

October 2019

Observing our Desert Skies  
since 1954



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TUCSON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION

# Monthly Events Bulletin

## October 4th General Meeting

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

**Remember October General Meeting is Back at Our Usual Location**

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

*Seasonal Night Sky Objects  
presented by  
Mary Turner, PhD,  
TAAA Chief Observer*

Mary Turner, TAAA's appointed Chief Observer, takes us on a tour of the fall 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.

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

*A Nightwatchman's Journey: The  
Road Not Taken  
presented by  
David H. Levy,  
TAAA Past President*

David H. Levy, a renowned amateur astronomer, has never taken a class in astronomy, yet has authored over three dozen books, written for three astronomy magazines, and appeared on TV programs featured on the Discovery and the Science Channels. Among David's accomplishments are 23 comet discoveries, the most famous being Shoemaker-Levy 9 that collided with Jupiter in 1994, a few hundred shared asteroid discoveries, an Emmy for the documentary Three Minutes to Impact, five honorary doctorates in Science and a PhD which combines astronomy and English Literature. Currently, he is the editor of the web magazine Sky's Up!, and has a monthly column, Skyward, in The Vail Voice newspaper.

With slides and music, David's presentation will focus on his most recent book, *A Nightwatchman's Journey: The Road Not Taken*; the autobiography of one of today's most enthusiastic and famous amateur astronomers. David will share how his passion for astronomy began in his native Canada, and his 19-year search for comets until he found his first in 1984. (He has gone on to find 22 more.) David will also share his love for astronomy in literature, his personal struggles, and why he subtitles his autobiography, "The Road Not Taken." Expect a fascinating lecture from a nightwatchman who continues to hunt for comets and asteroids, and lecture worldwide. Refreshments and a book signing (\$35 a copy) will follow.

**\* Voting will be held at 7:30 meeting on two proposed TAAA bylaws changes. \***

### Inside this Bulletin

**TAAA BoD Meeting  
Oct 9**

**AFSIG Meeting  
Oct 10**

**Ladies Night Out  
Oct 17**

**AISIG Meeting  
TBD**

**CAC Star Party  
Oct 25 & 26**

**TIMPA Star Party  
Oct 25 & 26**

## STAR-B-Q AT CAC

The TAAA will be having a Star-B-Q at the Chiricahua Astronomy Complex on Saturday October 26 in conjunction with regular member star party. Bring a covered dish to share and anything you'd like to grill. The grill will be running from 4 to 6pm. TAAA will provide paper plates, utensils, water/coffee. Bring a chair or use the picnic tables. Of course you can stay and observe as well!!

To sign up just contact CAC director, Mike McDowell [cac-director@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:cac-director@tucsonastronomy.org).

## Upcoming Activities

### This Month's Events

### This Month's Events Continued

Key:	TAAA Members Only	For Organization	Public Events
Outreach Star Party NW Tucson Jim Knoll	Oct 3 (Thu) Amphi Middle School 315 E Prince Rd	6:00 PM	
General Meeting Mae Smith	Oct 4 (Fri) Steward Observatory 933 N Cherry	6:30 PM	
Public Star Party Oracle Jim Knoll	Oct 5 (Sat) Catalina State Park 11570 N Oracle Rd	6:30 PM	
Public Star Party Central Tucson Jim Knoll	Oct 5 (Sat) Flandreau Science Center 1601 E University Blvd	7:00 PM	
AFSIG Meeting (Beginners) Connor Justice	Oct 10 (Thu) Ward 6 Office 3202 E 1st St	6:30 PM	
Outreach Star Party NE Tucson Jim Knoll	Oct 15 (Tue) Sabino High School 5000 N Bowes	6:00 PM	
Ladies Night Out Susan O'Connor	Oct 17 (Thu) TBD	6:30 PM	
Outreach Star Party SE Tucson Jim Knoll	Oct 18 (Fri) Esmund Station K—8 9400 S Atterbury Wash Way	6:00 PM	
Outreach Star Party Wilcox Jim Knoll	Oct 19 (Sat) Chiricahua Natl Monument 12856 E Rhyolite Creek Rd	7:00 PM	

Outreach Star Party West Tucson Jim Knoll	Oct 19 (Sat) BSA Double V Ranch 3801 S Kinney Rd	8:30 AM	
Outreach Star Party Pearce Jim Knoll	Oct 19 (Sat) CAC — Evening Under the Stars 9313 E Perseus Way	6:00 PM	
Outreach Star Party Pearce Jim Knoll	Oct 20 (Sun) Young Life Non Profit @ Westward Look 245 E Ina Rd	6:30 PM	
Outreach Star Party Pearce Jim Knoll	Oct 24 (Thu) Esperero Canyon MS 5801 N Sabino Canyon	6:00 PM	
CAC Star Party Mike McDowell	Oct 25/26 (Fri/Sat) CAC 9313 E Perseus Way	Sunset	
TIMPA Star Party Dennis McMacken	Oct 25/26 (Fri/Sat) TIMPA 3250 N Reservation Rd	Sunset	
Outreach Star Party Wilcox Jim Knoll	Oct 28 (Mon) Tucson International Academy 2700 W Broadway Blvd	6:00 PM	
Outreach Star Party Central Tucson Jim Knoll	Oct 28 (Mon) Catalina HS Astronomy Club 3645 E Pima St	7:00 PM	
Outreach Star Party SW Tucson Jim Knoll	Oct 30 (Wed) Lawrence Intermediate 4850 W Jeffery	5:30 PM	

