



August, 2020

Notes from the President

August has been a calm month as we have been gradually seeing some positive signs of the Covid 19 spread decreasing from the very high July figures. While the spread has been decreasing, it had not lowered enough by our August Board meeting to warrant changing our prior Covid 19 policies and procedures. Thus, while there is some use of CAC and TIMPA, it is quite minimal. Of course monsoon season has interfered, as well. Traditionally, August is one of TAAA's slowest months with Winter Visitors usually gone and erratic rain and clouds. It is typically, also, a slow star party month with the weather being hot for Tucson visitors and with interfering rains and clouds. So, in a number of ways a slow August is reminiscent of normalcy. Things should be picking up, however, as the UA has been planning for 30,000 people (1/2 the normal amount) on campus after Labor Day.

Some actions/discussions at the August 12th Board meeting included:

1. An announcement that accuracy of membership roles have been verified and, thus, Ben Bailey has been performing the migration to Groups.IO. If you are on the list for Groups.io (our new platform for the TAAA Forum) or wish to be and have questions contact Benbailey@tucsonastronomy.org.
2. There was no change in COVID19 policies at the August meeting. July decisions are still being followed for TIMPA, CAC, and club events/activities. (At the time of the Board meeting, one of the two new building slabs had been poured at CAC.)
3. The board voted to obtain a TAAA Zoom account for leader use that would serve less than 100 people. TAAA Procedures for Use by Leaders are being developed.
4. The First Friday Member Meeting date of **January 1, 2021** was changed to **January 8, 2021**.
5. The Board wishes to collect TAAA policies in a central location and make them accessible, as appropriate, to leaders/members. **Don Cain** has volunteered to assist with that effort.
6. The new TAAA Board that was elected at the August 7th meeting will take office September 1 and serve through May 31, 2021.

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.

- Trivia this month: Question 1: Who received the David Laird Award in 2020? In 2019?**
- Question 2a: What TAAA virtual star party event was recently held and who conducted it?**
- Question 2b: What two sections of TAAA resumed meeting in August and who can be contacted for information?**
- Question 2c: What TAAA Leader's Name was misspelled in the July Notes?**

The **Night Sky Network** and **Reach for the Stars: NASA Science for Girl Scouts** have teamed up to offer another round of free online workshops for amateur astronomers about the new Space Science badges and best practices for engaging Girl Scouts with astronomy. If you are interested in these classes and missed earlier sessions, you can sign up for a new round this fall! Deadline is **August 30**. For workshop details, visit: https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/news-display.cfm?News_ID=887 If you have questions you may check with TAAA's Girl Scout representative, Terri Lappin.

Various astronomy clubs have started to have meetings online. You may check their webpages for notices and information about how to connect with their lectures online. Two have recently been issuing notices to many TAAA members. Those include:

The [East Valley Astronomy Club \(EVAC\)](#), which meets the third Friday of the month at 7:30pm Tucson time.

The [Orange County Astronomers](#) who meet the second Friday of the month at 7:30pm PDT.

(So, add TAAA's regular first Friday meeting and you could occupy three Friday nights of the month with online astronomy lectures.)

TAAA Trivia Answers:

1: Last month we announced that long term former TAAA member, [Derald Nye](#), recently received the 2020 David Laird Award from IOTA (International Occultation and Timing Association). We are sorry to have previously failed to provide TAAA with the information that TAAA Member [Jim Stamm](#) received the 2018/2019 David Laird Award, as well. We are delighted to recognize the long term industrious contributions to science of both of these dedicated individuals. Great work!!

2a: There was a new TAAA Virtual Star Party that was available on Facebook and YouTube on Saturday August 15th. It was conducted by [Jim Knoll](#), [Bernie Sanders](#) and [Jim O'Connor](#). Bernie was in Minnesota and Jim O'Connor was in Ohio with Jim Knoll in Tucson. You can still locate it on Facebook and Youtube.

2b: Astronomy Fundamentals (AFSIG) and Ladies Night Out (LNO) resumed activities this month by meeting on Zoom. For questions regarding AFSIG contact Conner Justice at fundamentals@tucsonastronomy.org. For questions about Ladies Night Out, contact Susan O'Connor at calendar-designer@tucsonastronomy.org or Terri Lappin at TerriLappin@tucsonastronomy.org.

2c: The Coordinator of the Astronomy Imaging SIG is [Tom Rolfsmeyer](#), not Rothsmeier. I apologize for the error in last month's Notes. Tom's TAAA email is astro-photo@tucsonastronomy.org. Remember AISIG is meeting every month on Zoom. Contact Tom, if you need information.

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