



# March, 2020

## Notes from the President

At this point it seems hard to imagine that just one month ago, March 1<sup>st</sup>, our activities and plans seemed so "normal", so like the routine that we were all used to. March certainly started that way. We had our 6:30 and 7:30 Member Meetings on March 6<sup>th</sup>, the Board Meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>, AFSIG on March 12<sup>th</sup> and I think that Astro-Imaging met that week, as well. There was training for the Tucson Festival of Books, scheduling star-parties, arranging judges for SARSEF (the annual Southern Arizona Science and Engineering Fair), plans for new Astronomical League pursuits, upcoming activities at TIMPA and CAC, meetings were in person and might involve lunch or dinner or hugs.

I feel like I am in a daze with all the ways our lives have changed so quickly. However, I am very comforted with the response of TAAA members. TAAA Leaders and the Board are still communicating well with each other and working together, just using telephone or email and following physical distancing guidelines. So far, the only illnesses I know of for TAAA members during this time have not been serious ones. I hope that we all can continue to follow healthy practices and dodge the serious effects of this illness. And my concern at the moment is whether we are communicating enough with TAAA members. I will try to update you with the information in this newsletter. I also am following up on the migration of the TAAA Forum to groups.IO. That is one way that TAAA members can communicate with each other and continue sharing astronomy at this time. So, I hope that the Forum is working effectively to do that. TAAA members can also send emails to other members through Member Planet.

Please keep in touch with me and TAAA leaders and members. Let us know what you need. And, let's all work to support each other in the upcoming weeks as we move closer and closer to the end of this.

To bring you up-to-date, the TAAA Board met twice in March: March 11<sup>th</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Activities of the **March 11th 2020 TAAA Board meeting** included:

- With some negotiating, the 30" mirror offer was increased and the mirror sold for \$5,000. The capabilities of the mirror were thoroughly evaluated and market prices thoroughly explored.
- A decision was made to ask Ben Bailey to enact the migration of the TAAA Forum from yahoo groups to groups IO.
- Approved the latest update of the Minor Policy document with Creative Commons licensing included.
- Approved a return/damage policy for library books.
- Passed basic COVID 19 procedures including having sanitary wipes and using sanitary practices at events as well as requesting volunteers to refrain from participating when sick.

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Activities of the **March 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 TAAA Board meeting (held via telephone)** included:

- A report from NVRC on current status of and recommendations regarding **2020 TAAA elections**. Due to COVID 19 requirements, TAAA is not allowed to follow its Bylaws for (1) announcing Candidates running for office in the 2020 TAAA Elections during an in-person April Member Meeting or (2) Conducting the election of officers and NVRC Committee Members in a May in-person member meeting. Therefore, **the TAAA 2020 Election has been postponed until we resume having in-person General Member Meetings**. Whenever we next hold an in-person General Member Meeting, the candidates for offices will be announced and at the next in-person General member Meeting the following month the TAAA 2020 Election will be held. **Persons currently serving in TAAA elected offices will continue to serve in the same offices through the end of the month in which the next in-person election processes are completed. Newly elected persons will serve through May 31, 2021.** When the election is held, regular TAAA processes will be followed and absentee ballots will be made available according to TAAA procedures. If you have questions about the election process, you may contact David Rossetter, the TAAA NVRC (Nominations and Resource Committee) Coordinator, at [drossetter@yahoo.com](mailto:drossetter@yahoo.com)
- **All TAAA public events/in-person meetings are canceled for the months of April and May 2020. TIMPA and CAC are closed for April and May. The TAAA Board and SPG will continue to meet (not in-person), as needed. Cancel notices will be communicated by Leaders, as appropriate.**
- Due to the Tucson Mayor's proclamations regarding doing no non-essential business until COVID 19 is over and as a result of other state and national guidelines, **all TAAA star-parties (school, non-profit or paid) have been canceled for the months of April and May 2020.** Should the COVID 19 situation change, this could be re-evaluated.

- Currently, activities supporting the GCSP (which is scheduled for June) will continue.

### 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](mailto:ssmith@email.arizona.edu).

**Trivia:** The four persons who served as TAAA Presidents from June 1988 to May 2001 have each continued their involvement in TAAA to the present, in different ways. It has been very valuable to TAAA to have the consistent, powerful contributions of these individuals to TAAA's development.

**Question 1a:** Who are the four and what years did they serve as President?

**Question 1b:** What were some focal activities of their Presidency?

**Question 1c:** How has each contributed to TAAA in recent years?

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

The **next TAAA Board meeting** is scheduled for **May 13th (Wed) at 6:30pm**. A decision will be made closer to that date regarding whether or not the scheduled date will be kept as is, or changed. You will be notified, in case you wish to attend.

#### Answers to Trivia Questions:

**Answer to Trivia Question 1a:** The TAAA President from June 1988 through May 1991 was **Tim Hunter**.

The TAAA President from June 1991 through May 1995 was **Dean Ketelsen**.

The TAAA President from May 1995 through May 1998 was **Terri Lappin**.

The TAAA President from June 1998 through May 2001 was **John Kalas**.

