

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

As has been the case for much of the last year, there appears to be a lack of clarity about how we should be approaching COVID at the moment. So, this month's decisions involved some opening up and also some limits. As you may be aware, the TAAA Board at the February 10th meeting worked on some revised policies that would open both dark sky sites, CAC and TIMPA, to limited use. The final decisions of the Board on the specifics have been sent out to members and, if you have questions, let any Board Member, including myself, know. The National Park Service and TAAA have also been working this month on determining the parameters for the 2021 Grand Canyon Star Party (GCSP). A conclusion on that was reached on Friday the 19th. All persons on the GCSP attendance mailing list were sent a notice on Friday that the June 5-12, 2021 GCSP will be conducted as a total virtual event. Work is currently underway to present a high-quality interesting program of virtual star party activities as well as exciting high-quality astronomy presentations. The Virtual GCSP in 2020 was a tremendous accomplishment as we were all new to delving in so thoroughly into the virtual world. This year we will build on the experience that has been

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developed over the last year with a goal of making the 2021 GCSP an even better virtual event. Current plans are for the 2022 GCSP to be an in-person event.

Some of the TAAA Board actions taken at the February 10, 2021 meeting include:

1. A TAAA Working Group will be formed to review the history of policies for the TAAA newsletter and recommend current approaches to TAAA publications.
2. TAAA Board Members will review the list of policies on the website and divide up responsibilities for reviewing the specifics of the policies and making recommendations for availability and for any needed revisions/updates.
3. Procedures for developing a TAAA program for endowments and bequests will be developed.
4. Smoking of any substance will be prohibited at TAAA Dark Sky Sites. Persons who wish to smoke will need to exit the boundaries of the TAAA site to do so, even if the use is for medical reasons.

AAA Trivia: Some TAAA Monthly Publications and Recent Electronic Activities

- 1.a What is the special meaning of the term, "Desert Skies", to TAAA?
1. b When was "Desert Skies" published?
- 1.c What did "Desert Skies" include?
2. a What is the TAAA "Bulletin"?
2. b When was the TAAA "Bulletin" published?
2. c What has been included in the TAAA "Bulletin"?
- 3.a When did the TAAA monthly publication "go electronic" and what was the main reason?
- 3.b What is the most recent TAAA electronic (Virtual) event?
- 3.c What are the most recent electronic (Virtual) recordings added to the TAAA inventory and how are they currently being used?

Answers to Trivia are at the end of this publication