



*July, 2020*

## *NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT - JULY 2020*

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Since the end of the Grand Canyon Star Party in June, TAAA has been

receiving great feedback on our virtual activities: the GCSP tapes (made by **Jim Knoll, Bernie Stinger, Jim O'Connor and Terri Lappin**), our other Facebook star parties coordinated by **Jim Knoll**, SMSIG's Saturday afternoon

virtual moon activity (**Terri Lappin and Jim Knoll**), **Bernie Stinger's** participation in the Virtual National Solar star party and **Jim O'Connor's**

recent cultural virtual activity.

We, of course, for three months now have been doing our regular Monthly

First Friday Member Meetings over Zoom and for the July meeting tried using Zoom for our members and Facebook for nonmembers. That strategy worked well and we plan to continue it, hoping to return to having regular nonmember attendance. The monthly meetings have gone very well. We are so happy to see so many of you there!! Terri Lappin and our speakers have been doing a great job managing presentations virtually. We also try with each meeting to experiment with a new possible use of Zoom to increase the benefit of the meetings for our members.

After each zoom Member Meeting we are having a 30 minute **open-chat session for members**. Join us for the meeting and the chat if you can! Bring any information or input you would like to share to the chat session. Please make sure to keep Terri and myself apprised of any suggestions that you have for those Friday Member Meeting formats and activities. We appreciate new ideas and feedback. Our best suggestions come from members!

As those of you who attended the July Member Meeting are aware, we have begun the **election process**. The candidates were announced at the July meeting. The Nominations and Volunteer Resource Committee (NVRC) is currently testing options for virtual voting procedures to be used at the actual election at the August Member Meeting and following up on absentee balloting options. With the current upsurge in COVID 19 cases, we are relieved to have made a decision to go ahead and proceed with the election rather than continuing to wait until we could have a large in-person meeting as it does not look as if large in-person meetings will be happening any time soon. Remember that persons elected at the August meeting will begin their term of office September 1st and serve through May 31, 2021. **If you wish to review Candidate Bios for persons running in the election** go to the website at [tucsonastronomy.org](http://tucsonastronomy.org) and click on Members Only, then just enter your member information and scroll down the page.

As the heat and fires have both arrived, some of our TAAA members

are following through on usual summer travel. Hopefully, that will go

well and will provide a good break for them while they proceed safely with whatever COVID-19 situations they encounter. While this is continuing to be a very stressful time, it seems that **some of our members are succeeding in reducing some of the stress by working on** home observatories, participating in Astro League observing programs, searching for a glimpse of the comet, following the summer planets, or collecting and sharing gorgeous images. Of course, rest, taking care of our health in adapting to different lifestyles, and paying particular attention to those things that make us happy and feel connected and strong are particularly important in getting us through this prolonged stress.

**Some of the activities at the July 8th TAAA Board Meeting (via**

**Zoom) included:**

1. Update on CAC Construction including information that all recent permit inspections were passed.

2. Overview of TAAA COVID-19 policies which, for once, appeared to be currently appropriate and not need changes.

3. David Rossetter presented an update on the TAAA Election Process. Several tests of voting processes on varied electronic instruments and including individual and family members and certification of membership during the process will be run in the weeks prior to the actual vote at the August meeting. Leader volunteers will be sought for the tests. **Absentee ballots** will be available in time for return to TAAA prior to the election. The election will be conducted by NVRC in the Member Meeting after the nonmember Facebook participant time has ended.

4. John Mead and Bob Reynolds presented a beginning new structure for **CAC Operations and CAC Planning**. This structure and its implementation will be a work in progress for a while.

**TAAA Trivia! NOTE: Sometimes people have questions, comments, or additional information related to content in the TAAA Trivia that they wish to discuss. If you do, contact Mae at [ssmith@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ssmith@email.arizona.edu) .**

Trivia this month will consist of matching some TAAA positions with the current leader assigned to that position. (information will also include what that position involves and how to contact that leader).

Q. 1. Who is the TAAA Publicist? Q.2. Who currently serves as Chiricahua Astronomy Complex (CAC) Director? Q.3. Who is the Astronomy Imaging Special Interest Group (AISIG) Coordinator? Q.4. Who is the Tucson Stargazing Adventures (TSA) Director? Q. 5. Who is the TAAA Apparel Coordinator?

Q. 6. Who is the TAAA Equipment Loan Coordinator?

[TAAA Trivia answers are at the end of this document.](#)

Thanks to **Jim Knoll** who has succeeded in entering another competitive application for TAAA for an annual **Horkheimer Award** which provides a telescope to be placed in a public library in the local community. This will be TAAA's fifth telescope donated to a Pima County Public Library. Of the prior four telescopes, two were provided to TAAA through Horkheimer Awards obtained by **Jim Knoll** and **Terri Lappin**. The other two telescopes given to Pima County Libraries on TAAA's behalf were donated by the generosity of our TAAA Member, **Todd Hansen**, who donated them in the name of his wife, **Lonny Baker**. Thus, Todd's

Â donations on behalf of Lonny have helped us double our contributions  
Â to Pima County Libraries!

