



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit



January 2010

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

December Outreach

Since the last newsletter, AU volunteers Mike Farris, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Bob Richard, Javier Rivera, Tom Totton, and Tom Whittemore showed cool sky stuff to 478 customers.

2009 Outreach Summary

With all the IYA2009 events, this was an outstanding year for outreach! *We had 191 events, and at least 65 AU volunteers* who helped out at events. Here's how the last five years stack up:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Events</u>	<u>AU Volunteers</u>	<u>Total Customers</u>
2005	99	52	7,473
2006	114	50	8,316
2007	88	40	7,116
2008	122	60	9,132
2009	191	65	15,398

As a reward, AU volunteers helping out at six or more outreach events in a year get their AU membership extended for a year. This year's list (and event count) is: Chuck McPartlin (122), Pat McPartlin (71), Edgar Ocampo (58), Art Harris (55), Mike Farris (29), Ruben Gutierrez (27), Javier Rivera (26), Andy Allen (22), Tom Whittemore (22), Tim Crawford (19), Tim Wittenburg (18), Chad Caprio (15), Chris Larson (15), Carolyn & Ed Edwards (15), Samantha Thompson (14), Helen Osenga (13), Tom Totton (11), Jürgen Hilmer (10), Nancy Rohrer (9), Joe Doyle (9), Max Neufeldt (9), Bill Clausen (8), David Salvia (7), and Bob Richard (6). A big **THANK YOU** to all the AU volunteers who participated throughout the year!

We'll be needing lots of volunteers throughout 2010 for public events (especially the 2,000 Girl Scouts on May 1). Please come out and share your love of astronomy with the community. It's loads of fun, so don't feel shy or intimidated! Our veterans will gladly show you the ropes.

January Events

Here's what's scheduled so far for January. Let's hope the weather cooperates! Remember, events are subject to change, so for the latest updates, contact Chuck at 964-8201 or macpuzl@west.net.

Friday, January 8, 7 PM - Not First Friday -

Our first monthly meeting of the year. We'll have Members' Night presentations, including a planetarium show by Javier, and astronomy rap.

Saturday, January 9, 5 PM

Monthly AU planning meeting in the classroom outside Javier's office. Come help your club plan our activities for the coming year.

Saturday, January 9, 7 PM

Monthly SBMNH Star Party. Bring a scope, or just come out and mooch some views of the winter sky.

Thursday, January 14, setup 6 PM

Telescopes for Vieja Valley School, at 434 Nogal Drive.

Friday, January 15, setup 7 PM

Monthly Westmont Public Telescope Night. The big 24-inch scope should be open for viewing.

Tuesday, January 19, setup 6:30 PM

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

Wednesday, January 20, setup 6 PM

Telescopes for Isla Vista School, at 6875 El Colegio Road.

Thursday, January 21, setup 5 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Monte Vista Elementary School, at 730 North Hope Avenue in Santa Barbara.

Thursday, January 28, setup 6 PM

Telescopes for Science Night at Foothill Elementary School, at 711 Ribera Drive in Goleta.

In Memoriam

Helen Osenga, long-time AU member, SBMNH docent, Cachuma Lake Nature Center (CLNC) docent, and extraordinary volunteer, passed away on November 30, 2009, after a short illness. She requested no services. Friends may salute her with their favorite wine. Along those lines, the CLNC folks are hoping to have a Celebration of Life for her at Cachuma Lake in 2010 (with possible boat tour and planting of a tree), and have invited anyone from the AU and Museum to attend. The CLNC folks will meet after New Year's to plan a date. If you're interested in joining this event, please contact Pat McPartlin, at e-mail of parsnip7@yahoo.com or phone of 964-8201. Please do so as soon as possible. Pat will make a list of interested folks to contact, when the CLNC folks let Pat know the details.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN....

Ruben Gutierrez

Well, 2010 has arrived and the AU is enthusiastically looking toward the coming months! But, before I get to that, I wish to take a second and thank Pat McPartlin and Tim Crawford for spearheading the AU's Annual Holiday Banquet that took place last month. The sell-out event was a great time by all! In thinking back to last year, The International Year of Astronomy 2009 taught our members so much, and we're eager to share not only what we learned about astronomy, but what our membership can do when we work together. The new year comes with newly reinstalled Board Members, but with a change. After years on the Board, which includes three as President, veteran member Tim Wittenberg has decided to now be a member at large. Tim will (thankfully) continue to participate actively in the monthly Planning Meetings. I wish to give Tim a huge **THANK YOU** for his dedicated work and expertise these many years and look forward to his continued expert advice and wisdom in the administration of the AU! In the meantime, Pat McPartlin will take on the combined position as Secretary/Treasurer, with Tim Wittenburg as back up.

The AU has many events scheduled for this year, and I wish to mention a few at this time. In addition to the variety of star parties Outreach Coordinator Chuck McPartlin has scheduled almost weekly throughout 2010, the AU will also be having some key events for the community to enjoy. One such event will be International Astronomy Day 2010, which will take place at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History on April 24. I'm very excited about this as it will have new and interesting exhibits, plenty of Galileoscopes to give out, lots of telescopes to look through, hands-on projects, and fantastic raffle prizes that include a Deluxe 8-inch Dobsonian Telescope and Celestron Skyscout! And, the following week may prove to be an even bigger outreach event when the AU travels to Live Oak campground, where we will set up our telescopes to share with what is expected to be a group of 2,000 Girl Scouts! A more quiet event will be our annual Pot Luck in June where the members will be able to share their favorite dish with the Club in the beautiful surroundings of the SBMNH. This will be followed by the annual Star-B-Que at the Gun Club in July. This event, and the annual campout, will feature delicious barbecued tri-tip

and chicken from the Country Meat market. One of our big events toward the end of the year will be in Carpinteria on October 2, during the annual Avocado Festival, where thousands will enjoy the food and view deep-sky goodies and brilliant Jupiter through the Club's telescopes.

With the many star parties the AU has conducted, it's become clear that we must have a telescope set up that is wheelchair accessible. Since this is no easy task, the AU has decided to undertake this project with veteran member Jim Williams. Jim has already submitted some preliminary drawings for the endeavor. The AU is determined to engineer a working and practical wheelchair accessible telescope so that all the community might enjoy the night skies.

As you can see, the AU is not just the local astronomy club. It's also a part of this community. With the support and sponsorship from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, we have been able to touch thousands of lives by showing them a view of the heavens that they may never have seen before. Of course, the real magic comes from the membership. So, I wish to thank the renewing members Bari Federspiel, Marvin and Janie Johnson, Gerald Kopache, Jiri Polivka, John West, and Jim Williams for their continued involvement with The Astronomical Unit.



"There's some light coming from it. We'll just have to assume it's a dark gray hole."

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AU annual membership rates:





Single = \$15 Family = \$25

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January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Bacara Outreach 6PM	2 Earth at perihelion – hold on tight!
3	4	5	6	7 	8 AU General Meeting 7PM Members' Night!	9 Planning Meeting 5PM SBMNH Star Party 7PM
10	11	12	13	14 Vieja Valley School 6PM	15  Westmont College 7PM	16
17	18	19 Camino Real Marketplace 6:30PM	20 Isla Vista School 6PM	21 Monte Vista School 5PM	22	23 
24	25	26	27	28 Foothill Elementary 6PM	29	30 
31						

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