA for a potluck supper and star party.

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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
General Meeting Mae Smith	Mar 1 (Fri) Steward Observatory 933 N Cherry		6:30 PM
CAC Star Party Mike McDowell	Mar 1/2 (Fri/Sat) CAC Sunsites AZ		Sunset
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Mar 2 (Sat) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd		Sunset
Public Star Party Far West Tucson Jim Knoll	Mar 2 (Sat) Ironwood Picnic Area 7300 W Hal Gras Rd		6:30 PM
Public Outreach Event Central Tucson Jim Knoll	Mar 2/3 (Sat/Sun) Tucson Festival of Books UA Mall		
Outreach Star Party Oro Valley Jim Knoll	Mar 5 (Tue) Innovation Academy 825 Desert Fairways Dr		6:30 PM
Outreach Solar Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Mar 7 (Thu) Leman Academy 667720 N Silverbell		6:30 PM
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Mar 8 (Fri) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd		Sunset
Public Star Party NE Tucson Jim Knoll	Mar 9 (Sat) Agua Caliente Park 12325 E Roger Rd		7:00 PM
Outreach Solar/Star NE Tucson, AZ Jim Knoll	Mar 9 (Sat) GSSA 3101 N Sabino Canyon Rd		6:30 PM
Outreach Star Party NW Tucson (Oracle) Jim Knoll	Mar 9 (Sat) Oracle State Park 3820 E Wildlife Dr		7:00 PM
Outreach Star Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Mar 11 (Mon) Copper Canyon Alzheimer's 5901 N La Cholla		6:30 PM
AFSIG Meeting (Beginners) Connor Justice	Mar 14 (Thu) USGS Bldg Room 253 520 N Park Ave		6:30 PM
Ladies Night Out Susan O'Connor	Mar 21 (Thu) Black Bear Diner 6095 E Broadway		6:30 PM
Outreach Star Party Central Tucson Jim Knoll	Mar 22 (Fri) Khalsa Montessori 3244 E Camden St		6:30 PM
Outreach Star Party Far East AZ Jim Knoll	Mar 23 (Sat) Chiricahua National Mon. 12856 E Rhyolite Rd		7:30 PM
Outreach Star Party NE Tucson Jim Knoll	Mar 27 (Wed) Fruchthendler Elem School 7470 E Cloud Rd		7:00 PM

This Month's Events Cont.

Outreach Star Party East Tucson Jim Knoll	Mar 28 (Thu) St Michael's School 602 N Wilmot Rd	6:45 PM
Outreach Star Party East Tucson Jim Knoll	Mar 29 (Fri) Academy of Tucson 9209 E Wrightstown Rd	7:30 PM
Outreach Event NW Tucson (Oracle) Jim Knoll	Mar 30 (Sat) Catalina State Park 11570 N Oracle Rd	7:00 PM

Future Events

Member Events	
Apr 5 (Fri)	General Meeting
Apr 10 (Wed)	Board Meeting
Apr 11 (Thu)	AFSIG Meeting
Apr 18 (Thu)	Ladies Night Out

Outreach Events	
Apr 4 (Thu)	Phi Beta Sigma
Apr 7 (Sun)	Tucson Hebrew
Apr 12 (Fri)	Catalina High School
Apr 7 (Thu)	Leman Academy
Apr 17 (Wed)	Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona
Apr 24 (Wed)	Kellond Elementary
Apr 27 (Sat)	Ironwood Picnic Area
Apr 27 (Sat)	Adventure Middle School
Apr 30 (Tue)	Soleng Tom
Apr 30 (Tue)	Utterback Middle School

TAAA Ladies Night Out

Thursday, March 21

6:30 pm

Black Bear Diner

6095 E Broadway Blvd

(N side of Broadway between N Chantilly S Wilmot)

Preview menu at

<https://blackbeardiner.com/location/tucson>

RSVP Susan at cyzeh@aol.com

Special Interest Group (SIG) Activities

Astro-Imaging SIG (AISIG)

Meeting: TBD

Location: Total Wine and More (4370 N Oracle)
 Contact: Tom Rolfsmeyer
 Group email: astro-photo[at]tucsonastronomy.org
 Leader email: mrolf@earthlink.net

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 AISIG planning and organization, contact Tom Rolfsmeyer.

