

TAAA Desert Skies Bulletin

Observing Our

Since



Desert Skies

1954

October 2026

www.tucsonastronomy.org

Membership Meeting

Friday, October 2, 2026 6:30PM

TAAA's next general member meeting will be held on **Friday, October 2, 2026**. The Main Presentation will start at 6:30PM. There will be no public or social media broadcast as this meeting consists of internal training. TAAA members will receive a Zoom link should they wish to attend remotely. Members may attend in person at the **Steward Observatory Lecture Hall (Rm N210), 933 N Cherry Ave, Tucson**.

Main Presentation at 6:30PM AZT

Title: Training on the TAAA Policy on Working with Minors.

Presentation: President Dr. Ed Foley and Jim Knoll will provide the Fundamentals Training on the TAAA Policy on Working with Minors. This is a triennial requirement for all members participating in outreach events and good information for all members. This policy was developed to assist members with the safe interaction with youth while participating in outreach events. The policy consists of five levels depending on the outreach circumstances and explains the best practices within each level. Ideally, members should attend in person, but can also attend via Zoom.

Additionally, **updated outreach awards will be distributed to members attending in person**. Go to the [this link](#) if you want to see if you will be receiving an updated award.

The TAAA Board of Directors meets the second Wednesday of every month at **6:30pm**. Members are welcome to attend Board meetings. If you would like to attend, you may email [Ed Foley](#) to receive a Zoom link for that meeting. Please send your email to Ed by the Monday prior to the meeting (by 5:00pm) and you will receive an email with the link on either Tuesday evening or Wednesday.
ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

Inside this issue:

Notes from the President - [Page 2](#)
TAAA News & Activities - [Page 3](#)
School/Public Star Parties - [Page 8](#)
Observing Sites and Updates - [Page 11](#)
Activities and Special Interest Groups - [Page 13](#)
Member Astro Images - [Page 19](#)
Astronomical League Programs - [Page 25](#)
Equipment for Sale - [Page 26](#)
Public Astronomy Events - [Page 28](#)
Skyward - By David Levy - [Page 30](#)

Biography: Dr. Ed Foley is President of the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association, TAAA Webmaster, and the Astronomy Camp Coordinator for youth events, at our Chiricahua Astronomy Complex or TIMPA sites. Jim Knoll is the Tucson Stargazing Adventures (private Star Party) Coordinator, the Chiricahua Astronomy Complex Director, and a member of the Policy on Working with Minors Committee.



Desert Skies Bulletin

Contributions to Editor: [David Rossetter](#) by the 24th.
Astro-Images to our Image Editor: [Gregg Ruppel](#)
Proofreaders: Terri Lappin, Jeff Rothstein, Jim Knoll

October 2026

As we put the monsoon weather behind us, many members are making plans to pick up with observing at our TAAA dark sites now that the weather is more predictable. Improvements have happened at both sites over the summer. When arriving at the TIMPA site on the west side of Tucson, members will notice new signage leading to the observing area. This is to help members not familiar with the site and the increasing numbers of visitors attending outreach events being hosted at the site. TIMPA has a newly installed Explore Scientific 5-inch refractor on a Losmandy mount for members to use (after training). There are also new benches to make the evening more comfortable.

At the CAC site southeast of Tucson, there has been construction underway for the last few weeks. We have four new leased member pads poured, and the slab to support a shed that will store the Hensy 25-inch Dobsonian has been completed. The power for the pads will need to wait for the bigger observatory project that's underway.

After our friend, Past President, outreach enthusiast, and Grand Canyon Star Party founder Dean Ketelsen passed away in 2023, his family gifted his 14-inch Celestron SCT to TAAA. This is the trusty telescope he would haul to the GCSP each June. The receipt of the scope led to an idea and an appeal to members to help build a home for the telescope at CAC. The generosity of our members is now evident as the Dean Ketelsen Observatory is under construction. The building shell is up. The steel structure for the roll-off roof will be fabricated

by Ed Foley

in the next weeks, followed by the roof, siding, and finally electrical work. There are still miscellaneous parts and pieces of the telescope to acquire, but we expect the observatory to be ready for first light by the end of the year.

Between now and first light, those members who have images of Dean in action over the years are encouraged to send them to us. We will be assembling his outreach story for display inside the observatory. Send images to webmaster@tucsonastronomy.org or other items to the DKO, at TAAA, PO Box 41254, Tucson, AZ 85717.

Ed

President: Ed Foley
president@tucsonastronomy.org

Vice-President: David Rossetter
vice-president@tucsonastronomy.org

Secretary: Keith Schlottman
secretary@tucsonastronomy.org

Treasurer: Michael McDowell
treasurer@tucsonastronomy.org

BOD Members-At-Large:

Stephen Ferris mal1@tucsonastronomy.org
David Eicher mal2@tucsonastronomy.org
Gus Gomez mal3@tucsonastronomy.org

TAAA Board: taaabod@tucsonastronomy.org

From the Editor – David Rossetter

After working through a health downturn, I think it is time for me to step away from some of my responsibilities at the TAAA. **We are looking for a new Bulletin Editor (or two).**

If you are Interested in an incredibly satisfying and important way to contribute to our organization, I hope you will consider taking on this responsibility. You will have the support of a team of proofreaders and some incredible contributors. For a job description, [click here](#).

The job need not be limited to one person. Nor do you have to have experience as an editor or with our software. I can train you on our systems. And you have the opportunity to make the Bulletin your own.

Interested in becoming the TAAA Desert Skies Bulletin Editor? Please contact the [NVRC](#).

“Working With Minors” Training for Volunteers



TAAA Members and Outreach Volunteers: thank you for supporting our very important mission to spread the word about our amazing universe. You likely inspire many young folks (and the general public) to explore the universe around them.

At the October 2, 2026 Friday General Meeting, the TAAA will provide training on *Working with Minors* and present updated outreach awards. The training for Working with Minors is a triennial (every three years) requirement for TAAA members doing outreach with youth. Attendance will be recorded. It is also a good refresher for all TAAA members. Please try to attend in person (preferable) or by Zoom. We will present outreach awards as well for those in person, so hopefully you can attend. Please block your calendars for this event.



The NVRC is seeking candidates to fill some of our non-elected leadership positions including **Bulletin Editor**, and a **Chair for our Recognitions Committee**, subject to final selection by the TAAA President.

Be sure to also check out the [Help Wanted](#) section on the club's website main page for additional volunteer opportunities and links to relevant descriptions of those chances to get more involved with your club.

Please direct any questions or concerns regarding elected or volunteer positions to the NVRC at nvrcchair@tucsonastronomy.org. Pete Hermes (Chair), Dave Pass, Connor Justice, and Terri Lappin.

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.

Thursday, October 15, 6:30 pm

China Szechwan

1800 E Fort Lowell Rd
(SW corner of Ft Lowell and Campbell)

Preview the menu [here](#).

RSVP Susan: [Email](#) or 520-780-0136

Book Of The Month Review

by Douglas Smith (TAAA Librarian)

Book: "Astronomy 101"

Author: David Iadevaia

Pages: 224

The author is a retired professor who taught astronomy courses and is an active member of the TAAA. This is an entry level book, ideal for people with little science education. It covers all basic topics and history necessary to get a feel for astronomy and provide a good starting point for further education. The author spends a lot of time discussing the early history and cultural aspects of early astronomical observations. He also discusses some of the local (Arizona) cultures and the ties to the sky. I found these sections interesting to read. In general the book is well written. I suggest it for someone who has no background in the sciences and is trying to decide if they may or may not be interested in astronomy.

