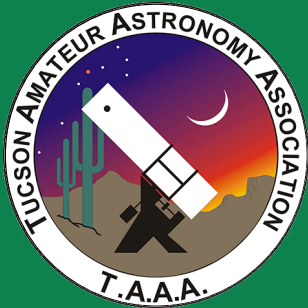


October 2020

Observing our Desert Skies
since 1954



www.tucsonastronomy.org

TUCSON AMATEUR ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION

Monthly Events Bulletin

General Meeting October 2020

The TAAA's October monthly meeting will be held online on Friday, Oct. 2. We will have two presentations, starting at 6:30 P.M. and open to the general public.

NON members may view the two presentations on Oct. 2 on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/TucsonAstronomy/>

Invited Lecture

*Highlights in the Next Quarter
Century of Solar Eclipses
presented by
Michael E. Bakich*

Michael E. Bakich was Senior Editor of Astronomy magazine for 17 years before retiring in 2019. He and his wife, Holley, then realized their lifelong dream and moved to Tucson. Michael continues work for the magazine as Contributing Editor. He has authored eight books on astronomy, including "Atlas of Solar Eclipses: 2020-2045".

No less than 56 solar eclipses will occur in the next 25 years. But which ones should an eclipse chaser target? The longest? The closest? In this illustrated talk, former Astronomy magazine Senior Editor Michael Bakich will describe highlights to expect from the next quarter-century run of nature's most fantastic spectacle.

2nd Presentation

*Fall Night Sky Objects
presented by
Mary Turner, PhD
TAAA's Chief Observer.*

Dr. Turner takes us on a tour of the fall night sky. Her use of astronomical data, images, and mythology will bring seasonal changes in the sky to life, as always in her popular quarterly talks.

TAAA Virtual Star Party

This event will be recorded in advance and then streamed to the TAAA Facebook and YouTube Channels October 9th. TAAA members will be on both Chats to answer any questions and interact with the Public. Focus will be on the Solar System.

The event will be streamed October 9 from 7 - 9 pm (Arizona/PDT). Follow the Facebook Event for any updates.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TucsonAstronomy/events/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRjjxnMBbO98o801Bpk19w>

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Astronomical League Observing Programs

What's Up List for October and November 2020

by Douglas Smith ALCOR

Fellow amateur astronomers. Many of the Astronomical League observing programs can be done from our backyards. The following is a list of objects visible during October and November for the more common observing programs.

Constellation Hunter Program – Northern Sky

The following constellations are well placed for observing for October and November:

Andromeda, Aquarius, Aries, Cepheus, Cygnus, Delphinus, Equuleus, Lacerta, Pegasus, Pisces and Triangulum

Messier Observing Program

The summer Milky Way is setting. Now we are looking away from Milky Way so objects getting more sparse.

The following Messier Objects are well placed for observation during October and November (listed in ascending RA):

M15, M2, M39, M30, M52

Note there is a gap of almost 1.5 hours of RA between M30 and M52. This is where the Sun is located in late March. It is this gap that allows us to do a Messier Marathon.

Urban Observing Program

The following deep sky objects are well placed for observing during October and November:

NGC 7009, M15, M2, M39, NGC 7160, NGC 7209, NGC 7243, NGC 7662, NGC 7789

The following Double Stars are well placed for observation during October and November:

Gamma Delphinus, Delta Cepheus

Lunar and Binocular Lunar Observing Program

The following is a list of the dates for the lunar phase when observations should be made during October and November:

New Moon: October 17, November 15

40 Hours waxing: October 19, November 17

72 hours waxing: October 20, November 18

4 days old: October 21, November 19

7 days old: October 23, November 22

10 days old: October 26, November 25

Full (14 days old): October 1, November 1 & 29

Gibbous: October 9, November 8

72 hours waning: October 14, November 12

40 hours waning: October 15, November 13

Solar System Observing Program

The following list describes the various solar system objects and their visibility during October and November:

Mercury moves from an evening object to an early morning object in October. Visible before sun rise during November.

Venus is still a morning object in October and November but is shrinking and moving to go behind the Sun.

Jupiter and Saturn are already past zenith at sunset and are well placed for viewing, high in the sky in the early evening hours during October and November but are setting earlier each evening. They are fairly close together.

Mars is near opposition and is well placed for observation nears its maximum size for the year. It reaches the zenith around 11 PM.

Uranus is not too far behind Mars. Now visible at a reasonable time of night.

Neptune is well placed, about halfway between Saturn and Mars.

TAAA Trivia!

NOTE: Sometimes people have questions, comments, or additional information related to content in the TAAA Trivia. If you do, contact Mae at ssmith@email.arizona.edu.

Trivia this month: .

- 1a. What was TAAA's original name?
- 1b. Why and when was the original name changed and what was its second name?
- 2a. What two TAAA members have recently been interviewed as part of an oral/written history project?
- 2b. What is the history project that is being conducted?
- 2c. Who is conducting that history project?

