

# TAAA DESERT SKIES BULLETIN

Observing Our  
Since



Desert Skies  
1954

May 2022

## Membership Meeting

[www.tucsonastronomy.org](http://www.tucsonastronomy.org)

May 6 @ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

TAAA's next general member meeting will be held on-line on Friday, May 6, 2022. The Main Presentation starts at 6:30 PM, followed a Members Only meeting. The Main Presentation is open to the public via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TucsonAstronomy/>. Members should attend the meeting via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent to members before the meeting.

### Main Presentation at 6:30 AZT

This is a great time to learn what has been going on with the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association from "The Inside". Several key TAAA leaders will present what they or their committees have been working on over the past year.

Sometimes the TAAA's size and scope can be overwhelming. Please take this opportunity to digest all that we do in our community. Come with questions and comments for our leaders!

There will be a **Members Only Meeting** after main presentation. The NVRC will announce the results of our Leadership Election 2022.

## TAAA Election 2022

The TAAA Leadership Election closes on May 6, 2022, at 7:00 during the monthly Membership Meeting.

### [Candidate Biographies](#)

### Timeline

- The on-line vote opens on April 30, one week prior to May General Membership Meeting
- The vote closes at 7:00pm during the May 6th Membership Meeting – Vote!
- We will announce vote results during members-only portion of May meeting

### Voting Procedures This Year

- We will be using a Voting Service named OpaVote for this election
- Voting will be all electronic over the Internet
- An email will be sent to all eligible members on 4-30-2022 with a link to vote (Check Spam Folder)
- Read instructions then click on "Vote" – it takes you to the OpaVote web site.
- Click in the box of desired candidate(s) for each "contest".
- When finished, click "Vote".
- You get a window to review selections, then click "confirm".
- Voting will be open from 4-30-2022 until 7:00 PM at the May 6, 2022 General Membership Meeting

As always, please contact the [NVRC](#) if you have any questions.  
[David Rossetter](#) - Chair, John Christensen, Allen Force

*by Mae Smith*

### April 2022

We are having a busy Spring with star parties and events. You will have another report in the bulletin on the TAAA Astronomy Festival on April 9th. This was a delightful day and evening of solar viewing, night sky viewing, assisting persons with telescopes and astronomy education activities for children. The delight was the 8/9 year old girl who won the telescope in the TAAA children's raffle. She has a brother and father who are also both interested in astronomy. It was a true delight for all of us to see their joy and interest in the scope.

The Star Party report will communicate how busy TAAA has been this month with paid and free star parties with a highlight being our finally being able to hold an "Evening Under the Stars" event at CAC for the first time during the pandemic. I think all the astronomers there felt how much we had missed the opportunity to share the sky and enjoy CAC with people from Cochise County, and how much fun it was to again do so. We had great attendance from the community.

This coming Saturday (April 30) we hope to have great attendance from within TAAA for our scheduled CAC weekend Star-B-Que. Our activities are starting to feel like normal again!!!

TAAA Board elections will be finalized at the May 6th Member meeting. Please make sure to vote on-line either before or during the first part of the meeting.

At the May member meeting we will have a number of TAAA leaders reviewing their activities during the last year.

With spring in the air and summer nearing we are looking forward to beginning our TAAA new year June 1st and then having a great in-person Grand Canyon Star Party in mid- June (June 18-25).

The TAAA Board met on April 13th. We eliminated remaining COVID restrictions and agreed to schedule the June, July and August member meetings to be both in person in Steward N210 and to additionally continue the Zoom component for all Monthly Member Meetings. The Board indicated that TAAA groups may resume meeting in person, if they wish. However, we ask that all groups continue to have a zoom component in addition to meeting in person as many of our members wish to continue to participate via Zoom. Also, while masks are not required, we ask that all groups of TAAA members respect the rights of any person to wear a mask at any TAAA event. The TAAA Board approved a request for some supplies and funding for the Grand Canyon Star Party 2022. We reviewed updates and current status of all CAC projects. If you have not heard, our contractor for the classroom/sleeping room project resigned due to poor health. The exterior of both metal buildings has been completed but all interior work still needs doing. We are exploring alternatives for completion.