This book is still very new (copyright 2026). It can be found on Amazon, eBay, or [thriftbooks.com](#). Current price is from \$10 to \$20.

The book is also available directly from the [author](#). **Dr. Iadevaia generously provided a copy for the TAAA library, available for check out by members.**



by Doug Smith

Star Hopping Workshop Open for enrollment

Place: TIMPA

Date: Thursday, *December 10, 2026* (New Date) **Time:** 6:00 PM until completed

Synopsis: This is another workshop in the *practical astronomy workshop* series. It will teach star hopping. The students will be taught proper star hopping technique and equipment usage. Each student will use the supplied equipment to locate at least two targets (maybe more if time permits). By the end of the workshop the student will know what equipment to use and how to use it in order to locate targets using star hopping.

If interested contact the instructor, Douglas Smith: alcor@tucsonastronomy.org 520-396-3233

Constellation Locating and Identification Workshop Open for Enrollment

Place: TIMPA **Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2026 **Time:** 6:00 PM until completed

Synopsis: This is another workshop in the *practical astronomy workshop* series. The students will be taught how to locate and identify the constellations without having to memorize the night sky. Each student will use the supplied equipment to locate several constellations. They will learn how to use a planisphere and star atlas to locate constellations.

This program provides the methodology for the observing requirements of the Astronomical League's Constellation Observing Program (Northern and Southern).

If interested contact the instructor, Douglas Smith: alcor@tucsonastronomy.org 520-396-3233

PLEASE NOTE: due to equipment limitations there is a **strict limit of 20 students**.

Learn how to Record Observations and Sketch Objects Workshop Open For Enrollment

Place: TIMPA **Date:** Thursday, November 12, 2026 **Time:** 6:00 PM until completed

Synopsis: This is another workshop in the *practical hands-on astronomy workshop* series. Students will learn how to record observations and how to sketch objects. The students will be taught proper recording techniques, what information to record, what sort of forms to use, etc. In addition students will be taught techniques for sketching objects. The students will view, using a telescope, several different types of objects and perform recording activities and sketch different objects.

If interested contact the instructor, Douglas Smith: alcor@tucsonastronomy.org 520-396-3233

PLEASE NOTE: due to equipment limitations there is a **strict limit of 20 students**.

Fundamentals of Astronomy Class

Open for Enrollment

Place: Patrick K. Hardesty Midtown Multi-Service Center, 1100 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson
Date: Three consecutive Saturdays: January 23, 2027, January 30, 2027, February 6, 2027
Time: 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM each day

Synopsis: This course is designed for anyone interested in learning the basic concepts of amateur astronomy. Topics covered include (but are not limited to) the solar system, deep sky objects, stars, telescopes, eyepieces, mounts, star hopping, observation techniques, plus much more. This course is highly recommended for novice amateur astronomers and for anyone who may have just purchased a telescope for the first time. Taking this class will also aid the student in understanding the more advanced lectures often given during general membership meetings.

If interested contact the instructor, Douglas Smith: alcor@tucsonastronomy.org 520-396-3233 or sign up using the signup sheet that will be available at all General Members meeting starting August 2026 through January 2027.

Enrollment is limited to 25 students and is on a first-come basis.

So, I Bought a Seestar!

Basic Skills for the ZWO Seestar S30 and S50

Open for Enrollment

Stephen Ferris, Instructor

Place: TIMPA **Date:** Thursday, October 29, 2026 **Time:** 6:00 PM until completed

Synopsis: ZWO Seestars are a hot item for amateur astronomers both new and experienced. They combine good optics, a lot of automation, and a user-friendly interface with entry level prices. This workshop will cover the basic use of both the Seestar S30 and the Seestar S50 (and maybe the S50 Pro). It is open to both current Seestar owners and those who are considering buying a Seestar. If you have a Seestar of either design, please bring it with you, fully charged. The instructor will walk you through basic procedures for using your equipment. Don't forget to bring your phone or tablet that you use to control it.

If you are interested, please contact the instructor: Email Stephen Ferris: Text: 520-661-5355

This training is ZWO Seestar-specific. If you are interested in a workshop for another kind of smartscope, please contact Stephen at the contact info above.

Spooky Seestars and Smartscopes

Potluck and Meet and Greet for All Smartscope Users at TIMPA!

Place: TIMPA **Date:** Saturday, October 31, 2026 **Time:** 5:00 PM until whenever

This TIMPA event is open to smartscope users of all levels of experience and interest, plus anyone who might be interested in getting a smartscope. We'll get started with a potluck dinner social around 5:00 PM. Bring some images and techniques to share with the group. We would love to hear about any use of any smartscopes that you might have. Then, if weather permits, we'll do some viewing after it gets dark until whenever.

October evenings can get cool in the desert, so bring some warm clothing!

If you are interested in joining us, please contact the TIMPA Director, Stephen Ferris: timpadirector@tucsonastronomy.org Text: 520-661-5355

Introduction to Astrophotography Class

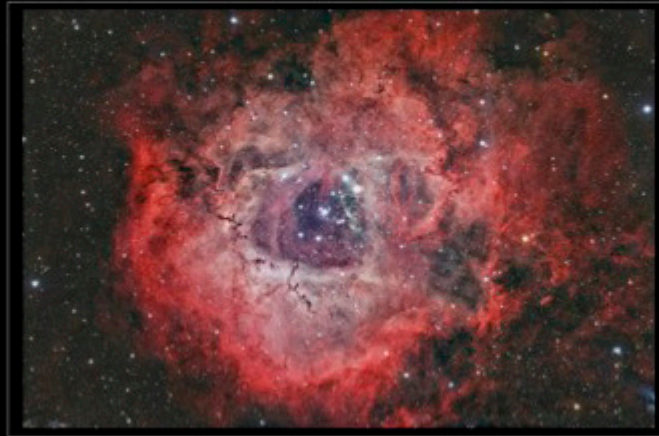
TAAA will be hosting a free Introduction to Astrophotography class at TIMPA. Designed for beginners, this course teaches the basics of using free software and demonstrates how to utilize the club's equipment for data acquisition.

The class will span two days:

- **November 7th, 6 PM to Midnight (at TIMPA):** Two hours of classroom-style instruction, followed by data acquisition for the remainder of the night.
- **November 8th, 1 PM to 3 PM (Online via Google Meet):** A session to install the necessary processing software and process the data collected the previous night into your first image.

Attendance is capped at 10 individuals. Please RSVP to the instructor, Chris Tremel [via email](#) to confirm your spot.

Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association



2027

2027 TAAA Wall Calendar
Available at the October General Meeting!
\$15 Each

Susan O'Connor and her amazing contributors have done it again! Be sure to pick up your 2027 TAAA Wall Calendar.

Any questions, contact [Susan O'Connor](#).

by Jimmy Long

October 2026 Volunteer Star Party Request List

We have an Urgent Need this Month!

Thank you for volunteering your time and talents for our extremely important outreach mission. Below is the Public/School Star Party list for **October 2026**.