November Member Events	
Nov 1 (Fri)	General Meeting
Nov 13 (Wed)	Board Meeting
Nov 14 (Thu)	AFSIG Meeting
Nov 21 (Thu)	Ladies Night Out

November Outreach Events	
Nov 2 (Sat)	Empire Ranch
Nov 2 (Sat)	Ironwood Picnic Area
Nov 4 (Mon)	Miller Golf Links Library
Nov 6 (Wed)	Valencia Library
Nov 8 (Fri)	Vail High School
Nov 15 (Fri)	Boy Scout Troop 241
Nov 19 (Tue)	Girl Scouts @ Keeling Elem School
Nov 20 (Wed)	Tanque Verde High School
Nov 23 (Sat)	Agua Caliente Park

### Astronomical Events in Our Community

Below is a list of astronomy presentations in the Tucson area, mostly on the UA campus. For more information, visit the websites listed. Take advantage of these opportunities. Miss an event? Many lectures are available on the web. Visit the listed website to find out.

Date/Time	Speaker	Title	Location	Information
Oct 7 7:30PM	Prof. Robert Kennicutt Steward Observatory	<i>2020 Vision: The Decadal Survey for Astronomy</i>	Steward Observatory Lecture Hall N210	<a href="http://www.as.arizona.edu/public-evening-lecture-series">http://www.as.arizona.edu/public-evening-lecture-series</a>
Oct 16 7:00PM	Dr. Michael C Nolan Lunar & Planetary Laboratory	<i>Twenty Years of Bennu: From Arecibo to Orbit</i>	Kuiper Space Sciences Lecture Hall, RM 308	<a href="https://www.lpl.arizona.edu/calendar/vening-lectures">https://www.lpl.arizona.edu/calendar/vening-lectures</a>
Oct 21 7:30PM	Prof. Dennis Zaritsky Steward Observatory	<i>Una historia de materia oscura (en Español)</i>	Steward Observatory Lecture Hall N210	<a href="http://www.as.arizona.edu/public-evening-lecture-series">http://www.as.arizona.edu/public-evening-lecture-series</a>

## Special Interest Group (SIG) Activities

### Astronomy Fundamentals SIG (AFSIG)

**Meeting: October 10 (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](mailto:fundamentals[at]tucsonastronomy.org)  
Leader Email: [Elliot.c.justice\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:Elliot.c.justice[at]gmail.com)

Come join us for a presentation from the fundamentals of amateur astronomy. Connor Justice will start the night with the southern constellation **Antlia**. For our main topic, John Kalas will be discussing **Using and Choosing Refractor Telescopes**. Also, our November and December meeting will be held at the USGS building on the U of A Campus.

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](mailto: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 ways 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 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: November TBD 6:30 PM**

Contact: Terri Lappin  
Phone: 520-977-1290  
Email: [smSIG@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:smSIG@tucsonastronomy.org)

Anyone interested in astronomy outreach should attend SMSIG meetings. Please arrive a bit early to order if you'll be eating something.

Starry Messengers plan the TAAA's major, local outreach events where we do interactive, hands-on activities with kids and adults. This is a great alternative to bringing a telescope to a community star party. Our goal is to provide hands-on activities to all who request them. We've not reached our goal, but we know we can if we get additional TAAA members involved in this worthy program.

## Astro-Imaging SIG (AISIG)

**Meeting: TBD**

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

The August meeting focused the November Mercury Transit and solar filters. Other topics will include favorite weather websites for checking the weather before setting up for imaging, Picture sharing and discussion, with discussion on September's topic selection.

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.

## 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

**Oct 25 & 26 (Fri & Sat)**

Contact Person/RSVP to: Mike McDowell  
Email: [cac-director\[at\]tucsonastronomy.org](mailto: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

**Oct 25 & 26 (Sat & Fri)**

Contact Person: Dennis McMacken  
Email: [fundamentals\[at\]tucsonastronomy.org](mailto: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

**Oct 3 (Thu)** **Set-up: 5:30 PM**  
**NW Tucson** **Observing: 6:00 PM to 7:30 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. **One more volunteer with scope is needed for this event.**

### Catalina State Park Public Star Party

**Oct 5 (Sat)** **Set-up: 6:00 PM**  
**NW Tucson** **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. **Six more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Flandreau Science Center — International Observe the Moon

**Oct 5 (Sat)** **Set-up: 6:15 PM**  
**Central Tucson** **Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 3**  
**Cross Streets: Speedway/Campbell**

