



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

August 2010

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last newsletter, volunteers John Boyd, Tim Crawford, Kazue & Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Jeremy Kerby, Chris & Eric Larson, Zanna Lucy, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Max Neufeldt, Ron Nixon, Edgar Ocampo, Javier Rivera, Nancy Rohrer, Tom Totton, Tom Whittemore, and Paul Winn showed astronomical goodies to 1435 customers.



Mike Farris and his dog, Kobe, prepare for the Lopez Lake outreach this past July. Photo credit: A. Harris

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, just contact Chuck at 964-8201 or macpuzl@west.net

MONDAY, AUGUST 2, SETUP 7:30 PM

Telescopes for a group of students from the Music Academy of the West, at Cate School in Carpinteria.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, SETUP 8 PM

Telescopes for Refugio State Beach, in the day use parking lot at the southwest end.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, SETUP 8 PM

Telescopes for Carpinteria State Beach, just to the right before the main entrance, across from the ranger station.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, SETUP 7:30 PM

Telescopes for Starry Nights the Biltmore, on the Monte Vista lawn.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, SETUP 7:30 PM

Telescopes for UCSB students, at the west end of the lagoon. Contact Chuck for directions, as access to the area is limited.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, SETUP 7:30 PM

Telescopes for Refugio State Beach, in the day use parking lot at the southwest end.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 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 14, 8 PM

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, SETUP 7 PM

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, SETUP 7 PM

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, SETUP 7:30 PM

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, SETUP 7:30 PM

Telescopes for Carpinteria State Beach, just to the right before the main entrance, across from the ranger station.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, SETUP 7:30 PM

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



*Waiting for the skies to darken at this year's Star-B-Cue.
Photo credit: R. Gutierrez.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN...

Ruben Gutierrez

Viva La Fiesta! I'm sure a lot of our membership will be enjoying the annual Fiesta festivities in the Santa Barbara area, gazing at all the wonderful cultural events, and partaking of all that great food! But, the AU had a jump start to Fiesta with our recent annual Star-B-Q at the top of San Marcos Pass. I wish to thank Tim Crawford (aka Food Dude) and his sidekick, Tim Wittenburg, for spearheading the event. Although the summer months on the surface appear not to be as busy as the other months for our club, don't let our Outreach Coordinator Chuck McPartlin hear you say that.

The AU is in full summer mode and reaching out to hundreds of people wanting to take a look through a telescope. Which brings me to the special challenging project the AU has undertaken. During our outreaches there have been many instances where a wheelchair bound star gazer has wanted to take a look at what the Universe has to offer, but has had a difficult time due to the way our telescope mounts are designed. Chuck and his outreach crew have made every effort to accommodate individuals in wheelchairs, but the viewing experience has simply not been, well, stellar. Last year the AU hoped to provide some degree of viewing via a video camera and flat screen set up. This certainly has helped, but as we all know, there's just nothing like looking through a telescope. Since the end of the International Year Of Astronomy 2009, our own Jim Williams has taken on the challenge of designing a Handicapped Accessible Telescope that would provide the same wonderful views as the traditional telescope design. Well, Jim has come up with a most intriguing design, that will be mounted on top of a hydraulic lift. This design calls for specific types of metals, precision machining and welding and, of course, a quality telescope. Due to its uniqueness, this project is a very expensive one. I invite you to attend the August Planning Meeting that will take place on Saturday, August 14th, at 6 PM, at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, at which time we will be reviewing the final plans and talking about how we'll be able to fund this most important project. I hope to see you there, and at the star party immediately following. Oh, and don't forget, we start up our monthly General Meetings the first Friday of September!

AU STUFF FOR SALE!

Good news for the September meeting: Pat McPartlin, AU Secretary/Treasurer, will have all sorts of goodies for sale. The 2011 Astronomy calendars will be \$10 each; get them while they're here -- when they're gone, that's all! The AU Directory as of April 2010 is available for just \$1 each; find out who's who! (FYI, the AU will, of course, not include anyone who has opted out of being in the directory. Since the AU will try to make a directory each year, if you have any suggestions on format, font size, etc., please let Pat know.)

Other goodies include the first-ever AU tote bag! This cool bag has 3 outside pockets, two for water bottles. It is spacious inside with a zippered top, and best of all, sports the AU logo embroidered on the outside. The bags will go for \$25 each or 2 for \$40. Of course, the AU has patches, tee-shirts (long- and short-sleeved), sweatshirts (in various styles), and the SBAU baseball cap. If you don't see the size of clothing you want, no worries. Get on the order list -- just 12 orders allows the AU to get the lowest price possible. See you in September!

AU E-NEWSLETTER

For you who are receiving the AU AstroNews from the US Post Office, you may wish to consider receiving it by e-mail. When you've received a crumpled newsletter in your postal mail box, you may enjoy instead a pristine copy right to your e-mail address. If you'd like to give an e-newsletter a try, send an e-mail to Pat McPartlin, AU Secretary/Treasurer at parsnip7@yahoo.com to request to receive your monthly AstroNews via e-mail.



Who IS this handsome gentleman at the July Lopez Lake outreach, anyway? Photo credit: P. McPartlin.

A Special Thanks... The Newsletter staff would like to thank the TWO TIMS – **Tim Crawford and Tim Wittenberg** – for all the work they did this year to make the Star-B-Cue such a huge success!

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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

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

August 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ☾ CATE SCHOOL 7:30PM	3	4	5	6 REFUGIO STATE BEACH 8PM	7 CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH 8PM
8	9 ●	10	11 BILTMORE 7:30PM	12 UCSB 7:30PM	13 REFUGIO STATE BEACH 7:30PM	14 PLANNING MEETING 6PM SBMNH STAR PARTY 8PM
15	16 ☾	17 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	18	19	20 WESTMONT COLLEGE 7PM	21 CACHUMA LAKE 7:30PM
22	23	24 ○	25	26	27 CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH 7:30PM	28 CACHUMA LAKE 7:30PM
29	30	31				

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