

August 2019

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TUCSON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION

Monthly Events Bulletin

August 2nd General Meeting

Location Change for August General Meeting

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

Introductory Presentation 6:30pm

Two Talks: *Personal Observatory;
CAC Update*
presented by
TAAA Members
David Klein & Ed Foley

David Klein, TAAA member, amateur astronomy and astrophotographer, will talk about developing and running his personal observatory in Tucson. His New World Observatory has a fully-automated Exploradome.

Ed Foley, current board member at large and former Treasurer of TAAA will share an update on TAAA's Gateway to the Galaxy capital campaign and building project at our dark site Chiricahua Complex (CAC).

Invited Lecture 7:30pm

*From Tucson to the Moon
(And Beyond)*
presented by
Dr. William Hartmann, Planetary
Science Institute

Dr. William Hartmann is a noted planetary scientist, artist, and writer. He received his B.S. in physics from Pennsylvania State University and his M.S. in geology and PhD in astronomy from the University of Arizona. He is Senior Scientist Emeritus at Planetary Science Institute in Tucson; the author of several books, including science text books, popular science nonfiction, and novels; and an artist with paintings displayed at the National Air & Space Museum. For this presentation, Dr. Hartman will focus on stories from his work during the Apollo years at UA's Lunar & Planetary Lab, as well as his current and future projects.

Dr. Hartmann will take us on a journey of exploration, presenting stories from his days as an amateur astronomer and later a grad student under Dr. Gerard Kuiper at UA's Lunar & Planetary Lab, and including his own discoveries and theories about the moon. He will also talk about his involvement in the origin of Mauna Kea Observatory in Hawaii in the '60s, his 30 years of experience on imaging teams for Mars orbiter missions, his development of a dating process for Solar System objects, and much more. This is sure to be a fascinating talk.

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TAAA Policies for CAC & TIMPA

TIMPA Use

- TAAA members may use the TIMPA site 365 days of the year.
- However, to use the site members must contact the TIMPA On-Site Director, Ralph Means, for a key to the site and more information.

Telescope Use at TIMPA

- Club telescopes and equipment can be used only after contacting the On-Site Director or Equipment Loan Coordinator (Ralph Means).
- Only trained and certified members are allowed to use the Meade LX 200R-14 (Gila Monster) and the Meade LX200R-10.
- Training is available for both scopes on non-Club Star Party dates. (cont. on page 4)

Upcoming Activities

This Month's Events

Key:	TAAA Members Only	For Organization	Public Events
General Meeting Mae Smith	Aug 2 (Fri) Modern Languages Bldg 1423 E University Blvd	6:30 PM	
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Aug 3 (Sat) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd	Sunset	
AFSIG Meeting (Beginners) Connor Justice	Aug 8 (Thu) Ward 6 Office 3202 E 1st St	6:30 PM	
Outreach Star Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Aug 8 (Thu) Pearce Elementary School 1487 E School Rd	6:00 PM	
Outreach Solar Party West Tucson Jim Knoll	Aug 9/10 (Fri/Sat) Spacefest STEAM @ Starr Pass Resort 3800 W Starr Pass Blvd	9:00 AM	
Outreach Solar Party East Tucson Jim Knoll	Aug 15 (Thu) Natural Grocers 7220 E Broadway Blvd	9:00 AM	
Ladies Night Out Susan O'Connor	Aug 22 (Thu) Fronimo's 3242 E Speedway Blvd	6:30 PM	
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Aug 30 (Fri) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd	Sunset	
CAC Star Party Mike McDowell	Aug 30 & 31 (Fri/Sat) CAC 9313 E Perseus Way	Sunset	
Outreach Solar Party East Tucson Jim Knoll	Aug 31 (Sat) Sycamore Canyon HOA 1732 S Rustling Leaf Trail	8:00 PM	

Announcements

- **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Member Meetings 6:30 and 7:30 on 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 August **Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, August 11th, 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 atwebteam@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

September Member Events

Sep 6 (Fri)	General Meeting
Sep 11 (Wed)	Board Meeting
Sep 12 (Thu)	AFSIG Meeting
Sep 16 (Mon)	SMSIG Meeting
Sep 19 (Thu)	Ladies Night Out
Sep 27/28 (Fri/Sat)	CAC

September Outreach Events

Sep 21 (Sat)	Agua Caliente Park
Sep 28 (Sat)	Oracle State Park

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TAAA Ladies Night Out

Thursday, August 22

Great Conversation! 6:30 pm Delicious Food!

