



February, 2020

Notes from the President

February 2020 has been a busy month. Construction on the CAC classroom and sleeping buildings has continued this month and pictures are attached. We had some challenges with the CAC security cameras but those seem to have been repaired. A super addition to services at CAC is the Weather Station which is now operational. For current and recent information on weather conditions at CAC go to the TAAA website at Tucsonastronomy.org, click on “Resources”, “Observing sites”, and “Chiricahua Astronomy Complex” and information from the “CAC Weather Station” will appear.

If possible, please respond to the special requests from the Starry Messenger Special Interest Group (SMSIG) which needs additional volunteers for the upcoming Tucson Festival of Books, Science and Engineer Fair, and other STEM activities with children and youth; You may wish to note that requests for Astronomy Volunteer enrollment for the 2020 Grand Canyon Star Party (GCSP) were sent out in February. Applications for the limited number of free campsites for Astronomy Volunteers for GCSP 2020 will be made available in March. Reminders were also sent requesting applications for the GCSP t-shirt Design Contest.

If you attended the February TAAA 6:30 Member Meeting, you learned of the array of new member benefits available for TAAA members through Member Planet. You can now update your Member profile and preferences through the website and access a new array of member benefits. If you have questions about that process, you may contact David Rossetter, the TAAA Member Planet Coordinator, at drossetter@yahoo.com

Activities of the February 2020 TAAA Board meeting included:

- Review of and discussion of current status of TIMPA and recent changes related to TIMPA Board.
- A review of the current status of the 30” mirror. The capability and value of the mirror (traditionally stored at TIMPA) is currently being evaluated.
- The most recent draft of the TAAA Minor Policy is being reviewed by the Board and all updates checked.
- Gregg Ruppel requested a TAAA technology storage space be allocated for AISIG use, and a TAAA document storage location will be set up.
- The Board made a decision that TAAA will not participate in the Arizona Gives Campaign this year.
- A TAAA Guide position was established for the GCSP and a one-time amount of \$1,000 for equipment and supplies for the 2020 GCSP was allocated (This is in addition to the ongoing \$400. TAAA contributes each year.).

TAAA Trivia!

NOTE: Sometimes people have questions, comments, or additional information related to content in the TAAA Trivia. If you do, contact Mae at ssmith@email.arizona.edu.

Trivia Question 1a: What TAAA birthday happened in February 2020? **1b:** What are other important dates related to this area of TAAA history?

Trivia Question 2a: Who received an AL Award this month? **2b:** Anything happen this month regarding positive publicity for TAAA?

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

CAC Construction Photo

Last month John Kalas provided us with a couple of current photos of CAC. This month he provided the photo below of the current status of CAC construction (See below.) The floorspace for both of the two new buildings has been plotted, so the actual location of

each building and the ramada area in-between is visible.



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 **March 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: February 13, 2020 was the 10th birthday of the use of CAC. On February 13, 2010, the first event was held at CAC. Below are two photos provided by John Kalas. One shows the development at CAC on February 13, 2010 and the other is a picture of the persons attending that first event at CAC.





Answer to Trivia Q1b: Several other important early CAC time perspectives include the following: June, 2007, the TAAA Board committed to purchasing a dark-sky site, evaluating CAC as a possibility, and transferring TAAA \$\$\$ to support a purchase of property; In July 2007, a beginning deposit was made on the CAC property, in August 2007, the TAAA Board held a meeting and announced the Perseus Group had been formed and was purchasing the CAC property to donate to TAAA. The property closed in October 2007 and the purchase of the land was finalized. The Perseus Group finalized their arrangements in November and December of 2007. In February 2008 TAAA and the Perseus Group met with the Planning and Zoning Commission to finalize the ownership of CAC.

Answer to Trivia Q2a: Ed Foley received the Astronomical League Messier Observing Award in February. **Q2b:** Cuyler Diggs of Channel 9 Weather continued to mention TAAA activities this month in association with his Weather Report. Also, the Chair of UA Steward Observatory in the context of an advertisement regarding astronomy options in Tucson, referred very favorably to activities of TAAA.

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