We are very booked for this month including TWO different Astronomy Festivals. These require a LOT of scopes. If you could help us out, that would really go a long way to supporting TAAA's outreach.

If you haven't already, please consider doing some of the school events, in addition to the ever-popular park and national monuments. The kids and teachers do appreciate it, and it is our opportunity to influence the younger generations.

Please let me know by email at astronomy-events@tucsonastronomy.org if you are interested in volunteering with your scope for any of the events listed below. First come – first served. I will let you know in return if you are on it or that it was already filled. Some events go fast!

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** so I can manage who from TAAA will be on-site and for you to be included in any reminder or weather emails, directions to site, and setup location. *Everyone that volunteers will get a calendar invite with information and a confirmation that you are signed up for this event.*

The PUBLIC Astronomy Events are also listed on the TAAA (tucsonastronomy.org) and Night Sky Network (NSN) (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 these events and get a notification when I update each event, but this is only for PUBLIC star parties listed on Facebook.

Jimmy Long, School/Non-Profit Volunteer Coordinator

IMPORTANT TRAINING. To participate in outreach events you must complete the TAAA training on Working with Minors every three years. **The next training will be conducted at the October 2nd, 2026 TAAA General Friday meeting at 6:30 pm at the Steward Lecture Hall.**

October Events Filled - No Volunteers Needed

Thursday October 1st - Green Valley AZ

Southwest Astronomy Festival - Whipple Observatory
Hosting NIGHT 1
CPAC: Community Performance & Art Center
1250 W Continental Rd, Green Valley, AZ.
Age Group: All Ages
Estimated # Participants: 200-250
[0] No Scopes Needed - FILLED
Setup Time: 6:00-7:00 PM Start Time: 6:45 PM
End Time: 9:30 PM Sunset 6:08 PM
Nearest Moon Phase: Two days before Last Quarter,
Moonrise at 9:42

Saturday October 3rd -- East Tucson, AZ

Radio Society of Tucson Fall Swap Meet- SOLAR observing
921 W Via Rio Fuerte, Green Valley, AZ
Age Group: All Ages
Estimated # Participants: 150+
[0] Solar Scopes (White Light or H alpha) needed
Setup Time: 7:00 - 7:30 AM Start Time: 7:30 AM
End Time: 10:30 AM Sunrise: 6:17 AM
Nearest Moon Phase: Last Quarter

Friday October 9th - Willcox, AZ

Chiricahua National Monument
12856 E Rhyolite Creek Rd (South of Willcox).
Age Group: All Ages.
Estimated # Participants: 75 - 100
[0] Scopes- Needed
Setup Time: 5:30-6:30 PM Start Time: 7:15PM
End Time: 9:00 PM Sunset 5:57 PM
Nearest Moon Phase: 1 Day before New Moon

Monday October 12th – Tucson, AZ

AZPM at Baker Center
2865 S Catalyst Dr, Tucson AZ
Age/Grade Level: All Ages
Participants: 100 – 200
[0] Scopes needed
Setup Time: 6:30 PM Start Time: 7:00 PM
End Time: 9:00 PM
Nearest Moon Phase: Three days beyond New Moon

Friday – October 16 —Tubac AZ

Tubac Presidio
1 Burruel St (Tubac AZ).
Age/Grade Level: Mostly Adults
Participants: 50-75
[0] Scopes- Needed
Setup Time: 5:30 PM Start Time: 7:00 PM
End Time: 9:00 PM Sunset: 5:49 PM
Nearest Moon Phase: 2 days before 1st Q Moonset:
10:00 PM

Sunday – October 21 – West Tucson, AZ

Cooper Discovery Center – Elementary School
5403 W Trails End Road (WEST TUCSON).
Age Group: 4th Grade
Estimated # Participants: 45
[0] Scopes- Needed
Setup Time: 5:45 PM Start Time: 6:30 PM
End Time: 8:30 PM Sunset 5:44 PM
Nearest Moon Phase: 4 Days before Full

Thursday – October 22nd – Northwest Tucson, AZ

Nannini Library
7300 N Shannon Rd
Age Group: All Ages
Estimated # Participants: 50+
[0] Scopes needed - FILLED
Setup Time: 5:45 PM Start Time: 6:30 PM
End Time: 8:30 PM Sunset 5:42 PM
Nearest Moon Phase: 3 Days before Full

October Events still in need of Volunteers

PRIORITY FESTIVAL EVENT

Saturday October 3rd -- Green Valley AZ

Southwest Astronomy Festival - Whipple Observatory
Hosting NIGHT 2
921 W Via Rio Fuerte, Green Valley, AZ
Age Group: All Ages
Estimated # Participants: 200+
[2] Scopes still needed
Setup Time: 6:00 - 6:30 PM Start Time: 6:45 PM
End Time: 9:30 PM Sunset 5:57 PM
Nearest Moon Phase: Last Quarter

Saturday October 10th -- Oracle AZ

Catalina State Park
11570 N Oracle Road
Estimated Participants: 150 - 200
[4] Scopes Needed
Setup Time: 6:00-6:30 PM. Start Time: 7:00 PM
End Time: 9:30 PM Sunset: 5:56 PM
Nearest Moon Phase: NEW MOON

Sunday October 11th -- Picacho Peak AZ

Picacho Peak State Park
15520 Picacho Peak Rd. Picacho, AZ
Estimated Participants: 100 - 200
[1] Scope Needed
Setup Time: 6:30-7:00 PM Start Time: 7:30 PM
End Time: 9:30 PM Sunset: 5:55 PM
Nearest Moon Phase: 1 day past NEW MOON

Friday- October 16th –Tucson Mountain Park, West of Tucson, AZ

Juan Santa Cruz Picnic Area
2000 N Kinney Rd. (WEST TUCSON)
Age/Grade Level: All Ages.
Participants: 75-100
[2] Scopes needed
Setup Time: 6:30 PM Start Time: 7:00 PM
End Time: 10:00 PM Sunset: 5:49 PM
Nearest Moon Phase: 2 days before 1st Quarter,
Waxing Crescent Moonset: 10:00 PM

(More) October Events still in need of Volunteers

PRIORITY TAAA FESTIVAL EVENT

Saturday October 17th —Tucson, AZ

Tucson Astronomy Festival – Brandi Fenton Park

3482 E River Road (Ramada 1)

Age/Grade Level: All Ages

Participants: 250+

[45] Scopes needed (Can be dual purpose)

[Solar – 50 attendees) [10 Needed Solar Scopes White or H alpha]

[Night -200 attendees) [18 Night Scopes Needed]

Scope Helpers [2] Needed no personal equipment required

Volunteers without a scope can help with the public personal telescopes. NO Volunteer will be turned away; these are the minimums needed.