TAAA Desert Skies Bulletin

[David Rossetter](#) – Editor

Terri Lappin & Jim Knoll - Proofreading

Greg Ruppel - Images;

Ken Bertschy - Graphics

## School/Public Star Party Requests

May 2022

by Jim Knoll

Thank you for volunteering your time and talents for our extremely important outreach mission. Below is the list for May and early June, 2022. We are starting to wind down our events before the Monsoon break. If you are new to Star Party outreach, let me know and we'll be sure to help you get started. It is important you sign up for star parties if you plan to attend, whether you bring a scope or help in other ways, so I can manage who from TAAA will be on-site and for you to be included in any reminder or weather emails.

The PUBLIC Astronomy Events are also listed on the TAAA ([tucsonastronomy.org](http://tucsonastronomy.org)) and Night Sky Network (NSN) ([nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov](http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov)) calendars. Also, all PUBLIC star parties will be listed on the TAAA Facebook events page and will be updated based on weather, etc. in real-time. You can follow any of those events and get a notification when I update the event. Again, this is only for PUBLIC star parties listed on Facebook. Contact [Jim Knoll](#)

### Tuesday May 3 -- SAHUARITA

Wrightston Ridge K-8

16325 S Rancho Sahuarita Blvd, Sahuarita, AZ

Age/Grade Level: Grades K - 8

# Participants: ; 2 SOLAR Scopes Needed

Setup Time: 7:30 am. Start: 8 am. End: 11 am.

Directions: I-19 south to Exit 75. East on Sahuarita Rd to Rancho Sahuarita Blvd. School will be on the NE corner.

Viewing Location: TBD

### Wednesday May 4 -- SOUTH TUCSON

Esperanza Elementary School

2353 E Bantam Rd.

Age/Grade Level: Grades K-6

# Participants: 150; 4 Scopes Needed

Setup Time: 7 pm. Start: 7:30 pm. End: 9 pm.

Nearest Moon Phase: Between New and First Quarter

Directions: east on Irvington under I-10 to Tucson Blvd. South on Tucson Blvd to the school.

Viewing Location: Field

### Thursday May 12 -- CENTRAL TUCSON

(downtown); Safford K - 8

200 E 13th St.

Age/Grade Level: Grades K - 8

# Participants: 350; 3 Scopes Needed

Setup Time: 4:30 pm. Start: 5 pm. End: 8 pm.

(MOON Viewing until last 1/2 hour when dark)

Nearest Moon Phase: Between First Quarter & Full

Directions: Broadway or Congress (downtown).

South on 6th Ave to 13th St. Left (east) on 13th to the school (approximately 2 blocks).

Viewing Location: Field (Vehicle access will be provided)

### Friday May 13 -- EAST TUCSON

Gridley Middle School

350 S Harrison Rd., 85748

Age/Grade Level: Grades 5-8

# Participants: 200

4 Scopes Needed

Setup Time: 7 pm. Start: 7:30 pm. End: 9:30 pm.

Nearest Moon Phase: Full

Directions: 22nd & Harrison. North on Harrison. School on left.

Viewing Location: Basketball Court

### Sunday May 15 -- CENTRAL TUCSON

Flandrau Science Center — TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE

1601 E University Blvd., 85719

Age/Grade Level: All Ages

# Participants: 150; 5 Scopes Needed

Setup Time: 6:30 pm. Start: 7:15 pm. End: 10 pm.

Nearest Moon Phase: FULL

Directions: Campbell & Speedway. South on Campbell to University Blvd. West on University to observing location. Alternate: Speedway & Cherry. South three blocks on Cherry to UA Mall.

Viewing Location: University of Arizona Mall area south of Flandrau and west of Cherry (called E4)

Activity: Total Lunar Eclipse.

## School/Public Star Parties Continued

### **Thursday May 19 -- EAST TUCSON**

Desert Christian HS @ K-8 Campus

9415 E Wrightstown Rd.

Age/Grade Level: Grade 10 - 12

# Participants: 30; 3 Scopes Needed

Setup Time: 7 pm. Start: 7:30 pm. End: 9 pm.

