



December, 2019

Notes from the President

December proved to be an interesting and enjoyable month for TAAA. The November month had seemed exceptionally busy, but we started December by keeping up the pace. We rapidly progressed from a very late Thanksgiving into an eventful first week of December with #Giving Tuesday, December 3rd, our regular 6:30 and 7:30 Friday Member meetings, and a Saturday Holiday party with a silent auction, all happening within one week.

We were generously supported in our first #GivingTuesday campaign by having a parent take and provide to us a precious picture of her excited young son thoroughly enjoying one of the telescopes donated through TAAA's efforts to assist the Pima County Library. We can all be assured that that program is benefitting the public.

An intense training on Minor Policy was provided to Members attending the 6:30 Friday Member Meeting as we keep moving toward full implementation of the Minor Policy procedures in January 2020. The more serious aspects of that presentation were relieved by the wonderful perspectives and humor of Tim Hunter's 7:30 presentation including a variety of situations that can be encountered in operating remote telescopes doing imaging, particularly with 10 or more cables attached to telescopes moving in different directions, and with telescopes that need to be sent to places like Austria for repairs.

The Holiday Party was tremendous fun with lots of food and a very successful Silent Auction which it seemed that many people did not want to end and were still trying to get in their last bid at the 7:30 deadline. Thanks to the Foleys for again sharing their home with us and being great hosts. Our regular star parties and other volunteer activities also continued through the month.

The TAAA Board met on **December 11, 2019. Some of the topics addressed at that meeting include:**

- **Arrangements and training preparations to meet requirements for the AED gift from the Stephen M. Gootter Foundation. A training session has been scheduled with the Gootter Foundation and Sarver Heart Center for January 3rd.**
- **Current status of December donations: approximately \$1,500 was collected at the Silent Auction. \$6,560 was collected in connection with the #Giving Tuesday Campaign. The work of TSA is expected to double income from paid star parties this year.**
- **A decision was made that while we need to continue working on collecting money to meet short-falls at CAC, we are doing well-enough with those efforts that, at present, we do not need to consider the generous loan offered by a member.**
- **The Minor Policy Committee has trained 67 members in the Fundamentals course. Work is being done to finalize the publication of all the Minor Policy materials and have them made available on the website. Efforts will be given to address questions and needs of Leaders. The Board approved a revision of the prior Minor Policy pertaining to GCSP astronomy volunteers, who will be required to meet the policies and standards of NPS in dealing with minors and will not be required to meet additional TAAA Minor Policy requirements.**
- **The Yahoo Group situation was reviewed and a decision was made for Ben Bailey to collect all TAAA history from the current site but not to make further changes at this time.**

TAAA Trivia!

Trivia Question 1: I sometimes hear the name "Crawford" connected to TAAA. I am confused about whether the first name is David or Robert, and about why that is a significant name for TAAA.

Trivia Question 2: What TAAA member had an article published by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific on December 12, 2019?

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

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 **January 8th (Wed) at 6:30pm** in Room 312 of the UA College of Education. Any TAAA Member may arrange with Mae Smith to make a 5 minute presentation to the TAAA Board on any area of concern or regarding 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.

Note: Since Banner/UMC is now charging fees for meeting rooms, TAAA Board meetings in 2020 have been scheduled in the UA College of Education.

Answer to Trivia Q1: TAAA has been fortunate enough to have had two members with the last name of Crawford who have made significant contributions to astronomy in different ways.

1.a. Some of you may be aware that in 1988 two TAAA members, **Tim Hunter** and **David Crawford**, had a dream of protecting the legacy of starry skies. They worked together to found an entirely separate organization, the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). Since then, IDA has become the foremost advocate and authority in the world for night sky protection, and still has its home-office in Tucson. 1.b. An entirely separate event happened in 2007 when TAAA was looking for a piece of land to fulfill its dream of a dark-sky site. At that point, **Bill Lofquist**, **Robert Crawford** and others worked to find and explore the land in Cochise County where CAC is now located. **Robert Crawford**, **John Kalas**, **Sam Rua** and **Erich Karkoska** formed the **Perseus Group**, which purchased the land and then donated the octagonal center portion of the site to TAAA for CAC. 1.c. As far as I know, **David Crawford** and **Robert Crawford** are not related.

Answer to Trivia Q2: On December 16, 2019, The Astronomical Association of the Pacific published an article entitled, "Acceleration of Coronal Mass Ejection Plasma in the Low Corona as Measured by the Citizen CATE Experiment." **Matthew J (Matt) Penn**, TAAA Member, was the first author of the article. Matt developed and ran the Continental-America Telescopic Eclipse (CATE) Experiment. The project used citizen scientists to collect data at different locations during the Solar Eclipse of August 21, 2017. Matt is interested in continuing to use youth as citizen scientists in the meaningful collection of astronomical data and in working with TAAA in that process.

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