Sign Up [HERE](#)

Setup Time: 2:00 PM End Time 10:00 PM

Sunset: 5:48 PM

- Safe telescope viewing of the Sun 3:00 – 5:30 PM
- Interactive Astronomy Exhibits 3:00 – 6:00 PM
- Door Prize Drawings (must be present to win) 5:30 PM
- Night Sky Viewing 6:30 – 9:00 PM Sunset is at 5:48 PM, Astronomical Twilight ends 7:10 PM.
- Help with personal telescope 3:00 – 9:00 PM

Moon Phase:1 day before 1st Q Moonset: 10:57 PM

Sunday – October 21 – West Tucson, AZ

Cooper Discovery Center – Elementary School

5403 W Trails End Road (WEST TUCSON).

Age Group: 4th Grade

Estimated # Participants: 45

[1] Scope needed

Setup Time: 5:45 PM Start Time: 6:30 PM

End Time: 8:30 PM Sunset 17:44 PM

Nearest Moon Phase: 4 Days before Full

Thursday – October 22nd – South Tucson, AZ

Wakefield Middle School

101 W 44th St

Age Group: 6th Grade & Families

Estimated # Participants: 50-100

[3] Scopes needed

Setup Time: 5:45 PM Start Time: 6:30 PM

End Time: 8:30 PM Sunset 5:42 PM

Nearest Moon Phase: 3 Days before Full

Saturday– October 24th South Tucson, AZ

Pima Air and Space Museum – Night of Fright

6000 East Valencia Road

Age Group: All Ages

Estimated # Participants: 50-100

[1] Scope needed possible NSN kit

Setup Time: 4:45 PM Start Time: 5:30 PM

End Time: 8:00 PM Sunset 5:40 PM

Nearest Moon Phase: 1 Day before Full

Monday – October 26nd – South Tucson, AZ

Ochoa Community Elementary School

101 W 25h St

Age Group: Pre-school through 5th grade

Estimated # Participants: 150-200

[1] Scope needed

Setup Time: 5:30 PM Start Time: 6:15 PM

End Time: 8:30 PM Sunset 5:38 PM

Nearest Moon Phase: Waning 1 day after Full

Tuesday – October 27 –West TUCSON

Cooper Discovery Center - Middle School

5403 W Trails End Road (WEST TUCSON).

Age Group: 6th, 7th, 8th Grade

Estimated # Participants: 45

[2-3] Scopes needed

Setup Time: 5:30 PM Start Time: 6:30 PM

End Time: 8:30 PM Sunset

Nearest Moon Phase: Waning - 2 days after Full

Observing Sites

TIMPA

by TIMPA Planning Group

TIMPA (Tucson International Modelplex Park Association) is TAAA's dark sky site west of the Tucson Mountains. It is a few miles beyond the Desert Museum (3250 N. Reservation Road, Tucson, AZ 85743).

TIMPA Star Party Dates this month

October 2-3, 9-10
October 31-November 1

The TIMPA Planning Group will offer assistance with telescope usage and observing during the monthly TIMPA Star Parties. You are invited to bring your equipment and questions to TIMPA on Star Party dates for assistance. Be sure to register using the link below.

The TIMPA site is only partially improved. There are no inside buildings provided other than restrooms. TAAA provides very limited 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 rodent 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.

Reservations for the TIMPA Site are made on the TAAA website at [TIMPA DARK SITE RESERVATIONS](#). Please fill out the form completely and be sure to indicate the date you desire to visit TIMPA.

Questions? Contact the TIMPA Director: [Stephen Ferris](#)



Observing Sites' Upcoming Star Party Dates

TIMPA

October 2-3; 9-10

Oct 31-Nov 1; Nov 6-7

December 4-5; 11-12

January 1-2; 8-9; 29-30

February 5-6; 26-27

March 5-6; 26-27

New Moon

October 10

November 8

December 8

January 7 2027

February 6 2027

March 8 2027

CAC

October 9-10

Oct 3 *Evening Under the Stars*

November 6-7

December 4-5

January 8-9

February 5-6

March 5-6

Chiricahua Astronomy Complex

by Jim Knoll

Upcoming CAC Weekend Dates (Friday - Saturday)

October 9-10 (New Moon October 10)
November 6-7 (New Moon November 8)



Now that our Monsoon is winding down, we will again have hosts at the site for the **Friday and Saturday CAC sessions**. If you have not been to CAC for a while, this is a good opportunity to come on out. We have a lot of fun. Typically, on Saturday evening, if we have the operators, we will have the RMO 40-inch and Folded Refractor 9-inch operating, so you don't even need to bring a telescope. Members do though still need to make an observing reservation.

Special observing events at CAC. Take advantage of our dark Bortle 2 Observing Complex by participating in some upcoming events to include:

October 21-22 - Site Closed for Weeds Spraying.

Meteor Showers - Leonids: November 17-18; and Geminids: December 13-14.

CAC will also host our semi-annual **Evening Under the Stars** public star party October 3, 2026 from 7-9 PM.

As a reminder, you can be trained to operate most of the CAC telescopes. To request training, please complete the request [form here](#). We also have ten sleeping rooms with heat and air conditioning, a Learning Center/Classroom, seven RV sites with electricity, and a large tent camping area. There are also nearby accommodations.

If you would like to observe, you must make a reservation on the CAC Web page at: [CAC Reservations](#).

Please email CAC Director [Jim Knoll](#) if you have any questions or suggestions for improvement or comments of what is working well.

September Binocular Observers Activities - by Jimmy Long

The binocular group did not meet in September as the clouds were still a factor keeping us from being active. However, we aren't dormant and as soon as the skies improve, we'll start planning observation sessions at our dark sites again.

In the meantime, we were represented at Oracle State Park on September 19th, where we treated over 100 people to spectacular views of the first quarter moon for International Observe the Moon night.



Daytime moon as we wait for sunset.

Image courtesy of Mike Weasner.



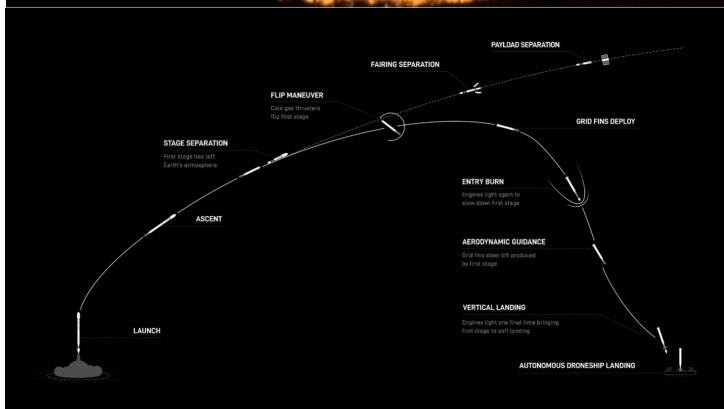
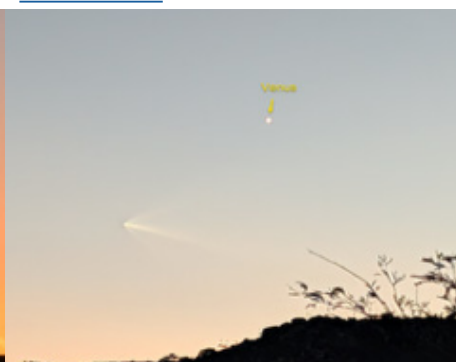
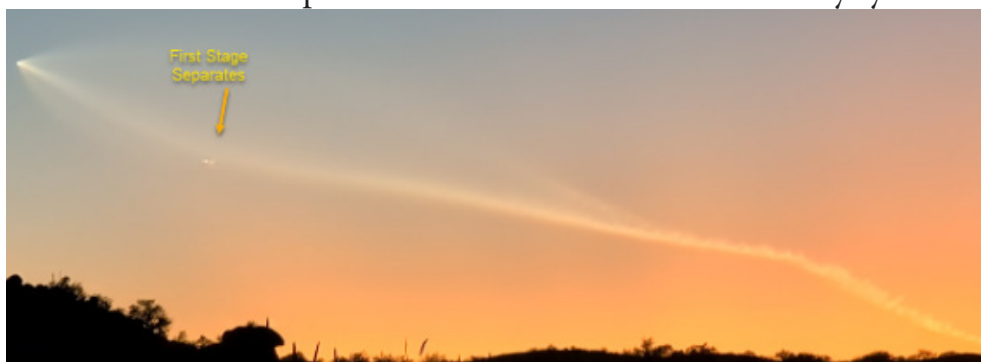
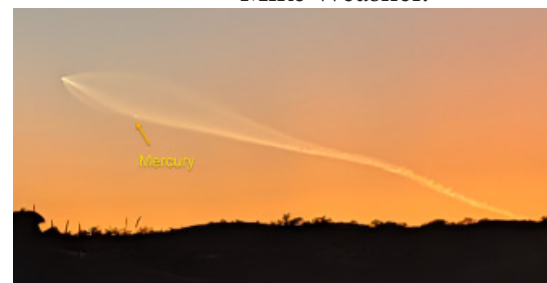
The "Big Honkin" binoculars peeping at the 1st Quarter moon.