Fronimo's Greek Cafe

3242 E Speedway Blvd

(S side of Speedway, E of Country Club)

Preview menu at <https://www.fronimos.com>

RSVP Susan @cyzeh@aol.com

Special Interest Group (SIG) Activities

Astro-Imaging SIG (AISIG)

Meeting: Next Meeting TBD 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 July meeting focused on the Apollo 11 Challenge - members imaged the historic landing site and shared their results at the July meeting.

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: Aug 8 (Thu) 7:00 PM

Ward 6 Office – East Room
3202 East 1st Street (off of Country Club and 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 the southern constellation **Telescopium**. For our main topic, Alan Kleuse will be discussing how to **Choose an Newtonian Telescope**.

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? 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: The AFSIG meeting will be held in the east room of the Ward 6 Building which is located across the road from the Walgreens. Please enter through the door on the back side of the building. The front door is required to be locked during off hours.

Parking: Parking is available along the curb of the building and on the backside of the building. Parking is also available at the Walgreens store across the street from the office.



Starry Messengers SIG-
Opening Minds to the Universe

Meeting: Sep 16 (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

Aug 30 & 31 (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

Aug 3 (Sat) & Aug 30 (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: 9

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.

Pearce Elementary School Star Party

Aug 8 (Thu)

Set-up: 5:30 PM

Pearce AZ

Observing: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Leader: Jim Knoll

Volunteers Needed: 2

Cross Streets: Route 191/Ghost Town Trail

Pearce Elementary School is having a moon viewing and star party for 50 people. The school is located at 1487 E School Rd. Take I-10 East past Benson, AZ. Take exit 318 (Dragoon Road) and head south (right). At Route 191, turn south (right). Continue past Sunsites. Turn right onto Ghost Town Trail. Go past W Prince Rd and turn right on Walnut St. Turn right into Pearce Elementary parking lot. Set up on the grass schoolyard. **Two volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

Spacefest STEAM at Starr Pass Resort Solar Party

Aug 9/10 (Fri/Sat)

Set-up: 8:00 AM

West Tucson

Observing: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Leader: Jim Knoll

Volunteers Needed: 2

Cross Streets: 22nd St/I-10

The TAAA is supporting a solar party and NSN Toolkit demonstration for the Spacefest STEAM event at the Starr Pass Resort. The Resort is located at 3800 W Starr Pass Blvd. From 22nd St and I-10 go west on 22nd until it becomes Starr Pass Blvd. Continue west to Starr Pass Resort. The viewing Location is TBD. **One NSN Toolkit volunteer and one volunteer with a solar scope are needed for this event on each day.**

Natural Grocers Solar Party

Aug 15 (Thu)

Set-up: 8:00 AM

East Tucson

Observing: 9:00 AM to TBD

Leader: Jim Knoll

Volunteers Needed: 2

Cross Streets: Broadway/Kolb

The TAAA is supporting a solar party at Natural Grocers. Natural Grocers located on the SE corner of the Broadway/Kolb. The viewing location is outside the main entrance. **Two volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

TAAA Outreach Events (Cont)

Sycamore Canyon HOA Star Party

Aug 31 (Sat)

Set-up: 7:30 PM

SE Tucson

Observing: 8:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Leader: Jim Knoll

Volunteers Needed: 4

Cross Streets: Sahuarita/Houghton

Sycamore Canyon HOA is having a star party at Sycamore Canyon Park. The park is located at 17362 S Rustling Leaf Trail From Houghton go west on Sahuarita to Harrison. Go south on Harrison which turns into Sycamore Leaf and turn onto Rustling Leaf Trail. Set up in Sycamore Canyon Park. **Two more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

TAAA Policies for CAC & TIMPA Cont.

CAC Site Use

- TAAA members may use the CAC site 365 days of the year. However, access to the CAC site is by reservation ONLY.
- A security system has been installed at the CAC Site that makes it easier for members to access the site and it reduces the coordination effort of the CAC Director.
- It is required that all members notify the CAC Director via e-mail or phone to make a reservation to use the site; for both scheduled monthly club star parties and for private use. It is important for the club to know exactly who is on the site at any given time. This is for both club safety and liability requirements.
- Members should realize that although they may use the site with a reservation on non-event dates, at such times, there will be no one present to assist them at the site.
- Familiarization with and appropriate adherence to Site Use policies will be necessary and required.

Telescope Use at CAC

- Club telescopes may only be used with the permission of the CAC Director or the acting site manager. There are several telescopes in storage containers available for member use.
- Only trained and certified individuals are permitted to operate observatory telescopes. The 40" and 9" telescopes in the Reynolds Mitchel Observatory (RMO) are dedicated for astronomy outreach and are not available for individual member use.
- The 14" in the Wallace Rogers Observatory (WRO) is available by reservation for WRO certified operators 365 days a year.