Â **Access to recent TAAA videos:**

Â 1. May 2020 and June 2020 Member Meeting Zoom Recordings and  
Â 2. The Two Recent TAAA Virtual Star Party Events.  
Â 3. The July 2020 Member Meeting Zoom Recording HAS BEEN ADDED.  
The five videos mentioned above may be accessed by TAAA Members by:  
Â Â Â Â Accessing the **TAAA webpage at [www.tucsonastronomy.org/](http://www.tucsonastronomy.org/)**  
Â Â Â Â Move toward the right across the different section titles until you see  
Â Â Â Â the Members Only section and click on that section  
Â Â Â Â Then complete the blanks to sign in by entering the email address  
Â Â Â Â you use for your TAAA membership and the password  
you  
Â Â Â Â previously set up (or you may establish one, as long  
as  
Â Â Â Â your membership is current) and click  
Â Â Â Â You will now be on the Memberâ€™s Only page and as you scroll  
Â Â Â Â down the left side you will see a section titled  
â€œVideosâ€.

Â Â The June 2020 meeting will occur first; the second square with Maeâ€™s  
Â Â picture is the May 2020 meeting recording. The third and fourth  
Â Â squares with pictures of Jim Knoll and Bernie Stinger are the two  
Â Â star party videos. The fifth video with Maeâ€™s picture again is the  
Â Â video for the July Member Meeting.

Â Â **ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS:**

Â **Q. 1. Who is the TAAA Publicist?**

Â The TAAA Publicist sends out publicity for TAAA Monthly Member  
Â Meetings and TAAA special events as well as some events that are not  
Â run by TAAA but where TAAA will be represented. It is not unusual  
Â for publicity to be sent to as many as 5 newspapers and news organizations  
Â monthly. Our TAAA Publicist for several years has been **Karen Liptak**,  
Â who can be reached at [publicist@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:publicist@tucsonastronomy.org)

Â **Q.2. Who currently serves as the Chiricahua Astronomy Complex (CAC)  
Â Director?**

Â The CAC Director oversees the operation of the CAC Site and aligns  
Â CAC operations with the CAC Planning Group. Some responsibilities  
Â include development of the schedule of events for CAC and overall  
Â supervision of the site (operation, maintenance, liaison with the community,  
Â procedures for the site, coordination with TAAA members and annual site  
Â budget). CAC has special procedures established during COVID-19 and  
Â those may be accessed through the Members Only section of the website.  
Â Our recently appointed CAC Director is **John Mead** who may be reached  
Â at [cac-director@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:cac-director@tucsonastronomy.org)

Â **Q.3. Who is the Astronomy Imaging Special Interest Group (AISIG)  
Â Coordinator?**

Â This TAAA Special Interest Group is designed to enhance knowledge of  
Â both the beginner and more experienced imagers. The Coordinator  
Â schedules regular meetings/activities of the group and special workshops.  
Â When possible, the Coordinator arranges for a variety of speakers and also  
Â works to facilitate TAAA membersâ€™ experience and learning in  
Â astrophotography. During COVID the group has been meeting regularly  
Â on Zoom. Our AISIG Coordinator is **Tom Rothsmeyer** who may be  
Â reached at [astro-photo@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:astro-photo@tucsonastronomy.org)

Â **Q.4. Who is the Tucson Stargazing Adventures (TSA) Director?**

Â The Tucson Stargazing Adventures (TSA) is a special program operated  
Â through TAAA that generates income that goes to support TAAA programs  
Â to the Chiricahua Astronomy Complex (CAC). The Program approves a  
Â limited number of TAAA members meeting certain standards who provide  
Â observing opportunities for profit-making organizations such as resorts  
Â and other businesses that wish to have their clients enjoy astronomy through

observing. The TSA Director coordinates advertising, working with the businesses, approving TAAA representatives and scheduling and supervising star-parties/astronomy activities. The TAAA TSA Director is **Jim Knoll** who may be reached at [stargazing@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:stargazing@tucsonastronomy.org)

#### **Q. 5. Who is the TAAA Apparel Coordinator?**

The TAAA Apparel program Coordinator arranges for TAAA members to obtain apparel with the TAAA logo on it. TAAA makes no profit on this program. It is solely a member service. All monies collected pay for the TAAA member's order, the TAAA emblems placed on them, taxes charged

to TAAA and when needed, shipping fees to out of town members. The Apparel Program Coordinator coordinates all TAAA apparel orders and turns the funds into the TAAA Treasurer, orders the merchandise from our dealer, and gets the merchandise to the member. The TAAA Apparel Program Coordinator also coordinates the TSA TAAA t-shirt program and may assist in selling any other items to members on behalf of TAAA. This may include things like AZ license plates with TAAA logos and plate holders, TAAA calendars, or other items. The TAAA Apparel Coordinator may also provide assistance with TAAA purchased merchandise for the Grand Canyon Star Party Apparel Coordinator. The TAAA Apparel Coordinator can also give members an address where they can access information online from the TAAA Apparel Catalog and pricing information. Actual orders must be placed with the Apparel Coordinator. The TAAA Apparel Coordinator is **Barbara Whitehead** who may be reached at [taaasales@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:taaasales@tucsonastronomy.org)

#### **Q. 6. Who is the TAAA Equipment Loan Coordinator?**

The TAAA Equipment Loan Coordinator keeps track of all equipment in the loan program, arranging for maintenance and repair, and ensuring that all equipment is signed out properly and returned on time. The Coordinator also manages damaged or missing equipment. The TAAA Equipment Loan Coordinator is **Ralph Means** who be reached at [elc@tucsonastronomy.org](mailto:elc@tucsonastronomy.org)

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