



January, 2020

Notes from the President

January 2020 has started with momentum. Those of you who have visited CAC recently have realized that Construction on the classroom and sleeping buildings has resumed. While we were delayed in 2019 with permit requirements, with effects of batches of water that needed to be absorbed and limited activities like accessing needed gravel, and with a shortage of workers, those conditions seem to have improved in 2020. In addition, starting the new year brings a new surge of activity with (1) the TAAA Nomination and Volunteer Resource Committee (NVRC) beginning to seek candidates for the 2020 officer and the 2 NVRC 2020 Committee Member slots; (2) Starry Messenger Special Interest Group (SMSIG) gearing up for the new year including science education training for the upcoming Tucson Festival of Books, Science and Engineer Fair, and other STEM activities with children and youth; (3) preparation currently going on for the three-day Astronomy Fundamentals class in March and April; (4) a busy spring already scheduled for Nonprofit/School Star Parties and Tucson Stargazing Adventures (TSA); and (5) the email process beginning for volunteer enrollment for the 2020 Grand Canyon Star Party (GCSP). Also, at the February TAAA meeting, David Rossetter will be rolling out some new options for members/club groups that will be becoming available through our database program, Member Planet.

Activities of the January 2020 TAAA Board meeting included:

- Discussion of the concept of Planned Giving. An update on all financial matters.
- A review of the current status of CAC operations with the announcement of beginning resumption of construction on the two buildings.
- An AED (automatic external defibrillator) update with the training of 12 persons completed and the AED being delivered to CAC. It is temporarily stored in the RMO until it can be attached to the bathroom wall.
- Discussion was held of some TIMPA telescope procedures dealing with not opening the 14" telescope when the TIMPA Director has closed the site and ensuring updated training for operators. A TIMPA Committee will meet and create the necessary policies for protecting the site.
- A lengthy discussion was held of Astronomical League participation and of steps and procedures that might be pursued to encourage increased AL involvement by members. Doug Smith provided some figures about the number of AL awards achieved by TAAA members in comparison to those of other clubs. (Apparently, for instance, Minnesota with about 400 members usually receives 40 to 50 awards a year while TAAA has been ranging from 4 to 13 a year.) Among the suggestions was using TIMPA more frequently to assist members in pursuing observing programs and providing someone to work with members to offer hands-on guidance through the programs.

TAAA Trivia!

Trivia Question 1a: Last year, 2019, TAAA celebrated its 65th Anniversary at Steward Observatory and TIMPA with Tim Hunter as the lead speaker. For the previous 50th Anniversary celebration, where was it held, who was President then, and who was the lead speaker for the celebration?

Trivia Question 2a: Who received an AL Award this month? **2b:** Which TAAA members completed the AED training in December that assisted TAAA in obtaining an AED to be housed at CAC? **2c:** Who is Mr An and what is TAAA's newfound relationship with Mr. An?

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

The following two pictures are provided by Rader Lane (Our National Park Service, NPS – Grand Canyon Star Party, GCSP, Ranger)

Rader and Vicki who were driving forces in obtaining the Dark Sky Certification for the Grand Canyon National Park from the International Dark Sky Association were extremely gracious at the IDA Conference in giving TAAA credit for assisting/supporting NPS in getting that award and another award for Night Sky Research that was performed during the GCSP by Rader. Thus, Rader and Vicki generously insisted in putting the award around my neck (to represent TAAA) for some pictures. Rader has strongly prevailed upon me to send the pictures to TAAA (that is, I seem to have no reasonable choice in avoiding sending you large pictures of me). So here they are:



AED Training Group

Attached is the group picture that went in the AED Training records to officially verify our TAAA training group. You will note that Paul Goss is in the picture with us. Paul graciously went to the training and spent the training time working with the supervisor to get all documentation complete and to certify that he would be taking responsibility for monitoring the condition of the AED instrument. Dr. Koss generously spent a number of hours in applying for the AED for TAAA and working with us and the Gootter Foundation to

make sure that all went well in the application process. Please, remember to say "Thank you" to Paul when you see him.



CAC Construction Photos

Some of you have been waiting for a while to see some photos of the construction starts at CAC. So, I have two small ones I can share with you as a beginning place. We can watch it develop over time.



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 February 11th (Wed) at 6:30pm at Meeting Room 312, UA College of Education (just West of Steward Observatory). There is free parking in the lot at the corner of Vine Street and Speedway, and that lot is designated as Zone 1 parking which is free after 5:00pm. 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: The TAAA 50th Anniversary Celebration was held at a restaurant in Tucson called Hidden Valley. Thom Peck (whom we miss), an optics person who now lives in California, was President of TAAA at the time of the 50th Anniversary celebration. The lead guest speaker for the event was Brother Guy Consolmagno, who was the current Director of the Vatican Observatory, and individual Past-Presidents shared information about the growth and development of TAAA.

Answer to Trivia Q2a: Gus Gomez received the Astronomical League Urban Observing Award in January. **Q2B:** TAAA members completing the AED training that assisted TAAA in obtaining an AED to be housed at CAC included: Ed Foley, Gus Gomez, Chuck Hendricks, Joe Jacoby, John Mead, John Kalas, Liz Kalas, Dennis Means, Ralph Means, Mae Smith, Bernie Stinger, Conrad Stolarski; **Answer to Trivia Q2c:** TAAA now has a connection to Mr. An, the Tucson Restaurateur. Mr. An long ago lost his father, grandfather and 6 brothers to heart attacks. At the age of 57, Mr. An had a cardiac arrest and lived via an AED resuscitation which saved his life. Mr. An has received the 2020 Philanthropic Award from the Stephen Goetter Foundation as a result of the many, many gifts of AEDs he has provided to the Goetter Foundation. The Goetter

Provided the AED device to TAAA in 2019 and it likely is one of the devices donated by Mr. An. Nice to think that when we see him, we can thank him for his special service to the community and to TAAA.

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