



AU AstroNews

The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

July 2005

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

RTMC Report

There was a large contingent from the AU at this year's RTMC Astronomy Expo in Big Bear, with at least 17 members attending. We got to hobnob with astronomy luminaries like John Dobson, Al Nagler, and Drs. Dave Kary and JoAnn Eisberg! Art Harris and Tim Wittenberg managed to sell a portion of the equipment donated to the AU over the years, garnering almost \$700 for the club. Tim Crawford drooled over the woodworking on homemade scopes, and even got Al Nagler's autograph. Pat McPartlin looked through Al's NP-127 scope at M13 on Saturday night, and managed to evoke a stunned silence by asking "Is this a Kellner eyepiece in your TASCOS?" As usual, one of the Bitters clan, this time Warren himself, won a door prize, and so did Edgar Ocampo. And to top it all off, it was only 75° at noon driving home via the desert route on Monday.



One of the items for sale on its way to this year's RTMC.

AU Outreach for June

With the end of the academic year, outreach activity has transitioned from schoolyards to campgrounds.

AU outreach volunteers Andy Allen, Warren Bitters, Bill Clausen, Bryant Christensen, Tim Crawford, Art Harris, Marv Johnson, June Kelley,

Pat & Chuck McPartlin, Edgar Ocampo, Scott Orlosky, Helen Osenga, Tom Whittemore, Jim Williams, Tim Wittenburg, and Ed with the TV-85 helped show the sky to 584 people. It was really great to see Helen back in action again after her long illness!

AU Events for July

Saturday, July 2, setup 8 PM

Slide show and telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake.

Sunday, July 3, 9 PM

Come up to the Gun Club site and watch Comet 9P/Tempel 1 as the Deep Impact mission slams a copper projectile into the comet. Maybe we'll see fireworks! Details on the web at: http://skyandtelescope.com/observing/highlights/article_1522_1.asp

Saturday, July 9, 8:30 PM

Monthly Star Party at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

Saturday, July 9, all night

Dark Sky. Contact Joe Doyle or Paul Winn for Details.

Friday, July 15, 8:30 PM

Westmont monthly Public Telescope Night. The old scope will be dismantled, so we'll need volunteers to bring scopes! Contact Chuck if you can come.

Saturday, July 16, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for campers at Refugio Beach Campground.

Saturday, July 23, setup 8 PM

Slide show and telescopes for campers at Cachuma Lake.

Friday, July 29, setup 8 PM

Telescopes for overnigheters at Elings Park. Yes, I know, past events at Elings have tended toward disaster, but I let them sweet-talk me into it.

Saturday, July 30, evening

Annual Star-B-cue at the Gun Club site. See details in this issue. Join us for good food and good observing!



Pat McPartlin admires the “yard scope” at this year’s RTMC

SBAU 3rd Annual Star-B-Que

This year we are having the Star-B-Que on Saturday, July 30, at the Gun Club on West Camino Cielo. Come up and set up a scope. We will plan to meet between 5:30 and 6:00pm. Joe Doyle and Tim Crawford will be bringing up some BBQ tri tip and chicken. This is a potluck, so please bring something to eat for three people. Also, please bring what you want to drink, your own utensils, napkins and a plate. Since we have to haul out our own trash, don’t bring too much, though. If you haven’t been to one of these, it’s really fun. After dinner we will wander over to the scopes and have a gander at the vast beyond. The last couple years have been pretty good and with a little luck, this year will be every bit as good. You may want to bring some extra clothing since it can get chilly at the Gun Club. Please RSVP Joe Doyle at jdoyle@mrl.ucsb.edu. Finally, if you know someone who does not have e-mail, please call and let him or her know about this wonderful event!

Deep Impact at the Gun Club

NASA’s Deep Impact spacecraft is scheduled to impact Comet 9P/Tempel 1 on Sunday, July 3rd, at 11pm PDST. However, the spacecraft could make contact as early as impact 9pm that evening. The normally 10th magnitude comet should brighten as a result of the impact, and may even brighten to 6th magnitude, making it visible to the naked eye under dark sky conditions. A group of us is going to the Gun Club for the impact. If you are interested, please join us! For more details about this unique event, please contact Chuck McPartlin at macpuzl@west.net, Tim Crawford at TCrawf3@cox.net, or Joe Doyle at jdoyle@mrl.ucsb.edu

A Call for Volunteers!

Krissie Cook, the Astronomy Programs Coordinator at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, could really use your help! She is looking for qualified operators at the Gladwin Planetarium. If you can lend a hand, please give her a call at 682-4711x173 or contact her at kcook@sbnature2.org.

Poetry Corner

No Tick, No Tock

How wonderful the sundial is,
It doesn’t ring to wake me;
Its use requires no high-tech whiz,
It won’t break or forsake me
It doesn’t show the current date,
No face is on the dial;
It tells time with, and never late,
A shadow of a smile.

-Bern Sharfman

Photo Gallery



Wayne starts a 10" mirror.



Class appeal!



Joe tests.



Jeremy cranks.

AU Information Box

- President:** Chuck McPartlin 964-8201
macpuzl@west.net
- Vice President:** Tim Wittenburg 969-6945
black10@aol.com
- Secretary:** Ken & Kathy Pfeiffer
687-2327
Keagle10@cox.net
- Treasurer:** Bob Brown 683-2138
BobBrownSB@cox.net
- Outreach:** Chuck McPartlin 964-8201
macpuzl@west.net
- Webmaster:** Paul Winn 685-5646
strg8zn@cox.net
- Refreshments:** Tim Crawford 962-3619
tcrawf3@cox.net
- Newsletter:** Tom Whittemore 687-2025
kometes@aol.com

AU Astronomy Information Pager

(Leave a short message) 564-9002

SBMNH Astronomy Program Coordinator

Krissie Cook 682-4711x173
kcook@sbnature2.org

SBMNH Astronomy Program Tape

Updated monthly 682-4711x405

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>

July 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Cachuma Lake 8PM
3 Deep Impact! Gun Club	4	5	6 	7	8	9 Star Party SBMNH 8:30 PM Dark Sky
10	11	12	13	14 	15 Westmont Public Observing	16 Refugio Beach 8 PM
17	18	19	20	21 	22	23 Cachuma Lake 8PM
24	25	26	27	28 	29 Elings Park	30 Star-B-cue! Gun Club
31						

The Astronomical Unit

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