Nearest Moon Phase: Between Full and Last Quarter

Directions: Speedway east to Harrison Road. North onto Harrison. The school is on the right at the curve where Harrison turns into Wrightstown Rd.

Viewing Location: Basketball Court / Sports Field

### **Friday May 20 -- ORO VALLEY**

Casas Christian School @ Catalina State Park

11570 N Oracle Rd

Age/Grade Level: Grade 4

# Participants: 100; 3 Scopes Needed

Setup Time: 7 pm. Start: 7:30 pm. End: 9 pm.

Nearest Moon Phase: Third Quarter

Directions: North on Oracle Rd to Catalina State Park. Then follow signs to Ringtail Group picnic area.

Viewing Location: Ringtail Group Picnic Area

### **Saturday May 21 -- NORTHEAST TUCSON**

Agua Caliente Park

12325 E Roger Road, 85749

Age/Grade Level: All Ages

# Participants: 50; 4-5 Additional Scopes Needed

Setup Time: 6:45 pm. Start: 7:30 pm. End: 9:30 pm.

Nearest Moon Phase: Third Quarter

Directions: Tanque Verde Road east past Houghton to Soldier Trail. Go about two miles north to Roger Rd. Turn east for about 1/2 mile to the Park on the left (north).

Viewing Location: Parking Lot Bus Lanes (north end of parking lot).

### **Saturday May 28 -- NORTHWEST TUCSON -- ORO VALLEY**

Catalina State Park (Quarterly TAAA sponsored public star party)

11570 N Oracle Road

Age/Grade Level: All Ages; 10 Scopes Needed

Setup Time: 6:45 pm. Start: 7:30 pm. End: 9:30 pm.

Nearest Moon Phase: New

Directions: North on Oracle Road to Catalina State Park.

Viewing Location: Trailhead picnic area at the end of the road inside the Park. Setup will be in the spaces inside the cones on the southwest corner of the parking lot.

### **JUNE EVENTS**

#### **Friday June 3 — BENSON, AZ**

Benson Library

Lions Park near the Library

Age/Grade Level: All Ages

# Participants: 50; 1 Additional Solar or Moon viewing scope (Jim Knoll scheduled)

Setup Time: 9:15 AM. Start: 10 AM. End: NOON

Nearest Moon Phase: Between New & First Quarter

Directions: Benson, AZ

Viewing Location: Lions Park.

#### **Saturday June 4 -- SE TUCSON**

Sycamore Canyon HOA

17362 S Rustling Leaf Trail

Age/Grade Level: All Ages

# Participants: 75; 3 Scopes Needed

Setup Time: 7:30 pm. Start: 8 pm. End: 10 pm

Nearest Moon Phase: First Quarter

Directions: Houghton Rd / Sahuarita. West on Sahuarita. Left (south) on Harrison. Harrison becomes Sycamore Leaf. Take 5th right onto Rustling Leaf. Park is 1st & 2nd lefts.

Viewing Location: Sycamore Canyon Park



May 2022

**April** was another busy month for our community outreach with 25 School/Public & 12 Tucson Stargazing Adventures (TSA) paid events scheduled. Our volunteers once again stepped forward with their time, talent, and equipment. For both programs, we deployed 88 telescopes for 117.5 hours with 39 different volunteers providing a total of 374 volunteer hours providing astronomy education to just over 2,185 excited participants. This assumes we get in all the events toward the end of the month. Public events included TAAA



Oracle State Park  
(Bernie Stinger)



Astronomy Festival, CAC Evening Under the Stars, Chiricahua National Monument, Canoa Ranch, Oracle State Park, Sunizona & Elfrida Libraries, Saguaro National Park East, and a Virtual Star Party. We also supported 11 schools and several other organizations. On the Tucson Stargazing Adventures program, we supported eight resorts and four personal or other organizations. If you take any pictures at our outreach events and they don't show any youth faces, please send them to me so I can include them in outreach articles.

