



# AU AstroNews

## The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

August 2011

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

### OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last newsletter, intrepid AU volunteers Robert Bernstein, Warren Bitters, John Boyd, Sabine & Marciano Chan, Bill Clausen, Gaye & Sandy Cormack, Karleen & Dennis Cowan, Tim Crawford, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Jackson Kwiatkowski, Chris Larson, Zanna Lucy, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Rosemary & Al Rice, Javier Rivera & Mike Bennett & their Quasars, Nancy Rohrer, Colin Taylor, Cez & Tom Totton, Tom Whittemore, Jim Williams, Jerry Wilson, Paul Winn, and Tim Wittenburg showed the cool stuff in the sky to 1903 customers.



*A smiling Tim Wittenburg relaxes at the club's Summer Star Party this past July. Photo: Art 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](mailto:macpuzl@west.net)

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 8, SETUP 6:30 PM

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

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, SETUP 7 PM

Telescope Tuesday at the Camino Real Marketplace in Goleta. We set up in the plaza next to the theater.

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, SETUP 7:30 PM

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

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 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 13, 8 PM

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

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, SETUP 8 PM

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

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, SETUP 7 PM

Telescopes for UCSB students, at the west end of the lagoon. Contact Chuck if you're coming, as access to the area is strictly limited.

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, SETUP 7 PM

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

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, SETUP 7:30 PM

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

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 8 PM

Telescopes for campers at Lopez Lake, up by Arroyo Grande. Contact Chuck if you're planning to come, so we can arrange camping for Friday and Saturday night.

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN...**

*R. Gutierrez*

### ***Coming soon...***

Viva La "AU" Fiesta! There's nothing like Santa Barbara in August, with the annual Fiesta activities in full swing, that offers a universe of burritos, tacos, cascarones, and mucho Spanish dancing presentations. But, does this mean the AU will kick back and enjoy the parade? "No way, José." The month of August has a full schedule of events, which include the 5-Star Biltmore Hotel Starry Nights summer series, and a campout at Lopez Lake. Speaking of lakes, next time you're on YouTube make sure you enter SBAU and get a chance to listen in on one of Chuck McPartlin's presentations at Cachuma Lake this summer (may I have your autograph, Chuck?).

### ***AU Summer Star Party a success...***

While we're still on the subject of summer, for those of you who couldn't make it to the first annual AU Summer Star Party on top of San Marcos Pass, I hope you can go next year because it was simply astronomically fantastic! All the "Big Guns" were there and offered fabulous views of the Universe. The Milky Way could be clearly distinguished, along with majestic views of Saturn. This, along with an iridium flare that put on quite a display, a couple of bright meteors, and a pair of foxes to boot, really put on a great show. Thank you to all who made that scenic ride up there, and see you up there next time.

### ***Looking ahead...***

As you may know, the AU doesn't hold general monthly meetings during the months of July and August, although the monthly Planning Meetings never stop. However, September is right around the corner, and what a month it's going to be. We'll hold our first General Meeting on 9/2, conduct a full course of monthly star parties throughout the greater Santa Barbara area, hold our annual three-day camp out at Cachuma Lake starting on 9/23 (featuring a fabulous Bar-B-Q'd Tri-Tip & Chicken dinner - don't forget to sign up at the September General Meeting), and prepare to put on the first Fall Astronomy Day on 10/1 (which will take the place of our October star party at the Museum), followed by the very successful Avocado Festival where the AU will celebrate International Observe the Moon Night on 10/8! Wow! I wonder if there's

ever been a repeat winner for Astronomy magazine's "Out-of-this-world" award?

### ***Jim Williams' Gem...***

UC2 Update: Jim Williams has returned the UC2 to the shop in order to give the mount a final dolling up and paint job. Once it's back in service, the AU will start setting up star parties at some of the local nursing homes and give their residents a chance to look through a telescope - perhaps for the first time in their lives. Way to go, Jim! I look forward to next season's AU events, general meetings, star parties, and our ever-so-successful Members' Night Meeting and Holiday Dinner in December. Please keep checking the Outreach Summary in the AstroNews and participate in this world-class astronomy club of ours.



*Jim Williams shows off the UC2 with its new powder coat.*

### ***With a tip of my hat...***

Of course, the AU could not be successful without its members, and sponsorship from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. I wish to shout "Viva" to new members Duncan Payne, and Ellen Jackson & Roger Schlueter, and to renewing members Gordon Specht, Robert Bernstein, Dora

Drake, and Anne & John Cotton. Finally, I wish to say "Muchas Gracias" to all members for helping the AU live up to its motto of "Come See The Stars With Us."

*From the AU Summer Star Party, 2011...*



*Photo: Andy Allen.*



*Photo: Art Harris.*



*Photo: Mike Farris.*

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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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## August 2011

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

### The Astronomical Unit

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