



# April, 2019

## Notes from the President

The TAAA Board met on April 3, 2019. (The April meeting was moved up to the first Wednesday of the month as several Board members were involved in working with a school group at CAC on the usual Board meeting evening of the second Wednesday of the month.) Some of the topics addressed at that meeting include:

- Meeting with David Rossetter to review election processes before and during the May 2019 meeting.
- Review of current status of TIMPA and appointment of a TAAA Board member to attend the TIMPA Board meeting.
- Final planning for the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Star-B-Que at TIMPA.
- Vote of the Board to clarify the definition of the family membership category.
- Discussion of management of some member welfare situations.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: Member Meetings 6:30 and 7:30 May 3<sup>rd</sup> change of location to Kuiper Building, 1629 East University Blvd.** Third Floor Auditorium (Room 308). (Kuiper Building is located between Flandreau Science Center and UA School of Dance.) About two blocks south and east of Steward. (You can park in the same locations as previously but may have two or three blocks further to walk.)

**NOTE: TAAA Elections at May Member Meeting** for Board positions and 2 NVRC positions. Ballots will be given to members starting before the 6:30 meeting and continuing into the beginning of the 7:30 meeting. Running for office include the following: President: Mae Smith; Vice-President: John Mead; Secretary: Chuck Hendricks; Treasurer: Mike McDowell; Member At Large (3 needed): Ed Foley, Shawn Herman, Ralph Means, Doug Smith; NVRC (2 needed): Ben Bailey, David Rossetter. Candidates may be added to the ballot at the meeting with written approval. If you did not receive the email with the bios and want a copy, or if you have questions, or if you wish to receive an absentee ballot, contact NVRC at NVRCchair@tucsonastronomy.org; [drossetter@yahoo.com](mailto:drossetter@yahoo.com); or NVRC at the club mailing address: P.O. Box 41254, Tucson, Arizona 85717.

### TAAA Trivia!

**Trivia Question 1:** Who were the primary speakers for the TAAA 50th reunion? **1b:** What is an unusual event that persons who attended the 50th reunion often comment on when speaking of that reunion?

**Trivia Question 2a;** Who recently completed training on the C14 at CAC? **2b:** Who recently received the Astronomical League Double Star Observing Award? **2c:** Who recently completed an interview with KGUN 9 regarding TAAA's plans for the Astronomy Festival? **2d:** Who has been working with the Senior Editor of Good Housekeeping and Woman's Day regarding a potential article?

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

**Observatory Opportunity:** Some members have expressed an interest in information about building or running a personal observatory. At the May 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 meeting we will begin a series of opportunities for you to share what some TAAA members have learned regarding personal observatories. In this first opportunity, Michael Weasner will discuss what he has learned in building and running the Cassiopeia Observatory in Oracle, AZ.

Michael will provide an additional learning experience with an **open house** for Members. **Any TAAA Members who wish to attend are invited to the Cassiopeia Observatory at 10:00 am on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.** The visit is designed not for the purpose of observational viewing but for the purpose of being able to take a day-time look at the design and construction as well as to answer more close-up and member-specific questions about construction and use of the observatory. Maps and directions will be provided at the 6:30 May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Thanks to everyone helping with TAAA's Own Annual Special Event, our Astronomy Festival** at Brandi Fenton Park, **April 13<sup>th</sup>** (Sa) : activities/telescope help was 3:00-6:00pm with telescope viewing until 9:00pm. We even had a constellation tour as well as Spanish and multi-lingual planispheres for door prizes. About 400 people came and it was a great success!! All contributions by our diligent TAAA volunteers were appreciated.

We had a **school group from California** use **CAC** for 2 nights this past week. A good experience was provided for them even though the weather was windier than expected. This was also our first experience at **implementing the advanced Minor Policy rules** which become relevant at remote sites.

**NOTE: Persons going to CAC on Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** A high school group will be visiting at CAC for a star party experience the evening of May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The group will NOT be spending the night and plans to leave for Tucson around 10:00pm. We do not usually have outside star parties at CAC on Member nights, so please just be aware of this youth group and support the persons conducting the star party. (We do not plan for this to be a typical occurrence.)

**TIMPA** dates include **April 26<sup>th</sup>** (Fri) and **May 4<sup>th</sup>** (Sa) and **May 31** (Fri)

**CAC** dates include **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** (Fri) and **4<sup>th</sup>** (Sa) and **May 31** (Fri)

**AISIG** dates include **April 16<sup>th</sup>** (Tu) and **May 21<sup>st</sup>** (Tu) 7:00pm

**AFSIG: May 9<sup>th</sup>** (Th), 6:30pm

**LNO: April 18<sup>th</sup>** (Th) and **May 16** (Th), 6:30pm

**SMSIG: May 20<sup>th</sup>** (M) 6:30pm

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NOTE: **AFSIG** will **not** be meeting in the **USGS Building** in the near future but **it WILL be meeting**. The **May 9<sup>th</sup>** meeting will be at **UA Education North Room 110, 1501 East Speedway**. Door will be unlocked on the North side of the building. Plenty of parking. EACH MONTH, please check to make sure you have the correct information regarding the meeting location for that particular month and please be patient until we are resettled. Information will be distributed on the website ([tucsonastronomy.org](http://tucsonastronomy.org)), at Member Meetings, at AFSIG meetings, and via email.

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TAAA just received a large **grant** for CAC from the **Margaret E. Mooney Foundation**. This grant will require that we proceed on the two remaining buildings in the plan for CAC at the same time (Both buildings contain sleeping rooms.); however, we do not have enough money to totally complete both projects. **Please note that we have a donor who will match donations** to CAC up to a total of \$15,000. This is a fantastic **opportunity to make your money count twice**. Please consider donating while we have the matching option available, and to get us closer to the completion of both structures.

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**Spectroscopy??** Interested in participating in a group exploring spectroscopy? If so, contact David G. Iadevaia at [onlineguy7@yahoo.com](mailto:onlineguy7@yahoo.com). David is the person who has been interacting with you about this topic on the TAAA Forum and who was our 7:30 Member Meeting speaker last month. If you are interested in doing more with this, David needs to know.

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**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](mailto:NVRCchair@tucsonastronomy.org).

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The **TAAA Board meeting for May** will occur, on **May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** at Cafeteria Room A, UMC Banner Hospital. At the May meeting the Board will begin dealing with budget issues/planning for the 2019-2020 year. There is free parking in the lot South of the parking garage and that lot is designated as Zone 1 parking which is free after 5:00pm. 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](mailto:ssmith@email.arizona.edu) a week (the Wed,) [prior to the meeting](#) to get on the schedule. If you need directions to the meeting, also contact Mae.

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**Answer to Trivia Q 1a: Several Past Presidents** attended and spoke at the 50th reunion and they were all memorable. However, the primary speaker was **Brother Guy Consolmagno**, who was the current Director of the Vatican Observatory. **1b:** An event that is often spoken of in association with the 50th anniversary is that the event took place in a large and picturesque restaurant that had been there for many years, called the Hidden Valley Inn. **The Hidden Valley Inn burned down not too long after our event.**

**Answer to Trivia Q 2a: Gerry Hodge** recently completed training on the C14 at CAC. **2b: Gus Gomez** recently completed the Astronomical League Double Star Observing Program. **2c: Jim Knoll** was just interviewed by KGUN 9 regarding TAAA activities for our Astronomy Festival on April 13th. **2d: Jim O'Connor** has been working with the Senior Editor of Good Housekeeping and Woman's Day regarding a potential article about GCSP 2019.

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Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association

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