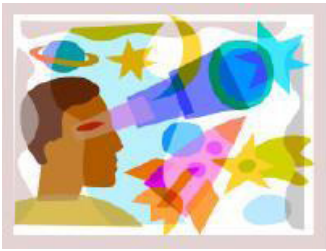
**May** is starting to wind down the program as schools begin their summer break and the resorts enter their off-peak season. However, we still have 17 events in both programs. Hopefully we will have a quiet summer filled with Monsoon activity as we take a needed break. Our large event in May will be supporting the Tucson Community and Flandrau Science Center for the Total Lunar Eclipse May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Eclipse starts at 7:30 in the evening and will go through 10 pm. A couple of our members will also participate in the Timeanddate.com worldwide live stream of the eclipse, streaming eclipse images from their telescopes.



Paid Event at TIMPA

I will give a program update and volunteer recognition at our May 6 TAAA Zoom meeting to include listing everyone's hours for 2021. A huge thank you to all the TAAA members that helped with the star party program. Please join us on any future outreach events if you want to share the wonders of the universe with the public and help shape students science knowledge. This is a great way to keep our hobby interesting while learning the night sky. This Fall, Bernie Stinger will assume the school and public star party manager duties – Thank You Bernie!! I will continue coordinating the Tucson Stargazing Adventures paid star party program.

## Special Interests Groups



### **Starry Messengers Special Interest Group**

#### *Opening Minds to the Universe*

We had a very successful Tucson Astronomy Festival last month at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park! Several people who visited the exhibit thanked us for doing it. I want to thank everyone who volunteered during the event and those who spent months before with the planning. Karen Liptak, TAAA's publicist, did an amazing job (with Jim Knoll's assistance) getting the word out on TV, social media, and community calendars. It's estimated that about 200 people visited during the event. We gave away several door prizes including a tabletop telescope that was won by a young girl.

TAAA learned last month that we've been approved to hold official James Webb Space Telescope Community Events. The first scientific JWST images will be released sometime in July. We've agreed to host at least one community event in the Tucson area in conjunction with either the first or subsequent images. NASA's goal for these community events is to target underserved communities, making science accessible to all, sharing the value of discovery and the joy, beauty and power of STEM. The Starry Messengers will be organizing the TAAA hosted events with Tom Sarko in the lead. We hope TAAA members will support these events which may continue through October.



The next Starry Messengers meeting will be on May 9th at 7pm. We will be meeting by Zoom. If you want the Zoom link, contact [Terri Lappin](#).

Our May 9th meeting will be the last one before we take our summer break. We may need a special meeting or two during our break to plan the JWST community event(s). Please, if you want to become involved with astronomy outreach, send your email address to Terri Lappin so you can be added to the SMSIG email list.

[SMSIG on the Web](#)

### **Astronomy Fundamentals SIG**

**by Connor Justice**

The next meeting is on Thursday, May 12th at 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Topics to be determined. Contact [Conner Justice](#) for Zoom link and more information.

[AFSIG on the Web](#)

Access videos of previous meetings through the Members Only section of the TAAA web site.

## TAAA Ladies Night Out

by Susan O'Conner

# TAAA Ladies Night Out

Ladies' Night Out is a social interest group for women members of the club. The group meets once a month at a local restaurant for fellowship and conversation. If you are interested in Ladies' Night Out, please contact

[Susan O'Connor](#)

Thursday, May 19, 6:30pm

Reforma  
4340 N Campbell Ave #101  
(SE corner of Campbell and River Rd)

Preview the menu at <http://www.reformatucson.com>

RSVP [Susan](#)

## Astro-Imaging SIG

by Gregg Ruppel

The next AISIG meeting is **Monday, May 16 @ 7:00 pm** via ZOOM. AISIG meetings going forward will be on the 3rd Monday of each month. Email [Gregg Ruppel](#) for the ZOOM link or find it in the [TAAA Forum](#).

**Topic: My Favorite Image!** Something different this month. This is your chance to share one of your favorite images. One image, with 5 minutes to describe how the image was acquired (camera, scope, etc.) along with how you processed it and why it's a favorite. Don't be shy, whether you're a beginner or a veteran...share a favorite! Please email me off-line (ruppel0709@gmail.com) with the title of your image so I can organize the presentations.

Check out [AISIG On the Web](#) or contact [Gregg Ruppel](#) for the latest information and Zoom links. Gregg and the AISIG folks are very active on the [TAAA groups.io](#) forum. Check out all the helpful advice and amazing images there. For more information or instructions on how to join the forum, check out the [TAAA Forum](#).

