



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

December 2015

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



The lunar eclipse last September. Photo: Dr. Bob Richard.

OUR DECEMBER MEETING

Our General Meeting will take place on Friday, December 4th at 7PM, to approve our 2016 Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit officer nominees and to listen to some great presentations by club members Art Harris, Dr. Bob Richard, and Jerry Wilson. Kim Miller will also present a request on behalf of AU rising star, Daniel Godinez, at the general meeting.

OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last newsletter, AU outreaches Andy Allen, Krissie Cook, Zak Dafaallah, Joe Doyle, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Sean Kelly, Chris Larson, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, John & Dennis Meyer, Janet & Martin Meza, Bonnie & Bruce Murdock, Susan & Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Javier Rivera & the Quasars, Tom Totton, and Sohit & Arnav Wadhwa showed the night sky to 918 happy viewers.

OUTREACH FOR DECEMBER

Here are the AU events scheduled so far for December. Remember, 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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7 PM

Monthly AU meeting in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Elections and Members Night.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for Bacara Resort and Spa. We set up on the bluff by the Ocean House.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, SETUP 6 PM

Telescopes and slide show for Santa Barbara Junior High School. We set up behind Marjorie Luke Theater on the campus, and get in via the gate on the East Ortega and North Quarantina intersection.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, GATHER AT 6 PM

Annual AU Holiday Party at Mulligan's, at the Municipal Golf Course, 3500 McCaw Avenue.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 5 PM

AU planning meeting, in the classroom next to Javier's office.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 7 PM

Monthly Public Star Party at SBMNH. Bring a scope and have fun showing goodies in the sky outside Palmer Observatory, or just show up and enjoy looking at them. Maybe the new observatory will be operational.

SUNDAY/MONDAY DECEMBER 13/14

Look for the annual Geminid meteor shower as soon as it's dark!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 7 PM

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for Bacara Resort and Spa. We set up on the bluff by the Ocean House.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, SETUP 7 PM

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for Bacara Resort and Spa. We set up on the bluff by the Ocean House.

Our Annual Banquet!

Don't forget to sign up for the annual AU Holiday Banquet, which will once again be at Mulligan's at the SB Municipal Golf Course. Entrees are Prime Rib and Salmon, and it's only \$30 per person. It all happens on Wednesday night, December 9, starting at 6 PM. Sign up now before all the seats are filled! We'll be doing the traditional gift exchange. If you want to participate, bring a small, wrapped gift (< \$20), and we'll take turns picking from the unselected gifts or stealing a previously revealed gift.

Time Travel

Tom Totton

The SBAU Holiday Party at Mulligan's Cafe (SB Golf Course) is coming up on Wednesday, December 9th. There is still room for about a dozen or so guests, so please sign up ASAP by sending an email to our Treasurer, Tim Wittenburg, and our Refreshment Coordinators, Janet & Martin Meza. The salmon and prime rib dinner cost is reduced to \$30 per person by the club and the parking is free. Come in by 6pm to talk with other members about your latest conquests in the universe while snacking on appetizers. Participate in the gift exchange by bringing a nice small astronomy related gift. Cash or check required by the December 4th meeting.

Lots of great activity in the past weeks (see some photos here <http://tinyurl.com/q7kls7c>): On November 3rd there was a talk on the Kepler exoplanets by Professor Kurtz, with some free posters being given out at the Fess Parker hotel. Outreach Coordinator, Chuck McPartlin, and his helpers earned a free campsite at Lake Cachuma for the weekend of the 6th. Saturday evening had the great potluck dinner for those who could make the trip. On the radio, 1290AM, KZSB, Chuck and I got some of Carl Sagan's quotes out with DJ Baron Ron Herron on the 9th (and 23rd). Listen up December 7 at 9am for the next biweekly show.

and on November 13th, we had a 2nd Friday talk, which Dale Lowdermilk called one of the best ever, by Professor Ruth Murray-Clay on finding exoplanets and, better yet, on how planets form around their stars.

BTW, the telescope workshop has been almost every Tuesday evening, 730-9pm, at the Broder building. Drop by to see how mirrors are made and tested, equipment constructed, or just to talk about astronomy. Tim Crawford might even tell a joke before he counts the scratches on his polished mirror!

At the time of this writing, the club is still trying to find a new owner for the Lunt 60mm solar telescope at a highly discounted rate. These telescopes rarely sell for less than their retail cost. Check with Paul Winn to see if it is still available. It will help us provide a computer for the new Museum of Natural History Palmer Observatory to run the new 20" telescope. Look for Javier Rivera to announce that the systems are ready for prime time by the next Star Party. All for now, see you at the next meeting, Friday, December 4th, to approve our 2016 Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit officer nominees and to listen to some great presentations by our club members, Art Harris, Bob Richard, and Jerry Wilson.

Night Sky

Nancy Rohrer

Walking up the hill at night
looking down on city lights
seeing them reflect way up high
in the dark and rounded sky.

Looking up I see many friends
they seem to go without end
there's Orion doing good deeds
Warrior, Hunter, keep us free.

Many more friends there to see
going far into eternity
glad to see Leo, the Twins and Bull
looking up will never be dull.

Enjoyed the walk and friendly chat
time to return and feed the cat
Keep star-gazing on the menu
I will be back to continue.

Astronomy

Nancy Rohrer

Specks of light in the night's sky
Countless have marveled from early on
What can be these twinkling stars
Making patterns so high above?

Who could let us know what they are?
Migrating birds know
Sunflowers might tell
People may have looked up
Would they let us know?

Two clay tablets from 700 B.C.
Found in Babylonia where it is written
the motion of stars and planets
how long the day and year
The first found written down.

So began the science of Astronomy
Could be the oldest of the sciences
There is evidence back to 2500B.C.
with Stonehenge and Egypt's Pyramids
that are lined up with the stars.

This gave Astronomy a good start
Now we have walked on the moon
Visited Venus and flown around Mars
We have learned so much and
there is so much more to learn.



"NGC253 looks this big in my scope!" Photo: T. Totton.

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Single = \$15 Family = \$25

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

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 SBAU GENERAL MEETING 7PM	5 BACARA RESORT 5PM
6	7	8 SB JUNIOR HIGH 6PM	9 ANNUAL AU HOLIDAY PARTY! 6PM	10	11	12 PLANNING MEETING 5PM STAR PARTY 7PM SBMNH
13 GEMINID METEOR SHOWER	14	15	16	17	18 WESTMONT COLLEGE 7PM	19 BACARA RESORT 5PM
20	21	22 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	23	24	25	26 BACARA RESORT 5PM
27	28	29	30	31		

The Astronomical Unit

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