

June 2019

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TUCSON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION

# Monthly Events Bulletin

## June 7th General Meeting

### Location Change for June General Meeting

Meet in U of A Modern Languages Building, 1423 East University Blvd, Room 350

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

*Kitt Peak Expanded Night  
Programs & Docent  
Opportunities  
presented by  
Robert Wilson & Gigi Giles*

Robert Wilson is the Nighttime Programs Coordinator for Kitt Peak Visitor Center, a member of TAAA since 2000, and a former TAAA Star Party Volunteer Coordinator. Gigi Giles is the new Volunteer & Membership Coordinator for Kitt Peak Visitor Center, and also a TAAA member.

Robert Wilson will talk about the exciting new night time programs at Kitt Peak for all levels of interest and expertise in astronomy. And Gigi Giles will speak about current opportunities for enthusiastic docent volunteers to lead daily tours of Kitt Peak's telescopes.

#### **Invited Lecture 7:30pm**

*A History of the MMT  
Observatory; 40 Years of  
Innovation and Discovery  
presented by  
Dr. Grant Williams, Director  
MMT Observatory*

Dr. Grant Williams is an astronomer and current Director of the MMT Observatory. He holds a B.A. in Physics from the University of Buffalo (New York) and a PhD from Clemson University (South Carolina). Dr. Williams has been employed at the MMT Observatory since 2002, and began his appointment as its Director on January 1, 2011. His main research focuses on the study of high mass stars and supernovae.

The MMT telescope, located on Arizona's Mount Hopkins, has been in operation for nearly four decades. During this time, the MMT has been a leader in developing new techniques and technologies for large observatories. The MMT was originally built with six 1.8 meter mirrors, and began operating in 1979 as the third largest telescope in the world. As castings of large mirrors became more possible, the array of small mirrors was replaced by one 6.5 meter mirror, which saw first light in 2000. With the MMT currently celebrating 40 years of astronomical usage, Dr. Williams presents the telescopes greatest innovations, both in design and in discoveries. meeting.

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### TAAA Election Results

The election for the TAAA Board of Directors and NVRC was held at the May general meeting. The results are as follows:

#### Board of Directors (BoD)

President:	Mae Smith
Vice President:	John Mead
Secretary:	Chuck Hendricks
Treasurer:	Mike McDowell
Members-at-Large:	Ed Foley
	Doug Smith
	Ralph Means

#### Nomination and Volunteer Resource Committee (NVRC):

Ben Bailey  
Dave Rossetter

## Upcoming Activities

### This Month's Events

Key:	TAAA Members Only	For Organization	Public Events
CAC Star Party Mike McDowell	May 31/Jun 1 (Fri/Sat) CAC 9313 E Perseus Way	Sunset	
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	May 31/Jun 1 (Fri/Sat) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd	Sunset	
General Meeting Mae Smith	Jun 7 (Fri) Steward Observatory 933 N Cherry	6:30 PM	
Outreach Star Party (Reschedule) CAC, Pearce AZ Jim Knoll	Jun 8 (Sat) Evening Under the Stars— Astronomy Day @ CAC 9313 E Perseus Way	7:30 PM	
AFSIG Meeting (Beginners) Connor Justice	June 13 (Thu) UA Education North Building, Room 110 1501 E Speedway Blvd	6:30 PM	
AISIG Tom Rolfsmeyer	Jun 18 (Tue) Total Wine and More 4370 N Oracle Rd	7:00 PM	
Ladies Night Out Susan O'Connor	Jun 20 (Thu) Rincon Market 2513 E 6th St	6:30 PM	
Outreach Event Far West Tucson Jim Knoll	Jun 22 (Sat) Sonora Desert Museum Cool Summer Nights #2 2021 N Kinney Rd	7:00 PM	
Outreach Solar Party SE Tucson Jim Knoll	Jun 27 (Thu) Leman Academy of Excellence Preschool 10100 E Golf Links Rd	9:00 AM	
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Jun 28 (Fri) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd	Sunset	
Outreach Solar Party SE Tucson Jim Knoll	Jun 29 (Sat) Sycamore Canyon HOA 17362 S Rustling Leaf Trail	7:30 PM	
Outreach Solar Party Oro Valley Jim Knoll	Jul 1 (Mon) Vail Preservation Society (Christ Lutheran Vail Church) 14600 E Colossal Cave Rd	7:30 PM	

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

July Outreach Events	
Jul 1 (Mon)	Vail Stargazing
Jul 9 (Tue)	Elfrida Library Evening Stargazing
Jul 9 (Tue)	Copper Canyon
Jul 11 (Thu)	Elfrida Library Solar Observing
Jul 13 (Sat)	Flandreau Science Center Moon Viewing

## Announcements

- **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Member Meetings 6:30 and 7:30 June 7th, July 5th, and August 2nd will be held at the UA Modern Languages Building, 1423 East University Blvd. Third Floor Auditorium (Room 350). The UA Modern Languages Building is located one block West of Steward Observatory.
- The June **Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, June 12th, at 6:30 PM at Banner UMC Hospital, Room C off the hospital cafeteria. 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.
- **Immediate need for applicants for two positions: 1. Webmaster or 2. Member Database Manager.** To express interest send name, contact information, which position you are interested in, and list of qualifications to NVRCchair@tucsonastronomy.org. Volunteer needed to edit and post video-recordings of Member Meetings.
- **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

## TAAA Ladies Night Out

Thursday, June 20

6:30 pm

Rincon Market

2513 E 6th Street

(NE corner of Tucson Blvd and 6th Street)

Preview menu at <https://rinconmarket.xyz>

RSVP Susan @ cyzeh@aol.com

## Special Interest Group (SIG) Activities

### Astro-Imaging SIG (AISIG)

**Meeting: Jun 18 (Tue) 7:00 PM**

Location: Total Wine and More (4370 N Oracle)  
Contact: Gregg Ruppel  
Group email: astro-photo[at]tucsonastronomy.org  
Leader email: ruppel0709@gmail.com

The topic this month is Planetary/Lunar imaging. We will start with a brief discussion of data acquisition followed by a hands-on session processing a planetary image (Jupiter). If you have a laptop, please bring it so that you can participate. No laptop, no problem, you can follow along.

