



November, 2019

Notes from the President

The last month has been exceptionally busy for TAAA. This time of year is a very active time for Star Party requests and programs using Night Sky Toolkits. For instance, Jim Knoll (and his volunteers) had 4 star parties scheduled for this week (although some were canceled due to the rain). TAAA volunteers were tremendously busy, as well, at other times this month, covering intermissions with telescope viewing for 12 of the 15 nights (Dr. Tom Fleming from Steward Observatory covered three of the nights) of the recent "Silent Sky" play (about Henrietta Levitt) performed by the Tucson Temple of Music and Art. Some of our members also took advantage of the group rates for the play obtained for TAAA by Vince Baker. In addition to all our regular member activities this month, we had 52 participants who had a great time at the CAC Star-B-Que. There was also an Evening Under the Stars Event (held every six months) that hosts a star-party at CAC for residents of the Cochise Community. The Mercury Transit TAAA event at Brandi-Fenton Park had a steady flow of community participants as well as about 12 telescopes (offering views of Mercury with a wide variety of filters (It must have been dazzling to first time viewers to see all the colors available!) and at least 3 Starry Messenger TAAA volunteers with other activities for children. There were also TAAA and GCSP participants at the two-day Tucson annual International Dark-sky Association yearly conference. TAAA, also, placed two more telescopes in Pima Public Libraries (Golf Links and Valencia Libraries) this month. As always, TAAA's greatest asset is its tremendous volunteers who so generously share their time, knowledge, hearts, and ingenuity to do so much with such quality. While TAAA Volunteers give all year long, this has been a particularly active time. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all TAAA's Volunteers!!!!!!

The TAAA Board met on **November 13, 2019**. Some of the topics addressed at that meeting included:

- Acceptance of an AED (designated for placement at CAC) donation from the Gootter Foundation, secured by our Member, Paul Koss. Dr. Koss will assume medical responsibilities of maintenance associated with the instrument. TAAA signed an agreement with the Gootter Foundation regarding use of the AED, scheduling the required trainings, and publicizing the gift in the TAAA Bulletin.
- Discussion of disposition of the 30" mirror that has been being housed in the TIMPA Barn for many years. The final decision after collection of information from various TAAA sources was to attempt to establish the worth of the mirror and sell it, with first attempting to negotiate an offer with the interested party that approached a Board member a couple of months ago about purchasing it.
- The Minor Policy Committee was encouraged to work toward preparation of a final comprehensive copy of the TAAA Minor Policy that meets all Creative Commons License requirements both in paper form and web form that would provide for Attribution, NonCommercial and ShareAlike Creative Commons use of the material.
- Fundraising efforts were discussed and the Treasurer was encouraged to have follow-up discussion regarding an offer from a Member to provide a loan for dollars for CAC construction.

Note: TAAA has decided to participate in the **#GivingTuesday** campaign this year. Thus, Members will receive an email providing an opportunity to donate to TAAA on Giving Tuesday (**December 3rd**). The TAAA Board works hard to assist TAAA (1) to provide as many services to members and to the public, as possible, (2) to support our volunteers' efforts as much as possible, and yet (3) to keep the annual TAAA membership fee as low as possible. Donations from members are what allows all this to happen. Without such donations, TAAA would need to substantially reduce its services or substantially increase its membership fees. **This year, Giving Tuesday is a special day that you can donate to TAAA. TAAA has acquired matching funds for Giving Tuesday gifts.** So, your #Giving Tuesday donation will be doubled.

(Note: #Giving Tuesday is a national fund-raising effort offering information on one type of fund-raising that non-profits may pursue. #GivingTuesday compiles information on the total dollar amount that different non-profits collect on Giving Tuesday in order to measure overall success of the program, but will not be provided any information on individual payments TAAA receives. #Giving Tuesday does not charge any fee for participation in the program. Payments totally process through TAAA's regular methods of payment and are not subject to view by anyone else. Payments may be made by mail or in-person as well as online and will be counted toward #Giving Tuesday yields as long as the payment is labeled "Giving Tuesday" and is received within one week of December 3rd.)

