



# AU AstroNews

## The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

January 2012

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

### 2011 OUTREACH SUMMARY

For 2011, the AU had 226 scheduled outreach events. Of these, 19 were cancels, cloudouts, or media events like radio or newspaper articles, leaving 207 attended events. Our total number of customers so far is 15,048. Outreach credit was earned by 78 volunteers, who contributed just over 3,000 person-hours of astronomy outreach effort. The following volunteers participated in the (at least) 6 outreach events needed to get their AU membership extended for a year: Andy Allen, John Boyd, Bill Clausen, Karleen & Dennis Cowan, Tim Crawford, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Jackson Kwiatkowski, Chris Larson, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Rosemary & Al Rice, Bob Richard, Javier Rivera, Nancy Rohrer, David Salvia, Colin Taylor, Cez & Tom Totton, Tom Whittemore, Jim Williams, Jerry Wilson, Paul Winn, and Tim Wittenburg. Thanks to everyone who contributed to making us one of the leading outreach clubs in the nation!



*Taking a peek through a Galileoscope at this year's Avocado Festival.*

### OUR JANUARY MEETING

Kick off the New Year with our first meeting of 2012 with a talk by Howard Royster on his novel way of tracking objects, based on video cameras and pattern recognition!

### OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last newsletter, AU volunteers Bill Clausen, Karleen & Dennis Cowan, Tim Crawford, Carolyn & Ed Edwards, Mike Farris, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Ramsey Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Jackson Kwiatkowski, Chris Larson, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Javier Rivera, David Salvia, Tom Totton, Carolyn Turner & Matt Woodall, and Tom Whittemore showed cool astro stuff to 738 customers.

### OUTREACH FOR JANUARY

Here's what's scheduled so far for January. Just help out at six AU outreach events in a year, and your membership gets extended a year. What a deal! Remember, events are subject to change, so for the latest updates, contact Chuck at 964-8201 or [macpuzl@west.net](mailto:macpuzl@west.net).

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, SETUP 8:30 PM

Telescopes to El Capitan Canyon Resort for a group from Heritage Retreats. We'll set up on the grassy area in the Mesa Yurts section, in the middle of the campground.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 7 PM

Catch a quick planetarium show by Javier, followed by our first monthly meeting of the year. Our speaker this evening will be Howard Royster who will talk about his creative technique of tracking celestial objects by means of video cameras and pattern recognition.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 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 14, 7 PM**

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

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, SETUP 7 PM**

Monthly Westmont Public Telescope Night. The observatory is next to the baseball field, and the big 24-inch scope should be open for viewing. To check the status of the viewing if the weather looks iffy, call the Westmont Telescope Viewing Hotline at 565-6272.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 23, SETUP 6 PM**

Telescopes for Science Night at Coastline Christian Academy, in Goleta on Cathedral Oaks near the northeast corner with Fairview.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 7 PM**

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

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, SETUP 7 PM**

Telescopes for third graders at Vieja Valley School, at 434 Noyal Drive.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, SETUP 6PM**

Telescopes for Bacara Resort and Spa. We set up on their Miró Lawn. Contact Chuck for access if you haven't come before.

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

*Ruben Gutierrez*

***Thanks***

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE! 2011 was certainly a banner year that ended with the election of officers during "Members Night" (FANTASTIC VIDEO, MICHAEL FARRIS) and the always deliciously fun AU end of the year Holiday Party. I wish to thank the membership for showing your support of all the AU Officers by re-electing us to serve another term, and supporting the appointed positions as well.

***New AU Prez Needed in 2013***

This will be my fourth and final term as your President, and I want to make 2012 the best year of my service to the Club. It will be no easy task, as 2011 was, well, literally one for the books based on being the number one astronomy club in the nation per Astronomy Magazine. But, I know we can do it!

***Rough and Tough AU Board?***

We have a veteran Board, proven tough by enduring the 100 Hours of Astronomy during International Year of Astronomy 2009, community-oriented as demonstrated by our "prolific" outreach program, and skillfully innovative as illustrated by the creation of the UC2 wheelchair-accessible viewing system. All this, combined with the sponsorship from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History will most assuredly result in yet another year of success for the AU.

***Earn Free Membership by Participating in 6 or More Outreaches Each Year***

As always, just keep in mind that having a calendar full of events throughout the next 12 months will take plenty of people power. So, keep that AstroNews close at hand and sign up to take part in this most active club of ours.

