



September, 2020

Notes from the President

As you know in August we finally had our annual TAAA election of officers and NVRC members that usually occurs in an in-person Member Meeting in May but was postponed due to COVID 19. NVRC was resourceful and developed strategies for us to have the election at the on-line Member Meeting August 2nd. That meant that our new officers started their period of service September 1, 2020 and September 9th was the first Meeting of the New Board. These officers will serve through May 31, 2021.

Some actions at the September 9, 2020 **TAAA Board Meeting** included:

- 1.COVID Considerations: The October TAAA Member Meeting will be held on Zoom; TIMPA Pad use during COVID 19 will be expanded from 3 pads to 5 pads; one in-person TAAA star party will be held as a constellation tour; other small, limited star parties may be held under supervision and potential COVID 19 issues explored. Ward 6 is not currently available for meeting room use and neither is UA.
- 2.The TAAA Zoom account has been activated and set up with a reservation system. TAAA Training is required for a TAAA leader to use the system. Two training dates will be set up and Jim Knoll will conduct the trainings. TAAA Zoom may only be used by leaders and only for TAAA activities.
- 3.Discussion of learning from the TAAA Election Process and subsequent suggestions led to a plan for further review and a Bylaws exploration to determine what wording changes are needed. This is likely to be a process over several Board meetings.
- 4.Previously scheduled Minor Policy training during the fall has been postponed. We will resume Minor Policy activities after COVID19.
- 5.TAAA has been provided a Catchafire Grant, which provides no direct dollars, but does provide some free services.

We are excited as CAC construction continues to proceed. In September we actually began some work above ground as the support system begins to be installed and it is really pleasing to be able to readily identify the progress. In addition, the CAC weather/sky monitoring station was initially activated last week, and will be receiving some further tweaking to get everything appropriately adjusted. While with the new COVID19 outbreak at UA, limitations on activities are essentially the same. But, TAAA members continue to adjust and have been doing some additional work on providing some supports for educational activities and continuing to pursue virtual events. Also, there has been some concern regarding a current review of local LED lighting ordinances. In conjunction with local observatories and astronomers, TAAA provided testimony at a recent Pima County Hearing and will continue to pursue the matter as it is reviewed by the City. Information was sent via email to TAAA Members about the issue and we will continue to inform you. Of course, protecting our dark skies is a priority for all of our astronomical community.

TAAA Trivia!

1a. What was TAAA's original name? **1b.** Why and when was the original name changed and what was its second name?

2a. What two TAAA members have recently been interviewed as part of an oral/written history project? **2b.** What is the history project that is being conducted?

2c. Who is conducting that history project?

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

TAAA Starry Messengers are in process of designing some **astronomy activities** that may be used by teachers and parents. They are being posted on the TAAA website under the Virtual Events & Activities page and it is under Community Involvement. Most events only have placeholder links while we are fleshing out the new activities. We will update the page as we move forward. Here is a link to the page: <http://tucsonastronomy.org/virtual-events-activities/>

Below are **two virtual events** coming up, one this weekend and our next Star Party October 9th.

September 25 - 27 is International Observe the Moon. **Normally**, TAAA would be hosting a large in-person event on the University of Arizona with the Lunar & Planetary Laboratory (LPL). **This year it will be Virtual.** LPL is hosting the Art of Planetary Science 2020 virtually. There will be activities Friday evening with art, Flandrau Science Center Planetarium, and Astro-Images. Saturday is a full afternoon of events with a Moon viewing by the UA Sky Center in the evening. Sunday, TAAA will host some Solar observing (10 am Arizona/PDT) then there will be other activities following that. All events are free and streamed via a Webinar. To see the complete schedule and register, go

to: <https://www.lpl.arizona.edu/art/2020>.

October 9. TAAA **VIRTUAL** Star Party.

We will actually record this in advance then stream to Facebook and YouTube Channel October 9th and will be on both Chats to answer any questions and interact with the Public. Focus will be on the Solar System. The event will be October 9 from 7 - 9 pm (Arizona/PDT). Follow the Facebook Event for any updates.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TucsonAstronomy/events/>

TAAA YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRjjxnMBbO98o801Bpk19w>

Reminders: Next **First Friday Member Meeting**: October 2nd 6:30pm on Zoom. In October we will have two speakers with additional activities for Members. Members will be sent a link and guests may attend via Facebook Events.

For information regarding **Astro-Imaging (AISIG)** meetings contact Tom Rolfsmeyer at astro-photo@tucsonastronomy.org

For information regarding **Astronomy Fundamentals (AFSIG)** contact Conner Justice at fundamentals@tucsonastronomy.org

For information regarding **Ladies Night Out** contact Terri Lappin at msig@tucsonastronomy.org

For Information regarding **Starry Messengers (SMSIG)** contact Terri Lappin at msig@tucsonastronomy.org

For information regarding CAC policies, to make CAC reservations or to learn CAC emergency Rules of Use contact John Mead at cac-director@tucsonastronomy.org.

For information regarding TIMPA, to make TIMPA reservations or to learn TIMPA Rules of Use during Covid19 contact Ralph Means at bookbuyer1769@gmail.org

For members to inquire about loaner scopes/equipment, contact Ralph Means at bookbuyer1769@gmail.org

For general information review the TAAA website at <http://Tucsonastronomy.org>

TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1a. What was TAAA's original name? The first meeting of TAAA was in March 1954. The organization's first name was **Tucson Amateur Astronomers or T.A.A.** **1b. Why and when was the original name changed and what was its second name?** Don Strittmatter became President in 1957. As part of the moonwatch program, T.A.A. predicted where and when people could expect to see satellites coming over Tucson, and Don reported the predictions to the newspaper. This regular reference to T.A.A. in the newspaper caused confusion for the newer Tucson Airport Authority, and due to complaints from them, our astronomy organization changed its name to the Tucson Astronomical and Astronautical Association (TAAA). That name continued until after the Moonwatch Program was completed and then TAAA decided to keep the TAAA initials but change the meaning to the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association.

2a. What two TAAA members have recently been interviewed as part of an oral/written history project? Dean Ketelsen and Jim O'Connor have been interviewed in the last several months as part of a history project. **2b. What is the history project that is being conducted?** The history project focuses on compiling a complete history of the Grand Canyon Star Party. **2c. Who is conducting that history project?** The history project is designed by and being conducted by Rader Lane, the NPS Ranger who works with us on the GCSP.

Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association
PO Box 41254
Tucson, AZ 85717

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