



# AU AstroNews

## The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

February 2013

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



*Ruben and Javier pose with the award given to the AU by the SBMNH at the Legacy Award Dinner. Photo: Mike Farris.*

### OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Our speaker this evening will be our own Jerry Wilson, whose topic will be "Observing the Solar Eclipses of May and November 2012." Dr. Wilson has been an active amateur astronomer since he built his first telescope as a science fair project in the eleventh grade. Trained in condensed matter physics, his avocation has remained the night (and now daytime) sky. Jerry has focused on telescope fabrication and astroimaging for most of that time. Solar observing is a relatively new interest for him since he acquired a Lunt Hydrogen Alpha telescope early last year just in time for the May annular eclipse.

### 2012 OUTREACH SUMMARY

*We had a record year for outreach, with 233 events. There were 22 cloud-outs, but only 8 skunks, so people came despite the weather. We had over 100 volunteers helping out during the year, and 19,606 happy viewers total.* Folks with 6 or more events get their membership extended for a year, and those with 5 or more get a Night Sky Network recognition pin at the February meeting. The lucky membership outreachies are: Angela Bates, John Boyd, Anthony & Luis Castrejon, Bill Clausen, Karleen & Dennis Cowan, Tim Crawford, Joe Doyle, John Edkins, Mike Farris, Daniel

Godinez, Ruben Gutierrez, Mike Hardwick, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Chris Larson, Zanna Lucy, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Nancy Rohrer, David Salvia, Colin Taylor, Cez & Tom Totton, Rosemary & Al Rice, Javier Rivera, Tom Whittemore, Jim Williams, Patricia & Jerry Wilson, Paul Winn, and Tim Wittenburg. Additional NSN pin people are: John Martinez, Bob Richard, David Snyder, John West, and Barry White.

### JANUARY OUTREACH SUMMARY

2013 is off to a great start. AU volunteers Peter Angeloff, Angela Bates, Bill Clausen, Tim Crawford, John Edkins & Susan Jackson, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Chris & Eric Larson, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Amir Moshar, Max Neufeldt & Little Max Abatie, Edgar Ocampo, Rosemary & Al Rice, Javier Rivera + Julio Orozco + Zak Dafaallah + Quasars, Colin Taylor, Tom Totton, Tom Whittemore & David Snyder & Will Allison, Patricia & Jerry Wilson, and Paul Winn showed cool things in the sky to 968 viewers.

### 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](mailto:macpuzl@west.net).

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 7 PM

Catch a quick planetarium show, followed by our monthly meeting at 7:30 in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. This month we'll hear about Jerry Wilson's 2012 eclipse adventures in Australia.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, SETUP 6:30 PM

Slide show and telescopes for an astronomy night at the Goleta Public Library, 500 North Fairview Avenue in Goleta. The "star of the night" will be Jupiter.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, SETUP 6 PM**

Slide show and telescopes for Science Night at Goleta Valley Junior High School, 6100 Stow Canyon Road in Goleta. We'll set up scopes at the western end of campus, on the blacktop next to the playground.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, SETUP 5:30 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.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 5 PM**

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

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 7 PM**

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, SETUP 5:30 PM**

Telescopes for Science Night at Foothill School, at 711 Ribera Drive in Goleta. They will have a gate open for us at the NW corner of the playground, off Cathedral Oaks.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 7 PM**

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 7 PM**

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, SETUP 5:30 PM**

Telescopes for Santa Barbara Community Academy, on the southeast side of La Cumbre Junior High, 850 Portesuello Avenue in Santa Barbara.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, SETUP 5 PM**

Telescopes for Ellwood Elementary School's Science Night. They're at 7686 Hollister Avenue in Goleta. We set up on the blacktop out back.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, SETUP 4:30 PM**

Telescopes for Science Night at El Camino School, 5020 San Simeon Drive in Goleta. We set up on the sidewalk in front of their auditorium. *Pat and Chuck can't make this one, so we need help!*

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, SETUP 6 PM**

Telescopes for an astronomy night at UCSB, for the Santa Ynez dorms, on the west side of the intersection of El Colegio and Los Carneros. We'll set up on the lawn at the western edge of the center area of the dorm complex.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, SETUP 5 PM**

Telescopes for an astronomy night at Santa Ynez Charter School, at 3525 Pine Street in Santa Ynez. We get in through a gate at the end of Tyndall Street.