TAAA Trivia!

Trivia Question 1a: In what ways is CAC connected to the LBT (Large Binocular Telescope)?

Trivia Question 2a: Who received AL Awards this month? 2b. Which TAAA Member has two photographs from the TAAA Mercury Transit Event shared on KGUN weather for both 5pm and 6pm reports? 2c: Which supporter of TAAA recently received a National Award for special work at the 2019 GCSP?

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

Contribute to the: **TAAA GRATITUDE LIST**

November and December are special times that call our attention to the events, things, activities, shared moments, and PEOPLE that we are grateful for and that have done special things or given in precious ways to our lives. Last year, in the Notes From the President, during the months of November and December, I particularly called attention to names of people in TAAA who worked behind the scenes, whose work was very important to us, but they were not in the limelight and often went unrecognized for their efforts.

This year, in November and through December 24th, I would like you to help me compile a list of TAAA events, things, activities, shared moments, and PEOPLE that you are grateful for (past or present).

I will compile a **TAAA Gratitude List** and share the list with TAAA members. (Send your submission to me and add a sentence of information about the submission (something like why you are grateful or what difference you think this person, activity or moment makes/made.) I will put your contribution on the list. (Unless specifically asked to do so, I will NOT put the name of the contributor.)

Address contributions and questions to: ssmith@email.arizona.edu

IMPORTANT DATE for your CALENDAR

TAAA Holiday Party, Saturday, December 7th. All TAAA Members are invited. Bring a Dish. Silent Auction. Save the date (If you want to contribute astronomy items for the auction, contact John Mead, jmead@siu.edu.)

NOTE: Volunteers for the Holiday Party are needed for the following: 1 person to serve as greeter, 2-3 people to assist in directing parking.

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

The **next TAAA Board meeting** will occur on **December 11th (Wed) at 6:30pm** at Meeting Room C, Tower 4, 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 further directions to the meeting, also contact Mae.

Answer to Trivia Q1a: CAC is connected to the LBT in 3 ways: (1) It is possible to see the LBT (on Mt Graham) from CAC; (2) The round amphitheater concrete pad at CAC was specifically designed to be the same size as a large telescope mirror in the LBT. The pad is 8.4 meters in diameter, or exactly 27 feet, 7 inches; (3) Embedded in TAAA's round amphitheater concrete pad at CAC is a 4-inch in diameter, ½ inch thick puck that was one of the over one-hundred glass pucks used to grind the LBT mirror. The glass pucks were covered in aluminum and used in grinding grit on the surface of the mirror. The curvature was set to match the curvature of the mirror. The puck was given to Vern Dunlap who was a docent when the mirror was ground and Vern donated it to CAC. John Kalas was in charge of organizing the concrete amphitheater pad and having the mirror correctly embedded in it.

Answer to Trivia Q2a: The following Astronomical League Awards were received by members this month: **Gus Gomez** received the Deep Sky Binocular Award; **Tom Nelson** received the Messier Honorary Award; and Doug Smith received the Citizen Science Award; Q2b: Jim Knoll had two of his pictures from the TAAA Mercury Transit event shared on both the 5pm and 6pm KGUN weather reports. One picture showed some of the dozen or more telescopes present with visitors and operators, and the second picture was of the transit itself. Q2c **Rader Lane, National Park Service Ranger** who coordinates the NPS aspects of GCSP with TAAA, this month, was awarded the Tilden Award for a special dark sky project he did at the 2019 GCSP. Established in 1981, the Freeman Tilden Award recognizes leaders in interpretation and education and rewards creative thinking that results in positive impacts upon the preservation of the parks and the visiting public. For more information see: https://www.nps.gov/articles/2019-tilden-winners.htm?fbclid=IwAR0oPqUtF8ECEw7L6DWsfN45_PvIwuYAfgOGhR6SBC6QRQUpIIC5VVN-AUQ