Imagers, to help ensure that the TAAA Desert Skies Bulletin has explicit permission to publish your fine work, we need you to submit your images directly to [Gregg Ruppel](#), our Image Editor and Astro-Imaging SIG guru. Or come up with alternative arrangements with Gregg. To keep the bulletin at a reasonable size, we would like you to restrict the size of your images to around 10MB (a little over is okay if needed). That way, I do not have to mess with your files. If you desire, please include a link to the full-size version so our members can see your work in all its glory. Finally, if you do submit an image (or more), I will include you in a pre-publication version of the bulletin for your approval of the quality and layout. Feel free to ask me ([David Rossetter](#) – Desert Skies Bulletin Editor) or [Gregg](#) if you have any questions.



## April Highlights from the Astro-Imaging SIG

From Tom Eby



**M81**

225 min total.  
Galaxy is bathed  
in an IFN rich  
area some of  
which is visible.  
Taken 1/6 and  
1/7 2022.

RC8 f/8  
(1612mm  
FL), asi2600,  
AP900GTOCP4  
guided. 0.48 "/px.

**NGC 2685  
Helix Galaxy.**

GSO RC8 f/8  
(1612mm fl),  
asi2600, AP-  
900GTOCP4  
mount guided.  
2.85 hours  
total.







**Randy Smith**

**Seagull Nebula**

IC 2177 73x300 Redcat 51 2600 MC  
L-Enhance filter

**Jeff Rothstein**

**Rosette Nebula**

A-P Traveler 105 mm f/5.8  
Losmandy GM-8 mount  
ZWO ASI 294 MC PRO camera  
with L-Enhance filter  
Stellarvue 50mm guidescope  
with ASI 120 MM guide camera  
NINA, PHD2, PixInsight  
58 x 180s exposures



**Randy Smith**

**Horsehead, Flame and Orion  
Nebulae**

Redcat 51, ZWO 2600 MC color  
camera and Optolong L-Enhance filter  
29x300



**Kevin Cook** Aurora Borealis

DSLR images from Iceland



**Alex Woronow**

**M51**

530 exposures of M 51  
Stellina 3 inch telescope

<https://www.astrobin.com/full/81fa19/0/?mod=&real=>

# Observing Sites

## TIMPA

*by Ralph Means*

TIMPA (Tucson International Modelplex Park Association), Dark Sky site west of the Tucson Mountains.

[TIMPA on the Web](#)

TIMPA Star Party Dates this month: *April 29, May 20, 21, 27 and 28.*

Location: The TIMPA observing site is located a few miles beyond the Desert Museum (3250 N. Reservation Road, Tucson, AZ 85743).

The TIMPA site is only partially improved. There are no inside buildings provided other than restrooms. TAAA does not provide seating (members are welcome to bring folding chairs). Please note that members visiting the TIMPA site may encounter things commonly found in partially improved desert areas such as desert creatures and/or their remnants (such as gopher holes or ant hills), uneven terrain, weeds and desert pollens. Members using the site are encouraged to bring red lights and to move cautiously taking appropriate safety measures. The site does not have potable water, so bring your own non-alcoholic drinks.

[Reservation Form](#)

Any questions, please contact the TIMPA Director: [Ralph Means](#)

## Chiricahua Astronomy Complex

*by Jim Knoll*

CAC Weekend Dates coming up (Friday/Saturday):

*April 29 – 30 (New Moon April 30; Member Star-B-Que April 30)*

*May 27 – 28 (New Moon May 30)*

Chiricahua Astronomy Complex (CAC) is the club's dark observing site, located in Cochise County approximately 100 miles southeast of the center of Tucson. If you would like to attend, you must make a reservation on the CAC Web page at [CAC Reservations](#).

Unless you are qualified to open and close the site, dates will be limited to those around the New Moon and are listed on the CAC web page. Hosted personnel are generally on site a few days before and after these dates.

