



# AU AstroNews

## The Newsletter of the Astronomical Unit

July 2006

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

### Outreach Summary

Since the last newsletter, AU volunteers Bridget & Andy Allen, Joe Brown, Bill Clausen, Krissie Cook, Jason & Tim Crawford, George DeFilippo, Bill Gourley, Ruben Gutierrez, Art & Howard Harris, Jürgen Hilmer, June Kelley, Chuck McPartlin, Edgar Ocampo, Nancy Rohrer, and Tom Whittemore showed cool astronomy stuff to **358** people at outreach events. Need some incentive to join us, besides all the fun we have? Just six outreach events in a calendar year, and your AU membership gets extended for a year.

### July AU Events

July is looking busy! Get out there and share the sky. Outreach events are subject to change as additions and cancellations occur. To get the latest information, or directions to an event, just contact Chuck at 964-8201 or [macpuzl@west.net](mailto:macpuzl@west.net). Even if you don't bring a scope, we always need help with constellation tours and keeping our customers entertained!

### Saturday, July 1, setup 8:30 PM

Start the holiday weekend with telescopes for campers at Refugio State Beach. Better skies than you'd expect at the beach!

### Friday, July 7, setup 8:30 PM

Telescopes for Los Padres National Forest Family Camp, at the Paradise Campground on Paradise Road. Show the kids an Io shadow transit on Jupiter.

### Saturday, July 8, 8:30 PM

Monthly Public Star Party at SBMNH. Come out and share the night sky on a balmy summer night.

### Friday, July 14, setup 8:30 PM

Telescopes for Los Padres National Forest Family Camp, at the Paradise Campground on Paradise Road. Guess what? There's another Io shadow transit on Jupiter!

### Saturday, July 15, setup 8:30 PM

Slide show and telescopes for campers at Lake Cachuma. Our outreaches here earn us our site for the annual AU campout. We set up on the astronomy field at Dakota Plains. Stay late for the graze? (next event)

### Sunday, July 16 (Saturday night / Sunday morning)

Grazing occultation of the magnitude 7 star BV Piscium (HIP 1325) by the northern edge of the Moon, low in the east between 0030 and 0047 PDT. The Cachuma Lake site looks to be just on the edge of the graze line.

### Wednesday, July 19, setup 8:30 PM

Telescopes for campers at Refugio State Beach.

### Friday, July 21, setup 8:30 PM

Monthly Public Telescope Night at Westmont, on the lawn outside Carroll Observatory. The new scope isn't in yet, so bring a scope with you. Pat and Chuck will not be able to make it, so we need some extra volunteers on this one!



*Ruben Gutierrez, Joe Brown, and Laurence Harms enjoy a chat at this year's June potluck. Photo: Mike Jogoleff.*

## 3rd Annual Star-B-Que

**When? 6pm, Saturday, August 26**

**Where? Winchester Gun Club**

For the past two years we have met up at the Gun Club at the end of West Camino Cielo for a summer gathering under the stars. We have a little food, followed by an enjoyable evening picking starlight out of the night sky. This year will be our Third Annual Star-B-Que. This year's event will take place August 26th starting at 6pm. We hope you will make it up for this great event. It is one of the best of the year.

This is a Pot Luck, so bring up a side dish or dessert for four people- not too much since we have to haul out what we don't use. **Chicken and Tri Tip will be provided.**

1. Directions: go up San Marcos Pass till you get near the top and turn left on West Camino Cielo. Follow this for about 5 or 6 miles till you get near the end of the paved road. You will notice an iron gate on the right with some pines around it. That's the place. If you get onto a dirt road, you have gone too far.

2. After you drive through the gate, close it. We have a very fortunate relationship with the Winchester Gun Club. They allow us to use the facilities and only ask us a few simple things in return.

3. Do not leave any garbage. Because it is not frequented by a garbage service the Gun Club has to haul out its own trash. We will do the same. So, when we are up there this year please use the trash containers- not their trash containers but ours-they will be clearly marked. We'll have one for general trash and another for recyclables. At the end of the evening we will haul out our own trash.

4. Please bring something to drink. There will be a few sodas and water provided, but bring what you enjoy for yourselves. Also, please bring your own service (plates, knives, forks and spoons- maybe even a few napkins and a drinking vessel).

5. Above all, please bring yourselves, friends if you like, some good stories, and a scope if you are so inclined.

6. Since you can never be sure of the weather, bring layers just in case it gets cold. There are mosquitoes from time to time, so you may want to bring a repellent.