Answers are on page 4.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you know in August we finally had our annual TAAA election of officers and NVRC members that usually occurs in an in-person Member Meeting in May but was postponed due to COVID 19. NVRC was resourceful and developed strategies for us to have the election at the on-line Member Meeting August 2nd. That meant that our new officers started their period of service September 1, 2020 and September 9th was the first Meeting of the New Board. These officers will serve through May 31, 2021.

September Board Meeting

Some actions at the September 9, 2020 TAAA Board Meeting included:

1. COVID Considerations: The October TAAA Member Meeting will be held on Zoom; TIMPA Pad use during COVID 19 will be expanded from 3 pads to 5 pads; one in-person TAAA star party will be held as a constellation tour; other small, limited star parties may be held under supervision and potential COVID 19 issues explored. Ward 6 is not currently available for meeting room use and neither is UA.
2. The TAAA Zoom account has been activated and set up with a reservation system. TAAA Training is required for a TAAA leader to use the system. Two training dates will be set up and Jim Knoll will conduct the trainings. TAAA Zoom may only be used by leaders and only for TAAA activities.
3. Discussion of learning from the TAAA Election Process and subsequent suggestions led to a plan for further review and a Bylaws exploration to determine what wording changes are needed. This is likely to be a process over several Board meetings.
4. Previously scheduled Minor Policy training during the fall has been postponed. We will resume Minor Policy activities after COVID19.
5. TAAA has been provided a Catchafire Grant, which provides no direct dollars, but does provide some free services.

CAC Construction

We are excited as CAC construction continues to proceed. In September we actually began some work above ground as the support system begins to be installed and it is really pleasing to be able to readily identify the progress. In addition, the CAC weather/sky monitoring station was initially activated last week, and will be receiving some further tweaking to get everything appropriately adjusted. While with the new COVID19 outbreak at UA, limitations on activities are essentially the same. But, TAAA members continue to adjust and have been doing some additional work on providing some supports for educational activities and continuing to pursue virtual events.

Pima County LED Lighting Ordinances

There has been some concern regarding a current review of local LED lighting ordinances for Pima County. In conjunction with local observatories and astronomers, TAAA provided testimony at a recent Pima County Hearing and will continue to pursue the matter as it is reviewed by the City. Information was sent via email to TAAA Members about the issue and we will continue to inform you. Of course, protecting our dark skies is a priority for all of our astronomical community.

TAAA Starry Messengers

TAAA Starry Messengers are in process of designing some **astronomy activities** that may be used by teachers and parents. They are being posted on the TAAA website under the Virtual Events & Activities page and it is under Community Involvement. Most events only have placeholder links while we are fleshing out the new activities. We will update the page as we move forward. The page can be found at:

<http://tucsonastronomy.org/virtual-events-activities/>

TAAA Special Interest Group (SIG) Information

For information regarding the **Astro-Imaging (AISIG)** meetings contact Tom Rolfsmeyer at

astro-photo@tucsonastronomy.org

For information regarding **Astronomy Fundamentals (AFSIG)** contact Conner Justice at

fundamentals@tucsonastronomy.org

For information regarding **Ladies Night Out** contact Terri Lappin at

smsig@tucsonastronomy.org

For Information regarding **Starry Messengers (SIMSIG)** contact Terri Lappin at

smsig@tucsonastronomy.org

For information regarding CAC policies, to make CAC reservations or to learn CAC emergency Rules of Use contact John Mead at

cac-director@tucsonastronomy.org

For information regarding TIMPA, to make TIMPA reservations or to learn TIMPA Rules of Use during Covid19 contact Ralph Means at

bookbuyer1769@gmail.org

For members to inquire about loaner scopes/equipment, contact Ralph Means at

bookbuyer1769@gmail.org

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.

TIMPA

Contact Person: Ralph Means
Email: [fundamentals\[at\]tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:fundamentals[at]tucsonastronomy.org)
Email: bookbuyer1769@gmail.com
Phone: 520-460-8770

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!

Chiricahua Astronomy Complex

Contact Person/RSVP to: John Mead
Email: [cac-director\[at\]tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:cac-director[at]tucsonastronomy.org)
Phone: 618-521-4270

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.

Trivia Answers!

- Trivia Question 1a:** The first meeting of TAAA was in March 1954. The organization's first name was Tucson Amateur Astronomers or T.A.A.
- Trivia Question 1b:** Don Strittmatter became President in 1957. As part of the moonwatch program, T.A.A. predicted where and when people could expect to see satellites coming over Tucson, and Don reported the predictions to the newspaper. This regular reference to T.A.A. in the newspaper caused confusion for the newer Tucson Airport Authority, and due to complaints from them, our astronomy organization changed its name to the Tucson Astronomical and Astronautical Association (TAAA). That name continued until after the Moonwatch Program was completed and then TAAA decided to keep the TAAA initials but change the meaning to the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association.
- Trivia Question 2a:** Dean Ketelsen and Jim O'Connor have been interviewed in the last several months as part of a history project.
- Trivia Question 2b:** The history project focuses on compiling a complete history of the Grand Canyon Star Party.
- Trivia Question 2c:** The history project is designed by and being conducted by Rader Lane, the NPS Ranger who works with us on the GCSP.

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