



# AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit



August 2009

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



Pat and Chuck McPartlin set up for public star-gazing at the Biltmore this past June. Photo: Ruben Gutierrez.

## Outreach Summary

Since the last newsletter, volunteers Andy Allen, Chad Caprio, Marciano & Sabina Chan, Bill Clausen, Tim Crawford, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Chris Larson, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Helen Osenga, Javier Rivera & Samantha Thompson & the Quasars, Nancy Rohrer, Tom Whittemore, Tim Wittenburg, and Brandon Wood showed the night sky to 928 happy customers.

*I want to thank all the AU outreach volunteers for their extra efforts this last month when we needed help at events.*

## Outreach for August

Here are the AU events scheduled so far for the month of August. Events are subject to change, so to get the latest information on schedules, or directions, contact Chuck at 964-8201 or [macpuzl@west.net](mailto:macpuzl@west.net)

### Saturday, August 1, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake Campground. We set up on the grassy field at Dakota Plains. Pat and Chuck can't make this event, so we'll need a little extra volunteer turnout. Please come if you can! **Helen will have donuts!**

### Tuesday, August 4, setup 7:30 PM

Telescope Tuesday at the Camino Real Marketplace in Goleta. We set up in the plaza between Borders and the theater.

### Friday, August 7, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes for Carpinteria State Beach.

### Saturday, August 8, 6 PM

Planning meeting in the classroom next to Javier's office at SBMNH. Come plan your club's activities. All are welcome.

### Saturday, August 8, 8 PM

Monthly Public Star Party, next to Palmer Observatory at the SBMNH.

### Wednesday, August 12, setup 6:30 PM

Telescopes for the Biltmore. Contact Chuck for details.

### Friday, August 14, setup 7:30 PM

Telescopes for Refugio Beach State Campground, in the day use parking lot, southwest corner.

### Saturday, August 15, daytime

Solar telescopes for Hamfest at the Earl Warren Showgrounds. Details unavailable so far – contact Chuck closer to mid-month.

### Saturday, August 15, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake Campground. We set up on the grassy field at Dakota Plains.

**Friday, August 21, setup 7:30 PM**

Monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont College, just outside Carroll Observatory.

**Saturday, August 22, setup 7:30 PM**

Telescopes for Refugio Beach State Campground, in the day-use parking lot, southwest corner.

**Thursday, August 27, setup 6:30 PM**

Telescopes for the Moon at the Biltmore. Contact Chuck for details.

**Saturday, August 29, setup 7 PM**

Telescopes for Carpinteria State Beach.

Arrangements weren't finalized by press time, but we may have some Sunday events at the Bacara Resort and Spa. Details in a future email, or contact Chuck.



*What an elegant setting to view the stars! Photo credit: Chuck McPartlin.*

**Coming in September: 2010 Calendars!**

Back by popular demand are the Astronomy Calendars! Pat McPartlin, AU Treasurer, will have them at the AU meeting on Friday, September 4, 2009. Each costs a bargain price of \$10. That's lower than you'll find anywhere in town for such beautiful astronomical photos. Buy several! Christmas is coming! Pat will take cash (exact change is most appreciated!), or you can make your check payable to "Astronomical Unit" or "SBAU." Happy New Year!

**The President's Pen....**

*Ruben Gutierrez*

I hope the 4 of July sparkled enough for you and you celebrated the 40th anniversary of the moon landing. The Astronomical Unit certainly celebrated in style by having various star parties throughout the local area, including a "5 Star" star party at the Biltmore Santa Barbara Four Seasons Hotel. For just \$25 the public can now enjoy a star party fit for a king or queen. The next two will take place on August 12th and 27th, with setup at 6:30 PM. Please help if you can.

There was a great planning meeting in July (and an even better star party afterwards with 148 star gazers in attendance). The AU has always been a strong supporter of outreach; with the support of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, we will surely be taking a "giant leap for Mankind" by distributing the International Year of Astronomy 2009 "Galileoscope." Yes, they have finally arrived! All 500 of them! Thanks to SBMNH Astronomy Coordinator, Javier Rivera, the AU has obtained a batch of these scopes which will be provided to under-privileged children. For more information please contact Javier Rivera (see AU Information box). In another effort to help people experience the wonderful world of Astronomy, the AU, in collaboration with the Museum, has decided to sponsor a group of underprivileged star gazers in Mexico. More information about our plans for this outing will follow in the next issue of AU AstroNews. In addition, the AU is currently working on our official Astronomical Unit caps.

As we mentioned in the last issue, the AU has decided to continue celebrating IYA 2009 by being involved in the final world-wide IYA 2009 star party event taking place in the Fall (Oct 22nd-24th). We will also try to duplicate the tremendously successful star party in Carpinteria during 100 Hours Of Astronomy. The AU Fall Astronomy Day will take place in Carpinteria on Saturday, October 3rd. Details for this event will appear in the September AU AstroNews.

*As was mentioned in last month's issue, we will combine our annual starbecue and camp out at Cachuma Lake. This year, the Country Meat Market will barbeque the Tri Tip and chicken, and prepare a salad. The AU will also pick up the tab for parking. Mark your calendars: Sept. 25, 26, and 27 up at Cachuma Lake. Please bring a side dish to share with your friends.*

*Also, to say thank you for being involved with the AU, the first 40 people who sign up for the Annual Holiday Banquet in December will pay just \$30. Otherwise the cost is \$42. So, be one of the first lucky 40!*

Finally, I wish to thank John and Kelly Boyd, and Sylvelin Edgerton for renewing their AU memberships. Your membership helps the AU in providing the beauty of astronomy to all those who wish to know the wonders of the Universe.



"Oh, oh — looks like a blue shift."

### **Poet's Corner**

Walking in darkness, in awe,  
 beneath a billion indifferent stars  
 at quarter to six in the morning,  
 the moon already down  
 and gone, but keeping a pale lamp burning  
 at the edge of the west,  
 my shoes too loud in the gravel  
 that, faintly lit, so insubstantial it could,  
 on a whim, let me drop through it  
 and out of the day,  
 but I have taught myself  
 to place one foot ahead of the other  
 in noisy confidence  
 as if each morning might be trusted,  
 as if the sounds I make might buoy me up.

*Ted Kooser, Poet Laureate*

I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night.

*Galileo Galilei*

### **AU Information Box**

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(Leave a short message) **564-9002**

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### **SBMNH Astronomy Program Tape**

Updated monthly 682-4711x405

**AU AstroNews**, the monthly publication of the **Astronomical Unit (AU)**, is mailed to the AU membership. For publishing consideration for the next month, submit astronomical items by the 20th of the current month!

### **AU annual membership rates:**

**Single = \$15 Family = \$25**

### **AU mailing address:**

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**On the Web:** <http://www.sbau.org>

## August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Cachuma Lake 8PM
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Camino Real Marketplace 7:30PM	<b>5</b> ○	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Carpinteria State Beach 7:30PM	<b>8</b> Planning Meeting 6PM SBMNH Star Party 8PM
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Biltmore Star Party 6:30PM	<b>13</b> ◐	<b>14</b> Refugio State Beach 7:30PM	<b>15</b> Earl Warren Daytime Cachuma Lake 8PM
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> ●	<b>21</b> Westmont College 7:30PM	<b>22</b> Refugio State Beach 7:30PM
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> ◑ Biltmore Star Party 6:30PM	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Carpinteria State Beach 7PM
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

### The Astronomical Unit

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