Any questions? Call Tim Crawford at 962-3619 evenings, or e-mail Tim at: [TCrawf3@cox.net](mailto:TCrawf3@cox.net).



**Jupiter** still manages to put on quite a show in July, shining at magnitude -2.2 and setting just after midnight as the month progresses. Look for the gas giant to halt its retrograde motion as it begins to creep eastward towards Alpha Librae (Zubenelgenubi) in the southwestern sky. After the close approach of **Mars** and **Saturn** in mid-June, Mars continues to dazzle with a spectacularly close conjunction with the heart of the lion, the star Regulus, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. Saturn glows brighter than Mars in the northwest, but it is soon lost in the Sun's afterglow by month's end. **Venus** continues to dominate the morning sky, rising two hours before the sun, and glistening at magnitude -3.9. Watch for Venus to come within 4<sup>o</sup> of the red eye of the bull, Aldebaran, on the morning of July the 2<sup>nd</sup>. During the month, the gibbous **Moon** will glide 5 to 6 degrees below Jupiter on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and pass by Venus as a crescent before dawn on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Fortunately, the Moon will not interfere with the **Delta Aquarid meteor shower** during the final week of July.

## Mirror-Making Workshop Resumes

Tom Whittemore and Tim Crawford have resurrected the mirror-making workshop that many of you enjoyed a couple years ago. Although the current focus is to help those who started mirrors from Tom's previous class, we welcome any club members who would like to come and see if they, too, would entertain the adventure of making a mirror from scratch. Also, if you have a mirror that you would like diagnosed, please bring it to the workshop! We meet every Wednesday from 7:30 to 9:00 PM at the Broder Building on the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History campus.

## Astronomical Arts Corner

*From the desk of Nancy Rohrer*

### COMETS

Bright light shining in night's sky  
orbiting tail first as it travels by  
Moon and Earth on its way around the Sun.

Times of old thought to be a dangerous one  
bringing earthquakes, wars and times of hunger  
many ideas for writing myths linger.

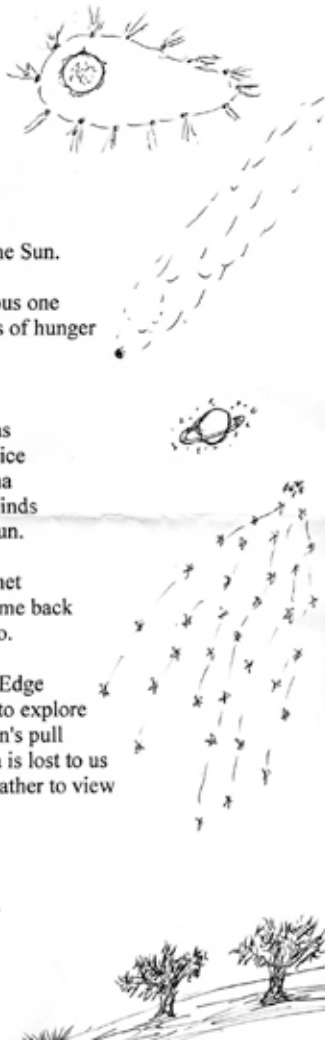
Now thought to be close to nothing  
just a dirty iceberg with water and gas  
orbiting close to Sun's heat boils the ice  
causing a misty cocoon called a Coma  
wicked high speed particled Solar Winds  
make him point tail away from the Sun.

Comet we know best is Halley's Comet  
last visited February 9, 1986, will come back  
in seventy-six more years to say hello.

Comets maybe born near Universe's Edge  
like a teen ager ready to leave home to explore  
are drawn into an oblong orbit by Sun's pull  
each passing trip, more melted Coma is lost to us  
finally seen as Meteor Showers we gather to view  
coming at certain times of the years.

It is certain to see  
Comets are another way to enjoy  
the Cosmos.

5-18-06



## AU Information Box

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### 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 20<sup>th</sup> of the current month!

### AU annual membership rates:





**Single = \$15      Family = \$25**

### AU mailing address:

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

## July 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Refugio State Beach 8:30PM
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Paradise Campground 8:30PM	<b>8</b> SBMNH Star Party 8PM
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Paradise Campground 8:30PM	<b>15</b> Lake Cachuma 8:30PM
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Refugio State Beach 8:30PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Westmont College 8:30PM	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> JPL trip!	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

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