***2012 International Astronomy Day in Goleta, Saturday, April 28, 2012***

As was mentioned earlier, for the first time in recent memory, the AU will not be celebrating International Astronomy Day at the SBMNH. On Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be setting up our many displays, demonstrations, and telescopes at the Camino Real Marketplace, aka "Big Box" in Goleta. This is an exciting time for us, as we anticipate increasing our public contact significantly. This will happen in two ways. The Big Box is located in an area where thousands of people gather every Saturday and will have easy access to the Club's exhibits and hardware, which will, of course, include a display submitted by Museum Astronomy Programs Manager, Javier Rivera.

***Museum Astro Day, August 11, 2012***

This will be a wonderful day that may only be matched by the first ever Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Astronomy Day on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Javier has plans that will involve the entire Museum campus and offer even more ways to enjoy the science of astronomy than ever before.

***Fun Year for 2012***

When we consider these two spectacular events, along with the multitude of Science Nights, the monthly star parties at the museum and Westmont

College, along with special events such as the Transit of Venus in June, the Summer Star Parties series at the 5-Star Biltmore Hotel, our AU Summer Star Party at the Gun Club, the AU camp out at Cachuma Lake, and our 4<sup>th</sup> straight year setting up our scopes and displays at the Carpinteria Avocado Festival, the AU is set to have yet another fantastic and fun-filled year, with the crowning jewel being the opening of the Museum's newly renovated and expanded observatory with a new incredible telescope!

***Suggestions, Comments, Ideas?? Tell the AU Prez***

As President, I need to hear from you. Our Club is always looking for new ways of enjoying astronomy and sharing it with all those who wish to have a glimpse of the universe and understand it just a bit more. I would like to hear of your ideas and suggestions as what our club can do, or what you can do for the club. Please feel free to drop me a line at [rubenalgag@aol.com](mailto:rubenalgag@aol.com) and let me know what you have to say, or if you want to add something for our next planning meeting agenda, which is held every second Saturday of the month.

***New and Renewing Members***

This month I would like to give a blazing iridium flare welcome to new members: Arn Adams and Page Hiller-Adams, Allen Cohen, Chuck Keyser, and Patty Malone; and, a solar flare thank you to renewing members: Laurence Harms and Yming Li. A club is only as good as the members that make it up, and boy, do we have great members!

**AU Information Box**

**President:** Ruben Gutierrez 450-7451  
[rubenalgag@aol.com](mailto:rubenalgag@aol.com)  
**Vice President:** Mike Farris 637-3300  
[mike@mikewfarris.com](mailto:mike@mikewfarris.com)  
**Secretary:** Jim Williams 588-8823  
[j\\_alison\\_w@hotmail.com](mailto:j_alison_w@hotmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** Pat McPartlin 964-8201  
[parsnip7@yahoo.com](mailto:parsnip7@yahoo.com)  
**Outreach:** Chuck McPartlin 964-8201  
[macpuzl@west.net](mailto:macpuzl@west.net)  
**Webmaster:** Paul Winn 886-2319  
[paul@sbau.org](mailto:paul@sbau.org)  
**Newsletter:** Tom Whittemore 687-2025  
[kometes@aol.com](mailto:kometes@aol.com)  
**Equipment:** Art Harris 968-4017  
[n6is@cox.net](mailto:n6is@cox.net)

**SBMNH Astronomy Programs Manager**

Javier Rivera 682-4711x173  
[jrivera@sbnature2.org](mailto:jrivera@sbnature2.org)

**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:**

Astronomical Unit  
c/o Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
2559 Puesta Del Sol Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105-2998

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

## January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 EL CAPITAN RESORT 8:30PM	4	5	6 GENERAL MEETING 7PM	7
8 	9	10	11	12	13	14 PLANNING MEETING 5PM STAR PARTY 7PM SBMNH
15	16 	17	18	19	20 WESTMONT COLLEGE 7PM	21
22 	23 COASTLINE CHRISTIAN 7PM	24 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	25 VIEJA VALLEY SCHOOL 7PM	26	27	28 BACARA RESORT 6PM
29	30	31 				

**The Astronomical Unit**  
 c/o Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
 2559 Puesta Del Sol Road  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93105-2998