We even had a member of the public bring his 10x50s out for some excellent observing. (You can bet he was recruited)

Image courtesy of Mike Weasner.

But that's not the whole story of our crazy binocular night at Oracle State Park. We were watching for the SpaceX Falcon 9 launch from Vandenberg AFB in California, scheduled immediately after the sun set. It was neat to watch it arc up out of the west, over Mercury, heading toward Venus. At one point, we could see the bright separation of the 1st Stage of the falcon 9 rocket. Thanks to Binocular Group member Jeffry Johnston who pointed out that this part of the rocket lands on a drone ship and is reused. You can watch the flyby here in [this video](#).



It's very likely that one of these SpaceX satellites will "ruin" one or two astro images, but still, it's exciting to see this event firsthand. (Even though for astronomy it's counterintuitive.)

The whole process of launch and recovery is fascinating so here is a graphic describing it.

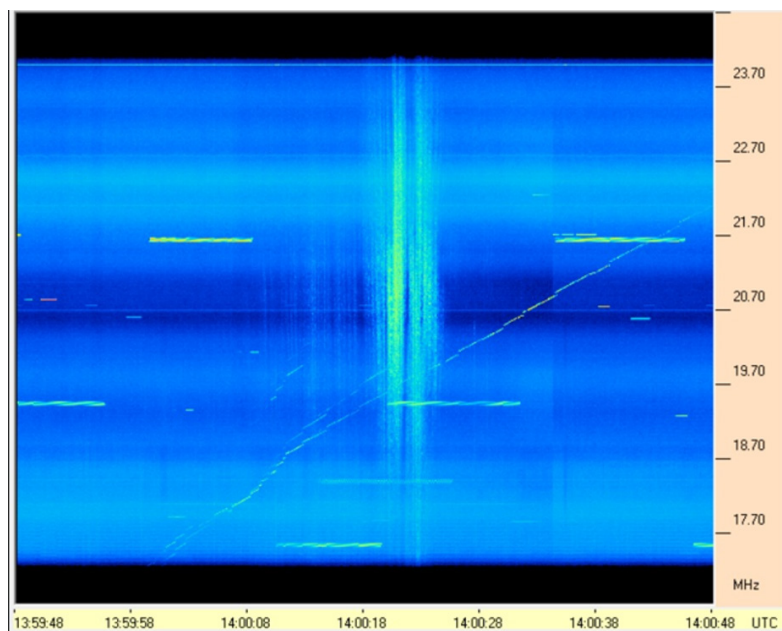
Radio Astronomy - My Experience So Far By Sandy Nichols

For the past 1½ years, I have been nurturing an interest in radio astronomy. That is when TAAA established the Radio Astronomy Special Interest Group (RASIG) which meets monthly via Zoom.

Early on, I decided to use the Astronomical League's (AL) radio astronomy observing program as a guide to building beginner radio astronomy projects. Some of these projects had initially been designed by NASA for high school students. Others were programs from the Society of Radio Astronomy (SARA) with the same objectives.

The AL radio observing program consists of five projects, and since commercially available radio telescopes do not exist for amateurs, these projects usually involve building your own radio telescope, much as many of us did years ago when we built our first Dobs to observe the visible universe. With these radio telescopes you can make observations of the “hidden Universe” ranging from the Sun, the solar system, the Milky Way, and distant galaxies. Many of these observations are of processes not detectable by visual astronomers. You can literally “see” a hydrogen cloud in the Milky Way that does not emit or reflect any visible light.

One of my radio telescopes monitors the Sun to record flares. I usually start the scope early in the morning and record all day. It is not hindered by cloud cover, although I am very aware of lightning storms. Below is an example of a solar flare that occurred recently and was recorded by my phased dual dipole array.



The solar flare is the most prominent feature in this image. The horizontal lines are local radio noise and the line that goes from left to right and increasing in frequency is likely caused by a transmitter from a weather balloon. These streamers test the condition of the ionosphere.

I use this same scope to also observe meteors and radio outbursts from Jupiter. I enjoy using each of my radio telescopes, but this phased dipole array is the most flexible one.

If you are curious about how to observe using radio telescopes, I suggest you attend one of the TAAA radio astronomy SIG sessions. I am still a newbie myself and we welcome all – regardless of expertise.

Annual Tucson Astronomy Festival 2026



Night shot of 2025 TAF. Image by Jim Knoll.

On October 17th, the TAAA will host the 13th Annual Tucson Astronomy Festival (TAF) at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park. This is TAAA's opportunity to invite all of Tucson to experience the joy of astronomy. We need a good showing of TAAA members for this event.

We'll have scopes during the day and evening, educational exhibits during daylight hours, and a door prize giveaway. We're also encouraging the public to bring their telescopes to the park if they need help setting up and using them. See the Schedule of Events for activity times.

You can share this link to encourage family and friends to attend this event.

<https://tucsonastronomy.org/tucson-astronomy-festival-2/>



Discussion about telescopes at 2025 TAF. Image by Jimmy Long.



Model Solar System exhibit at 2025 TAF. Image by Terri Lappin.

Schedule of Events

1PM	Setup begins
3PM – 5:30	Solar Viewing
3PM – 6	Interactive astronomy exhibits
3PM – 9	Help with personal telescopes
5:30PM	Door Prize Drawing
6PM	Pizza delivery!
6PM – 7	Take down astronomy exhibits
6:30PM – 9	Night Sky Viewing
9PM – 10	Clean up

Set up can begin as early as 1PM. We need to vacate the park by 10PM. (Publicized times are 3PM to 9PM.) Brandi Fenton Memorial Park is located at 3482 E River Rd, at the intersection of River Rd and Alvernon Way. We'll be using Ramada 1 and the grassy area to the north of the ramada.

We have several roles available, so volunteer where you feel most comfortable.

Sign up for any volunteer role using [this link](#).

- **Set up:** volunteers will help set up our exhibits.
- **Exhibit Help:** will interact with the public, teaching them about the possibility of life in the universe and other astronomy topics.
- **Solar and Evening Telescopes:** will operate their personal scopes either during the day or evening.
- **Telescope Helpers:** will assist the public with their scopes.

