



# AU AstroNews

## The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

January 2013

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History



*AU members pose for a group photo in front of the Griffith Observatory. Photo: Mike Farris.*

### OUR JANUARY MEETING

Our speaker this evening will be Ferenc Pavlics whose topic is "The Development of the Apollo Lunar Rover and the Mars Roving vehicles." Ferenc was born in Hungary and graduated from the Technical University of Budapest in 1950 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He left Hungary in 1956 for the United States and worked in the General Motors Research Laboratory first in Detroit, then in Santa Barbara, California in the field of mobility research. In the 1960s he worked on several lunar vehicle contracts with NASA culminating in the development of the Apollo Lunar Roving Vehicle. He was the chief engineer for GM's part of the LRV.

In the 1970s GM transferred him to Europe where he organized the production of the Opel Corsa cars in a newly-established GM factory in Spain. After retiring from GM he participated in the design of the Mars Pathfinder Rover and the Mars Exploration Rovers as a consultant to JPL. He was awarded the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary in 2008.

### OUTREACH SUMMARY

Since the last newsletter, AU volunteers Angela Bates, Anthony & Luis Castrejon, Bill Clausen, Karleen & Dennis Cowan, Tim Crawford, Joe Doyle, Mike Farris, Tony Galván, Daniel Godinez, Ruben Gutierrez, Art Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Janet & Martin Meza, Max Neufeldt, Edgar Ocampo, Rosemary & Al Rice, Javier Rivera & Julio & Zack & Quasars, Colin Taylor, Tom Totton, Barry White, Tom Whittimore, and Jerry Wilson showed cool astro stuff to **1009** visitors. Not bad for a month with some cloudy weather! ***A quick look at our totals for 2012 (not all events have happened yet) shows we had a record year for public attendance, with a total of over 19,000. A big THANK YOU to all the hard-working outreach volunteers!***

### 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).

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 7 PM

Catch a quick planetarium show by Javier, followed by our first monthly meeting of the year in Farrand Hall at SBMNH. Our speaker is Ferenc Pavlics who will talk about "The Development of the Apollo Lunar Rover and the Mars Roving vehicles."

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 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 12, 7 PM

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

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 7 PM**

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

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, SETUP 5 PM**

Telescopes for McKinley School, at 350 Loma Alta Drive in Santa Barbara. We'll probably set up on their front lawn.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, SETUP 6 PM**

Monthly Westmont Public Telescope Night at their observatory, next to the baseball field. *To check the status of the viewing if the weather looks iffy, call the Westmont Telescope Viewing Hotline at 565-6272.* The Lunar X will be visible from 10:32 PM until moonset this evening.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, SETUP 6 PM**

Telescopes for third graders at Vieja Valley School, at 434 Nogal Drive. We set up on the playground, at the NW side of campus.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, SETUP 5 PM**

Telescopes for Science Night at Monte Vista School, at 730 North Hope Avenue in Santa Barbara. We set up on the south side of the campus, near the kindergarten playground.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, SETUP 6 PM**

Telescopes for Anacapa School, at 814 Santa Barbara Street in Santa Barbara. Contact Chuck for setup arrangements.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, SETUP 5:15 PM**

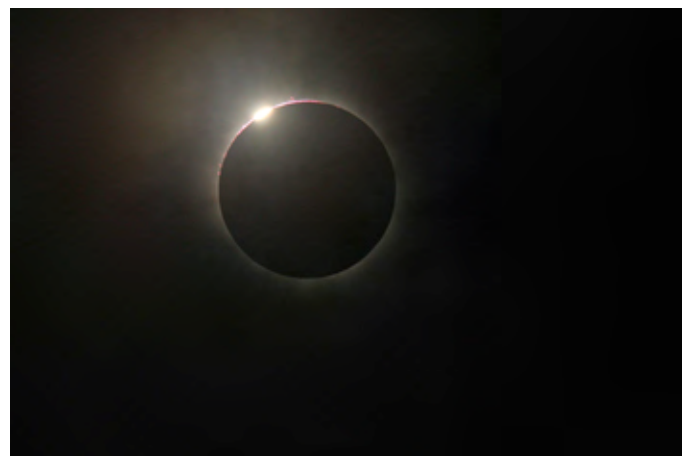
Telescopes for Science Night at Brandon School, at 195 Brandon Drive in Goleta. We set up in their central courtyard.

**OF INTEREST**

The Science and Engineering Council of Santa Barbara's January 10 Luncheon Meeting will feature Dr. Claudio Campagnari of UCSB and CERN, speaking about the Higgs Boson. The meeting will be from noon to 1:30 at the Elephant Bar Restaurant by the airport. Admission is \$15 for SEC members, and \$25 for non-members, payable by cash or check at the door. [www.scieng.org](http://www.scieng.org)

***Arts Corner...***

*Club member, Jerry Wilson, took the following wonderful set of images of the recent total solar eclipse near Queensland, Australia. Note the "diamond ring" effect in the last image.*



## CANIS MAJOR

The great Overdog,  
That heavenly beast  
With a star in one eye,  
Gives a leap in the east.  
He dances upright  
All the way to the west,  
And never once drops  
On his forefeet to rest.  
I'm a poor underdog,  
But to-night I will bark  
With the great Overdog  
That romps through the dark.

*Robert Frost, 1928*

## ALDEBARAN AT DUSK

Thou art the star for which all evening waits--  
O star of peace, come tenderly and soon,  
Nor heed the drowsy and enchanted moon,  
Who dreams in silver at the eastern gates  
Ere yet she brim with light the blue estates  
Abandoned by the eagles of the noon.  
But shine thou swiftly on the darkling dune  
And woodlands where the twilight hesitates.  
Above that wide and ruby lake to-West,  
Wherein the sunset waits reluctantly,  
Stir silently the purple wings of Night.  
She stands afar, upholding to her breast,  
As mighty murmurs reach her from the sea,  
Thy lone and everlasting rose of light.

*George Sterling, 1911*

## A TENT SONG

Till we watch the last low star,  
Let us love and let us take  
Of each other all we are.  
On some morning with that star  
One of us shall lie awake,  
Lonely for the other's sake.

*Witter Bynner, 1917*

## For Sale, Cheap!

Barely used Maya Apocalypse bunker, in the beautiful Nevada desert just north of Peccary Squat (pronounced "sweet" – it's an Indian word). Comes stocked with surplus C-rations, some of which have not expired. Contact AU member Harry Ocular for further details on this once-in-a-lifetime deal.

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### AU annual membership rates:

**Single = \$15 Family = \$25**

### AU mailing address:

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

## January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 AU MONTHLY MEETING 7PM 	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 	12 PLANNING MEETING 5PM STAR PARTY 7PM SBMNH
13	14	15 CAMINO REAL MARKETPLACE 7PM	16 MCKINLEY SCHOOL 5PM	17	18 WESTMONT COLLEGE 6PM 	19
20	21	22	23 VIEJAVALLEY SCHOOL 6PM	24 MONTE VISTA SCHOOL 5PM	25	26 
27	28	29	30 ANACAPA SCHOOL 6PM	31 BRANDON SCHOOL 5:15PM		

### The Astronomical Unit

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