**Note to Tim, Dean, Terri and John: I apologize for wherever I miss important items or wherever I misunderstand anything. Please let me know of my errors. There is no way that I can give proper credit and show all the appreciation that is due for your contributions.**

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**Answer to Trivia Question 1b: Tim Hunter** during his Presidency pursued some activities of lasting significance to TAAA in that he obtained incorporation status and non-profit status for TAAA. Tim also pursued the interests of the club in having its own observing site by starting the first fund for an observing site and obtaining \$10,000 in donations into that fund. He then worked with the Board to place a bid on the Titan Missile Site which was available at the time. TAAA lost the bid for the Titan Missile Site but used the \$10,000 as the beginning dollars for the fund that eventually started CAC. (Also, in 1987/1988, David Crawford (another TAAA member) and Tim Hunter Co-Founded the organization which is now the International Dark-Sky Association and still has its home office in Tucson.

**Dean Ketelsen** accomplished a couple of developments that increased the size of TAAA. He was able to change the TAAA monthly meeting location from a much smaller venue in Flandreau Planetarium to the larger auditorium at Steward. Also, during Dean's Presidency, the Desert Skies newsletter was increased in size and sophistication (a newsletter focusing on astronomy information which TAAA no longer publishes) and various other observing activities, such as school star parties and meetings of smaller interest groups. During Dean's Presidency, there was diligent searching for a TAAA Dark-sky site but agreement on a specific site was not obtained. Dean, his wife, Vicki, and a handful of other TAAA volunteers also conducted the first Grand Canyon Star Party in 1990 and Dean and Vicki continued to coordinate it during his Presidency.

**Terri Lappin** reports that she became TAAA Treasurer in 1981 and continued in that position for many years. During her Presidency beginning in 1995, TAAA membership increased from 250 to just over 300. Terri started the 6:30 Member Meeting concept focusing on meeting the needs of beginning astronomers who may be overwhelmed by the sophisticated 7:30 speakers. The astrometry SIG was started during Terri's presidency. During Terri's administration there were some important organizational efforts that happened: a significant bylaws rewrite, computerization of financial records as well as John Kalas began doing paid star parties to raise money for a dark-sky site, and the dark-sky funds were placed in investment accounts which had much better yields than savings.

**John Kalas** had started the paid star-party program prior to his Presidency and he continued that Program and also to write the newsletter while he was President. During John's Presidency, the first agreement for use of the TIMPA site was signed, electricity was brought to the TAAA area of TIMPA, the TIMPA bathrooms were built, an observatory building was donated by Kitt Peak and disassembled with ground properly prepared at TIMPA. Some changes were made to the barn, TAAA items were collected from paid storage areas and moved to the TIMPA barn, including the 30" mirror that some TAAA members had worked on. Star Party guidelines were developed, club membership categories were revised, our current arrangement with Astronomy League was created, TAAA created a telephone service, a website domain was secured, the apparel program was developed, TAAA library was cataloged, an annual schedule of TAAA activities was created.

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**Answer to Trivia Question 1c:** I will highlight a few of our Past Presidents' recent contributions.

**Tim Hunter:** 20-17 through 2019, Tim served on the TAAA Fund-Raising Committee (That Committee secured grants of \$15,000, \$3,000 and \$100,000 as well as thousands of dollars of donations for CAC.);

Tim conducted our 65th anniversary celebration in 2019; He recently gave a TAAA 7:30 meeting presentation on his experiences in developing and operating remote observatories; and he is always available when we need his expertise and knowledge.

**Dean Ketelsen:** Ran the GCSP for 19 years and still participates, serves on the GCSP t-shirt Committee; Serves on the Bok Award Committee; Chaired our TAAA presentations of the Solar Eclipse Experiences; Did a blog for the new website when we first set up the website about 3 or 4

years ago; seems always available to assist with Imaging or photography when needed, conducts the special photography event on Mt Lemmon each Christmas, for years after his Presidency ran TAAA's Kitt Peak Star B Que.

**Terri Lappin:** Edited the Desert Skies newsletter for years until about 3 years ago; Edited the TAAA Bulletin until about 3 years ago; coordinates the 7:30 speakers for the TAAA Member Meetings; Coordinates technology for the 6:30 and 7:30 Member Meetings; Coordinates rooms with Steward Observatory and rescheduling of other auditoriums when Steward is not available, Runs SMSIG, assists the Refreshment Coordinator, serves as TAAA's Night Sky Network Coordinator and manages all tool kits. Terri also serves on the TAAA Bok Committee.

**John Kalas:** As some of you know John continued to coordinate TIMPA for several years, He continued to run the Paid Star Party Program for 16 years, making thousands of dollars for CAC. John provided very active service on the TAAA Board from before his Presidency until about 2 years ago. John served as CAC Coordinator for 10 years and provided leadership for all aspects of CAC Development. John has served on the Strategic Planning Committee which was designed to create and develop CAC from the time of its formation until the present. After John discontinued as CAC Coordinator he has continued to perform project development for many CAC projects, to coordinate registration for the Evening Under the Stars Program (star-parties for the public at CAC), and to provide enormous support and assistance with CAC as well as to be available, when needed, for assistance to TAAA. John serves on the TAAA Bok Committee.

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**Be safe!**

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**Mae Smith, TAAA President**

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Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association  
PO Box 41254  
Tucson, AZ 85717

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