- **Door Prize Emcees:** will conduct the door prize giveaway.
- **Take Down Exhibit:** volunteers will help take down the exhibits.

We've already had a good response from TAAA members. If you have already signed up, THANK YOU! All volunteer roles still have openings, but we're most in need of two people to run the door prize giveaway, and we'd like a few more members who can help the public with their scopes.

Info for Volunteers

- Consider joining the Starry Messenger Zoom meeting on October 12th. An email with the Zoom link will be sent to all TAAA members. We'll primarily discuss the Tucson Astronomy Festival and will answer all questions about each volunteer role. We'll also go over the exhibit activities for those unfamiliar with what we did at the Tucson Festival of Books this past spring.
- Please wear TAAA apparel and name tag if you have it. This helps identify you as a TAAA member.
- Upon arrival at the park, volunteers should sign in at the exhibit area. This allows us to track your volunteer service and helps you qualify for our Outreach Rewards program.
- If you are volunteering to help the public with scopes, you'll be given a bright vest to wear for identification (please return it before you leave).
- If you have a clicker to count the number of visitors you interact with (or can keep a mental count), you can report this at the exhibit area before you leave. (This is optional.)
- All volunteers should encourage those interested in astronomy to join TAAA. We'll have membership information at the education exhibit area during the day and in the evening. Stop by the exhibit area if you need some TAAA business cards or membership information.
- Pizza will be delivered at 6PM for TAAA volunteers. (ONLY TAAA, due to health regulations, we can't offer it to the public.) We'll have water at the exhibit area. Consider bringing your own container.
- Contact Terri Lappin (terrilappin@tucsonastronomy.org, 520-977-1290) for general questions about the Tucson Astronomy Festival or the exhibits. Contact Jimmy Long ([Email](#)) about all telescope related questions.

Let's have a fantastic time bringing the joy of astronomy to Tucson!



Visitors to the 2025 TAF, exhibit area in the background.
Image by Jim Knoll.

Special Interest Groups



Starry Messengers Special Interest Group

Opening Minds to the Universe

The Starry Messengers group contributes to the TAAA outreach program by providing age-appropriate hands-on activities at school star parties and community events. We differ from the TAAA Star Party outreach program in that most of our activities can be performed indoors, and most don't require telescopes or clear skies.

The October 12th Starry Messengers SIG meeting will be held at 7PM by Zoom. An email will be sent to all TAAA members near the date of the meeting. We'll discuss all aspects of the Tucson Astronomy Festival. We also need to discuss our exhibit at the Tucson Festival of Books and review upcoming hands-on activity requests.

Upcoming non-telescope outreach requests are listed below. Unless noted, sign up to volunteer for these events using this link: <https://volunteersignup.org/TEJTM>

- 10/17/2026 (Sat) 1 PM - 10 PM Brandi Fenton Memorial Park (River/Alvernon), Exploring the Solar System Toolkit, Life in the Universe Toolkit, Light Pollution Education Kit, 150 expected. Volunteers: See separate article for volunteer status, sign up using this link: <https://volunteersignup.org/7RFEJ>
- 10/21/2026 (Wed) 3 PM - 4 PM Santa Rosa Library (I-10/22nd St), activity of Susan's choosing, 10 expected. Volunteers: Susan O'Connor and **one more volunteer.**
- 10/22/2026 (Thu) 6:30 PM - 8 PM Wakefield Middle School (44th St/6th Ave), Light Pollution Education Kit, 300 expected. Volunteers: **need three volunteers.**
- 10/24/2026 (Sat) 5 PM - 8 PM Pima Air & Space Museum Fright Night (Valencia/Wilmot), any toolkit (Space Rocks suggested), 1600 expected. Volunteers: need **three or more volunteers.**
- 10/26/2026 (Mon) 6 PM - 7:30 PM Ochoa Community Elementary School (22nd St/6th Ave), Telescopes Eyes on the Universe Toolkit, 150 expected. Volunteers: **need three volunteers.**
- 11/3/2026 (Tue) 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Ford Elementary (Pantano/Stella), Space Rocks Toolkit, 100 expected. Volunteers: Nelsey Toner, and **two more volunteers.**
- 11/13/2026 (Fri) 6 PM - 8 PM Esmond Station K-8 (Mary Anne Cleveland/Atterbury Wash Way), Exploring the Solar System Toolkit, 500 expected. Volunteers: Susan O'Connor, and **two more volunteers.**
- 11/17/2026 (Tue) 5 PM - 6:30 PM Erickson Elementary (Golf Links/Wilmot), Space Rocks Toolkit, 110 expected. Volunteers: Nelsey Toner, and **two more volunteers.**
- 11/18/2026 (Wed) 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Sabino High School (Snyder/Harrison), Telescopes Eyes on the Universe Toolkit, 200 expected. Volunteers: **need three volunteers.**
- 11/18/2026 (Wed) 3 PM - 4 PM Santa Rosa Library (I-10/22nd St), activity of Susan's choosing, 10 expected. Volunteers: Susan O'Connor and **one more volunteer.**
- 11/20/2026 (Fri) 9 AM - 1 PM NW Pima Community College (Shannon/Magee), any toolkit, 800 expected. Volunteers: need at **least three volunteers.**

Questions about the Starry Messengers SIG and our hands-on outreach toolkits can be directed to Terri Lappin ([email](mailto:terri@tucsonastronomy.org) or 520-977-1290).

Radio Astronomy SIG (RASIG)

by Sandy Nichols

The next RASIG meeting will be **Wednesday, October 21st** at 7:00 PM via Zoom. All TAAA members are welcome to attend. The Zoom link will be posted to the TAAA Forum, or you can obtain it directly by [emailing](#) Sandy Nichols.

Topics: Member projects, Observing masers

[Email](#) Sandy Nichols for the Zoom if you do not already have it.

[RASIG on the Web](#)

Astronomy Fundamentals SIG

by Connor Justice

Come join us for a presentation on the fundamentals of amateur astronomy. Learn your way around the night sky to add to your observing enjoyment. Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month.

The next AFSIG meeting is **Thursday, October 8, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.**

Topic: To be announced.

Contact [Connor Justice](#) for more information.

Access videos of previous meetings in the TAAA [YouTube Channel](#)

[AFSIG on the Web](#)

Astro-Imaging SIG

by Gregg Ruppel

The next AISIG meeting will be **Monday, October 19 at 7:00 PM** via ZOOM.

Topics: **Beginners' Corner** - Ask a Question

An Approach To Wide-field Imaging - Craig Harding

If you are interested in wide-field astro-imaging, this discussion will be of interest.

Image Sharing, Q/A

We will post Zoom details on [the Forum](#) before the meeting.

Email [Gregg Ruppel](#) for the ZOOM link or any other information. 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, [click here](#).

View previous AISIG meetings on the TAAA [YouTube Channel](#).