*The last couple months have seen fantastic member attendance with gorgeous dark skies. If you have not made it out to CAC, consider coming out on the CAC weekend. Generally we have the 40" and 9" telescopes going so even if you don't want to bring your own telescope, come look through the club's scopes and enjoy this TAAA treasure.*



CAC Director: [Jim Knoll](#)

[CAC on the Web](#)

## Observing Sites Star Party Dates 2022

### TIMPA

April 29  
May 20 and 21. 27 and 28  
June 24 and 25  
July monsoon season no dates set.  
August monsoon season no dates set  
September 23 and 24  
October 21 and 22  
November 18 and 19  
December 16 and 17.

### CAC

April 29 – 30 (New Moon April 30;  
Member Star-B-Que April 30)  
May 27 – 28 (New Moon May 30)  
June 24 – 25 (New Moon June 28)  
July 29 – 30 (New Moon July 28)  
August 26 – 27 (New Moon August 27)  
September 23 – 24 (New Moon September 25)  
October 21 – 22 (New Moon October 25)  
November 25 – 26 (New Moon November 23)  
December 22 – 23 (New Moon December 23)

## CAC Learning Center Update - by Ed Foley



Following the loss of our initial contractor due to health, we have continued to search for a contractor to complete the build out of the Sleeping Room and Classroom buildings. In March we prepared packages of information including a letter with the scope of work to be completed, maps and satellite photographs of the location of CAC, the architectural drawings, and photos of the buildings in their current state of completion. This package went to 28 contractors with active Arizona contracting licenses. The response speaks to the current state of the contractor community in Cochise County. Only one contractor responded to our letter – he was too busy to do the work. We followed the others with calls and text messages. We have determined that eight of the 28 went out of business. We have been able to speak with another 12. Of those we spoke to four are interested in the project. We are working with those four to arrange visits to the site ahead of bidding the project.

The message heard from the contractors we spoke to has been consistent. Those who have survived through the pandemic are very busy. Most were not able to predict a point in time where they could work us into their schedules. We are cautiously optimistic we can work with one of the four interested contractors to get into their cue.

The first prototype observatory enclosure on the Stinger Pad has substantially been completed. The other two will follow during the summer as volunteer hours become available. Welding the mounting plates to the piers will follow before the telescopes are finally installed.



## **What's Up list for May 2022 – June 2022**

Fellow amateur astronomers, many of the Astronomical League observing programs can be done from our backyards. The following is a list of objects visible during May and June for the more common observing programs.

### **Constellation Hunter Program – Northern Skies**

The following Northern Constellations are well placed for viewing for May and June:

Bootes, Canes Venatici, Coma Berenices, Corona Borealis, Draco, Leo, Leo Minor, Sextans, Ursa Major, Ursa Minor

### **Messier Observing Program**

The following Messier objects are well placed for observation during May and June (listed in ascending RA):

It's galaxy time! M108, M97, M65, M66, M109, M98, M99, M106, M61, M100, M40, M84, M85, M86, M49, M87, M88, M89, M91, M90, M58, M68, M104, M59, M60, M94, M64, M53, M63, M51, M83, M3, M83

### **Lunar and Binocular Observing Program**

The following is a list of dates for the lunar phase when observations should be made during May and June:

New Moon: May 1, May 30, June 29

40 Hours waxing: May 3, June 1

72 hours waxing: May 4, June 2

4 days old: May 5, June 3

7 days old: May 9, June 7

10 days old: May 11, June 10

Full (14 days old): May 16, June 14

Gibbous: May 22, June 21

72 hours waning: May 27, June 26

40 hours waning: May 28, June 27

### **Solar System Observing Program**

The following list describes the various solar system objects and their visibility during May and June:

Mercury is an early evening object for the first 3 weeks in May, then becomes an early morning object the remainder of May and all of June.

Venus is a morning object during May and June.

Mars is an early morning object during May and June.

Jupiter moves from an early morning object during May to a late evening object, rising just after midnight by the end of June.

Saturn starts May as a late evening object and by end of June is rising around 10 PM.

Uranus is an early morning object in May and June.

Neptune is an early morning object in May, but becomes a late evening object so that by end of June its rising around 11 PM.

