



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit



April 2009

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



Andy Allen "dials in" an object for the public at the March SBMNH monthly star party. Photo credit: Chuck McPartlin.

Outreach Summary

Since the last newsletter, AU volunteers Evelyn Alfago, Andy Allen, John Boyd, Chad Caprio, Bill Clausen, Tim Crawford, Joe Doyle, Ed Edwards, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Chris Larson, Dale Lowdermilk, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Edgar Ocampo, Erin O'Connor, Javier Rivera, David Salvia, Ryan Shapiro, Samantha Thompson & the Quasars, Vince Tobin (of VAAS), Tom Whittemore, and Tim Wittenburg showed cool stuff in the sky to 754 customers.

April Outreach Events

April starts out with an outreach bang with the "100 Hours of Astronomy" on April 2 through April 5. Even if you haven't signed up, come on out to one of our events and lend a hand! **Please note that these events also take the place of the normal monthly meeting and Star Party!**

We also have school science nights that are ending before it really gets dark, but the kids still enjoy

looking through the scopes at the landscape if the Moon isn't up, and the Sun is occasionally showing some action, so don't hesitate to join us.

Here are the AU events scheduled so far. To get the latest information on schedules, or directions, just contact Chuck at 964-8201 or macpuzl@west.net.

Thursday, April 2, 10 AM to 10 PM (100 Hours)

Solar, lunar, and night sky observing, and hands-on activities at the Camino Real Marketplace in Goleta, in the plaza between Borders and the theater.

Thursday, April 2, 5 PM to 8 PM (100 Hours)

Evening sky viewing, hands-on activities, and astrophoto and children's astronomy artwork display as part of State Street's First Thursday event in downtown Santa Barbara.

Friday, April 3, 10 AM to 10 PM (100 Hours)

All day at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

10 AM to 5 PM - Hands-on activities and solar and lunar viewing.

2 PM - Planetarium show: Astronaut.

2:30 PM - Rocket launch.

3 PM - Planetarium show: Exploring the Spring Sky.

4 PM - Free telescope raffle.

6 PM - Planetarium show: Astronaut (free).

6:30 PM - Lecture by UCSB professor Patrick McCray; "Amateur Astronomers and the Dawn of the Space Age"(free)

7:30 PM to 10:00 PM - Star Party (free).

Saturday, April 4, 10 AM to 5 PM (100 Hours)

Solar and lunar observations and hands-on activities at the Paseo Nuevo Mall.

Saturday, April 4, 7 PM to 10 PM (100 Hours)

Star Party at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

Sunday, April 5, 11 AM to 5 PM (100 Hours)

Solar and lunar observations and hands-on activities at the Paseo Nuevo Mall.

Sunday, April 5, 3 PM to 10 PM (100 Hours)

Telescope display, lunar viewing, and Star Party at Carpinteria State Beach, on Linden Lawn at the end of Linden Avenue.

Tuesday, April 7, setup 7 PM

Telescope Tuesday at the Camino Real Marketplace in Goleta, in the plaza between Borders and the theater.

Saturday, April 11, 6 PM

AU planning meeting in the classroom next to Javier's office. Anyone is welcome to attend and help plan your club's activities. Coming up next is Astronomy Day!

Thursday, April 16, setup 7 PM

Telescopes for the children attending the Ocean Futures events at El Capitan Canyon Campground. Contact Chuck for details.

Friday, April 17, setup 7 PM

Monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont's Carroll Observatory, next to Van Kampen Dormitory. **Pat & Chuck can't make this event, so please help out if you can.**

Thursday, April 23, setup 5:30 PM

Telescopes for Washington Elementary School's Science Night. They're at 290 Lighthouse Road, on the Mesa by Lazy Acres. We'll set up on the playground.

Friday, April 24, setup 7 PM

Telescopes for a training session for the docents at the Sedgwick Reserve who will be running the new Las Cumbres Observatory telescope being set up there. Contact Chuck for details.

Saturday, April 25, setup 7 PM

Telescopes for Los Padres National Forest Family Camp children at the Paradise Campground off Paradise Road.

Wednesday, April 29, setup 6:30 PM

Telescopes for a fundraising event for 5th graders at Roosevelt School, being held at a private residence on the Riviera. Contact Chuck for details.

Thursday, April 30, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes for UCSB Family Student Housing residents, at 736 Bolton Walk in Isla Vista, just west of the old FT towers.



Group photo of AU members attending the Griffith field trip in March. Photo credit: Ruben Gutierrez.

From Our President's Pen...

On March 7th, the Astronomical Unit traveled to the Griffith Observatory and enjoyed a star party put on by the Los Angeles Astronomical Society. LAAS President David Soverin was present with his club and the event was certainly an enjoyable one. The AU has given LAAS an open invitation to come to Santa Barbara and enjoy our club's hospitality, any time. With regard to International Year Of Astronomy 2009, more specifically, 100 Hours Of Astronomy, Galileo Galilei would have been very pleased to see the exceptional interest the communities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria have displayed in astronomy some 400 years after he first looked through his home made telescope. AU has been met with nothing less than welcome interest, enthusiasm, and helping hands when scheduling viewing and exhibition sites. Special thanks go to the Camino Real Market Place, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Paseo Nuevo Mall, and Carpinteria State Beach for allowing community access to their facilities and AU's telescopes and exhibits. As President I have been so impressed with the many AU members involved in this endeavor and wish to give them a hearty thumbs up! I would especially like to thank AU Outreach Coordinator Chuck McPartlin for his countless hours, late night stays, and just plain hard work in guiding AU toward its outreach goals. GREAT WORK CHUCK!

Next month, May 2nd, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, the AU will celebrate National Astronomy Day at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. This year AU will outdo itself by having all the participants, telescopes, and exhibits of 100 Hours of Astronomy, and more, in a single day! There will also be an astronomy Flea Market where our trusty equipment coordinator, Art Harris, will have his most shining day of the year. Art will have great deals on telescopes and related equipment that will be priced just right. There will be two free raffles of the largest and most sophisticated telescopes the AU has ever given away. The drawings will take place at 1:00 and 3:00 PM. The tickets will not cost you a single cent; you just have to be there to win. In addition to this, there will be a free telescope clinic prior to the star party that night (where you can bring your telescope and have our experts teach you how to use it). This free event will be open to the community and all are invited. See you there!





A replica of Galileo's telescope displayed in the Griffith Observatory. Photo credit: Ruben Gutierrez.

Telescope for Sale

Meade 14" LX200 GPS SCT, field tripod, 26mm eyepiece, and accessories as new in box. Purchased in December of 2005, used twice, stored indoors in box. Contact Jon Ahlroth at jr7works@msn.com.

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April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2  100 Hours of Astronomy!	3 100 Hours of Astronomy!	4 100 Hours of Astronomy!
5 100 Hours of Astronomy!	6	7 Camino Real Market Place 7PM	8	9 	10	11 AU Planning Meeting 6PM
12	13	14	15	16 Ocean Futures @ El Capitan Canyon 7PM	17  Westmont College 7PM	18
19	20	21	22	23 Washington Elementary 5:30PM	24  Sedgwick Reserve 7PM	25 Paradise Campground 7PM
26	27	28	29 Telescopes on the Riviera 6:30PM	30 Telescopes for UCSB Family Housing 7:30PM		

The Astronomical Unit

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