



October, 2018

Â Notes from the President

The TAAA Board met on October 10, 2018.Â Some of the topics it addressed include:

- Terri Lappin Â shared some information about the organization, Astronomers Without Borders.
- David Rossetter reported on the work of the Nominations and Volunteer Resource Committee (NVRC). One task that NVRC has been tackling is a survey of member interests and skills. The Committee has developed a questionnaire to be sent to members in 3 parts so that members do not receive a lengthy list of questions all at one time. The Committee is collecting the information in order to help provide names of potential volunteers to the Board as positions are vacated or new positions created.Â Also, this should help prevent contacting members about volunteering for a certain job that does not really fit with their current interests or skills. When you receive a copy of the questionnaire, please complete it and send it back promptly.
- The Board approved the sale to a member for \$1,000 of TAAA-owned vintage books that had been stored at the member's house for many years.
- Follow-up discussion as held regarding information needed related to last month's suggestion from Gus Gomez to purchase TAAA labels for telescopes. The Board is in favor of this project.

TIMPA dates for November are the 3rd (Sa) and 9th (Fri).

CAC dates for November are the 9th (Fri) and the 10th (Sa).Â

Â

The new TAAA program regarding Working/Interacting with Minors will be the topic of the 6:30 Member Meeting, Friday November 2nd. Whether or not you volunteer to work with minors, you will still encounter information that is relevant to you. If possible, please come a few minutes early to the meeting since we need to record names of persons attending in order to provide certificates for completion of the course and to keep track of how many members complete the training.

Â

Astronomical League Observing Program Workshop at Timpa on November 3rd(Sa). Contact Doug Smith alcor@tucsonastronomy.org for questions or to become involved in an observing program.

Astronomy Imaging (AI) SIGÂ held a great beginning meeting on October 16th. A presentation was given regarding the use of DSLRÂ and attendees discussed future topics of interest. The next meeting of AISIG Â will be November 16th from 6:00pm until 7:50pm at Nanini Library, 7300 N. Shannon Rd, Tucson, AZ 8574. Topics for this meeting will include (1) Favorite websites for Astro Photography (basic) (bring name and URL) and (2) Modified DSLR's for Astro photography (advanced). Questions: Contact Tom Rolfsmeyer mrolf@earthlink.net.

TAAA Trivia!

Trivia Question 1: What was the second organization to observe Sputnik in orbit?

Trivia Question 2: a. Which TAAA leaders recently completed TAAA's new training course in "Fundamentals of Interacting with Minors"?

Trivia Question 2: b. Who recently completed the Astronomical League Binocular Messier Observing Award?

Trivia Question 2: c. Which TAAA member recently got to look through the University of Chicago Yerkes 40" refractor, the largest lens-telescope in the world, before the doors to the scope were permanently locked due to lack of funding?

(Trivia answers are at the end of this document.)

Doug Smith has accepted the additional position of TAAA Librarian. Please note that he will be conducting a new inventory of the library and doing some reorganization in the next few months. The library will not be open for checking out books until this process is completed. If you have a TAAA Library book or other materials checked out at the present time, please contact Doug and provide information about the item that you have. alcor@tucsonastronomy.org.

Available TAAA Positions:

TAAA Property Manager: keeps an inventory of TAAA Property

Refreshment Coordinator: Organizes volunteers to provide refreshments after monthly meetings

Grand Canyon Star Party Assistant: Works with the GCSP Coordinator to conduct the GCSP event each year.

Â

H o l i d a y Â P a r t y. Save the date: Saturday evening December 1st at the home of Janet and Ed Foley, 4790 N Via De la Granja. Bring a dish to share. No sale or auction this year " just FUN AND MORE FUN! Directions/instructions forthcoming.

The Star B Que at CAC had nice attendance and it was a great evening in spite of difficult weather. The new 9" refractor, the 40" and the 14" were all manned with volunteer operators for observing, a number of people brought their own scopes, and we had plenty of enjoyable food. Thanks to everyone who pitched in and offered support and assistance for this event!

The November TAAA Board meeting will be on Wednesday the 14th at Banner University Medical Center in meeting Room C (bordering the Banner UMC Cafeteria). Members are welcome to attend. At Board meetings, a member may give a five-minute presentation to the Board on any area of concern or a suggestion that they have for the Board. In planning the schedule for the next Board meetings, the Board will consider that topic and decide about placing it on the Board Agenda for further consideration. Members wishing to make a 5-minute presentation to the Board should contact Mae Smith at ssmith@email.arizona.edu a week (Wed, Nov. 7th) prior to the meeting to get on the schedule.

Answer to Trivia Q 1: The Tucson Moonwatch program was the second station in the world to observe Sputnik and was in the top ten stations for the Smithsonian in the number of observations per month for its life span. Its sixteen instruments were installed on the grounds of the Steward Observatory. The Tucson Amateur Astronomers (TAA) (as we were known then) was an integral part of this special project.

Â

Answer to Trivia Q 2a: The following TAAA leaders completed our first training on October 20th in the new TAAA course, "Fundamentals of Interacting with Minors" and will receive Certificates for their efforts: Ben Bailey, Ed Foley, Joe Gianninoto, Chuck Hendricks, Connor Justice, John Kalas, Jim Knoll, Karen Liptak, Terri Lappin, John Mead, Mike McDowell, David Rossetter, Douglas Smith, Mae Smith, Bill Wheeler.

Answer to Trivia Q2b: Gus Gomez recently completed the Astronomical League Binocular Messier Observing Award. Unfortunately, Gus has been out of town and has not yet received the award but he has been approved to receive it.

Answer to Trivia Q 2c: Dean Ketelsen recently got to look through the University of Chicago Yerkes 40" refractor, the largest lens-telescope in the world, before the doors to the scope were permanently locked just a few days later due to lack of funding.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you prefer not to receive future emails from us | [Privacy Policy](#)