### **Urban Observing Program**

The following deep sky objects are well placed for observing during May and June:

Mel 111, M84, M86, M87, M104, M94, M64, M3

The following Double Star is well placed for observation during April and May:

Zeta Ursa Major



Since September 1922, Steward Observatory has been hosting public evening lectures in astronomy. The lectures begin at 7:30 p.m. MST and will be held in Steward Observatory (933 N Cherry) Room N210 on the University of Arizona campus. The Raymond E. White, Jr. Telescope in the historic Steward Observatory Dome will be open for public viewing after the conclusion of the lecture, weather permitting!



All of the lectures and the use of the telescope are free of charge and open to the general public.

For more information, contact [Dr. Thomas Fleming](#) or at 621-5049.

## Spring 2022 Lectures

The Spring 2022 Lecture Series has finished. However, you can **stream past lectures** [here](#).



## [BH PIRE Webinar Series: Spring 2022](#)

The upcoming Black Hole PIRE series features the most advanced approaches to studying the astrophysics of the black hole in the center of the Milky Way. Four renowned astrophysicists will share their research around understanding the unique environment around Sagittarius A\*.

All are welcome to join these remote talks. Each session will last one hour including Q&A and are designed as stand-alone topics. Please plan to join for any or all sessions and share this series with your colleagues.

May 2022 – Horizon Scale Physics Around Sagittarius A\* | Check back for webinar date/time

# Skyward

By David H. Levy  
May 2022

## Pegasus



In the late summer of 1964, I was leaving the Observatory of the Royal Astronomical Society's Montreal Centre with some friends, one of whom was David Zackon. I asked the group if they would like to drop by my house to observe with a 3.5-inch reflector. Before they had a chance to answer, David upped the ante by asking if we'd like to come by his house to look through an 8-inch reflector.

When we arrived at his place, we found a very competent 8-inch reflector with a focal ratio of 7. It gave us wide field views of Jupiter and Saturn plus a few other nice things to see. It was rather pleasant. Just a week later, David telephoned me to invite me for a second look. As we used the telescope to view Saturn, David was adjusting one of the mount's large bolts. As I looked at Saturn I remarked, "I think that's Titan," after seeing one of the planet's large moons. David looked up toward me and said, "No, it is still loose."

David told me that he was soon to leave for his university year, and each year he had a tradition of lending the 8-inch to someone who would use it. He then began asking me a few questions, and I told him that I had observed most of the planets, especially Jupiter.

"And the Moon, I suppose."

"Yes. And just a few weeks ago I completed the Lunar training program."

"The whole program? All three hundred craters?"

"Yes, and the 26 (lettered A to Z) mountain ranges, valleys, and the Straight Wall."

"You did all this with a 3 1/2-inch telescope?"



"Yes."

"David, you've just borrowed an 8-inch telescope."

It is difficult to describe the feeling of joy I felt as the new telescope and I returned home and I spent the rest of the night getting acquainted with it. The following day I decided to name it Pegasus, after the large satellites that NASA was launching at the time on their new Saturn 1 rockets. When my grandfather found out about this a few days later he was thrilled. "I am especially proud of David", he said, "for having the insight to know that you would put it to good use."

Over the next several months Pegasus was used heavily. When David returned from school, Constantine Papacosmas, another good friend, suggested that my parents purchase the telescope for me. David agreed, and we settled on a \$400 price for it.

The Original Pegasus19

On December 17, 1965, I used Pegasus to begin my comet searching program. Twenty-two years later, on the evening of October 11, 1987, Pegasus and I discovered Comet C/1987Y1.



The name Pegasus has since been attached to other fine Pegasus telescopes. One of them is a large 20-inch belonging to Lario Yerino from Kansas City.

I used this fine telescope one autumn while attending the Heart of America Star Party.

The third Pegasus belongs to Carl Jorgensen, one of my closest friends and someone I have known since 1963. He brings it each year to our Adirondack Astronomy Retreat in the mountains near Lewis, NY. Under the peaceful and beautiful Adirondack sky, when my left eye touches the eyepiece of this telescope, my mind wanders back to those earlier years when I began using my Pegasus during the springtime of my life.



Lario Yerino's Pegasus20



Carl Jorgensen's Pegasus20