Member Astro-Images

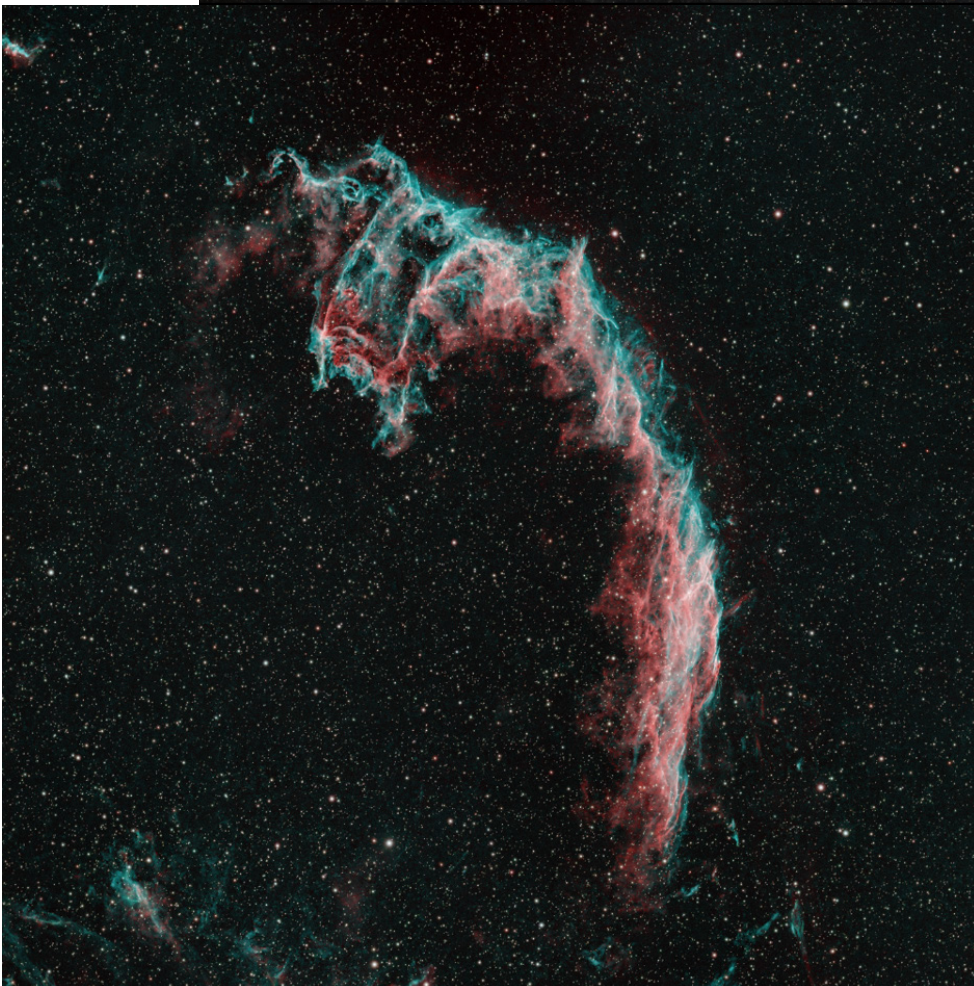
2026 Monsoon Challenge



David Stearn

Blue Horsehead
IC 4592

[Astrobin](#)



Darrel Conway

Eastern Veil Nebula

Askar 60F (408 mm focal length), ZWO ASI533MC Pro, 30 3 minute subs, Optolong L-Extreme, 30 3 minute subs, Optolong L-Synergy (using only the OIII data).



Bryan Betcher

M31

Seestar S50 Pro,
Alt-azimuth,
30 second frames, 5
5 frames

Jim Long

M8 and M20

Rokinon 135MM @ F/2
with Aperture Reducer
from 77mm to 62mm,
ASI 533 MC,
SkyWatcher GTi,
3 hours of 30 sec
exposures.





Comet 220P McNaught; ASA 10N astrograph,
ASI2600MM Pro, Astrodon LRGB filters, 1 hour.

**Gregg
Ruppel**

NGC 6888 Crescent Nebula; FSQ106
f/5, ASI294MC Pro, L-Extreme filter, 2 hours.





North America Nebula

Apertura 75Q quintuplet refractor,
ZWO 6200MC Pro camera; 4h 56m.

Paul Lorenz

**Sean
Shifflette**

**M16
Eagle Nebula**

Seestar S50, 45
minutes of 10
second subs.





NGC 1977

Randy Smith

Sky-Watcher Quattro
250P / 10-S
ZWO ASI2600MM Pro
Sky-Watcher CQ350 Pro
Antlia V-Pro filters

**IC 5146
Cocoon Nebula**





Blue Horsehead

RASA 8, 2600MC Pro camera, 3.8 hr exposure, no filters.



Tom Eby

Arp 140

SW 100 EDX 4, ZWO 585mc Pro camera, UV/IR cut filter, 3.2 hr exposure.

Observing Programs - What's Up in October 2026 – November 2026

Many of the Astronomical League observing programs can be done from our backyards. The following objects are visible in October and November for the common observing programs.

Constellation Hunter Program Northern Sky - The following constellations are well-placed for observing for October and November:

Andromeda, Aquarius, Aries, Cassiopeia, Cepheus, Cygnus, Delphinus, Equuleus, Lacerta, Pegasus, Pisces, Triangulum

Messier Observing Program - This is the sparse time of year. It is the area where the Sun is in March which allows us to do a messier marathon, because it's so empty. The following Messier Objects are well-placed for observation during October and November (listed in ascending RA):
M15, M2, M39, M30, M52

Lunar and Binocular Observing Program

Here is a list of dates for lunar phases in October and November:

New Moon: October 10, November 9	10 days old: October 21, November 20
40 Hours waxing: October 12, November 11	Full (14 days old): October 26, November 24
72 hours waxing: October 13, November 12	Gibbous: October 3, November 1
4 days old: October 14, November 13	72 hours waning: October 7, November 6
7 days old: October 18, November 17	40 hours waning: October 8, November 7

Solar System Observing Program

The following describes the planets and their visibility during October and November:

Mercury is an early evening object during October. It becomes a morning object during November reaching greatest elongation on November 22.

Venus disappears from the evening sky in early October. It appears as a morning object during late October and all of November. By the end of November, it is rising almost three hours before the Sun.

Mars is still an early morning object but is rising earlier each day. On October 1 it rises around 12:30 AM. On November 30 it rises around 10:30 PM.

Jupiter is an early morning object during this period. On October 1 it rises around 2 AM. On November 30 it rises around 10 PM.

Saturn is well placed for evening observation. During October and November Saturn is already well up at sunset. On October 3 it reaches opposition.

Uranus is well placed for evening observation. It reaches opposition on November 25. On October 1 it transits around 3:30 AM. On November 30 it transits around 11 PM.

Neptune is well placed for evening observation. It transits about 30 minutes before Saturn during this period.

Urban Observing Program

The following **deep sky objects** are well placed for observing during October and November:
NGC 7009, M15, M2, M39, NGC 7160, NGC 7209, NGC 7243, NGC 7662, NGC 7789

The following **Double Stars** are well placed for observation during October and November:
Delta Cephei

TAAA Astronomy Equipment For Sale

TAAA has an assortment of astronomy-related equipment for sale. This equipment is available for members only at this time. We have suggested prices for all equipment and telescopes but prices are negotiable!

All the listed telescopes come with eyepieces, finders and other accessories.



