



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

February 2011

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Dr. Tomasso Treu from UCSB's Physics Department will speak this evening about galactic evolution. His numerous research interests include early-type galaxies, galaxies in clusters, and high redshift galaxies.

OUTREACH REPORT

There were lots of clouds since the last newsletter, but outreach events carried on! Waterproof AU volunteers Andy Allen, Mike Bennett, John Boyd, Bill Clausen, Tim Crawford, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Jeremy Kerby, Justin & Tom King, Chris Larson, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Bob Richard, Javier Rivera & Quasars, Gary Schneider, Tom Totton, Tom Whittemore, and Jerry Wilson showed cool things in the sky to **808** customers.



Edgar Ocampo and Max Neufeldt share the skies with the public at Westmont College. Photo: T. Whittemore

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Here's the schedule so far for February. Remember, the events are subject to change and cancellation, so for the latest updates, contact Chuck at 964-8201 or macpuzl@west.net.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, SETUP 6 PM

Telescopes for kids and parents at St. Andrews preschool, on Arroyo Road near Auhay Drive in Goleta. The official address is 4575 Auhay Drive, but the entrance is off Arroyo.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 7 PM

Catch a quick planetarium show, followed by our monthly meeting at 7:30. This month's speaker is Dr. Tommaso Treu of UCSB, speaking about galaxy evolution.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, SETUP 6:30 PM

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for an astronomy night at Santa Ynez Charter School, at 3525 Pine Street.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 5 PM

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 7 PM

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, SETUP 5:30 PM

Telescopes for Family Science Night at El Camino School at 5020 San Simeon Drive in Noleta.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 7 PM

Monthly Westmont Public Telescope Night at the new observatory by the baseball field. The big 24-inch scope should be open for viewing.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, SETUP 5:30 PM

Telescopes for Family Science Night at Monroe School at 431 Flora Vista Drive on the Mesa.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, SETUP 5 PM

Telescopes for Ellwood Elementary School's Science Night. They're at 7686 Hollister Avenue in Goleta.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, SETUP 6 PM

Telescopes for docents at the Sedgwick Reserve, at the end of Brinkerhoff Avenue in the dark skies just below Figueroa Mountain.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 10 AM

Tentative date and time for solar scopes for a Science Saturday at Hope School.



Chuck McPartlin is all smiles at a recent Westmont College outreach. Photo: T. Whittemore

From The President's Pen

Ruben Gutierrez

Happy Valentine's Day. I hope you're ready to exchange sweets with your sweet. I know I have some sweet stuff to exchange with you. I'll start by noting that, although there was a record amount of rain in the Santa Barbara area last month, we were still able to start the year off well and actually held some star parties! This, in conjunction with our first general meeting of the year, which featured Dr. Jatila Van der Veen's presentation on the Planck satellite cosmology mission, gave the AU a good jump start into 2011. I also wish to congratulate all the AU members who obtained their Certificates of Appreciation from the NASA Night Sky Network "for sharing the wonders of the night sky and the inspiration of NASA missions with students, families, and your community." The AU takes great pride in distributing these awards and pins from NASA and JPL each year as a true reflection

of the extraordinary commitment our club has to conduct outreach events throughout the year.

GREAT JOB!

Our January Planning meeting is always an exciting one as we start the new year with a newly elected Board, and promising expectations for the future. This year's events include an AU-featured display at the Santa Barbara Public Library during the month of April. I hope you have time to drop by and check it out. May contains our biggest day of the year-International Astronomy Day. I won't give away everything we have planned until the next issue of the AstroNews, but suffice it to say that we will outdo ourselves. Another fun event is the annual Pot Luck in June - a great time to simply enjoy good food with good company. Keep an eye out for the big Members' AU Star Party in July on top of San Marcos Pass. And, if that's not enough to quench your thirst for the outdoors, our now deliciously famous annual campout is scheduled for September. We will also be joining other Astronomy clubs and put together a Fall Astronomy Day, and plans are in the works for a third appearance at the Carpinteria Avocado Festival. Wow, and this is just a quick and very short outline of events the AU has planned. I say short because we're going to try to match our 2010 scheduled outreach events that totaled 201 and shared the topic of astronomy with over 16,000 people. With your help, I'm confident we can make it!

A heads-up for the March General meeting. Due to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History having its annual members gala event on the first Friday of March, and remembering how difficult it was last year to find parking for the AU general meeting, we have changed the March meeting date from the 4th to the 11th (the second Friday of the month). The monthly Planning meeting and star party will still take place on the second Saturday (3/12). Mark your calendars.

Our new Secretary, Jim Williams, informed the group at the planning meeting that the AU currently has 134 members. I look forward to meeting all the members throughout the year during our many scheduled events, and relay my Valentine's Day heartfelt appreciation for your support of this community jewel known as the Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit.

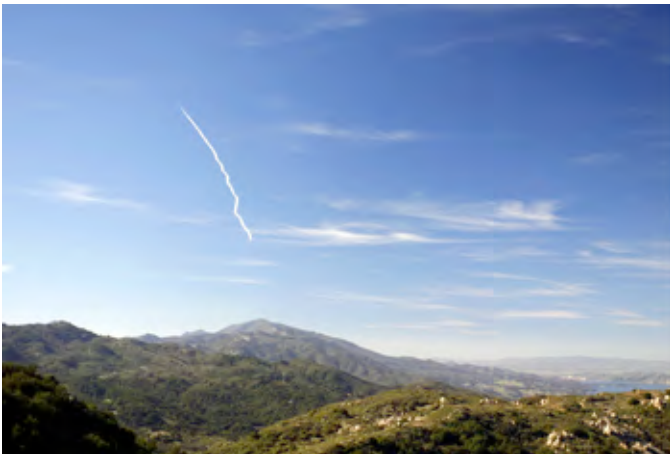
THE ARTS CORNER

The Universe

by Ibrahim Ibn Salma

I gazed at the stars,
As I raked the leaves,
Marveled at their
Seeding of the heavens –
I soared, I expanded,

My freed spirit could not
Be contained,
I embraced, I comprehended
The Universe,
As I trusted its unending flow,
And
My rake became the pen
For this art.



*A view of the Delta IV Heavy launch from Camino Cielo East.
Photo: D. Zagorodnov*

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AU annual membership rates:

Single = \$15 Family = \$25

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

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 ● ST. ANDREWS PRESCHOOL 6PM	3	4 MONTHLY AU MEETING 7PM	5
6	7	8 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 6:30PM	9	10 ● SANTA YNEZ CHARTER SCHOOL 5PM	11	12 PLANNING MEETING 5PM SBMNH STAR PARTY 7PM
13	14	15	16	17 EL CAMINO SCHOOL 5:30PM	18 ○ WESTMONT COLLEGE 7PM	19
20	21	22	23 MONROE SCHOOL 5:30PM	24 ● ELLWOOD ELEMENTARY 5PM	25 SEDGWICK RESERVE 6PM	26 HOPE SCHOOL 10AM - <i>TENTATIVE</i>
27	28					

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