*From the President's Pen...*

*Hi AU Members,*

I wanted to keep up the tradition of the "President's Pen" like our amazing past president Ruben did, but in saying this, I have to inform Ruben that I will not be returning the red boots back to him. Sorry, Ruben!

All kidding aside, Ruben did an outstanding job as the AU President, and it was an honor serving with him as the VP. I hope I can follow in his footsteps, but without the red boots. I don't really think I would look good in red boots, anyway.

I have some exciting news about the JPL tour. I now have us scheduled for the 28th of August. I'm very excited and it should be an exciting tour. So here are the details: The cost is \$18 per person, which includes the bus ride, JPL tour, and seeing the Space Shuttle at the California Science Center. It does not include lunch.

We will leave from the museum at 8:00 AM and first head to the Space Shuttle. Next we go to lunch as a group (if you have any ideas where you would like to go please let me know your ideas). After lunch we go to JPL where the tour lasts from 1:00 to 3:30 PM – then we return home. Yes, it does have to end.... Bummer. We have room for a total of 47 people, so I suggest you contact our treasurer, Pat McPartlin, and give her your money. This event will sell out fast.

On the 17th of January, I and nine others had the privilege of attending the Legacy Award Dinner that the AU received for its outstanding work with the Museum. We are the only group that has

received this award and what an achievement it is! We had a great time and really good food and wished that you all could have been there, because really, it was you, the AU members that have made this such a world class club and I thank you a million times you for that, so pat yourself on the back.

I am looking forward to keeping the club up and running like a fine violin, and would love to hear from club members. Your ideas will keep this the best AU club in the world. Oh, and don't forget to help out with the outreaches as much as you can. See you at the meeting on February 1st and watch out for falling meteors so you don't get duck feet.

*Mike Farris*

### *Arts Corner...*

#### **Star Wedding**

I kiss them when  
The sun and the moon  
Are not looking:

Why are they so shy  
Before me?

Haven't they witnessed someone engaged  
In love-making?

Isn't the groom's right  
To marry them?

The Big Dipper,  
The Pleiades,  
The Sirius.

I stop at the heaven's jewelry store,  
Three diamond rings I buy,

To heavenly composed music  
I walk down the aisle,  
Along the Sky-Dark boulevard,

Wedded to their  
Radiant light.

*Ibrahim Ibn Salma*

### **Astrophysicist to lecture in Santa Barbara**

Neil deGrasse Tyson (whom Time magazine calls "The Carl Sagan of the 21st century") will be giving a talk on May 2, 2013, at 8pm, at the Granada Theatre. Unfortunately, the AU was not able to obtain a group rate. To find information on availability and tickets, please use (805) 893-3535, or the website: [www.ArtsAndLectures.UCSB.edu](http://www.ArtsAndLectures.UCSB.edu).

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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**

#### **AU mailing address:**

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## February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 AU MONTHLY MEETING 7PM	2 GOLETA PUBLIC LIBRARY 6:30PM
3 	4	5 GOLETA VALLEY JHS 6PM	6 ST. ANDREWS PRESCHOOL 5:30PM	7	8	9  PLANNING MEETING 5PM STAR PARTY 7PM SBMNH
10	11	12 FOOTHILL SCHOOL 5:30PM	13	14	15 WESTMONT COLLEGE 7PM	16
17 	18	19 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	20 SB COMMUNITY ACADEMY 5:30PM	21 ELLWOOD ELEMENTARY 5PM	22	23
24	25 	26 EL CAMINO SCHOOL 4:30PM UCSB 6PM	27	28 SANTA YNEZ CHARTER 5PM		

### The Astronomical Unit

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