**Dobsonians – We have 2 large dobs
Homemade 13” and 12” Skywatcher**



**Celestron 6 w/ NexStar
This is a great starter scope!**



**Meade 5” ETX Maksutov
with AutoStar**



Celestron 11 with NexStar



Meade 10” LX200 w/ AutoStar



**Celestron 8s with NexStar
We have two C8's.**



Maksutov Optical Tubes



25x100 Binoculars in case

TAAA Astronomy Equipment For Sale (continued)



Celestron 5"
Omni XLT



We have numerous **tripods**.



Several full aperture
white light solar
filters. Most are
'film type'. (variety
of sizes and types)



EYEPIECE CLEARANCE SALE!!!

50+ eyepieces and filters for sale at rock bottom prices! Mostly 1.25". Inquire for availability and pricing

Adjustable
Observing
Chairs (2)



We also have an assortment of other items available at this time including: finders (various sizes), finder rings, 7x50 binoculars, focusers, telescope rings of various sizes, mirror blanks of many sizes, finished mirrors, mounted or unmounted, and much more!

If you want to keep an eye out for any desired equipment or telescopes let me know and I will put your request on my 'shopping list'!

To make inquiries about what is available or to express a desire to purchase one of listed items please contact: Douglas Smith at dsmith217@cox.net 520-396-3233.

Member Equipment for Sale

Don't forget, you can advertise the sale of your excess equipment in the TAAA Desert Skies Bulletin for free!

- All advertisements are for member-owned equipment. Members may not place ads for non-members.
- Advertisements are for one month. If you would like to run the ad for a longer period you must resubmit the ad each month.
- If you would like to show the item as sold in a following issue, you must send the sold notice to the editor.
- Each member may submit up to two ads per month.
- There are no formal ad restrictions. Please keep them brief. A small photo or two may be submitted. The editor has total discretion as to the formatting of the ads.

Buyers: The TAAA does not assume responsibility for the products sold or offered. It is the responsibility of individuals who posted the ad to reply to your message and confirm the legitimacy. There are risks which you assume when dealing with people who might be acting under false pretenses; all these risks are borne by you. The TAAA does not control the products offered by and to members. But please, let's all be honest with each other!

Public Astronomy Events



**DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY
AND STEWARD OBSERVATORY**

**Public Evening Lecture Series
Fall 2026**

Public Evening Lectures will begin at 7:30 PM in Steward Observatory Room N210.

Oct 5	Dr. Aafaque Khan Steward Observatory	The Universe in Ultraviolet: Tracing the Gas that Fuels Star Formation in Galaxies
Oct 19	Dr. Vasileios Paschalidis Steward/Dept. of Physics	Big G: The Ghost in the Machine
Nov 2	Dr. Tim Eifler Steward Observatory	The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, NASA's next Astrophysics Flagship Telescope - Launch and Science
Nov 16	Dr. Zarah Brown Lunar & Planetary Laboratory	Saturn's Rings: Ancient Icon or Cosmic Nepo Baby?

Fall Evening [Lecture Page](#)

Watch Each Lecture on Zoom [Here](#)



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

**LUNAR & PLANETARY
LABORATORY**

2026 LPL Evening Lecture Series

**Lectures at the Kuiper Space Sciences,
Room 308 and Zoom; 7-8 PM**

[Oct. 7, 2026](#) **Dr. Joellen Russell** Professor, Distinguished Professor
Department of Geosciences
University of Arizona

Our Ocean World: Habitable Climates

[Nov. 4, 2026](#) **Dr. Dante Lauretta** Regents Professor, Department of Planetary Sciences
Director, Arizona Astrobiology Center
University of Arizona

Bennu's Ancient Waters: Asteroid Samples and the Chemical Origins of Life

Click the graphic for the web site.



OCTOBER 1-3, 2026 | GREEN VALLEY, ARIZONA



There's nowhere in the world quite like the Southwestern United States. It's a place where dozens of cultures come together under one pristine sky to spread and build community, family, and the kind of research that generates awe in wonder about our place in the Universe. It's also home to the Northern Hemisphere's largest concentration of ground-based research observatories. Southwest Skies is bringing them to one place— Green Valley, Arizona— where you can enjoy lectures, activities, booths, star parties, and special access to our host: Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory's Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory, part of the Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian.



SOUTHWEST SKIES IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY



FRED LAWRENCE WHIPPLE
OBSERVATORY



GREEN VALLEY REC



TUCSON AMATEUR
ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION

Skyward

By Dr. David H. Levy
October 2026

The Book of Job

By Doveed

My eleventh grade high school English course, in 1965 and 1966, was fun and somewhat unusual. One of the books we studied was the biblical Book of Job. But there was a difference. We did not explore it as scripture, but instead we exploited it as literature. The story is simple. Job is tested by losing his family, his home, and his health. He is in such agony that he is reduced to scratching his skin with shards of glass.

Although Job complains bitterly to God, and some of his “friends” abandon him, he never loses his faith. In a lecture to them he insists:

“Who removeth the mountains, and they know it not,
Who shaketh the Earth out of her place
Who commandeth the Sun, and it riseth not
And sealeth up the stars.
Who maketh the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades?”

In this passage Job is offering a Geology 100 course not unlike the one I took at Acadia University. An original biblical explanation is that God has the power instantly to cause mountains to fall. But to me, what is far more obvious is that all mountains slowly vanish, even the lowly Adirondacks in upstate New York. When they were new they must have been enormous. But today, where we held our annual Adirondack Astronomy Retreat for more than 20 years, they remain magnificent and strikingly gorgeous. Earthquakes, with which most of us are familiar, occur in the following line. The third line checks up on who orders the Sun not to rise. The Sun does rise every morning, but on August 11, 1999, it did not rise. At least most of it didn't. An eclipse of the Sun was in progress, and from our cruise ship viewing site in the Atlantic Ocean south of Nova Scotia, about a quarter hour later a wondrous corona surrounded the body of the Sun as it entered total eclipse. During our cruise, there were some nights where the stars were easily sealed up and obscured by clouds.

The final line of Job's discourse points to the constellations, specifically Ursa Major, the Greater Bear whose Big Dipper is one of the most famous sights in the whole sky, Orion the hunter, “king” of the winter sky around the world, and the star cluster Messier 45, the Pleiades. Each feature is a stellar friend that I have delighted over throughout my life.

At the close, God speaks out of the famous whirlwind to answer Job:

“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth...
Canst thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades, or loose the bounds of Orion?
...or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?
Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven?”

This lecture strikingly combines and contrasts biblical ideas and portents with modern science. The foundations of Earth hark back to the creation story at the opening of Genesis. The second line repeats Job's query about the Pleiades and Orion, but God attests to the "sweet influences" these celestial features offer to those of us who love them. The next line mentions Arcturus, my Dad's favorite star, and the three fainter stars to the south of Arcturus that represent the sons. At the close, God invokes the ordinances, the accurate clockwork that sets our days and nights and years, of heaven.

The book closes with Job's enjoying a long life, a new family, and happiness for decades into his future. For me, Job invites me to continue my lifelong love of the night sky. I think also that Job suggests that my readers begin their own infatuation with the infinite harvest of celestial magic that beckons them every night at sunset.



Pleiades

Orion

Photos by Doveed



Dr. David H. Levy is a long-time member and former President of the TAAA. He is a well-known astronomy writer and discoverer of comets. He writes this monthly "Skyward" column for the Vail Voice and generously allows us to publish it here.