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 Gregg Ruppel.

### Astronomy Fundamentals SIG (AFSIG)

**Meeting: Jun 13 (Thu) 7:00 PM**

UA Education North Building, Room 110 (1501 E Speedway)  
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. Ralph Means will start the night with a talk about the southern constellations Eridanus. For our main topic, Connor Justice will be discussing NASA's Deep Space Network.

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.

**Room:** To locate the entrance to Room 110, go to the North side of the building and there is a driveway between the Education North Building and the Helen S. Schaefer Building. The outside entrance to Room 110 is the MIDDLE of three entrances. The door should be propped open for the meeting. However, if it is closed just bang on the door.

**Parking:** Zone 1 parking around the building is free after 5:00pm. There a lot behind the building, street parking, and a large parking lot across the street. There is also a parking garage one block north of Vine and Helen, however, fees may be required.

**Accessibility:** The entrance, classroom and restrooms are all on ground level. However, the entrance from the driveway is raised about 4". There are back and front entrances to avoid the raised inconvenience. You can arrange to be met by contacting Mae Smith at 520 850-7137.



Starry Messengers SIG-  
Opening Minds to the Universe

**Meeting: Sep 20 (Mon) 6:30 PM**

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.

## 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

**May 31 & Jun 1 (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. You need to reserve for both nights if observing both nights.

## TIMPA

**May 31 & Jun 1 (Sat & Fri) & Jun 28 (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

**Thank You Volunteers!**

Potential Contacts This Month: 500

Volunteers Needed This Month: 20

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 [smsig@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:smsig@tucsonastronomy.org).

### Astronomy Day Evening Under the Stars @ CAC (Reschedule of the May Event)

**June 8 (Sat)** Set-up: 6:30 PM  
Cochise County Observing: 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM  
Leader: Jim Knoll Volunteers Needed: 5

The TAAA is celebrating Astronomy Day with a star party at the Chiricahua Astronomy Complex (CAC). The CAC observing site is located in southeast Arizona near Sunsites, AZ, about 1.5 hours drive from Tucson. A map can be found on the TAAA website. **Four more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Cool Summer Nights #2 @ Sonoran Desert Museum

**June 22 (Sat)** Set-up: 6:00 PM  
Far West Tucson Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM  
Leader: Jim Knoll Volunteers Needed: 4  
Cross Streets: Speedway/I 10

We are supporting a star party for Cool Summer Nights at the Sonoran Desert Museum. The museum is located at 2021 N Kinney Rd. Go west on Speedway over Gates Pass Rd., to N Kinney Rd. Turn right (North) on Kinney Rd to the Museum. From I-10 (north of Tucson), take exit 242 Avra Valley Rd. west. South on N Sandario Rd. Shortly after entrance to Saguaro National Park, turn southeast onto N Kinney Rd around to Desert Museum. Viewing location is TBD. **Four volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Leman Academy of Excellence Preschool Solar Party and Daytime Moon Viewing

**Jun 27 (Thu)** Setup: 8:00 AM  
SE Tucson Observing: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM  
Leader: Jim Knoll Volunteers Needed: 2  
Cross Streets: Golf Links/Houghton

We are supporting the preschool at the Leman Academy of Excellence with a solar party and moon viewing for 80 preschool students aged 3 through 5. The school is located at 10100 E Golf Links Rd. Go west on Golf Links for 1/2 block, the school will be on the south side of Golf Links. Set up on the courtyard turf area. **One volunteer with a solar scope and one volunteer with a scope for moon viewing are required for this event.**

## TAAA Outreach Events (Cont)

### Sycamore Canyon HOA Star Party

**Jun 29 (Sat)** Set-up: 7:30 PM  
SE Tucson (Vail) Observing: 8:00 PM to 9:30 PM  
Leader: Jim Knoll Volunteers Needed: 4  
Cross Streets: Sahuarita/Harrison

The Sycamore Canyon HOA is having a star party at Sycamore Canyon Park. Go south on Harrison from Sahuarita Rd, Harrison becomes Sycamore Leaf. Take the 5th right onto Rustling Leaf. The park is 1st & 2nd lefts. **Four volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Vail Preservation Society Star Party

**Jul 1 (Mon)** Set-up: 7:15 PM  
SE Tucson (Vail) Observing: 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM  
Leader: Jim Knoll Volunteers Needed: 5  
Cross Streets: Colossal Cave Rd/Mary Ann Cleveland Way

The Vail Preservation Society is having a star party NSN Toolkit presentation (Dark Skies Education Kit) at Christ Lutheran Vail Church. The church is located at 14600 E Colossal Cave Rd. **Four volunteers with scopes and one NSN Toolkit volunteer are needed for this event.**

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