Astronomy Fundamentals SIG (AFSIG)

Meeting: Mar 14 (Thu) 7:00 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.

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.

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Starry Messengers SIG
 Opening Minds to the Universe

Meeting: Mar 18 (Mon) 6:30P

Native Grill & Wings (3100 E Speedway Blvd)

Contact: Terri Lappin

Phone: 520-977-1290

Email: smsig@tucsonastronomy.org

Our main activities now surround our 6th Annual Astronomy Festival at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park to take place on April 13th. We could use volunteers prior to the event to help with logistics, so contact Terri Lappin if you want to help. Of course, we'll need lots of help on April 13th, too. So plan to bring your scope (starting at 3pm for solar) or help with our hands-on exhibits. We will be highlighting the Lunar Missions this year.

We will meet on March 18th. We're trying a new restaurant that has a private room which should work better for our presentations and discussion. Any TAAA member interested in outreach is invited to attend. The meeting starts at 6:30pm and will end at 8pm.

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

Mar 1 & 2 (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

Mar 2 & 8 (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!

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.

Ironwood Picnic Area Public Star Party

Mar 2 (Sat) **Set-up: 6:30 PM**
Far West Tucson **Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
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. **Three more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Tucson Festival of Books (Solar/NSN toolkit/Booth)

Mar 2/3 (Sat/Sun) **Set-up: 7:30 AM**
Central Tucson **Observing: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 10**
Cross Streets: Campbell/University

We will need volunteers to work the booth and Solar telescopes throughout both days. The event will be on the UA Mall and goes from 7 AM to 5:30 PM each day. Shifts are divided into morning or afternoon for each day. Terri Lappin is coordinating the event and had a sign up sheet at the monthly meeting Friday. She has the Booth covered for Saturday morning, but needs volunteers for Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning & afternoon. We also need a couple solar scopes either shift Saturday and one scope either shift Sunday. For TFOB, you can either let Terri know (tklappin@outlook.com) or respond to this email and let me know. This is a fun and interactive event with the public.

Innovation Academy Star Party

Mar 5 (Tue) **Set-up: 5:45 PM**
Oro Valley **Observing: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: LaCanada/Moore

Innovation Academy is having a star party for 300 students grades K-5. The school is located at 825 Desert Fairways Dr. Go North on Moore from LaCanada to Desert Fairways Dr, the school will be on the right. Set up on main parking lot or playground. **Three more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Leman Academy of Excellence Star Party

Mar 7 (Thu) **Set-up: 6:00 PM**
NW Tucson **Observing: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: I-10/Cortaro

We are supporting the science fair at Leman Academy of Excellence with a star party for 300 students grades K-8. The school is located at 7720 N Silverbell Rd. Go west on Cortaro from I-10 and turn south on Silverbell. The school is on left. Set up on the courtyard. **Three more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

TAAA Outreach Events (Cont.)

Thank You Volunteers!

Potential Contacts This Month: 2690
 Volunteers Needed This Month: 61

Catalina High School Star Party

Mar 8 (Fri) **Set-up: 6:30 PM**
Central Tucson **Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:00 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. The viewing Location is on the basketball courts east of the football field. **Three volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Agua Caliente Park Public Star Party

Mar 9 (Sat) **Set-up: 6:30 PM**
NE Tucson **Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: Roger/Soldier Trail

We are supporting a public star party at Agua Caliente Park. About 70 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.**

Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona (GSSA) Star Party

Mar 9 (Sat) **Set-up: 6:00 PM**
NE Tucson **Observing: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: Sabino Canyon/Cloud

The GSSA Astronomy Club is having a star party and NSN Toolkit presentation for 50 members at the Hacienda Center at 3101 N Sabino Canyon Rd. The Hacienda Center is located 100 yards south of Cloud Rd on the west side of Sabino Canyon Rd. Set up is on the volleyball courts at the back of the facility. **Two more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Oracle State Park Public Star Party

Mar 9 (Sat) **Set-up: 6:30 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.**

TAAA Outreach Events (Cont.)

