2020 ALCON Information Paper

Host Club: The Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS)

Overall Schedule:
- 15 July 2020 – AL Council Meeting
- 16-18 July 2020 – 2020 ALCON Conference Days
- 19 July 2020 – Very Large Array (VLA) Tour

Location: Embassy Suites Hotel
- All rooms are two-room suites
- Lodging Rate: $129/night (Single or Double)
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Complimentary cook to order breakfast
- Complimentary evening reception
- 1000 Woodward Place Ne, Albuquerque, NM 87102
The Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS) is composed of over 410 members, making it one of the largest Astronomical Clubs in the United States. TAAS hosted the 1962 ALCON.

The TAAS Slogan is:

“Observe – Educate – Have Fun”

TAAS has many active programs for Public Outreach & Education including:

- Public Star Parties
- School Star Parties
- Astronomy 101
- General Meetings
- Cosmic Carnival
- Museum Events
- Amateur Telescope Building and Maintenance Sessions
- Perihelion Banquet

TAAS owns and operates the General Nathan Twining Observatory (GNTO):

- 4-acre dark sky site located 45 miles south of Albuquerque
- Main & Imaging Domes
- Cafe & Meeting/Bunking buildings
- 22 Observing Pads

The Society has a large loaner scope program with over two dozen scopes available to members.

Website: www.taas.org
Why Visit Albuquerque, New Mexico?

Known as the “Land of Enchantment”, New Mexico offers a rich scenic beauty and history. New Mexico surrounds its visitors with color and art, music and dance, breathtaking landscapes, and a heritage of Indian, Anglo, and Hispanic cultures.

Albuquerque was founded in 1706, more than 300 years ago. It is the 32nd largest U.S. City with a population of 559,270 (906,900 in the metropolitan area).
Albuquerque’s **Old Town** is a central plaza area that serves as a museum, cultural area, and center of commerce. It has 150 shops, restaurants, and art galleries.

**Museums:**
- NMMNH&S
  - NM Museum of Natural History & Science
  - Planetarium
- Explora Science Center
- National Museum of Nuclear Science & History

**Petroglyph National Monument**
One of the largest petroglyph sites in North America. It features designs and symbols carved onto volcanic rocks by Native Americans and Spanish settlers.
ABQ BioPark
The BioPark offers a Botanic Garden, Aquarium, Zoo, and access to the Rio Grande.

Sandia Peak Tramway
The Sandia Peak Tramway is the world's third longest single span. Its upper terminal is at 10,378 feet.
Hot Air Balloons!
Albuquerque is home to the Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum. Many visitors enjoy experiencing a Hot Air Balloon Ride during their stay.

Sports
Albuquerque offers a wide variety of sports opportunities. For cyclists there is the Paseo de Bosque Trail, a 16-mile multi-use trail that runs along the Rio Grande and connects to many other biking paths including the 50-mile loop. For hikers there is the La Luz and Pino Trail in the Sandia mountains. For baseball fans there is the Isotopes AAA Farm Club that is associated with the Colorado Rockies.
Nature and Cultural Sites
Albuquerque is home to the Rio Grande Nature Center, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, and the National Hispanic Cultural Center. All great places to visit and learn!

Breaking Bad Tours
Breaking Bad fans will be delighted to tour the show’s many filming locations in their favorite RV!
Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array

The VLA is a prime astronomical attraction. It comprises twenty-seven 25-meter radio telescopes deployed in a Y-shaped array and all the equipment, instrumentation, and computing power to function as an interferometer. A tour of the site will be offered for the day after the ALCON (19 July). An option to visit and do some observing near the Magdalena Ridge Observatory may be offered.

Contact Information
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