



October, 2019



Notes from the President

The TAAA Board met on October 9th, 2019. Some of the topics addressed at that meeting include:

- Results of Member voting regarding two proposed Bylaws Amendments and Board discussion of two other sections of the Bylaws.
- Discussion of cost over-run related to CAC approved construction and funding options which will be explored further by Mike McDowell. The Board will call a special meeting for further discussion of funding options prior to the November Board meeting, if needed.
- Review of some Member Retention data for 2018 and 2019. Unfortunately, at this point, these data are all we have available, and without a comparison base are hard to interpret. In future, attention should be given to Member Retention, to collecting such data and also to further data possibilities that would help us understand reasons members join, reasons members remain, and reasons members leave.
- The advisability of conducting regular end of the year fundraising campaigns and also of participating in the Giving Tuesday Campaign was discussed. The Board was positive regarding having such campaigns and of doing so on a regular yearly basis. We will begin this effort this year.

TAAA Trivia!

Trivia Question 1a: When was David Levy President of TAAA? **1b:** How did David first become acquainted with TAAA? **1c:** What does David report as the major issue for TAAA during his Presidency?

Trivia Question 2: What is David Levy currently busy with?

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

Special Telescope Request: Volunteers are needed to man telescopes during intermission of the play "Silent Sky" being presented by The Arizona Theatre Company at the Temple of Music and Art from Oct. 22 - Nov. 9. (Yes, this is the play Vince got TAAA members group tickets to.) https://arizonatheatre.secure.force.com/ticket/#details_a0S2I00000nzFE4UAM

Previously the UA Astronomy Club was going to run telescopes, but they had a problem and now need replacements. In exchange, anyone doing this will get two free tickets to see the play on another day.

This request comes from Steward Observatory (which provides our free UA Member meeting rooms). So, please give this a priority if you can.

If you can help, contact Jim Knoll at astronomy-events@tucsonastronomy.org.

IMPORTANT DATES for your CALENDAR

TAAA Star-B-Que at CAC, Saturday, October 26th. All TAAA Members are invited. Gates unlocked and grill available at 4:00pm. Bring a dish to share and whatever you wish to grill for yourself. Bring any chairs you will need. If you do not wish to eat, come for observing.

TAAA Holiday Party, Saturday, December 7th. All TAAA Members are invited. Bring a Dish. Silent Auction. Save the date!

Three upcoming Astro-Imaging special interest group meetings: October 15th, November 12th and December 9th at Total Wine and More, 4370 North Oracle Road. For more information contact mrolf@earthlink.net.

CAC dates include Oct 25th (Fr) and Oct 26th (Sa) as well as Nov 22nd (Fri) and Nov 23rd (Sa) (Starbucks on Oct. 26th)

TIMPA dates include Oct 25th (Fr) and Oct 26th (Sa) and Nov 23rd (Sa) and Nov 29th (Fr)
AISIG Nov 12th

TAAA BOD Nov 13th, 6:30pm (see below)

AFSIG: Nov 14th, 6:30pm (meeting at former location, USGS Bldg UA (See below)

SMSIG: Nov 18th, 6:30

LNO: Nov 21st, 6:30pm

International Dark Sky Association Annual Conference in Tucson Nov 8 & 9. See <https://www.darksky.org>

GOOD NEWS: Thanks to the efforts of TAAA Member, Paul Koss, the Steven M. Gootter Foundation has decided to award TAAA an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device for use at CAC provided that all requirements are met for the award.

The requirements will be reviewed at the next TAAA Board Meeting. Among other things, requirements specifically include participation of individuals in the club in AED training. Should TAAA be able to accept the award, we will be seeking volunteers for training.

Astronomy Fundamentals (AFSIG) will meet in November and December at its former location: Upstairs at the USGS Building on the UA Campus. Building is on the Northeast corner of Park and 6th street. Free parking after 5:00pm is in closeby lots on the south side of 6th street. For elevator access contact Connor at fundamentals@tucsonastronomy.org

Reminder: Announcements for any 6:30/7:30 Member Meeting should be emailed to Mae Smith one week prior to the meeting. There is not adequate time immediately prior to or during a meeting to adequately preview and discuss new announcements and it can delay meeting activities to attempt to do so. Please respect our guest speakers and Do Not wait until a meeting is in progress to discuss the possibility of new announcements.

Susan Knoll has agreed to serve as Temporary Welcome Coordinator until Susan O'Connor is able to return. Thanks to Jim O'Connor for filling in previously. Please assist Susan however you can and make sure to send visitors and new members to Susan Knoll at the Member Meetings.

At The November 6:30 Member Meeting on Friday Nov. 1, Mike McDowell will give the Annual Treasurer's Report
At the 7:30 Member Meeting, Vern Dunlap will give a presentation on Gravitational Waves.

The TAAA Board meeting for November will occur on November 13th (Wed) at 6:30pm at Cafeteria Room C, UMC Banner Hospital. 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. There is also some free parking at the New Main Entrance to UMC Banner Hospital on the North side of the hospital. Members are welcome to attend. Note that many prior South entrances to UMC/Banner are being locked and not open to the public. If you have a problem with south entrances, you may need to enter through the new North Entrances to the hospital and walk from there to the old cafeteria area (which is on the south end). 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 (the Wed.) prior to the meeting to get on the schedule. If you need directions to the meeting, also contact Mae.

NOTE: As TAAA Treasurer, Mike McDowell is our official TAAA representative that interacts with donors regarding donations. Mike is tasked with showing appreciation to donors who wish to make a donation to TAAA and collecting information about the nature of the donation; determining whether TAAA can use the donation; arranging for pick-up of an accepted donation; issuing a receipt of donation to a non-profit agency for the purpose of filing for IRS consideration of the donation. If anyone indicates to you that they would like to make a donation to TAAA, please help them contact Mike at cac-director@tucsonastronomy.org or put the person in touch with a TAAA Board member who will assist the person to contact Mike. Please be aware that once a person has mentioned to someone associated with the Club that they wish to make a donation, the person may feel that no further follow-up from them is needed; that it is the Club's responsibility to follow-up. So, please make that initial contact meaningful, clearly giving the person the information needed as well as getting the person's name and contact information and sending that on to Mike McDowell.

A special thanks to the following people who helped with the Bylaws Voting process at the October meeting: Jim Knoll, Susan Knoll, Ralph Means, Kay Lehman, Pati Dunlap, and David

Rossetter.

Answer to Trivia Q1a: David Levy served as President of TAAA June 1980 – May 1983. **1b:** In June 1967, David visited Tucson and while he was here TAAA loaned him a 5-inch Moonwatch Apogee Scope (a small, very wide field refractor designed for following comets). **1c:** David reports, “During the second year of my presidency we had our biggest crisis. Some members felt that the rule that Sky and Telescope had in that era”that all members of a club must subscribe to the magazine in order to get their reduced rates”was unfair. That apparently trivial issue turned into a big disruptive episode; but it was finally resolved that we keep S&T, which we have done to this day. I am glad we made that decision.”

Answer to Trivia Q2: As you are likely aware, on October 4th, David gave a presentation for TAAA regarding his autobiography, **A Nightwatchman’s Journey: The Road Not Taken.** (He donated a copy to the TAAA library. You are welcome to check it out as soon as Doug gets it catalogued.) A second current activity that David is involved in is the additional Star Party that he has created at Karchner Caverns, October 23-26, 2019. See <https://explorescientificusa.com/products/david-h-levy-arizona-dark-sky-star-party/>

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