The TAAA is co-hosting a public star party for International Observe the Moon Night in conjunction with Flandreau Science Center. From Speedway go south on Campbell to University, turn west to the viewing location. Setup on the mall south of Flandreau. The Flandreau is located at 1601 E University. **Three volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Sabino High School Star Party

**Oct 15 (Tue)** **Set-up: 6:30 PM**  
**NE Tucson** **Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 5**  
**Cross Streets: Tanque Verde/Catalina Highway**

Sabino High School is having a star party for about 250 students. The school is located at 5000 N Bowes Rd. From Tanque Verde go northeast on Catalina Highway to Harrison. North (left) on Harrison to Bowes (past Snyder). Alternate: Bear Canyon & Tanque Verde Road. North on Bear Canyon. East (right) on Snyder. North (left) on Harrison to the school. The viewing location is the practice football field. **Four more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

## TAAA Outreach Events (Cont.)

**Thank You Volunteers!**

Potential Contacts This Month: 2070

Volunteers Needed This Month: 62

### Esmond Station K-8 Star Party

**Oct 18 (Fri)** **Set-up: 5:30 PM**  
**SE Tucson** **Observing: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 5**  
**Cross Streets: Houghton/Mary Ann Cleveland**

Esmond Station is having a star party NSN Toolkit presentation for 250 students and family members. Esmond Station K-8 is located at 9400 S Atterbury Wash Way. The viewing location will be on the playground. **Four volunteers with scopes and one NSN Toolkit volunteer are needed for this event.**

### Chiricahua National Monument Star Party

**Oct 19 (Sat)** **Set-up: 6:30 PM**  
**Far East Arizona** **Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:00 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. **Three more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Boy Scouts of America @ Double V Ranch

**Oct 20 (Sat)** **Solar Set-up: 8:00 AM**  
**West Tucson** **Observing: 8:30 AM to 11:00 PM**  
**Evening Set-up: 5:30 PM**  
**Observing: 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 1(Day)/2(Night)**  
**Cross Streets: Ajo/Kinney**

The Boy Scouts are a solar/star party for about 60 members at Double V Ranch. It is located near Ajo Highway and Kinney Rd. Take Kinney North .7 miles Ranch entrance on right. Viewing Location: Ramada Grande (Solar). South end of the pool area (evening). **Four more volunteers with scopes (1 Solar/3 Night) are needed for this event.**

### Evening Under the Stars - - Chiricahua Astronomy Complex

**Oct 26 (Sat)** **Set-up: 6:30 PM**  
**Far East Arizona** **Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 9**  
**Cross Streets: AZ ST181/Park Entrance**

The TAAA will be having a public star party at the Chiricahua Astronomy Complex in conjunction with the CAC Star B Que. Map to the CAC is on the TAAA website. **Three more volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**



## TAAA Outreach Events (Cont.)

### Young Life Non-Profit Star Party @ Westward Look

**Oct 20 (Sun)** **Set-up: 5:45 PM**  
**NE Tucson** **Observing: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 4**

#### Cross Streets: Sabino Canyon/Sunrise

Young Life Non-Profit is having a star party for about 300 adults at Westward Look Resort. The resort is located at 245 E Ina Rd. The viewing location is TBD. **Three volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Esperero Canyon Middle School Star Party

**Oct 24 (Thu)** **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/Sunrise

Esperero Canyon Middle School is having a star party for about 200 students and family members. The School is located at 5801 N Sabino Canyon Rd. Esperero is the second school drive. Set up will be at the Elementary School next door. **Four volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Tucson International Academy Star Party

**Oct 28 (Mon)** **Set-up: 5:30 PM**  
**West Tucson** **Observing: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 4**

#### Cross Streets: Anklam/Greasewood

The Tucson International Academy is having a star party for 300 students and family members. The school is located at 2700 W Broadway. From Anklam go south .1 mile to Broadway. The viewing location is the main parking lot. **Four volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Catalina High School Star Party

**Oct 28 (Mon)** **Set-up: 6:30 PM**  
**Central Tucson** **Observing: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 2**

#### 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. **Two volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

### Lawrence Intermediate School Star Party

**Oct 30 (Wed)** **Set-up: 5:00 PM**  
**SW Tucson** **Observing: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**  
**Leader: Jim Knoll** **Volunteers Needed: 4**

#### Cross Streets: Valencis/Camino de Oeste

The Lawrence Intermediate School is having a star party for 150 students and family members. The school is located at 4850 W Jeffrey Rd. From Valencia go south on Camino De Oeste to Jeffrey Rd. West on Jeffrey to 4850, about 1/2 way down on right side. The viewing location will be on the basketball court on west side for school. **Four volunteers with scopes are needed for this event.**

## Announcements

- The October **Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, October 9th, 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 familiar with WordPress for Webmaster position.** To express interest send name, contact information, which position you are interested in, and list of qualifications to [NVRCchair@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:NVRCchair@tucsonastronomy.org)
- **Web comments, suggestions or problems**, contact our team at [webteam@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:webteam@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.

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