Copper Canyon Alzheimer's Star Party

Mar 11 (Thu) **Set-up: 6:00 PM**
NW Tucson **Observing: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 2**
Cross Streets: River/La Cholla

Copper Canyon Alzheimer's is located at 5901 N La Cholla. Go north on La Cholla to facility on left (west) side. Setup in the courtyard. Some manual movement of equipment will be required. **One more volunteer with a scope is needed for this event.**

Khalsa Montessori School Star Party

Mar 22 (Fri) **Set-up: 6:00 PM**
Central Tucson **Observing: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 3**
Cross Streets: Speedway/Country Club

Khalsa Montessori is having a star party for 75 students grades K-5. The school is located at 3244 E Camden St. Go north on Country Club for .2 miles, right on Fairmount, left on Howard, the school is on the left. Setup on the playground or parking lot. Set up on the open field. **Two more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Chiricahua National Monument Star Party

Mar 23 (Sat) **Set-up: 6:30 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. The total distance is 100 miles from the I-10 Houghton Exit. Setup TBD; either Far Away Ranch Parking Area or Echo Canyon. **Two more volunteer with scopes are needed for this event.**

Fruchthtendler Elementary School Star Party

Mar 27 (Wed) **Set-up: 6:30 PM**
East Tucson **Observing: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 3**
Cross Streets: Sabino Canyon/Cloud

Fruchthtendler Elementary School is having a star party for 60 3rd grade students. The school is located at 7470 E Cloud Rd. Go east on Cloud from Sabino Canyon, the school is located on the south side. The viewing location is on the basketball court. **Two more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

St Michael's School Star Party

Mar 28 (Thu) **Set-up: 6:15 PM**
East Tucson **Observing: 6:45 PM to 8:30 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 3**
Cross Streets: Wilmot/Speedway

St Michael School is having a star party for 60 students grades 5-6. The school is located at 602 N Wilmot. Go south on Wilmot from Speedway the school is on the east side by 5th St. Set up on school park. **Two more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Academy of Tucson

Mar 29 (Fri) **Set-up: 6:00 PM**
NE Tucson **Observing: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**
Leader: Jim Knoll **Volunteers Needed: 4**
Cross Streets: Speedway/Harrison

Academy of Tucson is having a star party for 150 students K-8. The Academy of Tucson is located at 9209 E Wrightstown Road. Go north on Harrison which turns into Wrightstown. Continue west. Just beyond Tucson Country Day School is the entrance for Academy of Tucson Elementary School to the right. Viewing Location: Field. **Four volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

TAAA Outreach Events (Cont.)

Catalina State Park Public Star Party

Mar 30 (Sat) **Set-up: 6:00 PM**
NW Tucson (Oracle) **Observing: 6:30 PM to 9:30 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.**

Announcements

- The March **Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, March 13th, at 6:30 PM at UA College of Education, 1430 East Second street (across the parking lot from Steward Observatory). 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.
- **Volunteer needed to edit and post video-recordings of Member Meetings.** Contact Mae Smith at ssmith@email.arizona.edu.
- **Web comments, suggestions or problems,** contact our team at webteam@tucsonastronomy.org.
- **Monthly Bulletin** deadlines are the 15th of the preceding month. Email all submissions to taaa-newsletter[at]tucsonastronomy.org
- **Equipment Loaner program.** Contact Ralph Means at elc@tucsonastronomy.org, or 520 460-8770 or 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.