



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

April 2013

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



Shadow Puppets at the Bacara Resort: Tom Totton.

OUR APRIL MEETING

Our speaker this evening will be Elijah Quentin, a graduate student in astrophysics at UCSB. Quentin's research aims at the detection of black holes in the centers of nearby galaxies. More specifically, his work involves developing software to search nearly the entire Hubble Space Telescope archive to test theories about how these black holes form and evolve in their host galaxies as well as provide a laboratory to test Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. Elijah is also studying piano at UCSB and has performed locally in Southern California and as far afield as Germany. He has also given many lecture recitals and "salons" in which he invites the audience to share in more of the music than the typical concert setting allows. *For this month's talk, entitled "Harmony of the Spheres", he will reveal the parallel histories of Astronomy and Music and our ongoing quest to find numbers in nature.* This will be a great opportunity to test out the new sound system at Farrand Hall with a few astronomical notes!

OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last newsletter, AU volunteers John Boyd, Bill Clausen, Tim Crawford, Susan Jackson & John Edkins, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Chris Larson, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Gus Pravia, Rosemary & Al Rice, Javier Rivera & Zak Dafaallah & Julio Orozco & the Quasars, David

Salvia, Colin Taylor, Tom Totton, Tom Whittemore, Amalie Wilson, and Jerry Wilson showed cool stuff in the sky to 1145 people.

APRIL OUTREACH EVENTS

It's April, and it's getting dark later, but don't hesitate to join us. *We have two big events this month, so we'll need some extra help - April 20 is International Astronomy Day, and April 27 is thousands of Girl Scouts at Live Oak Camp!* 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

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 7 PM

Monthly AU meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Start with a short planetarium show, then hear about Astronomy and Music.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for Bacara Resort and Spa. We set up on their Miró Lawn. Contact Chuck for access if you haven't come before.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, SETUP 7:30 PM

Telescopes for UCSB students. Contact Chuck for location and parking particulars.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, SETUP 4 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Vieja Valley School, at 434 Nogal Drive, from 5 PM to 7:30 PM.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 5 PM

AU planning meeting in the classroom outside Javier's office at SBMNH.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 7:30 PM TO 10 PM

Monthly Public Star Party at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, SETUP 7 PM

Telescope Tuesday at the Camino Real Marketplace in Goleta, in the plaza by the theater.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

See the Lunar X along the terminator between about 4 PM and 7 PM.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Aliso School, 4545 Carpinteria Avenue in Carpinteria.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, SETUP 7 PM

Monthly Public Telescope Night at the Westmont observatory, next to the baseball field.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 10 AM TO 10 PM

International Astronomy Day at Camino Real Marketplace. Activities, solar viewing, telescope giveaway, and star party! In the central plaza by the theater.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, SETUP 7:15 PM

Telescopes for an Astronomy Night at Peabody Elementary School, at 3018 Calle Noguera in Santa Barbara.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for a Girl Scout campout at Live Oak Camp, between Rancho San Marcos Golf Course and Cachuma Lake on Highway 154, with the entrance by the golf course.

From the President's Pen...

Mike Farris

Hi AU'ers! I hope you had a wonderful March!

Ruben Gutierrez and Tom Totton attended the Santa Barbara County Science Fair to find the best project for the 2013 Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit's "Best Project in Astronomy Award." Zoe Reifel was the winner this year for her Solar Tracking Robot and was awarded a SBAU patch, ribbon and \$100 for her hard work and creativity.

Congratulations, Zoe, and all the best to you. It sounds like Zoe might be showing her project at our International Astronomy Day event coming up on April 20th at the Camino Real Marketplace, so we hope to see her there.

Paul Winn has been a busy guy with changing the SBAU website over to a new hosting company and lots of new changes on the site. The new hosting company Hostgator has better pricing and the tech support is top-notch which makes it easier for Paul

should we ever have problems. A really big thank you to Paul for all his hard work! So, when you get a chance, please go to <http://www.sbau.org> and check out the new changes and please give us your feedback.

We are also in the process of changing all the emails for AU officers and Board Members that will use the sbau.org address. The emails will have the position name, for example president@sbau.org. So check out the newsletter to keep updated on the changes and if you are an officer or Board Member and have not changed your email yet, please contact Paul at webmaster@sbau.org if you have any questions.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the April 5th meeting and have a terrific April.



For Sale...

Cave Astrola 1975 10-inch portable GEM F/5 Newtonian telescope with clock drive and setting circles. I am the only owner of this scope, and it is as it came from the factory, totally unmodified.

Package includes 8 X 50 finder with cross-hairs, 2-inch rack and pinion focuser with 1.25-inch insert, one 2-inch wide-field eyepiece, six 1.25-inch eyepieces, a 3X Barlow, slow-motion declination drive motor, and a custom made wood storage box for the OTA. The 2-inch eyepiece provides spectacular one-degree-plus deep-sky views! The scope easily breaks down into component parts, and I can fit it into the back of my Audi TT. OTA is in excellent condition; the mounting has some superficial scratches and marks. The F/5 focal ratio (Cave refers to it as a Richest Field scope) is unusual for this model, and it has become a collector's item, appreciating in value. Asking \$1,300.00. I can supply more photos and details if you are interested. Contact me at starryrobert@aol.com or call me at 805-680-5590.

The Arts Corner...

Cosmic 5%

*All our lives only 5 we see,
If Dark Energy and Dark Matter exist
Like Wimps, Neutralinos and more.*

*Let's find the other 95 so we know
Our Cosmos like never before!*

Jürgen Hilmer

Stay tuned...

Chuck McPartlin recently received a DVD from the County Education Office that has their "Innovations in Education" TV show. The program will air in April on Cox Cable channels 20 and 71. Half of the show is excerpts/interviews from an astronomy presentation up at Solvang School. Chuck says that they put in some pretty nice plugs for the AU. You can find the schedule for south county at:

<http://www.countyofsb.org/ceo/csbtv/schedule.aspx>

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Single = \$15 Family = \$25

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April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 PLUTO VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE THIS EVENING!	2 	3	4	5 AU MONTHLY MEETING 7PM	6 BACARA RESORT 7PM
7	8	9 UCSB 7:30PM	10 	11 VIEJA VALLEY 4PM (SETUP)	12	13 PLANNING MEETING 5PM STAR PARTY 7:30PM SBMNH
14	15	16 CAMINO REAL MARKET PLACE 7PM	17 LUNAR "X" VISIBLE THIS EVENING!	18  ALISO SCHOOL 5PM	19 WESTMONT COLLEGE 7PM	20 INT'L ASTRONOMY DAY 10AM-10PM
21	22	23	24	25  PEABODY SCHOOL 7:15PM	26	27 GIRL SCOUTS AT LIVE OAK CAMP 7PM
28	29	30				

The Astronomical Unit

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